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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I prefer that no changes be made to the roadless rule and that no further acreage is opened in the Tongass for logging, especially old growth forest.

1) It is becoming clear that we need forests such as the Tongass to sequester as much carbon as they can, as we seek to mitigate the worst effects of global climate disruption.

2) When we look at the economic consequences globally, nationally, and locally in Alaska, of climate disruption, the few jobs gained by opening up the Tongass to logging are not worth the catastrophic damages as seas rise, storms grow stronger, and droughts get longer.

3) As a Catholic, I agree with the teaching of Pope Francis in "Laudato Si': On the Care of our Common Home" that each creature is a unique revelation of God. As we destroy some of the last untouched corners of our planet, we deprive future generations of the ability to know that aspect of God's self that is revealed only in virgin forest.

4) Roadless areas are especially important, since the services performed by deep forest are reversed as the forest is cut into smaller and smaller chunks by roads, pipelines, and other clearcuts.

5) The voice of the indigenous people whose traditional lands include the Tongass is important and should matter more than what the Senator or industry groups want.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

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