Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: A.
Last name: W.
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, A. W.

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Anne
Last name: W.
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Anne W. and I live in State College, Pennsylvania.

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, Anne W.

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: P.
Last name: W.
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is P. W. and I live in Chicago, Illinois.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, P. W.

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: P.
Last name: W.
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
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Regards, P. W.

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: A
Last name: W
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is A W and I live in Leesburg, Virginia.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, A W

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/20/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: A
Last name: W
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
NO

NO

NO

NO

NO

NO

NO!!!This is unacceptable and considering our dire climate situation DANGEROUS! Stop killing our planet!

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/20/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: B
Last name: W
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Do not change the current designation of the Tongass National Forest. We need these greenspaces to slow man-made climate change and shelter nature.

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/10/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: C
Last name: W
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is C W and I live in Saint Charles, Missouri.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, C W

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: C
Last name: W
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.

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Regards, C W

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Chethana
Last name: W
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Chethana W and I live in Raritan, New Jersey.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Chethana W

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: jand
Last name: w
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is jand w and I live in Glendale, Arizona.

do NOT call--my future donation is contingent on NO CALLS!!

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, jand w

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Patricia
Last name: W
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.

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Regards, Patricia W

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: R
Last name: W
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is R W and I live in Westminster, Colorado.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, R W

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: R
Last name: W
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
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Regards, R W

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Rev
Last name: W
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Rev W and I live in Asheville, North Carolina.

The living beings in this forest are TREES. Not board feet of lumber. They are the lungs of the earth. They heal and protect many other plants. In truth, without our forest we cannot breathe. And we will all die faster. Wake up and STOP killing the world.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.

Regards, Rev W

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/10/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: RON
Last name: W
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is RON W and I live in Santa Cruz, 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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, RON W

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: S
Last name: W
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I oppose exempting the Tongass National Forest from the Roadless Rule. The Tongass National Forest provides more long term benefits to the Nation, local and subsistence communities, and the State of Alaska than short term development can provide.

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/10/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Sharon
Last name: W
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Sharon W and I live in Newton, Massachusetts.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Sharon W

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Richard
Last name: Waak
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, Richard Waak

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Richard
Last name: Waak
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
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Regards, Richard Waak

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Gemma
Last name: Waaland
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Gemma Waaland and I live in Davis, CA. I am writing a comment on the Alaska Roadless Rule DEIS because I am concerned with how the Rule and the proposed full exemption will affect the Tongass National Forest and the Chugach National Forest.

The Tongass National Forest, besides being an essential resource for carbon sequestration and combatting climate change, needs no defense other than it is a National Forest. They are meant to be protected and preserved, and any attempt to redefine or degrade that distinction, is wrong.

I urge the Forest Service to select Alternative 1, the no action alternative, for the final decision on the Alaska Roadless Rule. This alternative protects the inventoried roadless areas in Alaska that are full of pristine wilderness and provide important fish and wildlife habitat, and already allows for important community and economic development projects. As an American citizen, I value the Tongass National Forest and the Chugach National Forest for its status as America's best natural solution to climate change and its sequestering of millions of metric tons of carbon and mitigating climate change, its wild salmon populations and the world-class fishing opportunities, its huge swaths of intact ecosystems and all the biodiversity it contains, its status as the largest intact temperate rainforest in the world, the high density of incredible wildlife it contains, its status as a national and global treasure, the lifestyles of the indigenous communities that the forest supports. A full exemption does not protect these priorities, nor does it effectively balance economic development with the countless other benefits provided by roadless areas. I would like the Forest Service to manage roadless areas for low-impact recreation (camping, hiking, hunting, foraging, etc), passive/active watershed restoration (stream and habitat) to improve/maintain roadless characteristics (culvert removal/replacement, improve fish passage, wildlife thinning, etc). It is important to me that high-value intact habitat including the T77 watersheds and the TNC conservation priority areas retain their roadless protections in any alternative selected.

The Forest Service is wasting taxpayers' valuable time and money by trying to prop up a failing timber industry in Southeast Alaska. The nonpartisan, independent taxpayer watchdog Taxpayers for Common Sense reported that the Tongass timber program has losses of over $600 million of taxpayers money in the past 20 years. I would rather see my taxpayer dollars used to restore salmon habitat that was hurt by past logging practices, perform restorative actions that support wildlife populations on previously degraded landscapes that support wildlife populations, support small-scale, sustainable logging, establish the economic value of the carbon stored in the Tongass. We need to stop subsidizing the clearcutting of old growth on the Tongass through taxpayer funded roadbuilding. If a full exemption were chosen, it would not create opportunities and would instead prioritize the special interests of one industry over the interests of the entire American public.

The Tongass is Americas homegrown natural solution to climate change. The forest sequesters 8% of the carbon stored in forests throughout the contiguous US states, some 3 billion metric tons of it. We must take action to mitigate and adapt to climate change, and maintaining the Tongass in a roadless state is critical for a sustainable future.

I urge the Forest Service to listen to the voices of the American people and prioritize them over corporate interests. The Forest Service should strengthen public involvement in developing land management policy and focus on broadly supported work rather than allowing special corporate interests to guide policy changes. Attempting to exempt inventoried roadless areas on the Chugach National Forest from the Alaska Roadless

Rule adds further insult to injury, and this proposal has not received any sufficient environmental impact analysis or public input. Choosing a full exemption will not create a long lasting, durable solution for roadless areas in Alaska it will only increase the legal challenges, uncertainty for businesses, and conflict over these forests going forward.

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Nancy
Last name: Waasdorp
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. It is the RIGHT THING TO DO! 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, Nancy Waasdorp

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Carolyn
Last name: Wacaser
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Carolyn Wacaser and I live in Lakewood, Colorado.

Trees are vitally important to mitigating CO2 in our atmosphere!!

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, Carolyn Wacaser

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Ester
Last name: Wacasey
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.

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Regards, Ester Wacasey

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Ester
Last name: Wacasey
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, Ester Wacasey

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Teresa
Last name: Wach
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.

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Regards, Teresa Wach

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Teresa
Last name: Wach
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
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Regards, Teresa Wach

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Nancy
Last name: Wacha
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.

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Regards, Nancy Wacha

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Jan
Last name: Wachholz
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.

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Regards, Jan Wachholz

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/11/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Janice
Last name: Wachholz
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Our household is asking that U.S. Forest Service decision-makers leave the Roadless Rule intact for the Tongass by selecting the "no action" alternative. Please save the rare wild beauty of the Tongass National Forest from renewed logging. Our government should protect salmon and wildlife habitat, and the rare wild beauty of the Tongass!!!

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Gail
Last name: Wachowski
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.

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Regards, Gail Wachowski

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Fern
Last name: Wachtel
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Fern Wachtel and I live in New York, New York.

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, Fern Wachtel

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/17/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Chris
Last name: Waddell
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Chris Waddell and I live in Dayton, Ohio.

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.

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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, Chris Waddell

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: H
Last name: Waddell
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.

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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, H Waddell

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: John
Last name: Waddell
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is [@John [@Waddell and I live in Indiana, PA.
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, John Waddell

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/20/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Mitch
Last name: Waddell
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
We need more trees, not less. Have some actuaries do a proper cost vs benefits analysis of this type of activity before doing irreparable damage.

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Robert
Last name: Waddell
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.

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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, Robert Waddell

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/19/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: John
Last name: Wadden
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Comments to oppose modification to the Roadless Rule

Dear U.S. Forest Service,

I am a U.S. citizen and business executive citizen with an MBA and twenty years experience working for large corporations. I am writing to strongly urge you to preserve the federal Roadless Rule in the Tongass National Forest of Alaska. Tongass is our last protected wilderness area and part of our tremendous American natural heritage. Most of Alaska is already heavily used for mining, logging, and oil extraction. Surely we can preserve one forest in one part of the state.

Our Alaska economy depends upon tourists and visitors who travel here to see our clean mountains, forests and rivers. Small businesses and family businesses near Tongass are reliant upon providing hospitality services. Once we build roads and clear cut our last remaining forest, the environment will become fragmented and our national treasured wildlife will lose one its last remaining habitats.

Please support the "No Action" Alternative (Alternative 1) and allow the Roadless Rule to remain in place for the Tongass National Forest.

Sincerely,

John Wadden

Denver, CO 80209

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Caitlin
Last name: Waddick
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Please preserve and conserve Tongass National Forest. Do not allow deforestation, logging, road building, or mining. Please accept the leadership and stewardship of this national treasure by local Indigenous peoples.

Research shows that forest conservation protects our air and water. Research shows that local and Indigenous leadership is the best method to steward these land resources for long-term benefits for all taxpayers.

We all need this healthy ecosystem and the healthy communities in and around the Forest. Please do not allow exclusionary access to businesses; such businesses profit unfairly with no benefits to our precious ecosystems and communities.

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Jacqueline
Last name: Waddill
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Jacqueline Waddill and I live in Pasadena, 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, Jacqueline Waddill

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Brian
Last name: Wade
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC4109

U.S. Forest Service Alaska Roadless Rule Committee:

We don't need more roads in the wilderness.

The Roadless Rule has been instrumental in conserving the Tongass National Forest and in supporting its 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. 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,

Brian Wade

Seattle, WA 98136

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/11/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Caroline
Last name: Wade
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Caroline Wade and I live in Greenville, South Carolina.

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.

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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, Caroline Wade

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Ellen
Last name: Wade
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Ellen Wade and I live in San Diego, California.

Too many alternatives, stop the toxic pollution!

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Ellen Wade

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Jeffrey
Last name: Wade
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I support preservation of the roadless status, i.e. "option 1." The long term benefits of maintaining this unique natural forest habitat should not be squandered in the interest of short term profits.

Thank you,

Jeff Wade

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/21/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: John
Last name: Wade
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Please do not exempt the Tongass from the roadless rule. Logging our old-growth timber hurts other opportunities to enjoy this region. Future generations will treasure it as well. Thank you.

John Wade

Juneau, Alaska

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/15/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: john
Last name: wade
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Please do not sell more old-growth logs from our national forest. Future generations will be able to get so much more value from them.

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/12/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Kevin
Last name: Wade
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): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Nora
Last name: Wade
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Nora Wade and I live in Frederick, Maryland.

Please protect this irreplaceable treasure for generations to come.

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, Nora Wade

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/7/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Thomas
Last name: Wade
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.
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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): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Tim
Last name: Wade
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC5179

U.S. Forest Service Alaska Roadless Rule Committee:

I am 70 years old and have witnessed first hand the damage clear cut logging has done to steelhead, salmon and wild trout rivers and streams in virtually every western state, especially northern CA, Oregon, WA and even in British Columbia in my lifetime. While we cannot go back in time and do things over, we can consider the intrinsic value of these roadless areas and pristine forest environments for our children and grandchildren.

Extractive industries like logging are short term boons to local economies, whereas sustainable steelhead, salmon and trout fisheries will sustain local economies in the form of tourism for decades if not forever if the forested and roadless areas remain intact and the fisheries are managed in a sustainable non-hatchery manner.

Once the trees are gone, so is the logging economy and employment opportunities.

Road building in these fragile environments increase sediment loads that are carried to rivers and streams during rain and snowmelt events further adding stress to an already threatened or endangered anadromous fishery in the United States.

I would much rather see selective cutting done anyway versus clear cut so the forests remain sustainable over a longer period of time, should that be a consideration in the Environmental Assessment. Alaska is the last great place for steelhead, salmon, trout, grayling and char. Let's keep Alaska wild and keep the Tongass as a symbol of conservation and not for instant gratification for short term gain.

The Roadless Rule has been instrumental in conserving the Tongass National Forest and in supporting its 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. 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,

Tim Wade

Cody, WY 82414

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Val
Last name: Wade
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Val Wade and I live in Bellingham, WA. I am writing a comment on the Alaska Roadless Rule DEIS because I am concerned with how the Rule and the proposed full exemption will affect the Tongass National Forest and the Chugach National Forest.

I sit on a Conservation District board and have seen how valuable wild lands are to the health of local, state, federal and global communities. Global climate change affects us all. It makes good business sense to do the most we can as soon as we can. Its also the compassionate choice for future generations of all species. Please protect the Tongass National Forest.

I urge the Forest Service to select Alternative 1, the no action alternative, for the final decision on the Alaska Roadless Rule. This alternative protects the inventoried roadless areas in Alaska that are full of pristine wilderness and provide important fish and wildlife habitat, and already allows for important community and economic development projects. As an American citizen, I value the Tongass National Forest and the Chugach National Forest for its status as America's best natural solution to climate change and its sequestering of millions of metric tons of carbon and mitigating climate change, its wild salmon populations and the world-class fishing opportunities, its huge swaths of intact ecosystems and all the biodiversity it contains, its status as the largest intact temperate rainforest in the world, the recreational opportunities it provides, the high density of incredible wildlife it contains, to keep public lands wild for future generations, the lifestyles of the indigenous communities that the forest supports its status as a national and global treasure. A full exemption does not protect these priorities, nor does it effectively balance economic development with the countless other benefits provided by roadless areas. I would like the Forest Service to manage roadless areas for low-impact recreation (camping, hiking, hunting, foraging, etc), passive/active watershed restoration (stream and habitat) to improve/maintain roadless characteristics (culvert removal/replacement, improve fish passage, etc). It is important to me that high-value intact habitat including the T77 watersheds and the TNC conservation priority areas retain their roadless protections in any alternative selected.

The Forest Service is wasting taxpayers' valuable time and money by trying to prop up a failing timber industry in Southeast Alaska. The nonpartisan, independent taxpayer watchdog Taxpayers for Common Sense reported that the Tongass timber program has losses of over $600 million of taxpayers money in the past 20 years. I would rather see my taxpayer dollars used to restore salmon habitat that was hurt by past logging practices, perform restorative actions that support wildlife populations on previously degraded landscapes that support wildlife populations, establish the economic value of the carbon stored in the Tongass. We need to stop subsidizing the clearcutting of old growth on the Tongass through taxpayer funded roadbuilding. If a full exemption were chosen, it would not create opportunities and would instead prioritize the special interests of one industry over the interests of the entire American public.

The Tongass is Americas homegrown natural solution to climate change. The forest sequesters 8% of the carbon stored in forests throughout the contiguous US states, some 3 billion metric tons of it. We must take action to mitigate and adapt to climate change, and maintaining the Tongass in a roadless state is critical for a sustainable future.

I urge the Forest Service to listen to the voices of the American people and prioritize them over corporate interests. The Forest Service should strengthen public involvement in developing land management policy and

focus on broadly supported work rather than allowing special corporate interests to guide policy changes. Attempting to exempt inventoried roadless areas on the Chugach National Forest from the Alaska Roadless Rule adds further insult to injury, and this proposal has not received any sufficient environmental impact analysis or public input. Choosing a full exemption will not create a long lasting, durable solution for roadless areas in Alaska it will only increase the legal challenges, uncertainty for businesses, and conflict over these forests going forward.

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Mararet
Last name: Waden
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Mararet Waden and I live in Sachse, Texas.

Please stop this poisoning of our food and water!

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, Mararet Waden

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Keith
Last name: Wadley
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC5419

U.S. Forest Service Alaska Roadless Rule Committee:

I have lived in Southeast Alaska for the past 22 years having moved here shortly after the pulp mill closed in Ketchikan. Both of my children worked as commercial fisherman during their college years. I am not anti-logging. I believe that the plan to transition to harvesting second growth timber on the existing network of roads makes the most sense. Prince of Wales Island, for example, has an existing 2,000 mile road system and the second growth timber is approaching harvest size. The Forest Service should be working to develop markets for this timber. It seems to me that assisting Viking Lumber with a zero interest loan to re-tool to process second growth would, in the long-run, make the most economic sense for all involved.

I am writing in support of the 'no action' alternative to leave the Roadless Rule unchanged in Alaska. I am concerned that changes to the rule would lead to greatly expand clear-cut logging of old growth timber and costly road building in undeveloped, wild areas of both the Tongass and Chugach Forests. These activities increase sedimentation, hurt water quality, often block salmon migration, and add to an already large backlog of needed road maintenance and restoration.

Our fisheries and wild forests are critical to the economy of Alaska. To grow these sectors of our economy, we need intact habitat. Please leave the Alaska Roadless Rule in place.

Sincerely,

Keith Wadley

Ketchikan, AK 99901

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Lynn
Last name: Wadley
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC5736

Dear U.S. Forest Service,

CC: Alaska Congressional Delegation and Federal Administration

I support the no-action alternative to leave the 2001 Roadless Rule in place on the Tongass National Forest. We must continue to phase out old-growth clear-cut logging and instead prioritize restoring degraded watersheds and fish streams that contribute to the growing fisheries and tourism-based economies of Southeast. To that end, please conserve the Tongass 77 and TNC priority areas in the final Roadless Rule.

Sincerely,

Comments: *(Eg: list locations you recreate, or why you value Tongass fish & wildlife)* [Text italicized for emphasis]

[Box unchecked] I would like to get more involved in the campaign!

*By taking this action, you are consenting to receive future communications via phone, text message, email, or mail from Sitka Conservation Society and its partners working to protect the Tongass. * [Text italicized for emphasis]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Valerie
Last name: Wadman
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Valerie Wadman and I live in Cut Bank, Montana.

Clear cutting is devastating to an area. But I am not opposed to some management. Overgrowth can be a problem too.

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, Valerie Wadman

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/11/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Andrew
Last name: Wadsworth
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Andrew Wadsworth and I live in Reading, Pennsylvania.

Once it's gone, it's gone.

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, Andrew Wadsworth

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Erika
Last name: Waechter
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, Erika Waechter

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Lisa
Last name: Waege
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, Lisa Waege

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Lisa
Last name: Waege
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, Lisa Waege

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Brooke
Last name: Wagenseller
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, Brooke Wagenseller

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Brooke
Last name: Wagenseller
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, Brooke Wagenseller

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/19/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Ray
Last name: Wager
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I strongly support the Roadless Rule for Alaska. In view of the fact of climate change it is especially important for the Tongas. I realize that the citizens and extractive industries in Alaska oppose it, but the profits and jobs created by allowing road building would be meaningless if the climate protection afforded by the forests were to be substantially reduced as a result of extensive logging.

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: linda
Last name: wages
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Protect the Tongass Wilderness Area

To Whom It May Concern:

First, please do not vote to reduce the protections to the Tongass Wilderness via eliminating the roadless rule protections or any other protections. I have been there and fully realize the precious resources it is and it protects.

Second, please do not vote to make any changes in the way the Tongass Wilderness area is managed and protected unless and until you've spent a night in the Wilderness area and at least a couple of days experiencing the vast area that Americans and American law has been protecting for good reasons.

Third: The Trump administration's decision to exempt the Tongass from the Roadless Rule and allow industrial scale logging of the ancient forest. Make no mistake: This foolhardy decision will allow 165,000 acres of old-growth forest to be clear-cut. Such a move threatens wildlife, fish habitat and the fisheries they support. This decision goes against years of collaboration between the U.S. Forest Service, Southeastern Alaskan tribes, outdoor recreation and fishing interests and local community members.

Fourth: Obviously logging ancient forest is permanent destruction to the wilderness area that cannot be repaired.

Fifth: Logging old growth forests contributes to climate change and is totally unnecessary.

Thank you for your consideration. Please note that future generations are counting on your willingness to put their welfare above profit. We can work to limit climate change where possible. Future generations will suffer from our careless actions. Do no eliminate the roadless rule protections for the Tongass

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/12/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: PAUL
Last name: WAGES
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): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Lee
Last name: Waggoner
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, Lee Waggoner

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/29/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Neil
Last name: Waggoner
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Neil Waggoner and I live in Anchorage, AK. I am writing a comment on the Alaska Roadless Rule DEIS because I am concerned with how the Rule and the proposed full exemption will affect the Tongass National Forest and the Chugach National Forest.

Keep the Tongass Wild, protect these last undamaged natural lands forever for the enjoyment of this generation and future generations. The Tongass is an important carbon storage area, and one of the finest remaining wild places on the planet.

