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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am deeply concerned by the current proposal to open the Tongass National Forest to logging. The Tongass's old-growth trees store vast amounts of carbon, which must not be released to accelerate climate change. The Tongass is the only temperate rainforest left on the planet; to authorize building roads in it for logging is to hasten its destruction for all time, as well as to hasten the warming of the planet beyond livable levels.

Wilderness places are our inheritance from previous generations, whose members worked to conserve the natural world in danger of destruction. They are "the family jewels," held in trust for future generations; to sell them for present profit betrays our children and grandchildren.

The UN Environment Program's report released recently warns that we must take strong action to reduce carbon emissions now in order to prevent catastrophic warming. I feel a strong sense of responsibility, both to my forebears, who had respect for the natural world, and to my children and grandchildren - and everybody's children and grandchildren - to protect them and to conserve the natural world that was created for us.

Public lands belong to all of us, both present and future Americans; they should be managed for our benefit, not for the short-term profit of corporations.

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