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Title:

Comments: Alaska Roadless Rulemaking and logging in the Tongass National Forest, Alaska.

I strongly urge the USFS NOT to open up the Tongass National Forest to allow logging and road construction. This forest is a very special resource for the United States and the world as it is one of the few temperate rainforests that is intact. Logging in this area would produce income for a limited number of companies and individuals only and in the Alaskan cool to cold coastal climate would not regenerate within even a moderate timeframe. The short period of job and income benefits would be overwhelmingly offset by the long term cost of lost habitat, lost biodiversity, and the loss of oxygen generating/carbon dioxide absorbing by the old growth trees. No amount of replanting of new trees could replace this valuable bio-resource.

As a boater who has spent several years cruising the west coast of the US and Canada I have come to appreciate the wonderful natural resource the coastal forests provide as habitat for animals and as natural controls of erosion from runoff.

I urge the USFS to maintain the Tongass National Forest as a roadless area with logging not allowed, in order that the current natural benefits will continue to be enjoyed by future generations. The United States prides itself in being a leader in the world and in this decision has an opportunity to demonstrate that long term forest health is worth more to humanity than short term jobs.

Thank you for this opportunity to be heard.

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