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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Please preserve the Tongass!

Hello,

I am so disheartened and disappointed that this proposal has advanced to this level which threatens to ruin the Tongass through logging and mining and further development.

The fact that it's one of the few remaining old growth forests in the world - that by itself (preserved and protected) make it a more valuable resource long term than it could ever be through logging and mining. It's a rarity on this planet. Please recognize that.

The carbon capture the Tongass provides of course also helps lower the atmosphere's CO2 levels, which make it even more valuable and reason to protect it. We'll never be able to engineer anything on that level. Engineering anything close to it would cost trillions of dollars. But it's there for free, we just have to leave it alone. We need the Tongass preserved now more than ever, and we will certainly need it preserved in the years ahead as CO2 levels worldwide unfortunately continue to rise.

Everyone has a stake in this issue, not just Alaskans. But I hope Alaskans will lead the charge in making the right decision here to protect this gem. We all share this planet and the limited space and resources that are here. We can learn from our past the short-sightedness of clearcutting old growth forests for short-term profit. It's an enormous loss for all of us here and for future generations.

Sometimes I feel like with these public comment periods that the decisions and deals have already been made in back rooms of powerful people who stand to profit in the short term. I really hope that's not the case and that we see the USFS actually responding to the questions, comments and concerns. None of this is ok.

With great concern,

[Position]