I urge the Forest Service to select Alternative 1, the no action alternative, for the final decision on the Alaska Roadless Rule. This alternative protects the inventoried roadless areas in Alaska that are full of pristine wilderness and provide important fish and wildlife habitat, and already allows for important community and economic development projects. As an American citizen, I value the Tongass National Forest and the Chugach National Forest for its status as America's best natural solution to climate change and its sequestering of millions of metric tons of carbon and mitigating climate change, its wild salmon populations and the world-class fishing opportunities, its huge swaths of intact ecosystems and all the biodiversity it contains, its status as the largest intact temperate rainforest in the world, the recreational opportunities it provides, the high density of incredible wildlife it contains, to keep public lands wild for future generations, its status as a national and global treasure, the lifestyles of the indigenous communities that the forest supports. A full exemption does not protect these priorities, nor does it effectively balance economic development with the countless other benefits provided by roadless areas. I would like the Forest Service to manage roadless areas for low-impact recreation (camping, hiking, hunting, foraging, etc), medium-impact recreation (FS cabins, trails, mooring buoys, 3-sided shelters), passive/active watershed restoration (stream and habitat) to improve/maintain roadless characteristics (culvert removal/replacement, improve fish passage, wildlife thinning, etc). It is important to me that high-value intact habitat including the T77 watersheds and the TNC conservation priority areas retain their roadless protections in any alternative selected.

The Forest Service is wasting taxpayers' valuable time and money by trying to prop up a failing timber industry in Southeast Alaska. The nonpartisan, independent taxpayer watchdog Taxpayers for Common Sense reported that the Tongass timber program has losses of over $600 million of taxpayers money in the past 20 years. I would rather see my taxpayer dollars used to restore salmon habitat that was hurt by past logging practices, perform restorative actions that support wildlife populations on previously degraded landscapes that support wildlife populations, develop more recreational opportunities, like trails and cabins, support small-scale, sustainable logging, establish the economic value of the carbon stored in the Tongass. We need to stop subsidizing the clearcutting of old growth on the Tongass through taxpayer funded roadbuilding. If a full exemption were chosen, it would not create opportunities and would instead prioritize the special interests of one industry over the interests of the entire American public.

The Tongass is Americas homegrown natural solution to climate change. The forest sequesters 8% of the carbon stored in forests throughout the contiguous US states, some 3 billion metric tons of it. We must take action to mitigate and adapt to climate change, and maintaining the Tongass in a roadless state is critical for a sustainable future.

I urge the Forest Service to listen to the voices of the American people and prioritize them over corporate interests. The Forest Service should strengthen public involvement in developing land management policy and focus on broadly supported work rather than allowing special corporate interests to guide policy changes. Attempting to exempt inventoried roadless areas on the Chugach National Forest from the Alaska Roadless Rule adds further insult to injury, and this proposal has not received any sufficient environmental impact analysis or public input. Choosing a full exemption will not create a long lasting, durable solution for roadless areas in Alaska it will only increase the legal challenges, uncertainty for businesses, and conflict over these forests going forward.

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Priscilla
Last name: Waggoner
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, Priscilla Waggoner

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/12/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Priscilla
Last name: Waggoner
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
The American people are heavily in favor of maintaining roadless protections in the Tongass National Forest and are insisting in the strongest way possible that you adopt the no action Alternative 1. 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.

[position]

[position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/26/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Kathlyn
Last name: Wagloo
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC140

I love the Tongass. Living in it & hiking, kayaking, + earning $ from tourism is important to me. This place is important to travelers & transforms them. Everything is connection to everything. I use a large extended area. I urge you to take a no-action alternative on the AK specific Roadless Rule. Please keep this special place Roadless. Respecfully.

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 1/1/0001 12:00:00 AM
First name: Joanie
Last name: Wagmer
Organization:
Title:
Comments:

Dear Chief Christiansen,

I live and work on the lands and waters of the Tongass National Forest. The health of the Tongass National Forest is critical to sustaining my way of life in this rugged region. From hunting and fishing, to hiking and camping, to our tourism and commercial fishing-based economies, we rely on the intact habitat that the roadless areas of the Tongass contain. That is why it is important to me that the 2001 Roadless Rule remain in place on the Tongass National Forest. A no-action alternative is the best option for Southeast Alaska.

Prioritizing one antiquated industry over private sectors is bad business, and bad for Southeast Alaska. I support the Tongass Transition and I would like the Forest Service to continue phasing out old growth clearcutting. Please prioritize conservation of the T77 and TNC conservation priority areas in any new Alaska Roadless Rule. This forest is a salmon forest, and the Forest Service should focus on restoring degraded watersheds and fish streams.

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 1/1/0001 12:00:00 AM
First name: Joanie
Last name: Wagmer
Organization:
Title:
Comments:

Dear Chief Christiansen,

I live and work on the lands and waters of the Tongass National Forest. The health of the Tongass National Forest is critical to sustaining my way of life in this rugged region. From hunting and fishing, to hiking and camping, to our tourism and commercial fishing-based economies, we rely on the intact habitat that the roadless areas of the Tongass contain. That is why it is important to me that the 2001 Roadless Rule remain in place on the Tongass National Forest. A no-action alternative is the best option for Southeast Alaska.

Prioritizing one antiquated industry over private sectors is bad business, and bad for Southeast Alaska. I support the Tongass Transition and I would like the Forest Service to continue phasing out old growth clearcutting. Please prioritize conservation of the T77 and TNC conservation priority areas in any new Alaska Roadless Rule. This forest is a salmon forest, and the Forest Service should focus on restoring degraded watersheds and fish streams.

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 1/1/0001 12:00:00 AM
First name: Joanie
Last name: Wagmer
Organization:
Title:
Comments:

Dear Chief Christiansen,

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First name: Joanie
Last name: Wagmer
Organization:
Title:
Comments:

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Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Joanie
Last name: Wagmer
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC1279

Dear Chief Christiansen,

I live and work on the lands and waters of the Tongass National Forest. The health of the Tongass National Forest is critical to sustaining my way of life in this rugged region. From hunting and fishing, to hiking and camping, to our tourism and commercial fishing-based economies, we rely on the intact habitat that the roadless areas of the Tongass contain. That is why it is important to me that the 2001 Roadless Rule remain in place on the Tongass National Forest. A no-action alternative is the best option for Southeast Alaska.

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Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Ashley
Last name: Wagner
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Ashley Wagner and I live in Toledo, Ohio.

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, Ashley Wagner

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Barbara
Last name: Wagner
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, Barbara Wagner

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Barbara
Last name: Wagner
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Barbara Wagner and I live in Pittman Center, Tennessee.

We must protect all forest areas that help us balance our atmosphere.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Barbara Wagner

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/10/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: blu
Last name: wagner
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is blu wagner and I live in Denver, Colorado.

I have been fighting for the protection of this area for YEARS--so important.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, blu wagner

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Brian
Last name: Wagner
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC3194

U.S. Forest Service Alaska Roadless Rule

Comment Period

Comment Period Alaska Roadless Rule:

The Roadless Rule has been instrumental in conserving the Tongass National Forest and in supporting its 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. 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,

Brian Wagner

Nazareth, PA 18064

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Carol
Last name: Wagner
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Carol Wagner and I live in Canby, Oregon.

Because of the greed of some, the rest get to suffer. Where in the Bible does it say that that's a right and just thing to do? Where's rapture when we need it?

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, Carol Wagner

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/21/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Deborah
Last name: Wagner
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Forest roadless rules

Our unique forests is Alaska are protective carbon sinks helping mitigate the climate crisis. They are worth far more than the value of logs, far more than the cost of roads. The forests preserve habitat for salmon spawning and fry, and bring in tourism.

No changes to the roadless rules!

Thank you for your careful consideration of this matter.

Deborah Wagner

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Donna
Last name: Wagner
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Donna Wagner and I live in Henrico, Virginia.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Donna Wagner

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Elissa
Last name: Wagner
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Elissa Wagner and I live in Aptos, California.

We're so fortunate to have visited the Tongass, where we found beauty unequalled! Please don't destroy this.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Elissa Wagner

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Forest
Last name: Wagner
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Respectfully, I strongly encourage the U.S. Forest Service to uphold the 2001 Roadless Rule in the Tongass National Forest. I teach Outdoor Studies at UAS Juneau and have a special use permit for our roadless piece of the Tongass. Over the course of my career I have taken close to 2,000 students into wilderness and backcountry areas, teaching environmental stewardship and sharing the pride I have in our public land management and the restraint it's shown by not allowing development. Those students go on to protect wild, roadless areas and would be far less impacted by the time we spend on our public lands if we had significantly logged the forest here.

Additionally, our SE region and its roadless resource accounts for a $2 billion tourism industry, a $1 billion fishery... those numbers relate to a lot of employed people here in Southeast and should steer management more than the partisan nature of the proposed "economic" gains from revocation. On the other hand, logging on old grow makes jobs for a couple hundred people tops.

Why in the world are we for cutting the last remaining Old Growth in these United States. These trees should be treated like Endangered Species!!!

Our climate is changed and the uncut Tongass is a carbon sink and should be valued as a such.

In short, it's bad business for Alaska to revoke the Roadless Rule. It's bad policy for the USA. It's good to be able to express some of the pride and also frustration I feel about this issue.

A few of us feel so strongly about this we made a movie: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kqRJdXL-Q-E.

Thank you for your service.

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

I am not against logging. And call me hopelessly na[iuml]ve but I am for living-wage jobs in Southeast and all of Alaska (don[rsquo]t worry, this is not the beginning of my gubernatorial bid). I support the logging of second growth in Alaska if it makes economic sense. But last weekend while perched above a granite cliff near Dyea, it occurred to me that the Tongass is not meant to be clear-cut, not now, not in the past, not in the future. Industrial logging of Southeast[rsquo]s old growth never made any money. We are too remote, too geographically extreme[mdash]more practically, our trees take a long time to grow back. We, you and me and everyone who pays taxes in this country, subsidized every clear cut board foot harvested on public land here, and now no one is any better off.

What we face in Alaska is the recycling of ideas about what this place is and what it means. Revoking the Roadless Rule, recycling the idea that our commonly owned public lands[mdash]in this case the last remaining acreage of uncut old growth woods in a temperate forest in the world[mdash]best serve the people of this place as a raw commodity, clear cut then likely shipped to Asia for the creation of particle board, is beyond outrageous.

Why is it when our congressional delegation looks at the Tongass they don[rsquo]t talk about its astonishing value for our billion-dollar tourist industry? Sublime, uncut forest is exactly the wilderness experience 2 million plus people seek out each summer when they travel here by cruise line. And after the warmest summer on record in Alaska, it seems very conspicuous that our elected leaders best idea for the nation[rsquo]s largest National Forest doesn[rsquo]t include mention of the incredible value standing trees, and more generally plants of any kind, have as carbon sinks. And what of the endemic Sitka blacktail deer or Shiras brown bear or five types of Pacific salmon, all totally dependent on our forest canopy? Blacktail use trees as protection during the long cold winter. When we clear cut the Tongass, we leave one less place for deer to find shelter, and one less

wild food source for those of us who subsist to eat. Has anyone else noticed that we have a food security issue in Southeast? Let[rsquo]s not threaten our subsistence for short-term gain.

Even with facts as objective as these, what do our leaders recommend? Mow it again. Drill it again. Mine it again. Alaska is a resource cornucopia of bottomless proportions and the only sensible management for Seward[rsquo]s folly is to extract her resources as quickly as politically possible.

And there are many other recycled ideas afoot. Take drilling in ANWR[mdash]we showed restraint 70 years ago with the creation of the Arctic Refuge. And now because of fracking there is a surplus of domestic oil. We have more than enough. We[rsquo]re witnessing the sixth major extinction in the history of the Earth. Lets leave the hydrocarbons in the ground and continue providing calving caribou refuge[mdash]they don[rsquo]t have anywhere else to go! Or what about the proposed large scale pit mining in Bristol Bay[rsquo]s headwaters? Why risk the last great wild sockeye run in the world so a multinational corporation can suck out that last little bit of Alaska[rsquo]s fragile salmon marrow but not pay taxes here?

The time has come to speak up. Our society is headed off a cliff, an epic fail. Join me at the voting booth. And if that doesn[rsquo]t work let[rsquo]s take the lead from Greta Thunberg and the children of the world and take to the streets. I am Alaskan. I was born here and will eventually die here. My short human life is but a fraction of that of a Sitka Spruce. Most of the standing Tongass old growth outdates our United States. Freedom is not free. Let[rsquo]s vote for the trees and stop recycling bad ideas.

Forest Wagner is an Assistant Professor of Outdoor Studies at the University of Alaska Southeast and lives in Auke Bay. Mr. Wagner is a member of the University of Alaska Southeast Sustainability Committee. The views expressed here do not necessarily represent the views of the University of Alaska Southeast.

[Position]

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Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/11/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Gregg
Last name: Wagner
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Gregg Wagner and I live in Louisville, KY. I am writing a comment on the Alaska Roadless Rule DEIS because I am concerned with how the Rule and the proposed full exemption will affect the Tongass National Forest and the Chugach National Forest.

I have been to Sitka, Alaska 7 times and enjoyed hiking and outdoor activities in the Tongas National Forest. It is a treasure.
In 2000, I had the honor of meeting President Bill Clinton and giving him information on the Tongass National Forest when he was deciding about the roadless Policy.
Even though I live in Kentucky, this is important to me, because what we do to the land, we do to the people. I am familiar how Eastern Kentucky has been destroyed by mountaintop removal coal mining, by out of state coal companies.
Please protect the Tongass and the people.
Gregg Wagner 502-314-6300

I urge the Forest Service to select Alternative 1, the no action alternative, for the final decision on the Alaska Roadless Rule. This alternative protects the inventoried roadless areas in Alaska that are full of pristine wilderness and provide important fish and wildlife habitat, and already allows for important community and economic development projects. As an American citizen, I value the Tongass National Forest and the Chugach National Forest for its status as Americau2019s best natural solution to climate change and its sequestering of millions of metric tons of carbon and mitigating climate change its wild salmon populations and the world-class fishing opportunities its huge swaths of intact ecosystems and all the biodiversity it contains its status as the largest intact temperate rainforest in the world the recreational opportunities it provides the high density of incredible wildlife it contains to keep public lands wild for future generations its status as a national and global treasure the lifestyles of the indigenous communities that the forest supports. A full exemption does not protect these priorities, nor does it effectively balance economic development with the countless other benefits provided by roadless areas. I would like the Forest Service to manage roadless areas for low-impact recreation (camping hiking hunting foraging etc) passiveactive watershed restoration (stream and habitat) to improvemaintain roadless characteristics (culvert removalreplacement improve fish passage wildlife thinning etc) . It is important to me that high-value intact habitat including the T77 watersheds and the TNC conservation priority areas retain their roadless protections in any alternative selected.

The Forest Service is wasting taxpayers' valuable time and money by trying to prop up a failing timber industry in Southeast Alaska. The nonpartisan, independent taxpayer watchdog Taxpayers for Common Sense reported that the Tongass timber program has losses of over $600 million of taxpayers money in the past 20 years. I would rather see my taxpayer dollars used to restore salmon habitat that was hurt by past logging practices perform restorative actions that support wildlife populations on previously degraded landscapes that support wildlife populations develop more recreational opportunities like trails and cabins . We need to stop subsidizing the clearcutting of old growth on the Tongass through taxpayer funded roadbuilding. If a full exemption were chosen, it would not create opportunities and would instead prioritize the special interests of one industry over the interests of the entire American public.

The Tongass is Americas homegrown natural solution to climate change. The forest sequesters 8% of the carbon stored in forests throughout the contiguous US states, some 3 billion metric tons of it. We must take action to mitigate and adapt to climate change, and maintaining the Tongass in a roadless state is critical for a sustainable future.

I urge the Forest Service to listen to the voices of the American people and prioritize them over corporate interests. The Forest Service should strengthen public involvement in developing land management policy and focus on broadly supported work rather than allowing special corporate interests to guide policy changes. Attempting to exempt inventoried roadless areas on the Chugach National Forest from the Alaska Roadless Rule adds further insult to injury, and this proposal has not received any sufficient environmental impact analysis or public input. Choosing a full exemption will not create a long lasting, durable solution for roadless

areas in Alaska it will only increase the legal challenges, uncertainty for businesses, and conflict over these forests going forward.

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Halie
Last name: wagner
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Halie Wagner and I live in Glendale Arizona.
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, Halie wagner

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: James
Last name: Wagner
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, James Wagner

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Jamie
Last name: Wagner
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): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Jamie
Last name: Wagner
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, Jamie Wagner

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Jess
Last name: Wagner
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC6031

Dear U.S. Forest Service:

The Roadless Rule has been instrumental in conserving the Tongass National Forest and in supporting its fish and wildlife-based industries for more than 20 years. *Please uphold the Rule's protections for important fish and wildlife areas, including the Tongass 77.* [Text bolded for emphasis] 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 are protection for habitat that our irreplaceable fish and wildlife populations need to survive.* [Text bolded for emphasis]

Customize your comment by listing reasons the Tongass is important to you or why you value Alaska Roadless areas: (ex: specific locations you recreate, activities you do, or why you value fish & wildlife) [Text italicized]

Sincerely,

Would you like to volunteer with TU Alaska to Help America's Salmon Forest?

Yes No

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/7/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: John
Last name: Wagner
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): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Judy
Last name: Wagner
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Judy Wagner and I live in Salida, Colorado.

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, Judy Wagner

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Julie
Last name: Wagner
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, Julie Wagner

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Kathy
Last name: Wagner
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Kathy Wagner and I live in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

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, Kathy Wagner

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/11/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Kelly
Last name: Wagner
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): 12/16/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Laura
Last name: Wagner
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC683

Dear Secretary Perdue,

I live and work on the lands and waters of Alaska. I do NOT want Alaska and the Tongass exempt from the Roadless Rule because

they play a critical role in protecting salmon + acting as a carbon sink mitigating climate change!

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Lauren
Last name: Wagner
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Lauren Wagner and I live in Chicago, Illinois.

As a physician for the past 25 years, I am deeply opposed to the harmful health effects of reducing, weakening, and otherwise decreasing the methane and other toxic pollution standards that will compromise the health of our country and its citizens. Please do NOT do this.

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, Lauren Wagner

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Linda
Last name: Wagner
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Linda Wagner and I live in Whitewater, Wisconsin.

Keep wild areas wild, as they are decreasing daily.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Linda Wagner

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Mark
Last name: Wagner
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Mark Wagner and I live in Bechtelsville, Pennsylvania.

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, Mark Wagner

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Mark
Last name: Wagner
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Mark Wagner and I live in Logan, Utah.

Having personally experienced living and working in the lush temperate rainforests of the Tongass, I can personally say that these old growth forests have much more value alive and thriving than dead and done.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.

Regards, Mark Wagner

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/23/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Mary
Last name: Wagner
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Mary Wagner and I live in Stockton, 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, Mary Wagner

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Mary
Last name: Wagner
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, Mary Wagner

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Mat
Last name: Wagner
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC5265

U.S. Forest Service Alaska Roadless Rule Committee:

As a small business owner who relies on natural resources it is becoming sickening to see America start to slide in leadership when it comes to environmental subjects. There is no reason to cut, dig, dam, and kill everything in the quest for more dollars. Some things should just be left alone and the Tongass is one of those things.

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 more than 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,

Mat Wagner

Viroqua, WI 54665

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Melissa
Last name: Wagner
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Melissa Wagner and I live in Waterford Township, Michigan.

I am completely against removal of protection for the National Forest for the sake of future generations

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, Melissa Wagner

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Michael
Last name: Wagner
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Michael Wagner and I live in Davie, Florida.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Michael Wagner

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Michael
Last name: Wagner
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Michael Wagner and I live in Davie, Florida.

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.

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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, Michael Wagner

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/11/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Noel
Last name: Wagner
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): 11/8/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Pat
Last name: Wagner
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Pat Wagner and I live in Averill Park, New York.

Please protect our clean air! It saves money in the long run, lowering health care bills and protecting the young and immuno-compromised.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.

Regards, Pat Wagner

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Roger
Last name: Wagner
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.
My wife is Lakota so any thing we can do to protect native rights is a family matter! Shame on 'for profit' politicians.
Regards, Roger Wagner

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/12/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Russ
Last name: Wagner
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Russ Wagner and I live in Geneva, Illinois.

