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Organization:

Title:

Comments: [CAUTION: Suspicious Link]Keep the roadless rule on the tongass!

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Questions: Spam.Abuse@usda.gov

Dear USDA, Support the Tongass Roadless Rule. I worked up there for years on salmon. The forests support huge salmon runs. The cut areas don't. The large-scale clear-cut logging in the Tongass makes sense only if you have no ecological conscience, and see trees only as timber.

Throughout the 1970s, 80s, and 90s, as market demand for Tongass timber declined, Alaska's congressional delegation fought to keep the industry going - subsidizing it at a heavy cost to U.S. taxpayers: \$600 million over the last 20 years. One deficit U.S. Forest Service sale offered every 1,000 board feet of timber for less money than the cost of a Big Mac. Another generated only 2.5 cents on every dollar the Forest Service spent to build roads and prepare paperwork.

Currently, building new roads in the Tongass would cost an estimated \$200,000 to \$500,000 per mile. It's madness. Especially considering that the bottom has fallen out of the timber industry in such a huge way that one recent proposed Forest Service sale, in a portion of the forest still open to logging, didn't receive a single bid.

Lastly, cutting down the Tongass, one of the best carbon sequestration forests in America, would be a crime.

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[Position]