

An aerial photograph of a calm lake surrounded by a dense forest of evergreen trees. The water is dark and reflects the surrounding greenery. A semi-transparent green rectangular box is centered over the image, containing white text.

**Thank you for joining  
us!  
We will begin shortly**

# Tongass Activist Training



# Holly Eberhard

Protect the Tongass Campaign Intern



# About the Tongass National Forest





# Ecological Value of Tongass

- **Carbon sequestration**
  - Tongass stores 8% of carbon sequestered in U.S. forests
    - 44% of NFS carbon
  - Top 1% of old growth trees store half of total carbon sequestered



# “Dog Hair Forest”



# Cultural Value of Tongass

Tlingit, Haida and Tsimshian land



# THE ISSUE:

## Logging & the Roadless Rule

- Roadless Rule established 2001
  - Prohibits logging and road construction on nearly 60 million roadless acres of National Forest Service lands
- Tongass exempted from the Roadless Rule in Oct. 2020
  - This action opened 9.2 million acres of the Tongass to timber harvest
- USDA announced open comment period Nov. 23, 2021
  - An opportunity for the public to share their opinions on the rollback of the Roadless Rule

“Understory” clip:



# Open Comment Period

What is an open comment?

Tongass Open Comment Period:  
Nov 24, 2021 - Jan 24, 2022

# Letter to the Editor (LTE)

## Step-by-step guide to writing an LTE:

1. **Pick one fact or aspect** of the issue you want to write about and focus on one clear point
2. **Follow your local newspapers' word count**—you are more likely to be published if it's shorter! (Usually within range of 200-350 words)
3. **Use a catchy lead** (personal or clever) to grab the attention of the reader
4. **State the problem or topic right away**
5. **State importance** (why should the reader care?)
6. **Wrap it up with a call to action**



## Submit a Letter to the Editor

The Bee welcomes letters to the editor. To have a letter considered for publication you must include your:

Your Real Name

Postal Address

Daytime phone number

Headline of the story or letter to which you're responding

Date the article appeared

Page number of the article, if you read it in the paper

Please use the form below to submit your letter.

**There is a 150-word limit for letters to the editor.** If you wish to submit a Viewpoints op-ed article instead, you may email it to: [opinion@sacbee.com](mailto:opinion@sacbee.com).

Be sure to view our [guidelines for Viewpoints articles](#) before submitting.

Due to the volume of letters received, The Bee cannot respond to inquiries regarding the status of ones that have been submitted.

Letters may be edited for clarity, brevity and content. Letters may be rejected if the writer has already been published within the last 30 days.

Your Real Name \*

Postal Address \*

Street Address

Address Line 2

Structure:

Hook

Transition sentence

Problem/Context

Personal/Solution

Dear Editor,

The USDA is currently accepting public comments for the United States' fight against climate change. The most effective way to save our quickly warming planet is through nature-based solutions. Nature-based solutions to climate change involve conserving, restoring, and better managing ecosystems to better remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. However, some nature-based solutions are more effective and efficient than others, such as the protection of primary forests.

The protection of primary forests such as the Tongass National Forest should be the main priority in our fight against climate change. Primary forests sequester more carbon in a safer manner than planted forests, while offering more biodiversity. Primary forests store around 30-50% more carbon than degraded forests, making the practice of cutting and regrowing trees not nearly as helpful in preventing climate change. They also have more stable carbon stocks due to their biodiversity. This is why the Roadless Rule, already an active policy in the United States that prevents logging and road building in wilderness areas and national forests, should be upheld and protected against potential rollbacks. I encourage people to advocate for these nature-based solutions in the open comment period.

Sincerely,

XXX

# Your turn!

## Step-by-step guide to writing an LTE:

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## Tongass Quick Facts:

- Ecological
  - Tongass is largest intact temperate rainforest in world
  - Stores more carbon than any other national forest
    - Tongass old growth stores 8% of total carbon sequestered by U.S. forests and 44% of carbon sequestered by NFS land
  - Important habitat for all five species of Pacific salmon, as well as brown bears, bald eagles, wolves
- Cultural
  - Homeland to Tlingit, Haida and Tsimshian people
  - Contains sacred resources, ie. cedar
- Economic
  - Logging industry provides small percent of Alaska GDP
    - Actually detrimental to fishing and tourism industries, two of Alaska's largest industries
  - Actually costs taxpayers to build roads and necessary logging infrastructure

**When finished, submit your comment to USFS (link in chat) AND your local newspaper as an LTE!**

Thank you for attending!

Contact info:

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