I am writing concerning saving the Tongass Rainforest. This area is 12% of the temperate/boreal of Pacific NW forests. We are losing 28 million acres a year of forests from logging and development. We also expected to lose 1 million species with extinction. The UN has issued a code red for humanity. Yikes! The next decade will determine if we have a chance to save these species. After the trees reach 21 inches in diameter, their rate of carbon sequestration goes up. On a short term rotation, the carbon debt created by logging never pays off.

The Tongass is one of the world’s relatively intact temperate rainforests. 33% of the Tongass is old growth and 16% of the total is roadless. This is home to relatively abundant salmon and climate refugias. Furthermore, the Tongass holds 9.9 Billion tons of CO2 which is nearly 2x what the US emits annually.

WE NEED TO MANAGE THE TONGASS FOR CARBON STORAGE. We should end our old growth logging and transition to recreation, tribal needs, and carbon reserves.

I urge you to save the Tongass from logging and keep it roadless.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.