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First name: Tyler

Last name: Yarrow

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Greetings,

We live in a time of ecological crisis and ecosystem destabilization. Our global society and culture must shift to a paradigm in which we work in collaboration with the natural world rather than against it. The longevity of life on Earth as we know it is greatly compromised unless we take immediate and dramatic action as a global society.

That being said - history will judge us harshly if we desiccate one of the last truly wild ecosystems on Earth. We should not take Alaska or her resources for granted. We can look around the world and see countless examples of the downstream impacts on resource extraction. It won't be a different story in the Tongass. If we open the door even slightly, it gives leverage to a resource-thirsty world.

We should protect and preserve the Tongass to the greatest extent possible. There is hardly any wilderness left. Think about what that means. Think about what kind of world we are leaving future generations.

Alaska should be a leader in the global transition that will inevitably occur - whether by choice or through suffering and disaster. We should protect and honor the gifts of our landscape and work with them to create a symbiotic future - not exchange them in an economic system that decimates the landscapes we call home.

The choice to allow any increase in development or resource extraction in the Tongass places us squarely on the wrong side of history and is an unwise decision given the dire health of the relationship between humanity and Ecosystem Earth at this moment in time.

Our grandchildren and great grandchildren will judge us as the generation that let the climate be destroyed unless we change everything - and that starts with protecting the Tongass. It is so important that we get this right.

May we find the wisdom to live up to challenges of this moment.

Thank you for your time and effort,

-Tyler Yarrow

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