

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM

First name: Anon

Last name: X

Organization:

Title:

Comments:

Alt One

I choose alternative one. We do not need renewed road building and logging in the Tongass National Forest. The roads will negatively effect the fishing industry, which is the real source of income. The timber industry had already failed before the roadless rule.

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM

First name: Mardell

Last name: Xavier

Organization:

Title:

Comments:

I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trump's plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

The Tongass contains some of the largest intact old-growth temperate rainforest in the world, and its value in providing clean water for fish and wildlife habitat is essential to the economic and ecological health of Southeast Alaska. I urge you to keep the federal Roadless Rule intact and current protections in place for national forests in Alaska.

In addition, I strongly object to your plans to reduce and remove protections from our national forests roadless areas. The Roadless Rule is one of the smartest and most popular land management policies the Federal Government has ever adopted. Not only does it preserve some of America's best fish and wildlife habitat, but it also saves untold millions of taxpayer dollars that might otherwise be spent to subsidize money-losing timber sales. The value of the Roadless Rule in preventing environmentally damaging and economically wasteful road-building and logging is particularly relevant in the Tongass, where logging costs vastly exceed timber revenues and require unconscionable taxpayer subsidies.

Regards, Mardell Xavier

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM

First name: marjorie

Last name: xavier

Organization:

Title:

Comments:

My name is marjorie xavier and I live in Hayward, California.

I am writing to express strong opposition to efforts to roll back the Roadless Area Conservation Rule (Roadless Rule) in Alaska or elsewhere. The Roadless Rule was implemented with unprecedented public support to protect some of our nations most pristine public lands, including large parts of the Tongass National Forest. You must choose the No Action alternative. Any other choice would ignore overwhelming public support and harm Alaskans, including Alaska Natives, and taxpayers across the nation.

In Southeast Alaska, tourism accounts for 28% of employment and generate an annual \$1 billion in economic benefit, making it far more of an economic driver than the timber industry, which is less than 1% of the regional economy.

Any choice but the No Action alternative would also put wildlife and critical habitat at risk, threaten access to clean water, and be a step in the wrong direction on climate change jeopardizing Alaskans at a time when the state already faces severe challenges related to rising temperatures. I urge you not to abandon the Roadless Rule in Alaska and instead to put the public interest above corporate profits by choosing to keep the rule in place unchanged.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Regards, marjorie xavier

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM

First name: Alina

Last name: Xayawong

Organization:

Title:

Comments:

HC6430

Dear Secretary Perdue,

I am writing to support the ***No-Action Alternative*** for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed changes to the Alaska Roadless Rule. I strongly object to your plans reduce and remove protections from roadless areas in the Tongass National Forest. The Tongass contains the largest remaining intact temperate rainforest on Earth, and its value in providing clean water and habitat for fish and wildlife is essential to the economic and ecological health of Southeast Alaska. Furthermore, it's a critical carbon sink to combat climate change.

I urge you to keep the federal Roadless Rule intact and current protections in place for national forests in Alaska and across the country.

Sincerely,

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM

First name: Sarah

Last name: Xenophon

Organization:

Title:

Comments:

HC3702

U.S. Forest Service Alaska Roadless Rule

Comment Period

Comment Period Alaska Roadless Rule:

The Roadless Rule has been instrumental in conserving the Chugach and Tongass National Forest and in supporting their associated fish and wildlife-based industries for almost 20 years. Please uphold the Rule's protections for important fish and wildlife areas, including the Tongass 77, by selecting the 'no action' alternative. Roadless areas are an important source of food, jobs, and income through commercial, subsistence, and recreational fishing. Salmon are part of Alaska's culture and we must protect them and their spawning streams. Please do not roll back roadless area protections for habitat that our irreplaceable fish and wildlife populations need to survive.

