

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 12/15/2019 9:00:00 AM

First name: Virginia

Last name: Dawnswir

Organization: Ms.

Title:

Comments: This is a terrible move. We need to preserve our national forests better. Legislation has been too free with rationale to cut more forests down. I do not believe this administration's rationale.

Trumps National Forest Service is using a refuted scientific theory to justify building roads in our countrys largest national forest, what some call Americas Amazon.

Loggers want to raze trees more than 1,000 years old.

The discredited study says the environmental impact of more logging in the Tongass National Forest in southeast Alaska would be temporary and may be completely reversed with time. Trees hold carbon; cutting them down would release the carbon to the atmosphere.

The Forest Service says guidelines from the United Nations climate authority would be followed. Two scientists whose research was cited in the U.N. study says the Forest Service is espousing junk science.

Nothing in that report supports what theyre claiming, says Dominick DellaSala, a former president of the Society for Conservation Biology.

Beverly Law, an Oregon State University professor, says the Trump administrations argument is misinformation.

The Tongass stores more carbon removed from the atmosphere than any other national forest in the country in its old-growth Sitka spruce, hemlock and cedar trees. It helps protect Alaska, which is warming more than twice as fast from climate change as our planet overall. The forest holds about 650 million tons of carbon or about half of U.S. carbon dioxide emissions in 2017.

Alaskas Republican politicians, including Gov. Mike Dunleavy, support logging the Tongass.

The Alaska Forest Association, an industry group that supports logging, received more than \$200,000 from a USDA grant that was supposed to help states fight fires. The money was used to support undoing prohibitions against building roads.

Sen. Debbie Stabenow (D-Mich.) and Rep. Ral Grijalva (D-Ariz.) have asked the inspector general for the Agriculture Department to investigate any misuse of the grant.

Dunleavy defended how the money was spent.

Historically, large-scale industrial logging has damaged salmon streams. The Tongass is spawning ground for 40 percent of wild salmon along the West Coast.

Its sad that we have to continue to fight our own government to protect our forests and streams, says Joel Jackson, the president of the Organized Village of Kake which depends on food such as berries and salmon from the Tongass.

The Tlingit, Haida and Tsimshian people rely on the land for cultural and traditional practices like hunting and fishing.

[Position]