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, Russ Wagner

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: sandy
Last name: wagner
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is sandy wagner and I live in North Versailles, Pennsylvania.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, sandy wagner

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Taylor
Last name: Wagner
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Alternative One

I choose Alternative One. These incredible, thousand year old trees matter so much to our planet and can't be replaced once gone.

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/10/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Brock
Last name: Wahl
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): 11/7/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Brock
Last name: Wahl
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
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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): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Geoffrey
Last name: Wahl
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, Geoffrey Wahl

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Lisa
Last name: Wahl
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
We have so little undeveloped land as it is and to be so arrogant as to feel justified in cutting down such mature trees is the height of avarice. Stop cutting the forest and future!

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Jamie
Last name: Wahler
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Keep the Roadless Rule in Place for the Tongass National Forest

Dear Interdisciplinary Team Leader, Alaska Roadless Rule Ken Tu,

I am an outdoor recreation enthusiast writing to express my interest in continuing to protect the Tongass National Forest and its backcountry and roadless areas from unnecessary logging and development.

The Tongass has tremendous value for outdoor recreation in the region, and also provides clean water, clean air, and wildlife habitat, all of which are foundational to the economic and ecological health of Southeast Alaska. Road building, logging, and development should continue to be prohibited in the Tongass's roadless areas through upholding the Roadless Rule.

The Roadless Rule was created after a lot of public outreach. It's a popular and sensible approach to land management. It would be wrong for the Tongass National Forest to be used for lumber, mining sites, or road construction. The devastation from these acts will hurt the forest, reduce tourism, and affect the wildlife beyond measure. Look at other areas of the world where species are almost extinct because of habitat loss, will deforesting and mining not affect species in the Tongass Forest?

I am from North Dakota and I have seen first hand how the environment and animals are affected when the oil boom was going on in the western part of the state. The boom brought many sketchy people to the state and it was realized that many deer, pronghorn antelope, etc., were poached by these horrible people. Please consider this when making a final decision, having Tongass exempt from the roadless rule will bring nothing but bad things to SE Alaska.

Sincerely,

Jamie Wahler

Hankinson, ND 58041

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Anna
Last name: Wahlman
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Anna Wahlman and I live in Bothell, Washington.

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, Anna Wahlman

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Shannon
Last name: Wahlstrand
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Shannon Wahlstrand and I live in Grand Marais, MN. I am writing a comment on the Alaska Roadless Rule DEIS because I am concerned with how the Rule and the proposed full exemption will affect the Tongass National Forest and the Chugach National Forest.

We need to keep our federal lands protected for EVERYONE! Including wildlife and future generations to appreciate nature and quiet space and the environment. Not everything has to have a monetary value or development in order for it to be of tremendous value to most Americans who enjoy and value our public lands. Please protect the roadless rule!!!

I urge the Forest Service to select Alternative 1, the no action alternative, for the final decision on the Alaska Roadless Rule. This alternative protects the inventoried roadless areas in Alaska that are full of pristine wilderness and provide important fish and wildlife habitat, and already allows for important community and economic development projects. As an American citizen, I value the Tongass National Forest and the Chugach National Forest for its status as America's best natural solution to climate change and its sequestering of millions of metric tons of carbon and mitigating climate change, its wild salmon populations and the world-class fishing opportunities, its huge swaths of intact ecosystems and all the biodiversity it contains, its status as the largest intact temperate rainforest in the world, the recreational opportunities it provides, the high density of incredible wildlife it contains, to keep public lands wild for future generations, its status as a national and global treasure, the lifestyles of the indigenous communities that the forest supports. A full exemption does not protect these priorities, nor does it effectively balance economic development with the countless other benefits provided by roadless areas. I would like the Forest Service to manage roadless areas for low-impact recreation (camping, hiking, hunting, foraging, etc). It is important to me that high-value intact habitat including the T77 watersheds and the TNC conservation priority areas retain their roadless protections in any alternative selected.

The Forest Service is wasting taxpayers' valuable time and money by trying to prop up a failing timber industry in Southeast Alaska. The nonpartisan, independent taxpayer watchdog Taxpayers for Common Sense reported that the Tongass timber program has losses of over $600 million of taxpayers money in the past 20 years. I would rather see my taxpayer dollars used to restore salmon habitat that was hurt by past logging practices, perform restorative actions that support wildlife populations on previously degraded landscapes that support wildlife populations, establish the economic value of the carbon stored in the Tongass, support small-scale, sustainable logging. We need to stop subsidizing the clearcutting of old growth on the Tongass through taxpayer funded roadbuilding. If a full exemption were chosen, it would not create opportunities and would instead prioritize the special interests of one industry over the interests of the entire American public.

The Tongass is Americas homegrown natural solution to climate change. The forest sequesters 8% of the carbon stored in forests throughout the contiguous US states, some 3 billion metric tons of it. We must take action to mitigate and adapt to climate change, and maintaining the Tongass in a roadless state is critical for a sustainable future.

I urge the Forest Service to listen to the voices of the American people and prioritize them over corporate interests. The Forest Service should strengthen public involvement in developing land management policy and focus on broadly supported work rather than allowing special corporate interests to guide policy changes.

Attempting to exempt inventoried roadless areas on the Chugach National Forest from the Alaska Roadless Rule adds further insult to injury, and this proposal has not received any sufficient environmental impact analysis or public input. Choosing a full exemption will not create a long lasting, durable solution for roadless areas in Alaska it will only increase the legal challenges, uncertainty for businesses, and conflict over these forests going forward.

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Alexandra
Last name: Wahlstrom
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Alexandra Wahlstrom and I live in Clinton, Massachusetts.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Alexandra Wahlstrom

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Mat
Last name: Wahlstrom
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, Mat Wahlstrom

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Chelsea
Last name: Wahman
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC859

Dear Secretary Perdue,

I am a visitor to the lands and waters of Southeast Alaska. The Tongass National Forest is a large part of why I am here. Visitors like me come to witness the vast, beautiful stands of old-growth trees that can't be found on such a scale anywhere else in the United States. We come to crew on commercial fishing boats. We come to hunt, fish and hike in America's largest National Forest. That is why it is important to me that the 2001 Roadless Rule remain in place on the Tongass National Forest. A no-action alternative is the best option for Alaskans and Americans.

I support the Tongass Transition and I would like the Forest Service to continue phasing out old growth clearcutting. This forest is a salmon forest, and the Forest Service should focus on restoring degraded watersheds and fish streams. Please prioritize conservation of the T77 and TNC conservation priority areas in any new Alaska Roadless Rule. Tourism and commercial fishing are at the heart of Southeast's economy, not the antiquated timber industry.

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Kirsten
Last name: Waid
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC5791

Dear U.S. Forest Service,

CC: Alaska Congressional Delegation and Federal Administration

I support the no-action alternative to leave the 2001 Roadless Rule in place on the Tongass National Forest. We must continue to phase out old-growth clear-cut logging and instead prioritize restoring degraded watersheds and fish streams that contribute to the growing fisheries and tourism-based economies of Southeast. To that end, please conserve the Tongass 77 and TNC priority areas in the final Roadless Rule.

Sincerely,

Comments: *(Eg: list locations you recreate, or why you value Tongass fish & wildlife)* [Text italicized for emphasis]

[Box unchecked] I would like to get more involved in the campaign!

*By taking this action, you are consenting to receive future communications via phone, text message, email, or mail from Sitka Conservation Society and its partners working to protect the Tongass. * [Text italicized for emphasis]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/11/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Paul
Last name: Wailand
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Paul Wailand and I live in Collegedale, Tennessee.

I like it when young people are heard. Lets do one up and have some dialog with them.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Paul Wailand

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/19/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Linda
Last name: Waine
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Linda Waine and I live in Taunton, Massachusetts.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Linda Waine

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/19/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Linda
Last name: Waine
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Linda Waine and I live in Taunton, Massachusetts.

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Regards, Linda Waine

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Linda Waine

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/11/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Ray
Last name: Wainscott
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.
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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): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: donna
Last name: wainwright
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, donna wainwright

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Paul
Last name: Wainwright
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Paul Wainwright and I live in Apopka, Florida.

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, Paul Wainwright

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Patricia
Last name: Waipa
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, Patricia Waipa

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Mauri
Last name: Waisman
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.

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Regards, Mauri Waisman

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Terrance
Last name: Waiss
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.

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Regards, Terrance Waiss

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Terrance
Last name: Waiss
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
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Regards, Terrance Waiss

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Cheryl
Last name: Wait
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Cheryl Wait and I live in Alexandria, Kentucky.

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, Cheryl Wait

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Jenny
Last name: Wait
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC6240

Dear U.S. Forest Service:

The Roadless Rule has been instrumental in conserving the Tongass National Forest and in supporting its fish and wildlife-based industries for more than 20 years. *Please uphold the Rule's protections for important fish and wildlife areas, including the Tongass 77.* [Text bolded for emphasis] 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 are protection for habitat that our irreplaceable fish and wildlife populations need to survive.* [Text bolded for emphasis]

Customize your comment by listing reasons the Tongass is important to you or why you value Alaska Roadless areas: (ex: specific locations you recreate, activities you do, or why you value fish & wildlife) [Text italicized]

Sincerely,

Would you like to volunteer with TU Alaska to Help America's Salmon Forest?

Yes *No*[Text circled]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Matt
Last name: Wait
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.

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Regards, Matt Wait

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Sandra
Last name: Wait
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
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Regards, Sandra Wait

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Bradley
Last name: Waite
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
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Regards, Bradley Waite

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Gina
Last name: Waite
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.

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Regards, Gina Waite

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Judith
Last name: Waite
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Judith Waite and I live in Yonkers, New York.

Please leave the Tongass National Forest intact, for the sake of all future generations.

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, Judith Waite

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/10/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Marjorie
Last name: Waite
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Marjorie Waite and I live in East Hartford, Connecticut.

What happened to taking care of your resource? There were people that knew enough to plant trees as they cut them down for future generations. Is it we care more for the cash in our hand than our children at home?

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.

Regards, Marjorie Waite

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: John
Last name: Waitman
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.

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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, John Waitman

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/12/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Conner
Last name: Wakefield
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): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Harold
Last name: Wakefield
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.

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Regards, Harold Wakefield

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Robin
Last name: Wakefield
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC3684

U.S. Forest Service Alaska Roadless Rule

Comment Period:

Comment Period Alaska Roadless Rule:

I am writing in support of the 'no action' alternative to leave the Roadless Rule unchanged in Alaska. I am concerned that changes to the rule would lead to greatly expand clear-cut logging of old growth timber and costly road building in undeveloped, wild areas of both the Tongass and Chugach Forests. These activities increase sedimentation, hurt water quality, often block salmon migration, and add to an already large backlog of needed road maintenance and restoration.

Our fisheries and wild forests are critical to the economy of Alaska. To grow these sectors of our economy, we need intact habitat. Please leave the Alaska Roadless Rule in place.

Sincerely,

Robin Wakefield

Tucson, AZ 85745

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 1/1/0001 12:00:00 AM
First name: Robin
Last name: Wakefield
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
3684

U.S. Forest Service Alaska Roadless Rule
Comment Period:

Comment Period Alaska Roadless Rule:

I am writing in support of the 'no action' alternative to leave the Roadless Rule unchanged in Alaska. I am concerned that changes to the rule would lead to greatly expand clear-cut logging of old growth timber and costly road building in undeveloped, wild areas of both the Tongass and Chugach Forests. These activities increase sedimentation, hurt water quality, often block salmon migration, and add to an already large backlog of needed road maintenance and restoration.
Our fisheries and wild forests are critical to the economy of Alaska. To grow these sectors of our economy, we need intact habitat. Please leave the Alaska Roadless Rule in place.

Sincerely,
Robin Wakefield
Tucson, AZ 85745

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Mary
Last name: Wakeman
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Mary Wakeman and I live in Greensboro, North Carolina.

I feel strongly about this.

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, Mary Wakeman

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Dana
Last name: Wakiji
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Dana Wakiji and I live in St. Clair Shores, Michigan.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Dana Wakiji

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Stephen
Last name: Wakulchik
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.

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Regards, Stephen Wakulchik

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Matt
Last name: Wakzak
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC1413

Dear Chief Christiansen,

I live and work on the lands and waters of the Tongass National Forest. The health of the Tongass National Forest is critical to sustaining my way of life in this rugged region. From hunting and fishing, to hiking and camping, to our tourism and commercial fishing-based economies, we rely on the intact habitat that the roadless areas of the Tongass contain. That is why it is important to me that the 2001 Roadless Rule remain in place on the Tongass National Forest. A no-action alternative is the best option for Southeast Alaska.

Prioritizing one antiquated industry over private sectors is bad business, and bad for Southeast Alaska. I support the Tongass Transition and I would like the Forest Service to continue phasing out old growth clearcutting. Please prioritize conservation of the T77 and TNC conservation priority areas in any new Alaska Roadless Rule. This forest is a salmon forest, and the Forest Service should focus on restoring degraded watersheds and fish streams.

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Gene
Last name: Walasik
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Gene Walasik and I live in Ocala, Florida.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Gene Walasik

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Sharon
Last name: Walbridge
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, Sharon Walbridge

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/10/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Eric
Last name: Walburger
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Eric Walburger and I live in Greensboro, North Carolina.

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, Eric Walburger

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Andrew
Last name: Walcher
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.

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Regards, Andrew Walcher

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Adam
Last name: Walck
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): 12/12/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: joseph
Last name: walczak
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.
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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): 11/8/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Aloysius
Last name: Wald
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Aloysius Wald and I live in Columbus, Ohio.

Everyone knows that if you clear cut one area, flooding and mudslides result, sometimes over an extensive region. Everyone, that is, but the rancid adolescent in the White House and his hand picked fools.

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, Aloysius Wald

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Johanna
Last name: Wald
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, Johanna Wald

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Susan
Last name: Wald
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Susan Wald and I live in New York, New York.

Forest Service, you have the power to protect our national forests, our air, and our water for future generations. Alaska is facing severe challenges related to rising temperatures. Please don't abandon the Roadless Rule that has served Alaska and the nation so well for so long. Tell timber corporations to make their money elsewhere, and please putting corporate profits above the public interest.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.

Regards, Susan Wald

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/7/2019 2:15:20 AM
First name: Annie
Last name: Walden
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Annie Walden and I live in Sitka, Alaska. I've lived here a year and hiking through this beautiful landscape has been healing to mind and soul. I believe our ecosystem is dependent on rain forest and I'd like to see the Tongass to be as undisturbed as possible. I am writing a comment on the Alaska Roadless Rule DEIS because I am concerned with how the Rule and the proposed full exemption will impact my the peace and solitude I find in nature, the conservation of resources for future generations the forest's ability to sequester carbon and mitigate climate change impacts, the status of the Tongass as a national and global treasure.

Out of the alternatives described in the AKRR DEIS I support alternative 1: no action. The rule is working fine as it is by balancing the conservation of our fish and wildlife habitat with important development projects.. I depend on roadless areas in the Tongass National Forest for keeping public lands wild for future generations, fiscal responsibility and saving taxpayer dollars recreating and enjoying nature. A full exemption does not protect these values, nor does it effectively balance economic development and conservation of roadless area characteristics. A full exemption from the Roadless Rule and increased logging and roadbuilding will negatively impact the Tongass and what I and many others use and depend on the forest to provide for us.

The Roadless areas on the Tongass that are especially important to me are those on or around Baranof Island, all of the inventoried roadless areas on the Tongass. I want the roadless areas in these locations to stay in roadless status in any alternative selected by the Forest Service, and be managed to provide for the uses and activities I listed above. It is important to me that the T77 and the TNC conservation priority areas retain their roadless protections.

I do not support the Forest Services preferred alternative of a full exemption. A full exemption is not in the interests of Southeast Alaskans who live in and use the Tongass National Forest, because It could lead to over development of very important lands to our existing economic drivers and ecosystem. The State of Alaska says that a full exemption is needed for rural economic development opportunities. However, a full exemption would not help create more rural economic development opportunities, it would instead harm our existing rural economies that are based on the visitor industry and commercial fishing industry.

It would further harm rural economic opportunities because pursuing the same outdated economic model of old growth clearcut harvesting for export stifles innovation and possibility in other sectors, such as mariculture, sustainable young growth harvest, and rural agriculture. If the Forest Service wants to support rural economic development, they should improve and streamline existing permitting processes for important community projects rather than rehashing old conflicts invest in creating and maintaining recreation infrastructure transition to second growth logging devote resources to support our fishing and visitor industries.

I urge the Forest Service to prioritize the voices of Southeast Alaskans over those of our political representation and corporate interests. Choosing a full exemption will not create a long lasting, durable solution for roadless areas on the Tongass. It will only increase the legal challenges, uncertainty for businesses, and conflict on the Tongass going forward.

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Barbara
Last name: Walden
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, Barbara Walden

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/21/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: David
Last name: Walden
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
The Roadless Rule, as written, provides a vital and necessary protection of the Tongass National Forrest. Please understand that maintaining this rule is a matter of setting a precedent not only for how the United States treats natural lands but how much of the world will too. We need to set an example by showing maintaining natural, unfragmented lands is the only smart, mature choice for humankind to ensure the greed of some does not jeopardize the health of our wildlife and the quality of the air we breath. What may seem like a small change now can have massive consequences later. Maintaining the Roadless Rule as is will help ensure these consequences never happen.

Please listen to those with a small voice. The USA is built on this.

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/22/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Scott
Last name: Walden
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Alternative #6 supports the State of Alaska and its congressional requests to improve access to harvest certain already available limited areas and types of growth.

Alternative #6 includes conservation of roadless values through other means including the Tongass Land Management Plan.

The option Supports the State of Alaska request of the feds and appears reasonable and environmentally protective.

It provides logical use in an area Congress otherwise restricted access and use of; access roads are not currently allowed in some areas, for about 20 years.

I support Alternative #6 as the preferred alternate at this time, as noted in the impact statement prepared under the National Environmental Policy Act.

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/7/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Shepherd
Last name: Waldenberger
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): 10/21/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Rebecca
Last name: Walding
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Keep 'Roadless Rule' Protections for the Tongass National Forest

Dear U.S. Forest Service,

I strongly oppose the Forest Service's plan to eliminate "Roadless Rule" protections for the Tongass National Forest and urge you to select the "no action" alternative instead.

The Tongass is America's wildest remaining national forest, with more than 9 million acres of roadless areas.

The Tongass belongs to all Americans and shouldn't be sacrificed to the timber industry, which provides a small fraction of the jobs and income in Southeast Alaska compared to tourism and fishing - both of which rely on intact forests to thrive.

I also oppose your plan to allow the agency to open any of the 5 million acres of roadless areas on the Chugach National Forest to bulldozing and clearcutting for logging. This is simply a backdoor repeal of the 2001 Roadless Rule.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Walding

Cerrillos, NM 87010

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/23/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Rebecca
Last name: Walding
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Alaska Roadless Rulemaking #54511

Roadless Rulemaking,

RE: Alaska Roadless DEIS Comment

Dear Secretary Perdue:

I support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1.

Keep the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. The Tongass is a carbon sink containing 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 forest's roadless areas. The Roadless Rule is one of the smartest and most popular land management policies the Federal Government has ever adopted. 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.

Rebecca Walding

[Position]

50 Main Street

Los Cerrillos, New Mexico 87010

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Aviva
Last name: Waldman
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
This proposed rule change is absurdly unscientific and short sighted. Please do not saddle the next generation with the burden of the environmental damage this will do and the many, many problems that damage will cause down the road.

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Sam
Last name: Waldman
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Sam Waldman and I live in Mendocino, California.

This protection is critical at this point in time.

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, Sam Waldman

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: James
Last name: Waldo
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is James Waldo and I live in Pleasant Hope, Missouri.

The corporate interest in profiting from these precious hardwoods and high yield pines, should not outweigh the local and global demand for carbon dioxide capture and containment. As the Amazon Forest in South America declines at unprecedented rates, the burden of sustaining carbon dioxide absorbing forests like the Tongass falls on us. If we dont protect our planet from the ravages of climate change, who will?

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.

Regards, James Waldo

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Ashley
Last name: Waldorf
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Ashley Waldorf and I live in Rapid City, South Dakota.

Leave our National forests alone! They're not yours to destroy! Anyone who would destroy America like this should be in jail for treason!

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.