Sincerely,

Sarah Xenophon

Ehprata, PA 17522

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/12/2019 3:00:00 PM

First name: Sarah

Last name: Xenophon

Organization:

Title:

Comments:

As a supporter of Backcountry Hunters & Anglers and our wild public lands, waters and wildlife, I am very concerned with the proposed rulemaking announced in Federal Register Document Number 2019-0023. I am writing these comments to strongly encourage you to maintain roadless area protections for the Tongass National Forest, including the wild fisheries habitat in the Tongass 77 and adopt the no action Alternative 1. These public lands and waters are prized by sportsmen and women and are a mainstay of Alaska's economy, helping drive an \$887 billion economic engine from outdoor recreation like hunting and fishing.

At nearly 17 million acres, the Tongass is the nation's largest national forest and the world's largest remaining intact coastal temperate rainforest; 9.3 million acres of that wild backcountry is inventoried roadless areas, providing high quality habitat for a unique diversity of sought-after game species, including mountain goats, black-tailed deer and both brown and black bears. The Tongass also encompasses thousands of miles of salmon-rich waterways, legendary among anglers and fundamental to the state's commercial salmon industry. The commercial fishing sector alone relies on the Tongass for more than 80 percent of its salmon and employs more than 4,300 people in the region, accounting for 9 percent of the area's entire employment. By contrast, timber production accounts for only 1 percent of the region's jobs.

Further, this proposal and the preferred alternative set a slippery precedent that threatens to unravel roadless rule protections for fish and wildlife across all of our nation's wild roadless forest lands. None of the identified alternatives take into consideration BHA's scoping comments to include balanced management policies for the Tongass, utilizing the 2001 Roadless Area Conservation Rule as a foundational benchmark for improvements so that any roadless policies only enhance the most important fish and wildlife habitats. Logging and timber harvest already co-exist with roadless areas in the Tongass after years of prior compromise and consensus-building.

I implore you to maintain the integrity of Alaska's roadless areas and the Tongass 77, critical watersheds for trout and salmon. The Roadless Area Conservation Rule is a collaborative management approach adopted following one of the most extensive public engagement campaigns in the history of federal rulemaking. It may be America's best and most popular land management rule ever. The costs to American taxpayers for road building and unconscionably subsidized resource extraction are too high - not to mention the irreparable impact to wildlife, water, subsistence practices and traditions like hunting and fishing.

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 1/1/0001 12:00:00 AM

First name: Sarah

Last name: Xenophon

Organization:

Title:

Comments:

3702

U.S. Forest Service Alaska Roadless Rule

Comment Period

Comment Period Alaska Roadless Rule:

The Roadless Rule has been instrumental in conserving the Chugach and Tongass National Forest and in supporting their associated fish and wildlife-based industries for almost 20 years. Please uphold the Rule's protections for important fish and wildlife areas, including the Tongass 77, by selecting the 'no action' alternative. Roadless areas are an important source of food, jobs, and income through commercial, subsistence, and recreational fishing. Salmon are part of Alaska's culture and we must protect them and their spawning streams. Please do not roll back roadless area protections for habitat that our irreplaceable fish and wildlife populations need to survive.

Sincerely,

Sarah Xenophon

Ehprata, PA 17522

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM

First name: Arthur

Last name: Xenos

Organization:

Title:

Comments:

I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

The Tongass contains some of the largest intact old-growth temperate rainforest in the world, and its value in providing clean water for fish and wildlife habitat is essential to the economic and ecological health of Southeast Alaska. I urge you to keep the federal Roadless Rule intact and current protections in place for national forests in Alaska.

In addition, I strongly object to your plans to reduce and remove protections from our national forests roadless areas. The Roadless Rule is one of the smartest and most popular land management policies the Federal Government has ever adopted. Not only does it preserve some of Americas best fish and wildlife habitat, but it also saves untold millions of taxpayer dollars that might otherwise be spent to subsidize money-losing timber sales. The value of the Roadless Rule in preventing environmentally damaging and economically wasteful road-building and logging is particularly relevant in the Tongass, where logging costs vastly exceed timber revenues and require unconscionable taxpayer subsidies.

Regards, Arthur Xenos

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM

First name: Isabel

Last name: Xochitl

Organization:

Title:

Comments:

Roadless Rule Public Comment

To the USDA Secretary of Agriculture or whom it may concern,

I humbly submit the following comments and inquiries regarding the Alaska Roadless Rule and its effect on the Tongass National Forest.

