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First name: Sandra

Last name: Gamble

Organization:

Title:

Comments: This new 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 like cutting off part of the planet's oxygen supply. 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.

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.

It was just over two months ago that a federal judge threw out the largest logging project we've seen in decades because the Forest Service failed to provide communities with basic information like where it intended to log. USFS is now 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.

More clearcutting will damage the real drivers of southeast Alaska's economy: fish, wildlife and tourism.