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Organization:

Title:

Comments: To the U.S. Forest Service:

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the timber component of the South Revilla Integrated Resource Project, which proposes to remove over 5,000 acres of old-growth forest in the Tongass National Forest. This would be a terribly costly project for the American public and indigenous people on many levels.

As you are aware, the Tongass represents the world's largest intact temperate rainforest, and is a carbon sink estimated to hold approximately 8% of the total carbon stored in all our national forests. A new report by Taxpayers for Common Sense indicates that logging in the Tongass has been shown to be tremendously costly to taxpayers. Moreover, more clearcutting of old-growth trees in the Tongass will damage the real drivers of southeast Alaska's economy: fish, wildlife and tourism which provide truly sustainable jobs and livelihoods.

Existing within the territories of the Tlingit, Haida and Tsmishian peoples, the Tongass is also a vital ecosystem necessary to the traditional life-ways of local Indigenous communities. Alaska Natives rely on the area for culture, traditional hunting, fishing and livelihoods. People from around the world visit the Tongass for world-class recreation, sport and commercial fishing.

For all these reasons I urge you to withdraw the timber component of the South Revilla Integrated Resource Project. The costs of destructive logging in the Tongass are many and the benefits to taxpayers and most Alaskans non-existent. Please consider the great long-term losses that would result from this ill-conceived logging project. The Tongass is worth far more intact.

Thank you for your consideration.

-Mac