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Comments: The proposal to allow logging in the Tongass National Forest, specifically the old-growth portion, is an act which will impact future generations. Old-growth forests exhibit the highest amount of biodiversity and act as habitats for more species of animal than a new-growth forest. Given that there are countless acres dedicated to new-growth lumber and other logging activities, the old growth forests must be maintained in accordance with the Wilderness Act of 1964. This act declared that we must preserve areas where man himself is a visitor; where his works are unseen, and it must be left untrammelled.

The Tongass national forest also has special importance to indigenous persons. The nations largest national forest deserves to remain intact. The parcels removed from federal oversight and placed into private ownership must be reincorporated, and the entire area must be placed into protection as a national park, rather than a national forest. This distinction could generate more in annual tourism and conservation funding efforts than allowing the irreplaceable habitat to be destroyed for a little temporary profit.

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