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Title:

Comments: I have been guiding in the Tongass for four years and am lucky enough to call it my home. Old-growth forest is a massive carbon sink not just for the United States, but for the world, and this project would cost more than it's worth. Not just cost in terms of lost habitat for the charismatic animals that tourists pay to see and the cost of lost fishing capital, but the actual economic cost. It would not be a profitable endeavor. It will not bring jobs to Alaska, since it is such a small part of our economy, and more likely it would bring outsiders to Alaska to work on a project and then leave, having contributed nothing but resource extraction to the state. Those people who make the decisions like this are not the ones who have to explain to paying tourists (who pay thousands of dollars a day to travel with me in the luxury market) why there are sections of clear-cut forest in their idea of "pristine" Alaska. All this will do is open up more and more of the Tongass to logging, still violating the 2001 Roadless Rule. Money is needed in our economy for sure, but this is not the way to do it. Utilize this money to support the businesses who are struggling or won't survive due to the tourism losses this year due to the pandemic. Would be a much better use of resources than funding a project that won't actually make money or bring jobs.