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First name: Chantal Last name: Eldridge Organization:

Title:

Comments: This assault on America's largest rainforest will destroy important habitat for salmon, bears and wolves, and worsen the climate crisis. Clearcutting the Tongass and wiping out enormous carbon stores is destroying one of our solutions to averting catastrophic climate change. As forests across the Americas burn, the last thing we need to do is destroy old-growth forests in the Tongass Rainforest. The Tongass Rainforest is one of the United States' best defenses against furthering the climate crisis. The Tongass is a vital ecosystem necessary to the traditional life-ways of local Indigenous communities. Destroying critical old growth in the Tongass not only devastates wildlife habitat and harms the climate but disregards the sovereignty of Indigenous peoples and further perpetuates modern genocidal policies.