Regards, Ashley Waldorf

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: steven
Last name: waldrip
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is steven waldrip and I live in Aptos, 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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, steven waldrip

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Elizabeth
Last name: Waldron
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, Elizabeth Waldron

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Kyle
Last name: Waldron
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am very much opposed to allowing roads to be built in Tongass National Forest. As climate change threatens our country and the world, forests must be protected. Building a road through pristine, protected wilderness for business purposes is a short-sighted money grab that will do irreversible damage to this forest. Please abstain from development in this forest.

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/11/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Nicole
Last name: Waldron
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Nicole Waldron and I live in Hamden, Ohio.

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, Nicole Waldron

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/10/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Todd
Last name: Waldron
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): 11/12/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Todd
Last name: Waldron
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.
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Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Virginia
Last name: Waldron
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, Virginia Waldron

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/12/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Rick
Last name: Waldrup
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.
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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): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: R.
Last name: Waleski
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is R. Waleski and I live in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

corporate greed is killing our planet. Shame on the trump administration for being so short sighted!

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, R. Waleski

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/7/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Brandon
Last name: Walgamott
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.
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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): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Jenny
Last name: Walicek
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, Jenny Walicek

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/19/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Rich
Last name: Waligurski
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
After fully reviewing the options and background information I see Alternative 3 (Alt 3) as a better choice instead of Alternative 6 (Alt 6) for a few main reasons.

1. Alt 3 allows for some timber harvesting but not to the extent of Alt 6. Based on the 2016 information from the Forest Service "only 17,000 acres of old-growth and 11,800 acres of young-growth might be harvested over the next 100 years." Therefore, there is no reason to give such a large open ended opportunity for the Alt 6 option to create more reasons to harvest timber.

2. Alt 3 gave a very proactive plan to include the local community and industries both from an economic and a socially responsible view.

3. Alt 3 only removes 3.6 million acres instead of Alt 6 removing all 9.2 million acres from the "roadless rule" allowing for better protection of the remaining acreage. 3.2 mil acres of the 3.6 are in the watershed areas and also have a better opportunity to protect the fragile watersheds.

Thank you,

Rich Waligurski

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/5/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Marsha
Last name: Waliser
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
It's time to do away with the Roadless Rule, our forest have suffered enough thru lack of thinning and logging of dead and diseased trees. This was just a eco terrorist plot to do away with logging which has done nothing but harm our forests and economy.
I urge you to fully exempt the Tongass National Forest from the Roadless Rule. We have enough land permanently set aside already and the National Forest Management Act planning regulations are the proper way to manage the remaining areas on the Tongass as a multiple-use forest.
Other points to consider: Exempting the Tongass from the Roadless Rule will not cause harm to the region's fisheries. Fish habitat is already fully protected on the national forest. Wildlife habitat is also fully protected on the national forest and wildlife is thriving in the young growth stands were timber harvesting has taken place over the last 65-years. Mining, energy development and community access are inhibited by the Roadless Rule. We need a larger timber supply in order to restore more year around jobs. Timber harvesting has not harmed the tourism industry. Most outdoor recreation on the forest takes place in or near the previously harvested areas because of the access provided by the logging roads.
Please restore the Roadless Exemption so that Southeast Alaska can have the same economic opportunities as communities in or near other national forests.

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Amos
Last name: Walker
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I think the National Forest in Alaska should not be opened to roads or logging . Please keep our forests wild thank you'll.

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Amy
Last name: Walker
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Amy Walker and I live in Spokane, WA
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, Amy Walker

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Andrea
Last name: Walker
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Andrea Walker and I live in Smyrna, Georgia.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Andrea Walker

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/27/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: B
Last name: Walker
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
The Tongass is priceless, keep it roadless for wildlife

Our last remaining temperate rainforest is a crucial sanctuary for so many species of wildlife. It must be protected.

I urge you to select the "No Action" alternative on the Alaska-specific Roadless Rule. Put a stop to commercial attacks upon our wildlife and public lands!!

The Tongass National Forest is one of the last intact temperate rainforests on Earth, with pristine old growth forests in its roadless lands. Home to a stunningly diverse array of wildlife including salmon, wolves, bear, deer, and birds of prey such as the Northern Goshawk, the Tongass is America's largest and wildest national forest. It plays a vital role in absorbing greenhouse gas emissions, storing approximately 8 percent of the total carbon of all the national forests of the lower 48 states combined. It also contains sacred sites of great importance to Native people of Alaska.

I strongly urge the Forest Service to select Alternative 1, the "no-action" alternative.

Thank you,

B Walker

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Barbara
Last name: walker
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Barbara walker and I live in Cape Coral, Florida.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Barbara walker

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/10/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Ben
Last name: Walker
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Ben Walker and I live in Kansas City, Missouri.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Ben Walker

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: bev
Last name: walker
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is bev walker and I live in Kingsland, Texas.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, bev walker

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Bill
Last name: Walker
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, Bill Walker

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Bob
Last name: Walker
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.

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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, Bob Walker

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Brad
Last name: Walker
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Brad Walker and I live in Poplar Grove, Illinois.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Brad Walker

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Breanna
Last name: Walker
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC5453

Dear U.S. Forest Service,

CC: Alaska Congressional Delegation and Federal Administration

I support the no-action alternative to leave the 2001Roadless Rule in place on the Tongass National Forest. We must continue to phase out old-growth clear-cut logging and instead prioritize restoring degraded watersheds and fish streams that contribute to the growing fisheries and tourism-based economies of Southeast. To that end, please conserve the Tongass 77 and TNC priority areas in the final Roadless Rule.

Sincerely,

Breanna Walker

Juneau, AK 99801

Comments: *(Eg: list locations you recreate, or why you value Tongass fish & wildlife)* [Text italicized for emphasis]

I value the Tongass because it is our backyard in Southeast Alaska and keeping the roadless rule in tact is very important for our way of life in Southeast. Keep Roadless!

[Box checked] I would like to get more involved in the campaign!

*By taking this action, you are consenting to receive future communications via phone, text message, email, or mail from Sitka Conservation Society and its partners working to protect the Tongass. * [Text italicized for emphasis]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/17/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Carol
Last name: Walker
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Carol Walker and I live in Winthrop, Massachusetts.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Carol Walker

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: carolyn
Last name: walker
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is carolyn walker and I live in Des Moines, Iowa.

Please protect our Alaskan forests for future generations!

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, carolyn walker

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Cheryl
Last name: Walker
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Cheryl Walker and I live in Pueblo, Colorado.

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, Cheryl Walker

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Cheryl
Last name: Walker
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, Cheryl Walker

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Cheryl
Last name: Walker
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
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Regards, Cheryl Walker

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Cheryl
Last name: Walker
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.

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Regards, Cheryl Walker

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Christie
Last name: Walker
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Christie Walker and I live in Charlottesville, Virginia.

Thank you for considering the important protections necessary to protect our communities from the harm caused by coal ash. Please protect the people who live in the communities affected by these toxins.

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, Christie Walker

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Clinton
Last name: Walker
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.

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Regards, Clinton Walker

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Constance
Last name: Walker
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Constance Walker and I live in San Francisco, 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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Constance Walker

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: David
Last name: Walker
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is David Walker and I live in Avondale, Arizona.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, David Walker

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: David
Last name: Walker
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, David Walker

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: David
Last name: Walker
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am opposed to opening up the Tongass for logging.

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Deana
Last name: Walker
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.

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Regards, Deana Walker

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: deborah
Last name: walker
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is deborah walker and I live in Charleston, West Virginia.

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.

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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, deborah walker

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/20/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: DEREK
Last name: WALKER
Organization: 1985
Title:
Comments:
Fuck you. Leave the last few natural places that we have on this Earth alone.

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Eleanor
Last name: Walker
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.

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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, Eleanor Walker

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Elinor
Last name: Walker
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.

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Regards, Elinor Walker

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/5/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Eric
Last name: Walker
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): 12/11/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Eric
Last name: Walker
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.
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Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Fran
Last name: Walker
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Fran Walker and I live in Freehold, New Jersey.

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, Fran Walker

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Hayli
Last name: Walker
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Hayli Walker and I live in Newberg, Oregon.

Public land is THE greatest thing about the US!

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Hayli Walker

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Hayli
Last name: Walker
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, Hayli Walker

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Heather
Last name: Walker
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Heather Walker and I live in Tucson, Arizona.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Heather Walker

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Inga
Last name: Walker
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to oppose the exemption of the Tongass National Forest from the 2001 Roadless Area Conservation Rule.

The Tongass National Forest is a vitally important piece of temperate rainforest that should be protected and left intact. As it is part of the largest temperate rainforest in the world, it exists as a treasure of biodiversity and habitat. Allowing roads through this area and the subsequent removal of habitat that accompanies those roads would be highly disruptive and destructive to this area.

As a citizen and a resident of the Pacific Northwest area, I urge you to remember the importance of the Tongass NF area to wildlife, to carbon sequestration and environmental health, as well as to future generations. These are our public lands, not corporate lands. The majority of Alaskans, of Americans, of sport hunters and fishers, public land users, as well as Native Tribes oppose this proposed exemption.

Please do not devalue and sell out our treasured public lands by allowing this exemption.

Thank you,

Inga Walker

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/12/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Jared
Last name: Walker
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): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Jeanne
Last name: Walker
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, Jeanne Walker

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Jeanne
Last name: Walker
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, Jeanne Walker

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Jeanne
Last name: Walker
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC6158

Dear U.S. Forest Service:

The Roadless Rule has been instrumental in conserving the Tongass National Forest and in supporting its fish and wildlife-based industries for more than 20 years. *Please uphold the Rule's protections for important fish and wildlife areas, including the Tongass 77.* [Text bolded for emphasis] 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 are protection for habitat that our irreplaceable fish and wildlife populations need to survive.* [Text bolded for emphasis]

Customize your comment by listing reasons the Tongass is important to you or why you value Alaska Roadless areas: (ex: specific locations you recreate, activities you do, or why you value fish & wildlife) [Text italicized]

Sincerely,

Would you like to volunteer with TU Alaska to Help America's Salmon Forest?

Yes No

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Jeannie
Last name: Walker
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, Jeannie Walker

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 7:53:59 AM
First name: Jill
Last name: Walker
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Jill Walker and I live in Ketchikan, AK. I've lived in southeast for most my life. I am aware of how vital the forest is for life here in Southeast Alaska I am writing a comment on the Alaska Roadless Rule DEIS because I am concerned with how the Rule and the proposed full exemption will impact my fishing, hunting, subsistence harvesting, foraging for wild foods, the peace and solitude I find in nature, recreating, the forest's ability to sequester carbon and mitigate climate change impacts, the conservation of resources for future generations .

Out of the alternatives described in the AKRR DEIS I support alternative 3: open up roaded roadless and build logical extensions. It is a workable compromise that allows for economic development and the protection of roadless characteristics. I depend on roadless areas in the Tongass National Forest for healthy fish habitat, deer habitat and subsistence hunting, foraging and gathering wild foods, recreating and enjoying nature, carbon sequestration and local climate change mitigation, viewing wildlife, keeping public lands wild for future generations. A full exemption does not protect these values, nor does it effectively balance economic development and conservation of roadless area characteristics. A full exemption from the Roadless Rule and increased logging and roadbuilding will negatively impact the Tongass and what I and many others use and depend on the forest to provide for us.

The Roadless areas on the Tongass that are especially important to me are those on or around Baranof Island, Chichagof Island, the northern mainland above Port Snettisham (around Juneau), the central mainland from Hobart Bay to Stikine River, Admiralty Island, the southern mainland from Bradfield Canal to Dixon Entrance Kupreanof Island, Kuiu Island, Wrangell and Etolin Islands, Revillagigedo Island (near Ketchikan), Prince of Wales Island, Yakutat forelands, all of the inventoried roadless areas on the Tongass. I want the roadless areas in these locations to stay in roadless status in any alternative selected by the Forest Service, and be managed to provide for the uses and activities I listed above. It is important to me that the T77 and the TNC conservation priority areas retain their roadless protections.

I do not support the Forest Services preferred alternative of a full exemption. A full exemption is not in the interests of Southeast Alaskans who live in and use the Tongass National Forest, because It's too reckless.. The State of Alaska says that a full exemption is needed for rural economic development opportunities. However, a full exemption would not help create more rural economic development opportunities, it would instead harm our existing rural economies that are based on the visitor industry and commercial fishing industry.

It would further harm rural economic opportunities because pursuing the same outdated economic model of old growth clearcut harvesting for export stifles innovation and possibility in other sectors, such as mariculture, sustainable young growth harvest, and rural agriculture. If the Forest Service wants to support rural economic development, they should devote resources to support our fishing and visitor industries transition to second growth logging invest in creating and maintaining recreation infrastructure improve and streamline existing permitting processes for important community projects rather than rehashing old conflicts.

No

I urge the Forest Service to prioritize the voices of Southeast Alaskans over those of our political representation and corporate interests. Choosing a full exemption will not create a long lasting, durable solution for roadless areas on the Tongass. It will only increase the legal challenges, uncertainty for businesses, and conflict on the Tongass going forward.

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: John
Last name: Walker
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is John Walker and I live in Port Tobacco, MD
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, John Walker

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Judy
Last name: Walker
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Judy Walker and I live in Hilo, Hawaii.

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, Judy Walker

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Julie
Last name: Walker
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Julie Walker and I live in Martell, Nebraska.

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, Julie Walker

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Karen
Last name: Walker
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, Karen Walker

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Katharine
Last name: Walker
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.

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Regards, Katharine Walker

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Katharine
Last name: Walker
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.

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Regards, Katharine Walker

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Katharine
Last name: Walker
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.

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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, Katharine Walker

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Kathy
Last name: Walker
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Kathy Walker and I live in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

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, Kathy Walker

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Katie
Last name: Walker
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, Katie Walker

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Kelly
Last name: Walker
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Kelly Walker and I live in Miami, Florida.

Please protect our national parks & lands. They are treasures and need to be taken care of for future generations. We must protect our planet.

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, Kelly Walker

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: KELLY
Last name: WALKER
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is KELLY WALKER and I live in Columbia, Tennessee.

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, KELLY WALKER

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/20/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Kelvin
Last name: Walker
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
They should open the areas for logging and remove the restrictions.

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Kimberly
Last name: Walker
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Kimberly Walker and I live in Jacksonville, Florida.
Thank you very much.
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 your consideration.
Regards, Kimberly Walker

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/23/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Larry
Last name: Walker
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Please do not modify the regulations to allow infrastructure modifications in the Tongass or Chugach National Forest areas. There is no compelling interest to the citizens of the United States to enable incursions into these unique and ecologically sensitive areas. Mature forests have a 500 year or greater natural development cycle, and if there is any development in them or resource extraction the devastation will be long lasting, depriving generations of people the cultural and spiritual experience. Furthermore, there is a diversity of wildlife that depends upon the mature forest for habitat, a habitat that can be destroyed by breaking up wildlife transit corridors with roads and clearings.

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Laura
Last name: Walker
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
No new roads or logging in the Tongass, please

I just wanted to let you know I choose Alternative One, which is that I do not want renewed road building or logging in the Tongass National Forest. The existing giant, ancient trees are important for the planet in terms of carbon storage, and the roads would damage the salmon fishery and that the 1000 year old trees can't be replaced once gone.

I care about this area and the planet. Please do not allow this.

Thank you.

Laura

Laura Walker

Fairbanks AK 99712

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/10/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Laura
Last name: Walker
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Laura Walker and I live in San Francisco, 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, Laura Walker

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/11/2019 4:16:29 PM
First name: Lindsey
Last name: Walker
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Lindsey Walker and I live in Ceresco, MI. I am writing a comment on the Alaska Roadless Rule DEIS because I am concerned with how the Rule and the proposed full exemption will affect the Tongass National Forest and the Chugach National Forest.

It is important to preserve our natural resources for future generations. Let's save this amazing rainforest!

I urge the Forest Service to select Alternative 1, the no action alternative, for the final decision on the Alaska Roadless Rule. This alternative protects the inventoried roadless areas in Alaska that are full of pristine wilderness and provide important fish and wildlife habitat, and already allows for important community and economic development projects. As an American citizen, I value the Tongass National Forest and the Chugach National Forest for its status as America's best natural solution to climate change and its sequestering of millions of metric tons of carbon and mitigating climate change, its wild salmon populations and the world-class fishing opportunities, its huge swaths of intact ecosystems and all the biodiversity it contains, its status as the largest intact temperate rainforest in the world, the high density of incredible wildlife it contains, to keep public lands wild for future generations, its status as a national and global treasure, the lifestyles of the indigenous communities that the forest supports. A full exemption does not protect these priorities, nor does it effectively balance economic development with the countless other benefits provided by roadless areas. I would like the Forest Service to manage roadless areas for low-impact recreation (camping, hiking, hunting, foraging, etc). It is important to me that high-value intact habitat including the T77 watersheds and the TNC conservation priority areas retain their roadless protections in any alternative selected.

The Forest Service is wasting taxpayers' valuable time and money by trying to prop up a failing timber industry in Southeast Alaska. The nonpartisan, independent taxpayer watchdog Taxpayers for Common Sense reported that the Tongass timber program has losses of over $600 million of taxpayers money in the past 20 years. I would rather see my taxpayer dollars used to restore salmon habitat that was hurt by past logging practices, perform restorative actions that support wildlife populations on previously degraded landscapes that support wildlife populations. We need to stop subsidizing the clearcutting of old growth on the Tongass through taxpayer funded roadbuilding. If a full exemption were chosen, it would not create opportunities and would instead prioritize the special interests of one industry over the interests of the entire American public.

The Tongass is Americas homegrown natural solution to climate change. The forest sequesters 8% of the carbon stored in forests throughout the contiguous US states, some 3 billion metric tons of it. We must take action to mitigate and adapt to climate change, and maintaining the Tongass in a roadless state is critical for a sustainable future.

I urge the Forest Service to listen to the voices of the American people and prioritize them over corporate interests. The Forest Service should strengthen public involvement in developing land management policy and focus on broadly supported work rather than allowing special corporate interests to guide policy changes. Attempting to exempt inventoried roadless areas on the Chugach National Forest from the Alaska Roadless Rule adds further insult to injury, and this proposal has not received any sufficient environmental impact analysis or public input. Choosing a full exemption will not create a long lasting, durable solution for roadless areas in Alaska it will only increase the legal challenges, uncertainty for businesses, and conflict over these forests going forward.

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/17/2019 10:49:14 AM
First name: Madison
Last name: Walker
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Madison Walker and I live in Pensacola, FL. I am writing a comment on the Alaska Roadless Rule DEIS because I am concerned with how the Rule and the proposed full exemption will affect the Tongass National Forest and the Chugach National Forest.

I love the ability to use national forest land and feel safe. I love public lands in my hands. I love the extra space managed specifically for the preservation of natural resources.

I urge the Forest Service to select Alternative 1, the no action alternative, for the final decision on the Alaska Roadless Rule. This alternative protects the inventoried roadless areas in Alaska that are full of pristine wilderness and provide important fish and wildlife habitat, and already allows for important community and economic development projects. As an American citizen, I value the Tongass National Forest and the Chugach National Forest for its wild salmon populations and the world-class fishing opportunities, its huge swaths of intact ecosystems and all the biodiversity it contains, its status as the largest intact temperate rainforest in the world, the high density of incredible wildlife it contains, to keep public lands wild for future generations, the lifestyles of the indigenous communities that the forest supports. A full exemption does not protect these priorities, nor does it effectively balance economic development with the countless other benefits provided by roadless areas. I would like the Forest Service to manage roadless areas for low-impact recreation (camping, hiking, hunting, foraging, etc), passive/active watershed restoration (stream and habitat) to improve/maintain roadless characteristics (culvert removal/replacement, improve fish passage, wildlife thinning, etc). It is important to me that high-value intact habitat including the T77 watersheds and the TNC conservation priority areas retain their roadless protections in any alternative selected.

The Forest Service is wasting taxpayers' valuable time and money by trying to prop up a failing timber industry in Southeast Alaska. The nonpartisan, independent taxpayer watchdog Taxpayers for Common Sense reported that the Tongass timber program has losses of over $600 million of taxpayers money in the past 20 years. I would rather see my taxpayer dollars used to restore salmon habitat that was hurt by past logging practices, perform restorative actions that support wildlife populations on previously degraded landscapes that support wildlife populations. We need to stop subsidizing the clearcutting of old growth on the Tongass through taxpayer funded roadbuilding. If a full exemption were chosen, it would not create opportunities and would instead prioritize the special interests of one industry over the interests of the entire American public.

