Data Submitted (UTC 11): 9/14/2020 3:54:44 PM

First name: Julia Last name: Crocetto Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear Forest Managers, As a former Alaskan, I'm writing in support of keeping the Tongass "Roadless". The Tongass forest represents far more than board-feet of timber for potential sale - a short-sighted consideration. Economically, scientifically, and culturally, the Tongass is more valuable intact than cut. The Tongass Rainforest is part of the critical ecosystem that supports wild salmon, one of the most important food sources of Alaska, and part of its economy. The Tongass, as a rainforest, provides oxygen for more than just Alaska and Canada. Old growth forests like the Tongass must be left intact for the survival of future generations. As other forests burn, it is critical that we protect the Tongass. Further, the Tongass provides life to local residents including Native/First Nations who have lived in this ecosystem for thousands of years. The Tlingit, Haida and Tsmishian peoples are part of the Tongass ecosystem. It is vital that the Tongass retain "Roadless" status in order to protect the traditional life-ways of local Indigenous communities. Destroying critical old growth in the Tongass not only violates the sovereignity of these indigenous people, it threatens their survival. Harvesting the Tongass would devastate wildlife habitat and harm the Southeast Alaska economy. We must think in long term, not the short term. Invest in the future, keep the Tongass Roadless.