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Organization:

Title:

Comments: The Tongass National Forest is the last stands of old-growth coastal temperate forest. Old-growth temperate rainforests hold more biomass per acre than any other type of ecosystem on the planet. Protecting roadless areas in the Tongass, means that this superpower ecosystem can continue absorbing more carbon than any other forest in the United States. On its own, the Tongass holds 8% of all carbon stored in US forests.

The Tongass is a globally significant refuge for healthily functioning coastal rainforest ecosystems; home to bears, wolves, deer, birds, and salmon. Millions of wild salmon spawn in the Tongass. Every year commercial fishermen in Southeast Alaska harvest 49 million wild salmon that were spawned in the streams and rivers of the Tongass, and the rest return to the forest to reproduce and nourish wild animals and massive trees.

In addition, the federal government has lost \$600 MILLION in the past two decades of logging the Tongass through massive subsidies for the timber industry and administrative costs. US taxpayers are at risk of losing even more money to clearcutting ancient forests if Tongass roadless areas are opened to roadbuilding.

Please, for the sake of biodiversity, climate change, and tax payers take no action on Alaska Roadless Rulemaking #54511. Leave the roadless rule in place!

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