The Tongass is Americas homegrown natural solution to climate change. The forest sequesters 8% of the carbon stored in forests throughout the contiguous US states, some 3 billion metric tons of it. We must take action to mitigate and adapt to climate change, and maintaining the Tongass in a roadless state is critical for a sustainable future.

I urge the Forest Service to listen to the voices of the American people and prioritize them over corporate interests. The Forest Service should strengthen public involvement in developing land management policy and focus on broadly supported work rather than allowing special corporate interests to guide policy changes. Attempting to exempt inventoried roadless areas on the Chugach National Forest from the Alaska Roadless Rule adds further insult to injury, and this proposal has not received any sufficient environmental impact analysis or public input. Choosing a full exemption will not create a long lasting, durable solution for roadless areas in Alaska it will only increase the legal challenges, uncertainty for businesses, and conflict over these forests going forward.

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Marcia
Last name: Walker
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Marcia Walker and I live in Henderson, Nevada.

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, Marcia Walker

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Marcia
Last name: Walker
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, Marcia Walker

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Marcia
Last name: Walker
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, Marcia Walker

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/12/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Marge
Last name: Walker
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Marge Walker and I live in Evansville, IN. I am writing a comment on the Alaska Roadless Rule DEIS because I am concerned with how the Rule and the proposed full exemption will affect the Tongass National Forest and the Chugach National Forest.

I visited the Tongass National Forest during my Alaska cruise. It is an unbelievably beautiful place. This is an Alaskan treasure and should NEVER be opened to logging or anything else that would disturb the beauty of this place. The Tongass should never be used in for profit logging or anything else that would harm its natural beauty.

I urge the Forest Service to select Alternative 1, the no action alternative, for the final decision on the Alaska Roadless Rule. This alternative protects the inventoried roadless areas in Alaska that are full of pristine wilderness and provide important fish and wildlife habitat, and already allows for important community and economic development projects. As an American citizen, I value the Tongass National Forest and the Chugach National Forest for its status as America's best natural solution to climate change and its sequestering of millions of metric tons of carbon and mitigating climate change, its wild salmon populations and the world-class fishing opportunities, its huge swaths of intact ecosystems and all the biodiversity it contains, the lifestyles of the indigenous communities that the forest supports its status as a national and global treasure, to keep public lands wild for future generations, the high density of incredible wildlife it contains, the recreational opportunities it provides, its status as the largest intact temperate rainforest in the world. A full exemption does not protect these priorities, nor does it effectively balance economic development with the countless other benefits provided by roadless areas. I would like the Forest Service to manage roadless areas for passiveactive watershed restoration (stream and habitat) to improvemaintain roadless characteristics (culvert removalreplacement, improve fish passage, wildlife thinning, etc). It is important to me that high-value intact habitat including the T77 watersheds and the TNC conservation priority areas retain their roadless protections in any alternative selected.

The Forest Service is wasting taxpayers' valuable time and money by trying to prop up a failing timber industry in Southeast Alaska. The nonpartisan, independent taxpayer watchdog Taxpayers for Common Sense reported that the Tongass timber program has losses of over $600 million of taxpayers money in the past 20 years. I would rather see my taxpayer dollars used to establish the economic value of the carbon stored in the Tongass, restore salmon habitat that was hurt by past logging practices, perform restorative actions that support wildlife populations on previously degraded landscapes that support wildlife populations. We need to stop subsidizing the clearcutting of old growth on the Tongass through taxpayer funded roadbuilding. If a full exemption were chosen, it would not create opportunities and would instead prioritize the special interests of one industry over the interests of the entire American public.

The Tongass is Americas homegrown natural solution to climate change. The forest sequesters 8% of the carbon stored in forests throughout the contiguous US states, some 3 billion metric tons of it. We must take action to mitigate and adapt to climate change, and maintaining the Tongass in a roadless state is critical for a sustainable future.

I urge the Forest Service to listen to the voices of the American people and prioritize them over corporate interests. The Forest Service should strengthen public involvement in developing land management policy and

focus on broadly supported work rather than allowing special corporate interests to guide policy changes. Attempting to exempt inventoried roadless areas on the Chugach National Forest from the Alaska Roadless Rule adds further insult to injury, and this proposal has not received any sufficient environmental impact analysis or public input. Choosing a full exemption will not create a long lasting, durable solution for roadless areas in Alaska it will only increase the legal challenges, uncertainty for businesses, and conflict over these forests going forward.

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/13/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Mark
Last name: Walker
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC368

Dear Chief Chirstiansen,

I am distressed to hear the proposal to increase logging in the Tongass National Forest. Please protect this important temperate rainforest, the old-growth trees that remain, and the wildlife that depend on them.

[Signature]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Mark
Last name: Walker
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I 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 and all federal lands. The Trump 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, Mark Walker

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/11/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Matthew
Last name: Walker
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): 12/15/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Matthew
Last name: Walker
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am completely opposed to the findings presented in the environmental impact statement. The Trump administration is attempting to use debunked science in an effort to help a small segment of the logging business in exchange for irreplaceable and critical national resources and wildlife. Do not open the area to roads or logging.

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/10/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Mitch
Last name: Walker
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Mitch Walker and I live in San Diego, 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, Mitch Walker

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Mona
Last name: Walker
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, Mona Walker

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/10/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: nancy
Last name: walker
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is nancy walker and I live in Glendale, California.

I want clean air for my daughter and her family!

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, nancy walker

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Nora
Last name: Walker
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Nora Walker and I live in South Cairo, New York.

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, Nora Walker

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Patricia
Last name: Walker
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Patricia Walker and I live in Brookville, Pennsylvania.

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, Patricia Walker

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Randy
Last name: Walker
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Randy Walker and I live in Winter Springs, Florida.

Do not remove protections for Alaskas Tongass National Forest and open it up to clearcutting of countless century-old trees.

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, Randy Walker

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Robert
Last name: Walker
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, Robert Walker

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Robert
Last name: Walker
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, Robert Walker

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Robert
Last name: Walker
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.

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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, Robert Walker

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Robert
Last name: Walker
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Robert Walker and I live in Nevada City, 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, Robert Walker

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Robert
Last name: Walker
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, Robert Walker

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Steven
Last name: Walker
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, Steven Walker

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Tara
Last name: Walker
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC6278

Dear U.S. Forest Service:

The Roadless Rule has been instrumental in conserving the Tongass National Forest and in supporting its fish and wildlife-based industries for more than 20 years. *Please uphold the Rule's protections for important fish and wildlife areas, including the Tongass 77.* [Text bolded for emphasis] 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 are protection for habitat that our irreplaceable fish and wildlife populations need to survive.*[Text bolded for emphasis]

Customize your comment by listing reasons the Tongass is important to you or why you value Alaska Roadless areas: (ex: specific locations you recreate, activities you do, or why you value fish & wildlife) [Text italicized]

The exemptions have done an exceptional job protecting a very small area of the Tongass. Logging is not sustainable in these areas, and will cost more. Our wildlife and these ancient forests cannot be replaced. I was recently in S.E., and treasure recreating in the forest; Tongass forever!

Sincerely,

Would you like to volunteer with TU Alaska to Help America's Salmon Forest?

Yes No

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/12/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: theresa
Last name: walker
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is theresa walker and I live in Bulverde, Texas.

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, theresa walker

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Todd
Last name: Walker
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Todd Walker and I live in Cudahy, Wisconsin.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Todd Walker

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: TRISH
Last name: WALKER
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Tongass: 2001 Roadless Rule

Dear Sir or Madame:

Regarding the Tongass, I wish to submit my strongest opinion in support of Alternative 1, which takes no action and would leave all of Alaska under the 2001 Roadless Rule, including the Tongass National Forest.

I sincerely support any and all efforts to maintain the Roadless Rule.

Respectfully,

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Verla
Last name: Walker
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Verla Walker and I live in West Covina, California.

I have just gone solar for my home. Trucks need to go electric for our California Home. The sun itself is free to generate this electricity. Switch on right now!

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.

Regards, Verla Walker

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Wesley
Last name: Walker
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Stand with the Sitka and request No Roads. Let the last frontier remain wild as possible.

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: William
Last name: Walker
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is William Walker and I live in Enfield, New Hampshire.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, William Walker

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/17/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: william
Last name: walker
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is william walker and I live in Satellite Beach, Florida.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, william walker

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Heather
Last name: Walker-Dale
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Heather Walker-Dale and I live in Wilsonville, Oregon.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Heather Walker-Dale

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/11/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Harry
Last name: Walker III
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): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Ginelle
Last name: Walker-Ward
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Ginelle Walker-Ward and I live in Mckenna, Washington.

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, Ginelle Walker-Ward

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Walter
Last name: Walkington
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Walter Walkington and I live in Miami, Florida.

Let's not go backward having made progress for the future of our environment!

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Walter Walkington

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Stephanie
Last name: Walkowiak
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Stephanie Walkowiak and I live in Newport Beach, 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.

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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, Stephanie Walkowiak

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/10/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: leonard
Last name: walkowicz
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is leonard walkowicz and I live in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan.

Alaskas elected officials are selling out their constituents and robbing future generations by trying to strip protections from one of the most pristine old-growth forests in the world,

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.

Regards, leonard walkowicz

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/18/2019 4:54:39 PM
First name: adam
Last name: wall
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Comments to oppose modification to the Roadless Rule

Dear U.S. Forest Service,

The Roadless Rule helps protect old-growth habitat for birds like the Prince of Wales Spruce Grouse and Northern Goshawk, as well as for mammals like wolves and deer. Opening roadless areas to more logging and roads will fragment the forest and eliminate more of the big old trees that these animals rely on.

Yet, all of the action alternatives in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement allow more roadbuilding and logging across the Tongass National Forest. Logging roads and timber operations cost tens of millions of taxpayer dollars every year, with zero return on investment. Meanwhile, these destructive activities degrade the naturally sustainable wealth of salmon, wildlife watching, and tourism opportunities.

It is time to stop opening more and more acres to the timber industry and instead bolster protections to the old-growth forests and wild areas on the Tongass. I urge you to select the "No Action" Alternative (Alternative 1) and allow the Roadless Rule to remain intact on the Tongass National Forest.

Sincerely,
adam wall
Newton, NJ 07860

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Alexa
Last name: Wall
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Alexa Wall and I live in Barnstable, Massachusetts.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Alexa Wall

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Dorothy
Last name: Wall
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, Dorothy Wall

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/17/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Kathy
Last name: Wall
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Kathy Wall and I live in Benson, North Carolina.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Kathy Wall

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Mary
Last name: Wall
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, Mary Wall

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Pamela
Last name: Wall
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Pamela Wall and I live in Lemon Grove, California.

One of our last pristine areas should be left alone.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Pamela Wall

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Robert
Last name: Wall
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.

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Regards, Robert Wall

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Susan
Last name: Wall
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
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Regards, Susan Wall

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Teresa
Last name: Wall
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Teresa Wall and I live in Mesa, Arizona.

When our air is no longer breathable, we are doomed.

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.

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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, Teresa Wall

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Theron
Last name: Wall
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Theron Wall and I live in Fishers, Indiana.

Corporations have no business profiting from our national forests and parks!

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Theron Wall

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Alyssa
Last name: Wallace
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC1255

Dear Chief Christiansen,

I live and work on the lands and waters of the Tongass National Forest. The health of the Tongass National Forest is critical to sustaining my way of life in this rugged region. From hunting and fishing, to hiking and camping, to our tourism and commercial fishing-based economies, we rely on the intact habitat that the roadless areas of the Tongass contain. That is why it is important to me that *the 2001 Roadless Rule remain in place* [text underlined for emphasis] on the Tongass National Forest. A no-action alternative is the best option for Southeast Alaska.

Prioritizing one antiquated industry over private sectors is bad business, and bad for Southeast Alaska. I support the Tongass Transition and I would like the Forest Service to continue phasing out old growth clearcutting. Please prioritize conservation of the T77 and TNC conservation priority areas in any new Alaska Roadless Rule. This forest is a salmon forest, and the Forest Service should focus on restoring degraded watersheds and fish streams.

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 1/1/0001 12:00:00 AM
First name: Alyssa
Last name: Wallace
Organization:
Title:
Comments:

Dear Chief Christiansen,

I live and work on the lands and waters of the Tongass National Forest. The health of the Tongass National Forest is critical to sustaining my way of life in this rugged region. From hunting and fishing, to hiking and camping, to our tourism and commercial fishing-based economies, we rely on the intact habitat that the roadless areas of the Tongass contain. That is why it is important to me that *the 2001 Roadless Rule remain in place* [text underlined for emphasis] on the Tongass National Forest. A no-action alternative is the best option for Southeast Alaska.

Prioritizing one antiquated industry over private sectors is bad business, and bad for Southeast Alaska. I support the Tongass Transition and I would like the Forest Service to continue phasing out old growth clearcutting. Please prioritize conservation of the T77 and TNC conservation priority areas in any new Alaska Roadless Rule. This forest is a salmon forest, and the Forest Service should focus on restoring degraded watersheds and fish streams.

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 1/1/0001 12:00:00 AM
First name: Alyssa
Last name: Wallace
Organization:
Title:
Comments:

Dear Chief Christiansen,

I live and work on the lands and waters of the Tongass National Forest. The health of the Tongass National Forest is critical to sustaining my way of life in this rugged region. From hunting and fishing, to hiking and camping, to our tourism and commercial fishing-based economies, we rely on the intact habitat that the roadless areas of the Tongass contain. That is why it is important to me that *the 2001 Roadless Rule remain in place* [text underlined for emphasis] on the Tongass National Forest. A no-action alternative is the best option for Southeast Alaska.

Prioritizing one antiquated industry over private sectors is bad business, and bad for Southeast Alaska. I support the Tongass Transition and I would like the Forest Service to continue phasing out old growth clearcutting. Please prioritize conservation of the T77 and TNC conservation priority areas in any new Alaska Roadless Rule. This forest is a salmon forest, and the Forest Service should focus on restoring degraded watersheds and fish streams.

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 1/1/0001 12:00:00 AM
First name: Alyssa
Last name: Wallace
Organization:
Title:
Comments:

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Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 1/1/0001 12:00:00 AM
First name: Alyssa
Last name: Wallace
Organization:
Title:
Comments:

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Prioritizing one antiquated industry over private sectors is bad business, and bad for Southeast Alaska. I support the Tongass Transition and I would like the Forest Service to continue phasing out old growth clearcutting. Please prioritize conservation of the T77 and TNC conservation priority areas in any new Alaska Roadless Rule. This forest is a salmon forest, and the Forest Service should focus on restoring degraded watersheds and fish streams.

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/13/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Alyssa
Last name: Wallace
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC493

Dear Roadless Rule Planning Team,

The health of the Tongass National Forest is important to me. I depend on the Tongass which is a unique and global treasure.

The freshwater streams where salmon and old growth forest of the Tongass provide spawning habitat for these fish, which in turn feed a matrix of bears, birds, insects, and other wildlife that Alaska is so famous for. The health of our economy, which is heavily dependent on the fishing and tourism industries, also depends on the salmon, wildlife and presence of old growth forests. A sustainable future for Southeast Alaska requires protecting expansive areas of intact habitat - in short, it requires keeping our Roadless areas roadless! I urge the Forest Service and the Secretary to protect important salmon spawning habitat, maintain old growth forests for winter deer habitat, and keep the places I like to recreate free of clearcuts and roadbuilding.

WHO I AM: [text bolded for emphasis] Include your name, where you live, and any relevant biographical information. Do you live or work on the Tongass National Forest? What is your relationship to the Tongass?

Alyssa Wallace live in Haines Alaska I've worked in the tourism industry and an intact wilderness is essential to keep our small econony diverse.

PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE: [text bolded for emphasis] The Forest Service will choose how to proceed from a number of different alternatives. If you want the Roadless Rule to remain on the Tongass, write "No Action."

NO ACTION

WHY I PREFER THIS ALTERNATIVE: [text bolded for emphasis] How would this alternative affect you and Southeast Alaskans?

I'm a subsistence harvester. I depend on the mushrooms and salmon in the Tongass.

AREAS: [text bolded for emphasis] Are there specific islands, watersheds, or mountains that you depend on? Name the most important areas that the Roadless Rule to protect. Examples include the Tenakee Inlet, Nakwasina Sound, Fish Bay, Ushk Bay, Northern Prince of Wales, T77 salmon watershed areas, Audobon TNC ecological priority areas, etc.

All the existing roadless areas are important for carbon sequestration. We depend on these trees for clean air. Using them for anything else is an outdated method as our nation moves toward a "greener" direction. eco-concious

USE: [text bolded for emphasis] What activities do you use the Tongass National Forest for? Hunting, fishing, recreation, subsistence, business, tourism, etc.

I use the Tongass for hunting, fishing, recreation, subsistence, business and tourism. Our economy depends on the tongass. As a nation we depend on the Tongass to sequester our carbon emissions.

SUGGESTION: [text bolded for emphasis] How should the Forest Service manage the Tongass National Forest, rather than old-growth clearcut logging? More sustainable alternatives to timber harvest include salmon watershed restoration, visitor industry infrastructure, deer habitat enhancement, young growth thinning, and maintenance of recreation infrastructure such as trails and cabins.

The Forest Service should focus on managing the Tongass with sustainable alternatives like salmon watershed restoration or young growth thinning. It is essential to keep these trees standing. It is a unique safety structure for our climate crisis.

Additional comments for the Forest Service:

Sincerely,

Alyssa Wallace

I want to receive a copy of the Draft Environmental Statement

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Austin
Last name: Wallace
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Alternative One

Healthy carbon cycles for the future! No more concrete jungles

Sent from my iPhone

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Carolyn
Last name: Wallace
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Carolyn Wallace and I live in Livingston, Montana.

We cannot replace lost forests. Temporary profits not worth extreme cost to all. Thank you.

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, Carolyn Wallace

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Dane
Last name: Wallace
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC814

Dear Secretary Perdue,

I am a visitor to the lands and waters of Southeast Alaska. The Tongass National Forest is a large part of why I am here. Visitors like me come to witness the vast, beautiful stands of old-growth trees that can't be found on such a scale anywhere else in the United States. We come to crew on commercial fishing boats. We come to hunt, fish and hike in America's largest National Forest. That is why it is important to me that the 2001 Roadless Rule remain in place on the Tongass National Forest. A no-action alternative is the best option for Alaskans and Americans.

I support the Tongass Transition and I would like the Forest Service to continue phasing out old growth clearcutting. This forest is a salmon forest, and the Forest Service should focus on restoring degraded watersheds and fish streams. Please prioritize conservation of the T77 and TNC conservation priority areas in any new Alaska Roadless Rule. Tourism and commercial fishing are at the heart of Southeast's economy, not the antiquated timber industry.

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/21/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Diane
Last name: Wallace
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Please keep Alaska as pristine as possible so we can prevent the methane hydrate from entering the atmosphere from the bottom of the Oceans.

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/13/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Erlynn
Last name: Wallace
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Erlynn Wallace and I live in Hurricane, Utah.
It is imperative that we preserve our wild forest areas!
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, Erlynn Wallace

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Gabe
Last name: Wallace
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I 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.

Please keep the federal Roadless Rule intact and current protections in place for national forests in Alaska.

Please neither reduce nor remove protections from our national forests roadless areas.

Regards, Gabe Wallace

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: George
Last name: Wallace
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC4980

Dear U.S. Forest Service,

CC: Alaska Congressional Delegation and Federal Administration

I support the no-action alternative to leave the 2001 Roadless Rule in place on the Tongass National Forest. We must continue to phase out old-growth clear-cut logging and instead prioritize restoring degraded watersheds and fish streams that contribute to the growing fisheries and tourism-based economies of Southeast. To that end, please conserve the Tongass 77 and TNC priority areas in the final Roadless Rule.

Sincerely,

Comments: *(Eg: list locations you recreate, or why you value Tongass fish & wildlife)* [Text italicized for emphasis]

[Box unchecked] I would like to get more involved in the campaign!