The Tongass is the northernmost tip of what was once a vast, primeval conifer-dominated temperate rainforest, stretching 3000km from California to Alaska. Now, after over a century of extractive industrial logging operations, the unentered, unlogged, undisturbed and intact areas that remain are few. Because of their rarity, the Forest Service's role in stewarding and protecting these areas is elevated to one of planetary significance.

The Roadless Rule garnered broad support when it was proposed. During public comments and hearings in Southeast Alaska, 95% of the public was in favor of the Rule. Since its approval nearly two decades ago, the plight of forests worldwide has only become more dire. At the same time, their protection is now even more urgent in the face of climate chaos threatening to destabilize life on Earth. Why would USFS consider nullifying the Rule in the Tongass when global deforestation has only worsened since the Rule was instated?

Compared to modern managed forests, unentered ancient forests are unparalleled in their ability to sequester carbon and to provide refugia for animal species.

Carbon sequestration:

Temperate rainforests including the Tongass are some of the most powerful carbon sinks in the world, capable of sequestering more carbon per acre than even the Amazon rainforest. Why, then, with scientists across the globe scrambling to design carbon sink technologies, would USFS sacrifice the natural carbon sinks under its management? Deforestation contributes to snowballing climate effects.

Refugia and habitat:

Does the USFS recognize that we are currently experiencing the sixth mass extinction? How does USFS management address the urgency of protecting habitat for both listed and unlisted species that are threatened by human population growth, development, industry, agriculture and forestry? The Tongass is home to multiple rare species.

The Queen Charlotte goshawk is one example. The US Fish and Wildlife Service declined to list Alaskan populations of the Queen Charlotte goshawk because it believed that the protections on the Tongass would protect the goshawk in that area. It did choose to list and therefore protect the goshawk on Vancouver Island. If the Tongass is opened to road building and logging, will the USFWS then choose to list the Tongass population of the goshawk? What restrictions are in place for each of the Alternatives 2-6 to specifically protect the goshawk? The goshawk deserves a "no take" attitude from the agencies overseeing management of its habitat. And the goshawk is only one example of many rare species that call the Tongass home.

I urge you to adopt Alternative 1 - to maintain the Roadless Rule in the Tongass. Roadless, unentered forest areas must stay that way! Please do not open the door to industrial logging in a pristine wilderness that contains critical habitat. USFS holds in its hands the opportunity to preserve and steward the breathtakingly beautiful and ecologically unique great Southeastern Alaskan forests of the Tongass, providing habitat for future generations of rare wildlife species, natural carbon sequestration and respecting the innate right of nature to govern itself in perpetual balance.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Isabel Osheroff

Berkeley, California

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 12:00:00 AM

First name: Nancy

Last name: XXXXXXXXXXX

Organization:

Title:

Comments:

I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trump's plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

The Tongass contains some of the largest intact old-growth temperate rainforest in the world, and its value in providing clean water for fish and wildlife habitat is essential to the economic and ecological health of Southeast Alaska. I urge you to keep the federal Roadless Rule intact and current protections in place for national forests in Alaska.

In addition, I strongly object to your plans to reduce and remove protections from our national forests roadless areas. The Roadless Rule is one of the smartest and most popular land management policies the Federal Government has ever adopted. Not only does it preserve some of America's best fish and wildlife habitat, but it also saves untold millions of taxpayer dollars that might otherwise be spent to subsidize money-losing timber sales. The value of the Roadless Rule in preventing environmentally damaging and economically wasteful road-building and logging is particularly relevant in the Tongass, where logging costs vastly exceed timber revenues and require unconscionable taxpayer subsidies. It is totally a blatant attempt by the Trump administration to do as much damage as he possibly can to destroy our planet and obviously has the approval of the Republican party who never do anything to stop him. This area is important for many reasons....people, animals, climate, preservation of life. Keep your lousy Twitter fingers out and off of our nature that protects and needs to be preserved and not destroyed by indifferent people of power.

Regards, Nancy XXXXXXXXXXX

[Position]

[Position]