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Organization: NECC Student
Title:
Comments: See attached file(s)

The following text was copy/pasted from an attached letter. The system cannot display the formatting, graphics, or tables from the attached original.

Dear USDA forest service,

I am writing this in regardsto opening up 9.2 million acres of the Tongass National Forest to logging and development. I am currently in a environmental issues class where we discuss some of the issues that this might cause.

Tongass national forest is one of the last untouched parts of the the united states. In my opinion, concidering the majority of the united states is already developed, wildlife and ecosystem must be preserved. Tongass national forest is the largest temperate forest in the world and the largest national forest the united states has to offer.

The people that live there rely on the resources the forest offers. If logging begins, it will disrupt or ruin the lives of the people that live there. 28% of Alaska[rsquo]s salmon from the waters of the Tongass. Removing the forests can cause erosion over time, the trees that naturally grow there hold in the soil. Without the trees erosion will occur more rapidly due to the pacific northwest wind and ocean currents. You guys might say [lsquo][rsquo]we[rsquo]ll replant the trees or not log all at once[rsquo][rsquo] My concern there is that the Tongass will never be the same without those trees there, and the forest will take decades to grow back to what it once was.

I believe long term it will be more profitable to keep the forest in the state that it[rsquo]s in. The money made from tourism, hunters, fishermen will all pay off in the long run. Considering that places like the Tongass national forest are decreasing every year, tourism should go up.

The Tongass is one of the last places on the plant that still carries a healthy population and ecosystem. The plants and animals that live there are like none other found on the planet. The Tongass currently supports all 5 species of salmon, brown and black bear, wolfs, deer, eagles, hawks, and many more small species that contribute to this diverse, heathy ecosystem.

As we know places like this are declining all over the planet. The United States has this great opportunity to preserve a temperate rainforest. If the Tongass national forest isn[rsquo]t preserved it will cause more issues in the long run. Furthermore, the development of the Tongass has the potential to ruin the lives of the people that live there.

[Position]

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