*By taking this action, you are consenting to receive future communications via phone, text message, email, or mail from Sitka Conservation Society and its partners working to protect the Tongass. * [Text italicized for emphasis]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/5/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: James
Last name: Wallace
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): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Jane
Last name: Wallace
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, Jane Wallace

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/12/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Janet
Last name: Wallace
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Janet WAllace and I live in Marion, Massachusetts.

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, Janet Wallace

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Jaz
Last name: Wallace
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Jaz Wallace and I live in Stony Brook, New York.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Jaz Wallace

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/23/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Ken
Last name: Wallace
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Ken Wallace and I live in Sacramento, California.

I am strongly opposed 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.
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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Ken Wallace

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Margaret
Last name: Wallace
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Margaret Wallace and I live in Prunedale, 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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Margaret Wallace

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Michael
Last name: Wallace
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Michael Wallace and I live in Santa Cruz, 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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Michael Wallace

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Michael
Last name: Wallace
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): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Michael
Last name: Wallace
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Michael Wallace and I live in Santa Cruz, 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, Michael Wallace

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Michael
Last name: Wallace
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, Michael Wallace

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Molly
Last name: Wallace
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.
Above all, we cannot afford to cut down forests that are one of the best defenses we have against climate change.
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, Molly Wallace

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Nadine
Last name: Wallace
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Nadine Wallace and I live in Tacoma, Washington.

I oppose any attempts to loosen restrictions on methane and other fossil fuel pollution. The government should be about protecting the public, not poisoning America so the fossil fuel industries and administration cronies can indulge in their greed.

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, Nadine Wallace

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Nadine
Last name: Wallace
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, Nadine Wallace

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/17/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Nisa
Last name: Wallace
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Nisa Wallace and I live in Riverside, 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, Nisa Wallace

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Patrice
Last name: Wallace
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Patrice Wallace and I live in Santa Cruz, 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, Patrice Wallace

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/14/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Robert
Last name: Wallace
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Robert Wallace and I live in Amelia Ct Hse, Virginia.

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, Robert Wallace

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/10/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Shelly
Last name: Wallace
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Shelly Wallace and I live in Denver, Colorado.

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, Shelly Wallace

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/7/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Shelly
Last name: Wallace
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): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Steven
Last name: Wallace
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Steven Wallace and I live in Lafayette, Colorado.

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, Steven Wallace

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: susan
Last name: wallace
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is susan wallace and I live in Spokane, Washington.

Please consider future generations.

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, susan wallace

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Tim
Last name: Wallace
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Tim Wallace and I live in Forbes, Minnesota.

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.

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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, Tim Wallace

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/18/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Tim
Last name: Wallace
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Where it still is, the Tongrass National Forest should remain roadless. The Tongrass is one of the largest intact forests int he world and is unique for a number of reasons. Among these are the temperate rain forest and the myriad of rivers that support wild salmon stocks. Roads and the resulting erosion will hurt water quality and the contiguity of the forest habitat. This, like all diminishment of wilderness, is like a bell that can't be un-rung. Once the damage is done it can't be totally repaired.

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Alan
Last name: Wallach
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, Alan Wallach

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Christina
Last name: Wallach
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Christina Wallach and I live in Mason, Michigan.

Please protect this land ! Do not disregard what the vast majority of people who live there WANT, and what this planet's ecosystem NEEDS.What will all those dollars give them.... a trip to Mars , after destroying their own planet??

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, Christina Wallach

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Gale
Last name: Wallach
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Gale Wallach and I live in Halesite, New York.

The interior department has been hijacked!

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Gale Wallach

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Gale
Last name: Wallach
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.

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Regards, Gale Wallach

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Gale
Last name: Wallach
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
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Regards, Gale Wallach

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Gale
Last name: Wallach
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.

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Regards, Gale Wallach

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Kim
Last name: Wallach
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.

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Regards, Kim Wallach

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Lorna
Last name: Wallach
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.

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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, Lorna Wallach

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Shirley
Last name: Wallack
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.

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Regards, Shirley Wallack

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Ben
Last name: Waller
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, Ben Waller

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/12/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Charles
Last name: Waller
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): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Ellen
Last name: Waller
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.

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Regards, Ellen Waller

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Katie
Last name: Waller
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Katie Waller and I live in Bayfield, Colorado.

Protect our old growth forests from corporate greed.

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, Katie Waller

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Paul
Last name: Waller
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Paul Waller and I live in [@advCity], 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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Paul Waller

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: rhoda
Last name: waller
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is rhoda waller and I live in Freedom, Maine.

Please continue to protect the wilderness area and the wildlife it nourishes.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, rhoda waller

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Sara
Last name: Waller
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Sara Waller and I live in Meriden, Connecticut.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Sara Waller

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Barbara
Last name: Wallesz
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Barbara Wallesz and I live in Bellingham, Washington.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Barbara Wallesz

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Charles
Last name: Wallin
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, Charles Wallin

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: David
Last name: Wallin
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
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Regards, David Wallin

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Janet
Last name: Wallin
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
To Whom it May Concern,

I moved to Wrangell Island right out of college, had my first RN job at Wrangell General Hospital, birthed my child, and have been a property and home owner in the Tongass National Forrest for 35 years. Everyone I know was either born in or moved to Alaska because of the vast wilderness, abundant salmon and copious wild life. Without the expansive wilderness, we would not have the pristine enviorment that sustains this vast amount of wild life which in turns sustains human life. We are extremely fortunate to live in this wilderness, We have clean air, clean water, and a natural way of living. To maintain this sustainably, we can not have roads. Please oppose building roads in out Forests. Thank you very much.

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Patti
Last name: Wallin
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.

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Regards, Patti Wallin

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/13/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: S.
Last name: Wallin
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC470

Dear Roadless Rule Planning Team,

The health of the Tongass National Forest is important to me. I depend on the Tongass which is a unique and global treasure.

The freshwater streams where salmon and old growth forest of the Tongass provide spawning habitat for these fish, which in turn feed a matrix of bears, birds, insects, and other wildlife that Alaska is so famous for. The health of our economy, which is heavily dependent on the fishing and tourism industries, also depends on the salmon, wildlife and presence of old growth forests. A sustainable future for Southeast Alaska requires protecting expansive areas of intact habitat - in short, it requires keeping our Roadless areas roadless! I urge the Forest Service and the Secretary to protect important salmon spawning habitat, maintain old growth forests for winter deer habitat, and keep the places I like to recreate free of clearcuts and roadbuilding.

WHO I AM: [text bolded for emphasis] Include your name, where you live, and any relevant biographical information. Do you live or work on the Tongass National Forest? What is your relationship to the Tongass?

Sheila Wallin, here, no. love the beautiful outdoor

PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE: [text bolded for emphasis] The Forest Service will choose how to proceed from a number of different alternatives. If you want the Roadless Rule to remain on the Tongass, write "No Action."

WHY I PREFER THIS ALTERNATIVE: [text bolded for emphasis] How would this alternative affect you and Southeast Alaskans?

AREAS: [text bolded for emphasis] Are there specific islands, watersheds, or mountains that you depend on? Name the most important areas that the Roadless Rule to protect. Examples include the Tenakee Inlet, Nakwasina Sound, Fish Bay, Ushk Bay, Northern Prince of Wales, T77 salmon watershed areas, Audobon TNC ecological priority areas, etc.

no

USE: [text bolded for emphasis] What activities do you use the Tongass National Forest for? Hunting, fishing, recreation, subsistence, business, tourism, etc.

hiking, recreation

SUGGESTION: [text bolded for emphasis] How should the Forest Service manage the Tongass National Forest, rather than old-growth clearcut logging? More sustainable alternatives to timber harvest include salmon watershed restoration, visitor industry infrastructure, deer habitat enhancement, young growth thinning, and maintenance of recreation infrastructure such as trails and cabins.

Additional comments for the Forest Service:

Sincerely,

S. Wallin

I want to receive a copy of the Draft Environmental Statement

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 1/1/0001 12:00:00 AM
First name: Sneila
Last name: Wallin
Organization:
Title:
Comments:

Dear Secretary Perdue,

I live and work on the lands and waters of the Tongass National Forest. The health of the Tongass National Forest is critical to sustaining my way of life in this rugged region. From hunting and fishing, to hiking and camping, to our tourism and commercial fishing-based economies, we rely on the intact habitat that the roadless areas of the Tongass contain. That is why it is important to me that the 2001 Roadless Rule remain in place on the Tongass National Forest. A no-action alternative is the best option for Southeast Alaska.

Prioritizing one antiquated industry over private sectors is bad business, and bad for Southeast Alaska. I support the Tongass Transition and I would like the Forest Service to continue phasing out old growth clearcutting. Please prioritize conservation of the T77 and TNC conservation priority areas in any new Alaska Roadless Rule. This forest is a salmon forest, and the Forest Service should focus on restoring degraded watersheds and fish streams.

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 1/1/0001 12:00:00 AM
First name: Sneila
Last name: Wallin
Organization:
Title:
Comments:

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Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Sneila
Last name: Wallin
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC1213

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Last name: Wallin
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Title:
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Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Diana
Last name: Walling
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Diana Walling and I live in New Berlin, New York.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Diana Walling

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Diana
Last name: Walling
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
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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.

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Regards, Diana Walling

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Linda
Last name: Walling
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
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Regards, Linda Walling

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Robert
Last name: Walling
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Robert Walling and I live in Seattle, Washington.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Robert Walling

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Organization:
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Comments:
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Regards, Robert Walling

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Last name: Walling
Organization:
Title:
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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Robert Walling

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Steve
Last name: Walling
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
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Regards, Steve Walling

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/7/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Jack
Last name: Wallingford
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): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Sarah
Last name: Wallingford
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
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Regards, Sarah Wallingford

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Sarah
Last name: Wallingford
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, Sarah Wallingford

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Andrew
Last name: Wallis
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Andrew Wallis and I live in Oxford, Ohio.

clear cutting never is in the best interests of the people of the United States. It benefits certain businesses and they decide who gets the benefits and how much. We are left with clear cut ground. We need to learn how to thik longer time and apply the costs for that whole time. In other words we are blessed with these trees and how long does it take to grow a diversified forest. How much does it costs to grow one.....apply those costs to the price of the clear cut trees and assign them equitably.....wise up, it is not worth it.

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, Andrew Wallis

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Linda
Last name: Wallis
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, Linda Wallis

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Anthony
Last name: Walloch
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC661

Dear Secretary Perdue,

I live and work in the middle of the Tongass National Forest. Do not exempt Alaska from the Roadless Rule because it should be kept natural and untouched especially when a lot of land now is being torn down for development. Destroying a lot of habitats/ecosystems for a lot of creatures.

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Anthony
Last name: Walloch
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC887

Dear Secretary Perdue,

I am a visitor to the lands and waters of Southeast Alaska. The Tongass National Forest is a large part of why I am here. Visitors like me come to witness the vast, beautiful stands of old-growth trees that can't be found on such a scale anywhere else in the United States. We come to crew on commercial fishing boats. We come to hunt, fish and hike in America's largest National Forest. That is why it is important to me that the 2001 Roadless Rule remain in place on the Tongass National Forest. A no-action alternative is the best option for Alaskans and Americans.

I support the Tongass Transition and I would like the Forest Service to continue phasing out old growth clearcutting. This forest is a salmon forest, and the Forest Service should focus on restoring degraded watersheds and fish streams. Please prioritize conservation of the T77 and TNC conservation priority areas in any new Alaska Roadless Rule. Tourism and commercial fishing are at the heart of Southeast's economy, not the antiquated timber industry.

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Janet
Last name: Walls
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Janet Walls and I live in Minden, Nevada.

Don't roll back protections for clean air--you were hired to keep us protection against polluters. That's your job!!!

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, Janet Walls

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Jennifer
Last name: Walls
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Jennifer Walls and I live in Los Angeles, California.

Why are you sacrificing an ecosystem that is irreplaceable for short financial gain? Once the damage is done, it will cost much to even partially repair the damage. And the local economies will also be badly affected. Please STOP trying to monetize our national natural treasures. Once you plunder them, there is no way to replace them

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.

Regards, Jennifer Walls

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Pam
Last name: Walls
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Pam Walls and I live in Royal Oak, Michigan.

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, Pam Walls

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Susan
Last name: walls
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Susan walls and I live in New Castle, Pennsylvania.

Trees are important to help provide oxygen and remove carbon dioxide. It seems trump admin is trying hard to destroy our planet and I think they sit in a room I say what can we pick to destroy today. .

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, Susan walls

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Sierra
Last name: Wallsmith
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): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Shane
Last name: Walrath
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Shane Walrath and I live in [@advCity], New York.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Shane Walrath

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/12/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Shane
Last name: Walraven
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.
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Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Debra
Last name: Walser
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, Debra Walser

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Joan
Last name: Walser
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
It is my strongly held opinion that Alaska should not be exempted from the Roadless Rule. More specifically, I support the no-action alternative.

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Barbara
Last name: Walsh
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.

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Regards, Barbara Walsh

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/11/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Barbara
Last name: Walsh
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Barbara Walsh and I live in Missoula, Montana.

4067285409

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, Barbara Walsh

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: David
Last name: Walsh
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is David Walsh and I live in Saint Paul, Minnesota.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, David Walsh

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: David
Last name: Walsh
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.

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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, David Walsh

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/18/2019 4:18:42 PM
First name: Denise
Last name: Walsh
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Comments to oppose modification to the Roadless Rule

Dear U.S. Forest Service,

The Roadless Rule helps protect old-growth habitat for birds like the Prince of Wales Spruce Grouse and Northern Goshawk, as well as for mammals like wolves and deer. Opening roadless areas to more logging and roads will fragment the forest and eliminate more of the big old trees that these animals rely on.

Yet, all of the action alternatives in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement allow more roadbuilding and logging across the Tongass National Forest. Logging roads and timber operations cost tens of millions of taxpayer dollars every year, with zero return on investment. Meanwhile, these destructive activities degrade the naturally sustainable wealth of salmon, wildlife watching, and tourism opportunities.

It is time to stop opening more and more acres to the timber industry and instead bolster protections to the old-growth forests and wild areas on the Tongass. I urge you to select the "No Action" Alternative (Alternative 1) and allow the Roadless Rule to remain intact on the Tongass National Forest.

Sincerely,
Denise Walsh
Monroe, CT 06468

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Denise
Last name: Walsh
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Is there no end to the rapaciousness of this admnistration? Destroying irreplaceable national treasures benefits nobody but the lumber and paper industries. Planned forests for those uses exist and should be utilized, but leave old growth forests alone.

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Gary
Last name: Walsh
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.

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Regards, Gary Walsh

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: James
Last name: Walsh
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC5164

U.S. Forest Service Alaska Roadless Rule Committee:

While I was serving in Congress I had a vote on expanding the rules for logging in the Tongass. It would have allowed cutting to occur much closer to streams and tributaries among other things. I voted for it. That was a mistake. The vote came up very fast and I didn't have a chance to research the potential impact of the policy change. I have since learned a great deal about the forest and the fish which inhabit it. It is a very unique place on this planet and we should not allow this habitat to be despoiled. Please do not change the Roadless Rule status.

The Roadless Rule has been instrumental in conserving the Tongass National Forest and in supporting its 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. 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,

James Walsh

Marietta, NY 13110

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Jenna
Last name: Walsh
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): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Joan
Last name: Walsh
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is [Joan Walsh and I live in Harrison, NY.
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, Joan Walsh

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: John
Last name: Walsh
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
At a time when the rate of climate change is so dramatically impacting many parts of the globe, and in particular the Arctic and northern regions, it is especially important we proceed cautiously in eliminating old growth timber resources in the Tongass National Forest.

SE Alaska has experienced drought conditions in the past two years and the trend is likely continuing.

Tourism is a key industry to Alaska and traveling visitors marvel in wonder at the pristine environment they witness on their voyage through the archipelago within the Tongass.

The political haste to reverse the Roadless Rule is not sufficient reason to needlessly injure our forest resource at a time when our society is becoming increasingly aware of the challenges and threats caused by increased warming and diminished rainfall.

I speak against reversing the Roadless Rule.

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: John
Last name: Walsh
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Hello Forest Service,

I'm writing to express my support for the roadless rule #54511 keeping the Tongass National Forest protected from logging, mineral extraction or any other commercial activity which will substantially alter the landscape.

Fresh and clean water is of the utmost importance in all of life, and that area is uniquely protected and situated in an environment that is difficult if not impossible to find anywhere else in the world now. We need to keep it this way for the benefit of future generations. The health of this ecosystem could well be very important as the climate warms and humanity and the animal world struggle to adapt.

As an avid outdoorsman, I relish the freedom of the hills. Wild Salmon, bear, wolves, coyotes, birds of all types, and everything else that occupies the forest directly benefit humanity. These are natural, and National, resources which need protection. To sacrifice their habitat for one singular resource like old growth timber is short sighted and irresponsible. We can't take back the destruction that would ensue.

There are millions of acres of other land already designated as renewable farming of trees. Not old growth, no, but valuable nonetheless. Maintaining the current policy protecting these areas needs to happen. This world is moving to other building products to supplant old growth trees. Our National Forest Service needs to be responsible to the environment, not the timber business. In the long run, that will produce more revenue for the coffers of the United States.

Thank you,

John Walsh

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Karina
Last name: Walsh
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Karina Walsh and I live in San Diego, California.

The people have spoken. We want our national monuments preserved. We need more natural spaces, not fewer!

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, Karina Walsh

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Kathleen
Last name: Walsh
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, Kathleen Walsh

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/5/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Kevin
Last name: Walsh
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): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Kevin
Last name: Walsh
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Kevin Walsh and I live in Madison, Connecticut.

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, Kevin Walsh

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Linda
Last name: Walsh
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Linda Walsh and I live in Menomonie, Wisconsin.

Our source of oxygen is trees. Cutting them down is a danger to us and our children.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Linda Walsh

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Marce
Last name: Walsh
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Marce Walsh and I live in Houston, Texas.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Marce Walsh

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Margaret
Last name: Walsh
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Margaret Walsh and I live in Winona, Minnesota.

Respect for the beauty of Tongass National Forest and the importance of trees in the USA should be given priority. Clearcutting the forest disregards that fact that the national forests belong to us all.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.

Regards, Margaret Walsh

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/13/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Marilyn
Last name: Walsh
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Marilyn Walsh and I live in Glastonbury, Connecticut.

We must do everything we can to protect our forests and the earth now. Time is running out on climate change.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.

Regards, Marilyn Walsh

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Robert
Last name: Walsh
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, Robert Walsh

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Stephen
Last name: Walsh
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.

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Regards, Stephen Walsh

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Steve
Last name: Walsh
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Steve Walsh and I live in Mill Valley, California.

The Tongass is precious wildlife habitat on an Earth with dwindling wilderness! We must keep it intact rather than ruining it to the highest bidder!

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.

Regards, Steve Walsh

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Steve
Last name: Walsh
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
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Organization:
Title:
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Regards, Steve Walsh

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Steve
Last name: Walsh
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
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Regards, Steve Walsh

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Susan
Last name: Walsh
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
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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, Susan Walsh

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/13/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Susan
Last name: Walsh
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC425

Dear Roadless Rule Planning Team,

The health of the Tongass National Forest is important to me. I depend on the Tongass which is a unique and global treasure.

The freshwater streams where salmon and old growth forest of the Tongass provide spawning habitat for these fish, which in turn feed a matrix of bears, birds, insects, and other wildlife that Alaska is so famous for. The health of our economy, which is heavily dependent on the fishing and tourism industries, also depends on the salmon, wildlife and presence of old growth forests. A sustainable future for Southeast Alaska requires protecting expansive areas of intact habitat - in short, it requires keeping our Roadless areas roadless! I urge the Forest Service and the Secretary to protect important salmon spawning habitat, maintain old growth forests for winter deer habitat, and keep the places I like to recreate free of clearcuts and roadbuilding.

WHO I AM: [text bolded for emphasis] Include your name, where you live, and any relevant biographical information. Do you live or work on the Tongass National Forest? What is your relationship to the Tongass?

Susan E. Walsh

PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE: [text bolded for emphasis] The Forest Service will choose how to proceed from a number of different alternatives. If you want the Roadless Rule to remain on the Tongass, write "No Action."

No action.

