

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 10/19/2019 8:00:00 AM

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am totally opposed to opening up the Tongass National Forest to further logging operations. I urge you to maintain the Roadless Rule for this entire area.

The nonpartisan group, Taxpayers for Common Sense, calculated the USFS's losses through road-building and timber sales and found that the average net loss was about \$30 million annually over the past 20 years.

Salmon, black and brown bears, eagles, ravens, wolves, ducks, and blacktail deer need those old-growth forests for survival. Alaska's indigenous tribes and locals rely on all these critters for subsistence hunting and fishing, as well as the dollars they bring in from traveling outdoorsmen and women.

The Tongass rivers and creeks support more salmon than all other national forests combined, and the fishing and tourism account for more than 25 percent of local jobs in the region. The Tongass produces 28 percent of Alaska's commercial salmon catch and Tongass salmon fishing generates \$1 billion annually, according to Trout Unlimited.

Beyond the comments stated above, it is of utmost importance that the United States starts to act on deterring climate change (words that are never uttered in this administration). We need to preserve every intact forest standing to produce oxygen and remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. In addition, the release of gases caused by the interruption of the forest soils should be taken into consideration.

This proposed rule change is a complete about-face from the direction we should be headed and reflects the fact that special interests and not common sense are guiding this decision.

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