Data Submitted (UTC 11): 9/11/2020 12:50:02 AM First name: Dee Last name: Austring Organization: Title:

Comments: I was raised for many years on Annette Island, and have great love and appreciation for the Tongass; the largest intact temperate rainforest left on Earth, which provides vital habitat for eagles, bears, wolves, salmon and countless other species. It is a globally recognized carbon sink and helps to mitigate the worst impacts of climate change, storing approximately 8% of the total carbon stored in all national forests. It is pristine and truly wild.

"It was just over two months ago that a federal judge threw out the largest logging project we've seen in decades... Nevertheless, the agency is back again with twin proposals for timber sales targeting irreplaceable old-growth trees in the same cherished national forest. Urgent action is needed to address the climate crisis, and that includes efforts to preserve the magnificent trees that absorb carbon. Unfortunately, these destructive logging plans will only make the problem worse."