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Organization: Green Women

Title:

Comments: October 30,2019

To Whom it may Concern:

I am writing in opposition to the recommendation of the Forest Service to open the Tongass National Forest to development. The proposal to do this is based on flawed and non logical information. That emissions from logging would be "temporary" and over time, reduced or eliminated is non nonsensical in that old growth forests are more than a thousand years old and the damage done in the time it takes to replace them would be untenable. It takes time for trees and soils to store carbon effectively. The lack of acquaintance with the fundamentals of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change used as an argument in this matter is a false understanding of the adaptation and mitigation practices identified in the IPCC report dated August 8, 2019 titled: "Land is a Critical Resource". There is real potential here through more sustainable land use, reducing over-consumption and waste of food, eliminating the clearing and burning of forests, preventing over-harvesting of fuel wood, and reducing greenhouse gas emissions, thus helping to address land related climate change issues. (Panmao Zhai, Co-Chair of IPCC Working Group I) Your proposal warns of the 1-3.5 C degrees of warming, but does not discuss how that will be overcome. The statement that climate changes are uncertain, shows a lack of understanding of how climate change affects forests. According to the methods and principles of science, "climate changes", such as "increases in temperature, changes in precipitation and increases in CO2 are likely to affect forest growth and productivity. (https://19january2017snapshot.epa.gov/climate-impacts/climate-impacts-forests_.html) Changes are already visible in Alaska and climate models show it warming faster than the rest of the country. (<https://casc.alaska.edu/news/new-tool-offers-local-climate-information>). Deforestation from the actions of this administration are a firm example of a selfish and excessive desire for more money and control. I look forward to continuing my advocacy for old growth forests and the opportunity to voice that opinion. 0. 2019

Sincerely,

Diane