WHY I PREFER THIS ALTERNATIVE: [text bolded for emphasis] How would this alternative affect you and Southeast Alaskans?

The Tongass has been piecemealed. cut through land exchanges enough.

AREAS: [text bolded for emphasis] Are there specific islands, watersheds, or mountains that you depend on? Name the most important areas that the Roadless Rule to protect. Examples include the Tenakee Inlet, Nakwasina Sound, Fish Bay, Ushk Bay, Northern Prince of Wales, T77 salmon watershed areas, Audobon TNC ecological priority areas, etc.

The Cleaveland

[Illegible]

USE: [text bolded for emphasis] What activities do you use the Tongass National Forest for? *Hunting,* [circled] *fishing,* [circled] *recreation,* [circled] *subsistence,* [circled] business, tourism, etc.

SUGGESTION: [text bolded for emphasis] How should the Forest Service manage the Tongass National Forest, rather than old-growth clearcut logging? More sustainable alternatives to timber harvest include salmon watershed restoration, visitor industry infrastructure, deer habitat enhancement, young growth thinning, and maintenance of recreation infrastructure such as trails and cabins.

Additional comments for the Forest Service:

Sincerely,

Susan E. Walsh

I do not want to receive a copy of the Draft Environmental Statement

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: susan
Last name: walsh
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Roadless rule

To Whom it May Concern:

I have already submitted comments regarding the roadless rule with the subsistence meeting held in Ketchikan.
I would like to reiterate

My support for continuing the roadless rule in the Tongass. We already have roads with deferred maintenance.
I am not interested, as a taxpayer, to further subsidize the timber "industry" and now the mining industry.

Sincerely,

Susan E Walsh

Ketchikan, Alaska 99901

Sent from Mail for Windows 10

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Thomas
Last name: Walsh
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Thomas Walsh and I live in Menomonie, Wisconsin.

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, Thomas Walsh

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Tim
Last name: Walsh
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
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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, Tim Walsh

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/7/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Matthew
Last name: Walsh Sarnecki
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): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Mark
Last name: Walshin
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Mark Walshin and I live in Patchogue, New York.

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, Mark Walshin

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/13/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Mark
Last name: Walshin
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Mark Walshin and I live in Patchogue, New York.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Mark Walshin

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Maureen
Last name: Walstra
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, Maureen Walstra

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Maureen
Last name: Walstra
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Maureen Walstra and I live in San Jose, 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, Maureen Walstra

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Maureen
Last name: Walstra
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
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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, Maureen Walstra

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Maureen
Last name: Walstra
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, Maureen Walstra

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Judith
Last name: Walsworth
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Judith Walsworth and I live in Springfield, Mo].

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, Judith Walsworth

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: [Illegible]
Last name: Walt
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC1449

Dear Chief Christiansen,

I live and work on the lands and waters of the Tongass National Forest. The health of the Tongass National Forest is critical to sustaining my way of life in this rugged region. From hunting and fishing, to hiking and camping, to our tourism and commercial fishing-based economies, we rely on the intact habitat that the roadless areas of the Tongass contain. That is why it is important to me that the 2001 Roadless Rule remain in place on the Tongass National Forest. A no-action alternative is the best option for Southeast Alaska.

Prioritizing one antiquated industry over private sectors is bad business, and bad for Southeast Alaska. I support the Tongass Transition and I would like the Forest Service to continue phasing out old growth clearcutting. Please prioritize conservation of the T77 and TNC conservation priority areas in any new Alaska Roadless Rule. This forest is a salmon forest, and the Forest Service should focus on restoring degraded watersheds and fish streams.

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Kevin
Last name: Walt
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, Kevin Walt

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/14/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Gretchen
Last name: Waltemire
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Gretchen Waltemire and I live in Charleston, South Carolina.

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, Gretchen Waltemire

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Gretchen
Last name: Waltemire
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, Gretchen Waltemire

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Amy
Last name: walter
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Amy walter and I live in Seattle, Washington.

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, Amy walter

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/12/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Ann
Last name: Walter
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Ann Walter and I live in Sitka, Alaska. I moved to Sitka in 1978. Forty plus years later I still value Southeast Alaska for it's wild places, clean air, and clean water. I have raised a family here and two of my children have stayed in Sitka and hopefully will be able to raise families of their own. We depend on the Tongass as a source of recreation, subsistance hunting, fishing and gathering, and income through commercial diving, fishing and ecotourism. I am writing a comment on the Alaska Roadless Rule DEIS because I am concerned with how the Rule and the proposed full exemption will impact my fishing, hunting, subsistence harvesting, foraging for wild foods, the peace and solitude I find in nature, recreating, the status of the Tongass as a national and global treasure, the forest's ability to sequester carbon and mitigate climate change impacts, the conservation of resources for future generations .

Out of the alternatives described in the AKRR DEIS I support alternative 1: no action. It protects important fish and wildlife habitat from clearcutting and roadbuilding. I depend on roadless areas in the Tongass National Forest for deer habitat and subsistence hunting, foraging and gathering wild foods, recreating and enjoying nature, carbon sequestration and local climate change mitigation, viewing wildlife, keeping public lands wild for future generations, fiscal responsibility and saving taxpayer dollars healthy fish habitat, economic livelihood. A full exemption does not protect these values, nor does it effectively balance economic development and conservation of roadless area characteristics. A full exemption from the Roadless Rule and increased logging and roadbuilding will negatively impact the Tongass and what I and many others use and depend on the forest to provide for us.

The Roadless areas on the Tongass that are especially important to me are those on or around Baranof Island, and Chichagof Island.I want the roadless areas in these locations to stay in roadless status in any alternative selected by the Forest Service, and be managed to provide for the uses and activities I listed above. It is important to me that the T77 and the TNC conservation priority areas retain their roadless protections.

I do not support the Forest Services preferred alternative of a full exemption. A full exemption is not in the interests of Southeast Alaskans who live in and use the Tongass National Forest, because I support the no action alternative. The remaining roadless areas of the Tongass are important to Southeast Alaskans, our entire nation and the planet. A full exemption would be a step backward in the face of climate change. The arguments of our congressional delegation that opening roadless areas will foster economic development is baseless. Rather it would hurt residents of Southeast Alaska economically and hurt the planet by removing even more areas of carbon sequestration.. The State of Alaska says that a full exemption is needed for rural economic development opportunities. However, a full exemption would not help create more rural economic development opportunities, it would instead harm our existing rural economies that are based on the visitor industry and commercial fishing industry.

It would further harm rural economic opportunities because pursuing the same outdated economic model of old growth clearcut harvesting for export stifles innovation and possibility in other sectors, such as mariculture, sustainable young growth harvest, and rural agriculture. If the Forest Service wants to support rural economic development, they should devote resources to support our fishing and visitor industries invest in creating and maintaining recreation infrastructure transition to second growth logging.

I urge the Forest Service to prioritize the voices of Southeast Alaskans over those of our political representation and corporate interests. Choosing a full exemption will not create a long lasting, durable solution for roadless areas on the Tongass. It will only increase the legal challenges, uncertainty for businesses, and conflict on the Tongass going forward.

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/26/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Ann
Last name: Walter
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC310

My name is Ann Walter. I moved to Sitka in 1978. Forty plus years later I still value Southeast Alaska for it's wild places, clean air, and clean water. I have raised a family here and two of my children have stayed in Sitka and hopefully will be able to raise families of their own. We depend on the Tongass as a source of recreation, subsistence hunting, fishing and gathering, and income through commercial diving, fishing and ecotourism.

The Roadless areas on the Tongass that are especially important to me are those on or around Baranof Island, and Chicagof Island. I wnat the roadless areas in these locations to stay in roadless status in any alternative selected by the Forest Service, and be managed to provide for the uses and activities I listed above. It is important to me that the T77 and the TNC conservation priority areas retain their roadless protections.

I support the no action alternative. The remaining roadless areas of the Tongass are important to Southeast Alaskans, our entuire nation and the planet. A full exemption would be a step backward in the face of climate change. The argument of our congressional delegation that opening roadless areas will foster economic development is baseless. Rather it would hurt residents of Southeast Alaska economically and hurt the planet by removing even more areas of carbon sequestration. The State of Alaska says that a full exemption is needed for rural economic development opportunities. However, a full exemption would not help create more rural economic development opportunities, it would instead harm our existing rural economies that are based on the visitor industry and commercial fishing industry.

I urge the Forest Service to prioritize the voices of Southeast Alaskans over those of our political representation and corporate interests.

[Signature]

Ann Walter

Sitka AK 99835

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/13/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Beverly
Last name: Walter
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Beverly Walter and I live in Golden, Colorado.

It's very important to me to protect our forests.

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, Beverly Walter

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Crystal
Last name: Walter
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Crystal Walter and I live in Franklin, Tennessee.

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, Crystal Walter

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/26/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: [Illegible]
Last name: Walter
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC291

Dear Alaska Roadless Rule Planning Committee,

I live and work on the lands and waters of the Tongass National Forest. From hunting and fishing, to hiking and camping, to our tourism and commercial fishing-based economies, Southeast Alaskans rely on the intact habitat that the roadless areas of the Tongass National Forest contain. That is why I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule.

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 strongly oppose any efforts to weaken protections for Roadless areas in the Tongass National Forest and the Chugach National Forest.

The Forest Service needs to continue phasing out old-growth clearcutting. Please prioritize conservation of the T77 and TNC conservation priority areas in any new Alaska Roadless Rule. The Forest Service should focus on restoring degraded watersheds and fish streams and carbon sequestration.

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Noreen
Last name: Walter
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Noreen Walter and I live in Wilmette, Illinois.

We must protect our natural habitat!

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, Noreen Walter

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Benjamin
Last name: Walter-Range
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, Benjamin Walter-Range

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/23/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Betty
Last name: Walters
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Betty Walters and I live in Salida, Colorado.

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, Betty Walters

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Bianca
Last name: Walters
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Bianca Walters and I live in Eureka Springs, Arkansas.

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, Bianca Walters

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Cathy
Last name: Walters
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Cathy Walters and I live in Elgin, Minnesota.

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, Cathy Walters

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Cody
Last name: Walters
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Cody Walters and I live in Bakersfield, 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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Cody Walters

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/11/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: David
Last name: Walters
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): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Dennis
Last name: Walters
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Dennis Walters and I live in Brookings, Oregon.

Please stop!

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, Dennis Walters

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Doug
Last name: Walters
Organization: NA
Title:
Comments:
My research indicates that the benefits of logging this area do not justify the expense nor the impact on the environment. How about we just leave it alone since is not cost justifiable. I think that our government officials need to keep their hands out of the Logging Lobby pockets and protect this rare forest.Respectfully.Doug Walters

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/11/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Dylan
Last name: Walters
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Dylan Walters and I live in Grass Valley, California.

The Trump administration must not be allowed to take any more steps in the opposite direction of stopping climate change. The Tongass National Forest is a treasured wilderness that needs to be preserved. The mere desire for money is a sick excuse to destroy such a huge area of forest. The countless species affected do not deserve to have their home demolished in the name of capitalism. This needs to be stopped.

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, Dylan Walters

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/10/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Elizabeth
Last name: Walters
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Elizabeth Walters and I live Jacksonville, Florida.

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, Elizabeth Walters

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Ernie
Last name: Walters
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Ernie Walters and I live in Union City, 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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Ernie Walters

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: James
Last name: Walters
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is James Walters and I live in Menomonee Falls, Wisconsin.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, James Walters

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/20/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Joshua
Last name: Walters
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: Joshua
Last name: Walters
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC5046

Joshua Walters
[Addres]
Morgantown, WN 26505-0089

November 21, 2019

Sonny Perdue
[Address]
Juneau, AK 99802-1628

Dear Secretary:

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 and $887 billion economic engine from outdoor recreation like hunting and fishing.

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Sincerely,

[Signature]

Joshua Walters

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/7/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Justin
Last name: Walters
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.
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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): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Laura
Last name: Walters
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Laura Walters and I live in Old Rvr-wnfre, Texas.

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, Laura Walters

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Ryan
Last name: Walters
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC5645

Dear U.S. Forest Service,

CC: Alaska Congressional Delegation and Federal Administration

I support the no-action alternative to leave the 2001 Roadless Rule in place on the Tongass National Forest. We must continue to phase out old-growth clear-cut logging and instead prioritize restoring degraded watersheds and fish streams that contribute to the growing fisheries and tourism-based economies of Southeast. To that end, please conserve the Tongass 77 and TNC priority areas in the final Roadless Rule.

Sincerely,

Comments: *(Eg: list locations you recreate, or why you value Tongass fish & wildlife)* [Text italicized for emphasis]

[Box unchecked] I would like to get more involved in the campaign!

*By taking this action, you are consenting to receive future communications via phone, text message, email, or mail from Sitka Conservation Society and its partners working to protect the Tongass. * [Text italicized for emphasis]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Sarah
Last name: Walters
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Sarah Walters and I live in Raleigh, NC. I am writing a comment on the Alaska Roadless Rule DEIS because I am concerned with how the Rule and the proposed full exemption will affect the Tongass National Forest and the Chugach National Forest.

I have visited this forest, I have met people who depend on this land. I understand that logging devastates the salmon's ability to navigate, the bear's ability to have home, and a culture's ability to carry on traditions. Short term gain for corporations comes at a cost to systems that do not see any benefit only hear the fairy tales of how they benefit. Fairy tales that enchant long enough, it's a bait and switch scheme and it has to stop. Logging is a violent act against a system the includes people, fish, birds, culture, fungus, bears, plants, water.

I urge the Forest Service to select Alternative 1, the no action alternative, for the final decision on the Alaska Roadless Rule. This alternative protects the inventoried roadless areas in Alaska that are full of pristine wilderness and provide important fish and wildlife habitat, and already allows for important community and economic development projects. As an American citizen, I value the Tongass National Forest and the Chugach National Forest for its status as America's best natural solution to climate change and its sequestering of millions of metric tons of carbon and mitigating climate change, its wild salmon populations and the world-class fishing opportunities, its huge swaths of intact ecosystems and all the biodiversity it contains, its status as the largest intact temperate rainforest in the world, the recreational opportunities it provides, the high density of incredible wildlife it contains, to keep public lands wild for future generations, its status as a national and global treasure, the lifestyles of the indigenous communities that the forest supports. A full exemption does not protect these priorities, nor does it effectively balance economic development with the countless other benefits provided by roadless areas. I would like the Forest Service to manage roadless areas for passive/active watershed restoration (stream and habitat) to improve/maintain roadless characteristics (culvert removal/replacement, improve fish passage, wildlife thinning, etc), low-impact recreation (camping, hiking, hunting, foraging, etc). It is important to me that high-value intact habitat including the T77 watersheds and the TNC conservation priority areas retain their roadless protections in any alternative selected.

The Forest Service is wasting taxpayers' valuable time and money by trying to prop up a failing timber industry in Southeast Alaska. The nonpartisan, independent taxpayer watchdog Taxpayers for Common Sense reported that the Tongass timber program has losses of over $600 million of taxpayers money in the past 20 years. I would rather see my taxpayer dollars used to restore salmon habitat that was hurt by past logging practices, perform restorative actions that support wildlife populations on previously degraded landscapes that support wildlife populations, establish the economic value of the carbon stored in the Tongass. We need to stop subsidizing the clearcutting of old growth on the Tongass through taxpayer funded roadbuilding. If a full exemption were chosen, it would not create opportunities and would instead prioritize the special interests of one industry over the interests of the entire American public.

The Tongass is Americas homegrown natural solution to climate change. The forest sequesters 8% of the carbon stored in forests throughout the contiguous US states, some 3 billion metric tons of it. We must take action to mitigate and adapt to climate change, and maintaining the Tongass in a roadless state is critical for a sustainable future.

I urge the Forest Service to listen to the voices of the American people and prioritize them over corporate interests. The Forest Service should strengthen public involvement in developing land management policy and focus on broadly supported work rather than allowing special corporate interests to guide policy changes. Attempting to exempt inventoried roadless areas on the Chugach National Forest from the Alaska Roadless Rule adds further insult to injury, and this proposal has not received any sufficient environmental impact analysis or public input. Choosing a full exemption will not create a long lasting, durable solution for roadless areas in Alaska it will only increase the legal challenges, uncertainty for businesses, and conflict over these forests going forward.

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Robert
Last name: Walther
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC3727

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,

Robert Walther

Churchville, NY 14428

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 1/1/0001 12:00:00 AM
First name: Robert
Last name: Walther
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
3727

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,
Robert Walther
Churchville, NY 14428

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Karen
Last name: Waltman
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Karen Waltman and I live in Ocala, Florida.

Methane pollution is deadly, and is making people and animals sick. We need to keep our air and water protections as strong as possible, not weaken them!!

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, Karen Waltman

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Martha
Last name: Waltman
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I 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. It is also essential that we protect rainforests to avoid exacerbating global warming. I urge you to keep the federal Roadless Rule intact and current protections in place for national forests in Alaska. Furthermore, 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. Put a stop to this insanity!
Regards, Martha Waltman

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Martha
Last name: Waltman
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, Martha Waltman

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
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Last name: Waltman
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
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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, Martha Waltman

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Martha
Last name: Waltman
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Martha Waltman and I live in Newberry, Florida.

Protecting our planet is the best protection we can give ourselves!

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, Martha Waltman

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Martha
Last name: Waltman
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.

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Regards, Martha Waltman

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Martha
Last name: Waltman
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Martha Waltman and I live in Newberry, Florida.

We must protect our planet, it is the only one we have! We depend on the earth and our forests are vital! Protect them!

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, Martha Waltman

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Robert
Last name: Waltman
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): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: ROBERT
Last name: WALTMAN
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is ROBERT WALTMAN and I live in Greeley, Colorado.

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, ROBERT WALTMAN

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Susan
Last name: Waltner
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, Susan Waltner

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Carola
Last name: Walton
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Do NOT tamper with the rules that protect the Tongass Rainforest! It must be protected for the sake of the environment, the peoples who depend on it, and a legacy to leave our children.

Regards, Carola Walton

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: James
Last name: Walton
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is James Walton and I live in Elizabeth, New Jersey.

We should protect every piece of wildlife we have left.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, James Walton

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Jane
Last name: Walton
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.

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Regards, Jane Walton

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Jill
Last name: Walton
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.

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Regards, Jill Walton

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Jill
Last name: Walton
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
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Regards, Jill Walton

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: John
Last name: Walton
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is John Walton and I live in Gualala, 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, John Walton

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Mark
Last name: Walton
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Mark Walton and I live in Wichita, Kansas.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Mark Walton

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Paulette
Last name: Walton
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, Paulette Walton

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Paulette
Last name: Walton
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.

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Regards, Paulette Walton

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Randy
Last name: Walton
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Randy Walton and I live in Berea, Ohio.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Randy Walton

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Stephanie
Last name: Walton
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.

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Regards, Stephanie Walton

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Stephanie
Last name: Walton
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
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Regards, Stephanie Walton

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Stephanie
Last name: Walton
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Stephanie Walton and I live in Morgantown, Indiana.

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, Stephanie Walton

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/7/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Todd
Last name: Walton
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): 11/12/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: william
Last name: walton
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is william walton and I live in Palm Beach, Florida.

Look south, in WA or OR to clear cut!

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, william walton

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Pat
Last name: Walts
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Pat Walts and I live in Darien, Illinois.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Pat Walts

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Debbie
Last name: Waltuch
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Debbie Waltuch and I live in Woodmere, New York.

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, Debbie Waltuch

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Christine
Last name: Walturz
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Christine Walturz and I live in Easton, Pennsylvania.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Christine Walturz

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: C
Last name: Walz
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, C Walz

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Kenneth
Last name: Walz
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Kenneth Walz and I live in River Hills, Wisconsin.

