

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 9/14/2020 12:59:03 PM

First name: Andrew

Last name: Ashburn

Organization:

Title:

Comments: It is likely that this project would cost the taxpayers more than \$11million, which is egregious.

Southeastern Alaska's economy is based heavily on fishing and tourism, roughly 26% of their revenue is derived from it. The destruction of this forest would eliminate the resources these economic drivers depend on or greatly and irreparably be of detriment to them.

This forest is responsible for roughly 8% of the total carbon storage of all our national forests. It's destruction would be critically harmful at a time when the Northwest is seeing great increase in the size and strength of forest fires. The whole world, not just the local residents, is dependent on these carbon sinks to mitigate the effects of our changing global climate.

Lastly, this forest has been the traditional home of the Tlingit, Haida and Tsmishian peoples for thousands of years. Their cultures and life-ways are dependent upon these old-growth forests remaining intact. The destruction of the Tongass would be a violation of indigenous rights and demonstrates a continued genocide of native peoples and, in the least, ethnocide.