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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I grew up in one of the most densely forested regions in the country, the rural north east coast. I run an artist residency surrounded by hundreds of acres of trees in Maine, but there is virtually no old growth left here. Though I should have no context for the once big trees I have never seen, the feeling of loss here is still staggering.

Every year more and more people vacation here to Maine just to be in the woods because the forests near their own homes are completely gone now, as suburbia and cities are growing. Older Mainers tell me what the forests used to be like in Maine. I cannot fathom still having 800 year old trees, and not seeing the irreplaceable value, having 800 year old trees and not looking around and saying "This is something no one else has now. This is rare. This must be coveted for ALL of us."

It is one of my dreams to visit the Tongass National Forest, as I am sure it is a dream for many people. This dream to visit it will only grow in more people as the landscape in the rest of the country continues to change in the ways it has. We have an obligation now. There is no more room to cut corners. If we will not protect the purest forests we have, what is to stop us from losing all of it?

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