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Organization:

Title:

Comments: In favor of Alternative #1

Members of the USDA Forest Service,

Thank you for soliciting public comment on the matter of exempting the Tongass National Forest from the 2001 "Roadless Rule." As both a staple of our nations environmental endowment and an area of great significance to the areas' indigenous population, I would strongly recommend that your team opt in favor of the proposed "Alternative #1" as listed at your site here: <https://www.usda.gov/media/press-releases/2019/10/15/usda-forest-service-seeks-public-comment-draft-environmental-impact>.

Let me stress the following: based on rising global temperatures due to anthropogenic (human-caused) climate change, no options beyond responsibly-managed new growth and farmed timber should be on the table for any manufacturing purposes associated with pulping. Moving forward, the preservation and restoration of lands like Tongass may be one of the most effective ways of further sequestering carbon

As you deliberate, my question to those considering the further exploitation of Tongass would be this: what example are we setting for your children, your grandchildren, and their grandchildren by pushing for something that is ultimately shortsighted when paired with our knowledge of the damaging effects of climate change? Is a short lived period of resource extraction and employment worth subjecting one of America's treasures to destruction--the kind of which can never be undone in generations of our time on this planet?

Please consider this, and if you have read my comment in full, I appreciate your dedication to the process and your service to our country.

-Mike Davitt

[Position]