Data Submitted (UTC 11): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM First name: Heather Last name: Dirand Organization:

Title:

Comments: 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.

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

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