

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 3/25/2026 1:39:15 AM

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Comments: First and foremost is to not emphasize mining and logging in the Tongas as this activity destroys the other beneficial activities of the forest. First the economics, oil returns about 30% to the state, mining about 3% and an unknown return from logging. Next the most beneficial returns from the forest to Alaska and 300 million people of the United States are hunting, fishing, subsistence harvest, recreation/tourism and ecosystem health. The Tongas is the largest remaining temperate forest in North America. The ecosystem health of this forest supports the fish, the game and moderates extreme weather. The natural undisturbed balance of fish, fauna and forest growth is truly remarkable. There is no commercial activity that contributes to the health of the forest. Old growth forest must be protected. There is no commercial activity offering to offset ruined forest by creating old growth forest elsewhere.

Regardless of what this president may say he is ignorant of basic forest ecology and management. Furthermore the Tongas is not like any National forest in the lower 48. The job of the Tongas National Forest at this time is to make extractive activities appear possible but imposible to achieve.