

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 9/10/2020 9:54:16 PM

First name: Julie

Last name: Martenson

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am horrified. "This assault on America's largest rainforest will destroy important habitat for salmon, bears and wolves, and worsen the climate crisis," said Randi Spivak, public lands director at the Center for Biological Diversity. "Clearcutting the Tongass and wiping out enormous carbon stores is like cutting off part of the planet's oxygen supply. It's mind-boggling that the Trump administration wants to decimate this spectacular old-growth forest and erase one of the solutions to averting catastrophic climate change."

This project and the proposed elimination of the Roadless Area Conservation Rule on the Tongass are part of the Trump administration's relentless efforts to clearcut large swaths of remaining old-growth across the national forest, consistent with its policy of increasing logging nationwide.

"As forests across the Americas burn, the last thing we need to do is destroy old-growth forests in the Tongass Rainforest, one of the United States' best defenses against furthering the climate crisis," said Osprey Oreille Lake, executive director for the Women's Earth and Climate Action Network (WECAN). "Existing within the territories of the Tlingit, Haida and Tsmishian peoples, 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.

I could not be more opposed to this plan.