

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 9/24/2020 5:49:08 AM

First name: Norene

Last name: Griffin

Organization:

Title:

Comments: As an American who is paying close attention to the accelerating effects of climate change, I am deeply concerned about the proposed South Revilla Integrated Resource Project #53477. The Tongass National Forest is an important carbon sink not just for the United States, but globally as well, storing "8% of the total carbon in the forests of the conterminous USA and 0.25% of the carbon in global forest vegetation and soils." [1] Allowing logging would decrease carbon storage, with carbon density on unmanaged forest being approximately 72 tons per acre versus 45 tons per acre for managed forest. [2] In addition to storing carbon, forests emit biogenic volatile organic compounds that form aerosols that block incoming shortwave radiation, resulting in a cooling effect. [3] With Alaska warming at twice the rate of the global average, [4] preserving every single tree in the Tongass to provide this valuable cooling service would seem to be a more prudent course of action than further opening the forest to logging. I view the proposed South Revilla Integrated Resource Project #53477 not only as a misguided gift to the logging industry, but as a bid to weaken overall protections to the forest, paving the way for additional resource extraction in the future. As a national forest, the Tongass should be protected for the benefit of all Americans over the special interests of industry. I STRONGLY OBJECT to this timber sale that would destroy more than 5,100 acres of critical old-growth trees and dampen the ecological benefits the forest provides to all Americans and to the world. [1] <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10021-005-0028-3> [2] https://www.fs.fed.us/pnw/pubs/pnw_gtr889.pdf [3] <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41467-017-02412-4> [4] <https://www.climate.gov/news-features/event-tracker/high-temperatures-smash-all-time-records-alaska-early-july-2019>