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First name: Andrew Last name: Mengel Organization:

Title:

Comments: I would like to express support for Alternative 1. The Tongass is Americas largest national forest and the heart of the largest intact temperate rainforest left in the world. It is home to iconic wildlife including brown bears, black bears, bald eagles, timber wolves, and all five species of Pacific salmon.

The Tongass is also the countrys most important national forest for carbon sequestration and climate change mitigation. With parts of Alaska warming at roughly twice the rate of the planets average speed, maintaining this critical ecosystem advances climate change solutions for both our national and international climate efforts.

Opening up parts of the Tongass to logging would also hurt the economy, as the wildlands support the regions robust tourism, commercial fishing, and outdoor recreation sectors. I urge you to reverse course and protect the Tongass National Forest from destructive roadbuilding and logging. Thank you.

[Position]