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Comments: The Tongass is the largest intact temperate rainforest left on Earth and 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.

Since time immemorial it has been the traditional homelands of the Tlingit, Haida and Tsimshian peoples. 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.

However, logging the Tongass has been tremendously costly for taxpayers. A new report estimates that timber sales from the forest have cost taxpayers \$1.7 billion over four decades. Therefore we ask that the Forest Service

- drop the timber part of the project,
- maintain the "roadless rule" Protection for the Tongass,
- stop offering old-growth timber sales in the area,
- stop any clear cutting, chain-sawing old-growth forest, and all bulldozing or rebuilding of any logging roads,
- protect the old-growth Forest as the foundation for the fishing and tourism industry that contributes 26 times as much to the Southeast Alaskan economy than timber,
- preserve this globally recognized carbon sink
- Respect the sovereignty of the Tlingit, Haida and Tsimshian peoples.

Please stop the timber sales immediately, as well as the bulldozing, and maintain the roadless rule!