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Comments: 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.

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, saysDominick DellaSala, a former president of the Society for Conservation Biology. Beverly Law, an Oregon State University professor, says the Trump administrations argument is misinformation.

Trumps plan, pushed by Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue, would slash protections for more than 9 million acres of the Tongass National Forest, an area larger than Yellowstone, Glacier and Grand Canyon national parks combined. Building roads in the Tongass is prohibited under a rule published in the last days of President Bill Clintons administration.

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.

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