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Comments: Protecting large areas of temperate rain forest and wilderness is imperative to biodiversity. Greater species diversity ensures natural sustainability for all life forms.

The Tongass is one of the largest natural carbon sinks in the world. At a time where Climate Change is becoming more and more apparent and effecting people and economies around the world we need to be working to find ways to reduce carbon emissions and protect and create carbon storage sinks.

Salmon: Take a look at the U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

FOREST SERVICE's very own "Tongass Salmon Fact Sheet" to see the importance of the rivers and streams of the Tongass for supporting salmon fisheries:

https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprdb5408056.pdf

Tongass rivers, lakes, and streams produce 79% of the commercial salmon annually harvested from Southeast Alaska. This is about 49 million salmon per year.

* In 2007, commercial salmon fishing supported an estimated 4,682 jobs (about 1 in 10) in Southeast Alaska, including 2,998 direct fishing jobs and 846 seafood processing jobs.

* In 2007, the combined economic impact of commercial, sport and subsistence salmon fishing, as well as hatchery operations, in SE Alaska, was estimated at \$986 million.

* The Tongass NF produces on average 28% of Alaska's annual commercial salmon catch, and 25% of the entire west coast annual harvest!"

"Statewide, 89% of Alaskans say that even in tough economic times, it is important to maintain funding for salmon conservation."

There are many more reasons to not rollback the 2001 Roadless Rule which will open the Tongass up to logging and other natural resource extraction and threaten this priceless natural resource. A natural resource that is more economically and intrinsically valuable if left road less and wild.

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