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Organization:

Title:

Comments: The Tongass National Forest and Southeast Alaska is arguably one of the most wild, beautiful, and intact landscapes in the entire world. It is the place I would dream up if I were to create my own fantasy world.

I moved here because of this beauty, because of the variations of life that it sustains. People visit from all over the world to see the vestiges of the wilderness of our collective past. This is unique, and special, and should be nurtured in the 21st century world!

In the summertime, I lead wilderness kayak expeditions in the Icy Strait region and all the way out to the west side of Chichagof Island. People here are not coming because there are clearcuts marring the mountainsides. They come here to walk beneath towering Sitka Spruce and Western Hemlock. I rely on these forests to harvest salmon come fall. Those trees keep the streams cold. As we all know, salmon rely on cold streams to live! I live here because of this fading way of life. I am able to connect with the land around me the way that all of our ancestors did. I know exactly where my food comes from. I know what fills me up spiritually. The rainforest of Southeast Alaska. The rarest biome on earth.

I am not the only one. We Southeast people do not want our trees to be cut, just so they can be turned into newspaper and toilet paper. What a disgrace to the most stunning place on earth. If that is the fate of these islands and mountains, then we know exactly where the people in this administration place their values. And it is not in the people and lifestyles of this place.

True democracy is ruled by the people. The people have said it again and again: NOOO!

No to roads being built. No to logging of the last old growth forests on the planet. No to destroying habitat that shelters songbirds, bears, deer, and wolves.

Enough. The economy here is not even driven by massive scale logging. You know this. What are you trying to prove?

The long term vision of the economy and lifestyles here is already playing out. Spend our time and resources more wisely.

[Position]

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