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Organization:

Title:

Comments: To whom it may concern:

As a concerned citizen of the United States and the planet, I urge you to maintain the Roadless Area Conservation status of the Tongass National Forest (Alternative 1).

Ample research suggests that the Tongass alone holds 8% of all the carbon stored in National Forests, a service that we cannot take for granted as the earth continues to warm. Additionally, the economic effects of exempting the Tongass from the Roadless Rule could be staggering: the Alaskan economy is rooted in tourism (17%) and seafood processing (8%). Both of these industries rely on a healthy Tongass. Just 1% of southeastern Alaska's jobs are in timber, and threatening these other two major economic areas in favor of the timber industry simply doesn't make sense-especially because a Forest Service-operated timber sales program in the Tongass has proven to be a financial failure, costing taxpayers nearly \$600 million over the past two decades (according to research by Common Sense).

Thank you for taking citizens' concerns into consideration. I very much hope you take stock of the larger picture as you move forward with this decision.

Best wishes,

Leah Scott

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