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Title:

Comments:

To Whom It May Concern:

I oppose exemption of The Tongass National Forest from the Roadless Rule. Opening the Tongass to road building would fragment "one of the world's largest unfragmented ecosystems" (Aton, 2019). What's more the Tongass "trees hold about 650 million tons of carbon, which roughly converts to half of U.S. carbon dioxide emissions in 2017" (Aton, 2019).

The Tongass is a sanctuary of wildlife and Old Growth forest. It already feels the effects of climate change elsewhere. Opening the Tongass to road building and logging would fragment and destroy it. The Trump Administration's argument that any impact from logging would be "temporary" is not supported by the IPCC report. Even the scientists cited in the administration's EIS disagree with the administration's EIS. For example, Beverly Law, of Oregon State University, calls the Trump Administration's EIS "misinformation" (Aton, 2019).

Climate change is impacting Alaska. In fact, it is occurring faster than the rest of the country. Destroying the Tongass habitat with road building and logging undermines Alaska's ability to adapt. Some of the trees are "more than a thousand years old" (Aton, 2019). It is imprudent and careless to build roads and log the Tongass for short term financial gain. We must take the long view. There is no way to replace this precious resource. For our posterity and the viability of the world, we must preserve intact the Tongass National Forest.

Sincerely Yours,

Charissa Ebersole

Aton, A, (2019, October 22) E&E News: Experts Dispute Trump Administration's Rationale for Alaska Logging. Scientific American. <https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/experts-dispute-trump-administrations-rationale-for-alaska-logging/>

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