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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Commentary on Environmental Impact Statement For Tongass National Forest

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Kristina Shea and I am a junior at Thousand Oaks High School in Southern California. Recently, I learned about the Trump administration's proposition to allow more logging in Alaska's Tongass National Forest and was very upset by it. Their proposition should not go through. While it seems that it would boost the local economy, it would hurt it in the long term. It would violate our current "roadless rule," which I fully support because roads cause habitat to be split and don't allow enough roaming range for wildlife. Also, not only would allowing logging cause many old-growth trees to be cut down, increasing atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub>, but allowing logging in the Tongass forest would also hurt the wildlife and economy of that region. To start, the Tongass National Forest has an abundance of important wildlife including grizzly bears and salmon. If there was too much deforestation or too many roads were built, we would isolate such animals on habitat islands and hurt their populations. Also, around 40% of the West Coast's wild salmon spawns in the Tongass, which is an industry worth about \$986 million per year. The salmon and tourism industries, to which the Tongass National Forest is essential, are far more important to Alaska's economy than the timber industry, which only supplies just under 1 percent of southeastern Alaska's jobs, whereas seafood processing is 8 percent and tourism is 17 percent. So the Tongass National Forest, which many consider to be a natural treasure, should not be used for logging. This is why I would strongly advocate for the continued protection of the Tongass National Forest under Alternative 1. Thank you for your consideration of my argument.

Best Regards,

Kristina

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