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Comments: Climate change: The Tongass temperate rainforest in southeast Alaska stores more carbon than nearly any other forest on the planet. Every climate change mitigation strategy begins with leaving trees in the ground, and planting more. Not one of the suggestions to deal with the catastrophic effects of a warming climate endorses opening up a forest to logging. So what would be the rationale for making Alternative Six your "preferred option?" That climate change isn't happening? Well it is and the recent drought in SE Alaska is well documented. Ask your field people[hellip].and they can give you plenty of examples.

Habitat protection: Beyond climate change, there are other reasons NOT to support Alternative Six which would open up 9.3 million acres to logging and road construction. Fragmentation of habitat is a problem for wildlife on planet earth and we're in the midst of a human-caused worldwide sixth extinction. A healthy planet requires habitat protection to preserve the plants, animals and the pollinating insects that preserve us and our food sources. So again, why would the Forest Service consider more road building, when a lattice work of roads is the very definition of fragmentation. If Alternative Six is adopted only 35% of the key fish producing areas of the Tongass would have protection. First implemented in 2001, the roadless rule prohibits the construction or expansion of roads on certain tracts of undeveloped land in national forests. The rule aims to protect sensitive habitats and wild areas, as well as to conserve natural resources-an obligation that is part of the U.S. Forest Service's mandate to manage public land for multiple uses.

Fiscal realities: The timber industry in SE Alaska accounts for not even 1 percent-less than 400-of southeast Alaska's jobs. More profitable industries, on the other hand, such as tourism and commercial fishing, together generate more than \$2 billion in revenue annually and employ more than 10,000 people in the region. The timber industry on the Tongass has a long history of the federal government subsidies, often to the tune of more than \$20 million per year. These subsidies became news yet again this summer when a controversial southeast Alaska timber sale, promoted heavily by the USFS, received no bids, despite significant federal subsidies that included USFS investments of \$3.1 million in new roads. Despite the expense to taxpayers, the USFS estimated the sale would generate just \$200,000 in revenue. Opening to more timber extraction does not make sense, or cents!

In conclusion: I support the "No Action" alternative. Public lands do not belong in special interest hands. Alternative Six would damage not only the livelihoods of people who rely our Tongass National Forest, but salmon, bears, birds and other wildlife that thrive there because the forest is still intact. All to benefit a small logging lobby with no intention of preserving the forest.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

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