We must protect our natural forests.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Kenneth Walz

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/11/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Tyler
Last name: Walz
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Tyler Walz and I live in Ballston Lake, New York.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Tyler Walz

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Edward
Last name: Walzer
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, Edward Walzer

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Organization:
Title:
Comments:
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Regards, Edward Walzer

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/13/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Brian
Last name: Wamack
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC515

Dear Secretary Perdue and Senator Murkowski, [text bolded for emphasis]

I am currently on a boat cruise off the coast of South Baranof Wilderness, hosted by the Sitka Conservation Society (SCS). SCS hosts boat cruises in the summer to introduce people to the marvelous wonders of the Tongass with the help of experienced boat captains and knowledgeable naturalists. On this cruise into the South Baranof Wilderness, I have seen:

Grey Whales, sea otters, Bald Eagles

The Wilderness area is rich in biodiversity and supports an incredibly productive ecosystem. Salmon, steelhead trout, dolly varden are sustained by the vast freshwater stream systems that empty into fjords and inlets. Brown bears feast upon these salmon as they swim upstream, distributing their carcasses throughout the forest. These carcasses fertilize the soil and feed the Sitka Spruce and Mountain Hemlock trees that tower over the land. Underneath this old growth canopy, Sitka Black-tail deer browse on abundant berries and shrubs.

The South Baranof Wilderness is not the only place in Southeast Alaska with such incredible biodiversity. It is just one example of what the Tongass National Forest can produce when it is protected and left to its own natural processes. The flora and fauna that we find in the South Baranof Wilderness area also thrive in inventoried roadless areas throughout the Tongass. These roadless areas are numerous around Sitka and provide our community with important hunting, fishing, foraging, and recreating opportunities. We depend on these roadless areas for our sustenance and our livelihoods including our commercial fishing and tourism industries.

Outside of Wilderness areas like South Baranof, our way of life and the roadless areas we depend on are being threatened by politicians and special interests pushing for short term profits that have long term ecological and economic consequences. Wilderness areas, roadless area, and the intact habitat they support are an investment in the long term sustainability of our region. Please keep the national Roadless Rule on the Tongass!

Sincerely,

Brian Wamack

[sticky note attached containing: Baranoff Wilderness Cruise 06/16/19 (20) Carly + Andrew SENT + Perdue + Murkowski]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Zackary
Last name: Wambaugh
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
The trees are important to mitigate the long term effects of climate change

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Mary
Last name: Wamble
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Mary Jean Wamble and I live in Colorado Springs, CO.

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, Mary Wamble

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/10/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Kristen
Last name: Wambold
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Kristen Wambold and I live in Pembroke Pines, Florida.

We have to stop depleting our natural resources at the alarming level we are doing so now.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Kristen Wambold

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Angela
Last name: Wanak
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Angela Wanak and I live in Salem, Oregon.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Angela Wanak

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Adam
Last name: Wanamaker
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Dear Sec. Perdue,

Allow me to start by saying I appreciate a lot of the work you have done and decisions you have made during your administration.

This comment is regarding FR Document 2019-22638 "Special Areas; Roadless Area Conservation; National Forest System Lands in Alaska" analyzing changes in management under an exemption to the "2001 Roadless Area Conservation Rule" of the Tongass National Forest. I support Alternative 1, "No Change", from the DEIS, saying there would be no change to the applicability of the 2001 Roadless Rule in Alaska and namely to the Tongass National Forest.

I traveled with my family to visit Alaska in 2008 and spent time hiking, biking, and boating in and around the Tongass National Forest. Visiting and spending time in this unbroken temperate rain forest has left one of the most lasting impressions on me, teaching me about this globally unique ecosystem. It helped me understand what an amazing world we live in and how proud I am of the United States that the Tongass National Forest exists in its current form.

Allowing roads, and subsequently extraction industries such as logging and mining in the Tongass National Forest, would alter this one-of-a-kind natural area and mar an irreplaceable ecosystem that would not likely recover in my lifetime or for generations to come. Furthermore, the implications of allowing such an exemption of the Tongass National Forest to this Federal Rule in Alaska may lead to additional and potentially devastating impacts on unique National Forests and ecosystems I plan to visit in the near future--namely the Chugach National Forest.

As an avid hiker, camper, fisher, boater, and skier who has already visited Alaska for outdoor recreation--and plan to again in the near future--I strongly oppose any exemption to the Roadless Rule for the Tongass National Forest and support "Alternative 1".

Allowing any exemption of the Roadless Rule would be counter to the law as it was enacted, prescribed by Congress, and argued in the judicial system.

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Steve
Last name: wand
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Steve wand and I live in Dickeyville, Wisconsin.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Steve wand

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Todd
Last name: Wandel
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Todd Wandel and I live in Orlando, Florida.

Stop the reckless, greed fueled land grab!

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Todd Wandel

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Laura
Last name: Wanek
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Laura Wanek and I live in Houston, Texas.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Laura Wanek

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/12/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Ashley
Last name: Wang
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Ashley Wang and I live in Grafton, Wisconsin.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Ashley Wang

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/11/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Ashley
Last name: Wang
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Ashley Wang and I live in Grafton, Wisconsin.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Ashley Wang

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Christine
Last name: Wang
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Christine Wang and I live in Coral Gables, Florida.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Christine Wang

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Frank
Last name: Wang
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I oppose development of Alaskan Forrest. Please enact alternative one.

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Larry
Last name: Wang
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, Larry Wang

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Li-hsia
Last name: Wang
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Li-hsia Wang and I live in Berkeley, 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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Li-hsia Wang

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Lisa
Last name: Wang
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I strongly oppose resuming logging in the National forest. Destruction of the area through logging will bring irreparable damage to the ecosystem and environment.

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Rebecca
Last name: Wang
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Rebecca Wang and I live in Alhambra, 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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Rebecca Wang

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: ruby
Last name: wang
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is ruby wang and I live in Ellicott City, Maryland.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, ruby wang

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Tracy
Last name: Wang
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Tracy Wang and I live in Seattle, Washington.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Tracy Wang

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/7/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Nathalie
Last name: WANGERMEZ
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): 11/22/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Nancy
Last name: Wangler
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Nancy Wangler and I live in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

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, Nancy Wangler

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Donald
Last name: Wanlin
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, Donald Wanlin

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/11/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Andy
Last name: Wanta
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.
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Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Paula
Last name: Wanzer
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Paula Wanzer and I live in Meredith, New Hampshire.

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, Paula Wanzer

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/26/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Sara
Last name: Warch
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC192

Dear Forest Service,

Please Please Protect our Dwindling Forest. We need our Forest! Do our animals & salmon.

Thanks,

Sara Warch

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/13/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: George
Last name: Warco
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is George Warco and I live in Greenville, South Carolina.

It's time to cease the endless exploitation of our natural resources that benefit only a few at the expense of all others including future generations. If we must have the timber, then develop tree farms away from the Tongass NF.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.

Regards, George Warco

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Alyce
Last name: Ward
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Alyce Ward and I live in West Des Moines, Iowa.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Alyce Ward

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Amanda
Last name: Ward
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Amanda Ward and I live in Waterville, Washington.

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.

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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, Amanda Ward

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/7/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Andy
Last name: Ward
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.
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Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Benjamyn
Last name: Ward
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I like forests. Just as they are. Without human intervention. I would like you to oppose the efforts to roll back the Roadless Area Conservation Rule (Roadless Rule) in Alaska or elsewhere. Keep the Tongass National Forest pristine!

Regards, Benjamyn Ward

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Carol
Last name: ward
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is carol ward] and I live in [@orange], NJ

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.
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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Carol ward

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Charmaine
Last name: Ward
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, Charmaine Ward

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Clare
Last name: Ward
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.

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Regards, Clare Ward

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Colin
Last name: Ward
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
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Regards, Colin Ward

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Dave
Last name: Ward
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC819

Dear Secretary Perdue,

I am a visitor to the lands and waters of Southeast Alaska. The Tongass National Forest is a large part of why I am here. Visitors like me come to witness the vast, beautiful stands of old-growth trees that can't be found on such a scale anywhere else in the United States. We come to crew on commercial fishing boats. We come to hunt, fish and hike in America's largest National Forest. That is why it is important to me that the 2001 Roadless Rule remain in place on the Tongass National Forest. A no-action alternative is the best option for Alaskans and Americans.

I support the Tongass Transition and I would like the Forest Service to continue phasing out old growth clearcutting. This forest is a salmon forest, and the Forest Service should focus on restoring degraded watersheds and fish streams. Please prioritize conservation of the T77 and TNC conservation priority areas in any new Alaska Roadless Rule. Tourism and commercial fishing are at the heart of Southeast's economy, not the antiquated timber industry.

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: David
Last name: Ward
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
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Regards, David Ward

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: David
Last name: Ward
Organization:
Title:
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Regards, David Ward

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Regards, David Ward

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/14/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: David
Last name: Ward
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is David Ward and I live in Hamilton, MT. I am writing a comment on the Alaska Roadless Rule DEIS because I am concerned with how the Rule and the proposed full exemption will affect the Tongass National Forest and the Chugach National Forest.

I am a career scientist now retired. I spend a great deal of time recreating on public lands. I also the value of the Tongass National Forest as a carbon sink. Once we destroy all of a part of this precious resource it is gone for even. I would like my grandchildren and their grandchildren to be able to experience a magnificent old growth forest.

I urge the Forest Service to select Alternative 1, the no action alternative, for the final decision on the Alaska Roadless Rule. This alternative protects the inventoried roadless areas in Alaska that are full of pristine wilderness and provide important fish and wildlife habitat, and already allows for important community and economic development projects. As an American citizen, I value the Tongass National Forest and the Chugach National Forest for its status as America's best natural solution to climate change and its sequestering of millions of metric tons of carbon and mitigating climate change, its wild salmon populations and the world-class fishing opportunities, its huge swaths of intact ecosystems and all the biodiversity it contains, its status as the largest intact temperate rainforest in the world, the recreational opportunities it provides, to keep public lands wild for future generations, the high density of incredible wildlife it contains, its status as a national and global treasure, the lifestyles of the indigenous communities that the forest supports. A full exemption does not protect these priorities, nor does it effectively balance economic development with the countless other benefits provided by roadless areas. I would like the Forest Service to manage roadless areas for medium-impact recreation (FS cabins, trails, mooring buoys, 3-sided shelters), passive/active watershed restoration (stream and habitat) to improve/maintain roadless characteristics (culvert removal/replacement, improve fish passage, wildlife thinning, etc). It is important to me that high-value intact habitat including the T77 watersheds and the TNC conservation priority areas retain their roadless protections in any alternative selected.

The Forest Service is wasting taxpayers' valuable time and money by trying to prop up a failing timber industry in Southeast Alaska. The nonpartisan, independent taxpayer watchdog Taxpayers for Common Sense reported that the Tongass timber program has losses of over $600 million of taxpayers money in the past 20 years. I would rather see my taxpayer dollars used to restore salmon habitat that was hurt by past logging practices, perform restorative actions that support wildlife populations on previously degraded landscapes that support wildlife populations. We need to stop subsidizing the clearcutting of old growth on the Tongass through taxpayer funded roadbuilding. If a full exemption were chosen, it would not create opportunities and would instead prioritize the special interests of one industry over the interests of the entire American public.

The Tongass is Americas homegrown natural solution to climate change. The forest sequesters 8% of the carbon stored in forests throughout the contiguous US states, some 3 billion metric tons of it. We must take action to mitigate and adapt to climate change, and maintaining the Tongass in a roadless state is critical for a sustainable future.

I urge the Forest Service to listen to the voices of the American people and prioritize them over corporate interests. The Forest Service should strengthen public involvement in developing land management policy and focus on broadly supported work rather than allowing special corporate interests to guide policy changes.

Attempting to exempt inventoried roadless areas on the Chugach National Forest from the Alaska Roadless Rule adds further insult to injury, and this proposal has not received any sufficient environmental impact analysis or public input. Choosing a full exemption will not create a long lasting, durable solution for roadless areas in Alaska it will only increase the legal challenges, uncertainty for businesses, and conflict over these forests going forward.

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Diana
Last name: Ward
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Diana Ward and I live in St. Petersburg, Florida.

Too many wetlands have already been destroyed. Please, no more.

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, Diana Ward

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: DONNA
Last name: WARD
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is DONNA WARD and I live in Arcadia, Florida.

TEXAS FLIPS AND MOVES HOUSES TO SAVE LUMBER. WE ALL NEED TO THINK LIKE THIS.

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.

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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, DONNA WARD

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Edward
Last name: Ward
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, Edward Ward

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: George
Last name: Ward
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC3542

U.S. Forest Service Alaska Roadless Rule

Comment Period:

Comment Period Alaska Roadless Rule:

I am writing in support of the 'no action' alternative to leave the Roadless Rule unchanged in Alaska. I am concerned that changes to the rule would lead to greatly expand clear-cut logging of old growth timber and costly road building in undeveloped, wild areas of both the Tongass and Chugach Forests. These activities increase sedimentation, hurt water quality, often block salmon migration, and add to an already large backlog of needed road maintenance and restoration.

Our fisheries and wild forests are critical to the economy of Alaska. To grow these sectors of our economy, we need intact habitat. Please leave the Alaska Roadless Rule in place.

Sincerely,

George Ward

Austin, TX 78733

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: George
Last name: Ward
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC5120

U.S. Forest Service Alaska Roadless Rule Committee:

I am a lifelong hunter, fisherman and conservationist.. I have travelled and fished in Alaska over the years - everywhere from the Wrangell Mountains to Bristol Bay. Please leave the Roadless Rule in place. Alaska is one of the last wild places left in our country. Do what the great sportsman President Theodore Roosevelt did:: Preserve and Protect wilderness and wildlife. Thank you,

The Roadless Rule has been instrumental in conserving the Tongass National Forest and in supporting its 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. 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,

George Ward

Austin, TX 78733

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 1/1/0001 12:00:00 AM
First name: George
Last name: Ward
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
3542

U.S. Forest Service Alaska Roadless Rule
Comment Period:

Comment Period Alaska Roadless Rule:

I am writing in support of the 'no action' alternative to leave the Roadless Rule unchanged in Alaska. I am concerned that changes to the rule would lead to greatly expand clear-cut logging of old growth timber and costly road building in undeveloped, wild areas of both the Tongass and Chugach Forests. These activities increase sedimentation, hurt water quality, often block salmon migration, and add to an already large backlog of needed road maintenance and restoration.
Our fisheries and wild forests are critical to the economy of Alaska. To grow these sectors of our economy, we need intact habitat. Please leave the Alaska Roadless Rule in place.

Sincerely,
George Ward
Austin, TX 78733

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/10/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Jason
Last name: Ward
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): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: John
Last name: Ward
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is John Ward and I live in Streeter, West Virginia.

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, John Ward

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: John
Last name: Ward
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, John Ward

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Karla
Last name: Ward
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Karla Ward and I live in Bellingham, Washington.

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.

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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, Karla Ward

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Kathi
Last name: Ward
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Kathi Ward and I live in St. Petersburg, Florida.

Have family with COPD and other respiratory problems. They will have to spend even more time indoors if the roll backs are approved.

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, Kathi Ward

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Kay
Last name: Ward
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Kay Ward and I live in Santa Monica, 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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Kay Ward

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Lewis
Last name: Ward
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, Lewis Ward

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Lindsay
Last name: Ward
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Lindsay Ward and I live in Lynnwood, Washington.

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.

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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, Lindsay Ward

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Marvin
Last name: Ward
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Marvin Ward and I live in Easthampton, Massachusetts.

We need to preserve this land & its natural assets & artifacts that are meaningful to Native Americans as well as all other citizens.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.

Regards, Marvin Ward

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/12/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Monte
Last name: Ward
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): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Pat
Last name: Ward
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.
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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): 10/18/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Penelope
Last name: Ward
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Comments to oppose modification to the Roadless Rule

Dear U.S. Forest Service,

The Roadless Rule helps protect old-growth habitat for birds like the Prince of Wales Spruce Grouse and Northern Goshawk, as well as for mammals like wolves and deer. Opening roadless areas to more logging and roads will fragment the forest and eliminate more of the big old trees that these animals rely on.

Yet, all of the action alternatives in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement allow more of millions of taxpayer dollars every year, with zero return on investment. Meanwhile, these destructive activities degrade the naturally sustainable wealth oroadbuilding and logging across the Tongass National Forest. Logging roads and timber operations cost tens f salmon, wildlife watching, and tourism opportunities.

It is time to stop opening more and more acres to the timber industry and instead bolster protections to the old-growth forests and wild areas on the Tongass. I urge you to select the "No Action" Alternative (Alternative 1) and allow the Roadless Rule to remain intact on the Tongass National Forest.

Sincerely,

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Peter
Last name: Ward
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Peter Ward and I live in Smithtown, New York.

The Tongass National Forest should not be for sale. There have to be places that are off-limits to corporations!

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, Peter Ward

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Ralph
Last name: Ward
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Ralph Ward and I live in Plano, Texas.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Ralph Ward

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Robert
Last name: ward
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Robert ward and I live in Longmont, Colorado.

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.

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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, Robert ward

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Ronald
Last name: Ward
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, Ronald Ward

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Ronald
Last name: Ward
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Ronald Ward and I live in San Francisco, California.

Trump is an international climate criminal

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, Ronald Ward

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/17/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: rosemary
Last name: ward
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is rosemary ward and I live in Greenville, Mississippi.

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, rosemary ward

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/9/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Salome
Last name: Ward
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Salome Ward and I live in Westfield, New Jersey.

Most of America's old-growth forests have already been destroyed, which is why it is critical to protect the Tongass and thereby the communities, wildlife and ecosystems that depend on it.

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, Salome Ward

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Sheila
Last name: Ward
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Sheila Ward and I live in San Juan, [@advState].

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, Sheila Ward

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Sherry
Last name: Ward
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Sherry Ward and I live in New Market, Maryland.

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, Sherry Ward

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/10/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Susan
Last name: Ward
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Susan Ward and I live in Seattle, WA. I am writing a comment on the Alaska Roadless Rule DEIS because I am concerned with how the Rule and the proposed full exemption will affect the Tongass National Forest and the Chugach National Forest.

There is so little of our great forests left. And yet they do so much for this country. They provide clean air. They prevent erosion. They provide habitat for millions of creatures great and small. They give us places to visit and restore our spirit and health. Endangered species, like salmon, benefit from these forests, and the clean, cool rivers they promote. Other endangered species, like orcas, benefit from the salmon. Do not allow clearcutting to begin again in the Tongass. Preserve the Roadless Rule.

I urge the Forest Service to select Alternative 1, the no action alternative, for the final decision on the Alaska Roadless Rule. This alternative protects the inventoried roadless areas in Alaska that are full of pristine wilderness and provide important fish and wildlife habitat, and already allows for important community and economic development projects. As an American citizen, I value the Tongass National Forest and the Chugach National Forest for its status as America's best natural solution to climate change and its sequestering of millions of metric tons of carbon and mitigating climate change, its wild salmon populations and the world-class fishing opportunities, its huge swaths of intact ecosystems and all the biodiversity it contains, its status as the largest intact temperate rainforest in the world, the recreational opportunities it provides, the high density of incredible wildlife it contains, to keep public lands wild for future generations, its status as a national and global treasure, the lifestyles of the indigenous communities that the forest supports. A full exemption does not protect these priorities, nor does it effectively balance economic development with the countless other benefits provided by roadless areas. I would like the Forest Service to manage roadless areas for passive/active watershed restoration (stream and habitat) to improve/maintain roadless characteristics (culvert removal/replacement, improve fish passage, wildlife thinning, etc), low-impact recreation (camping, hiking, hunting, foraging, etc), medium-impact recreation (FS cabins, trails, mooring buoys, 3-sided shelters). It is important to me that high-value intact habitat including the T77 watersheds and the TNC conservation priority areas retain their roadless protections in any alternative selected.

The Forest Service is wasting taxpayers' valuable time and money by trying to prop up a failing timber industry in Southeast Alaska. The nonpartisan, independent taxpayer watchdog Taxpayers for Common Sense reported that the Tongass timber program has losses of over $600 million of taxpayers money in the past 20 years. I would rather see my taxpayer dollars used to restore salmon habitat that was hurt by past logging practices, perform restorative actions that support wildlife populations on previously degraded landscapes that support wildlife populations, develop more recreational opportunities, like trails and cabins. We need to stop subsidizing the clearcutting of old growth on the Tongass through taxpayer funded roadbuilding. If a full exemption were chosen, it would not create opportunities and would instead prioritize the special interests of one industry over the interests of the entire American public.

The Tongass is Americas homegrown natural solution to climate change. The forest sequesters 8% of the carbon stored in forests throughout the contiguous US states, some 3 billion metric tons of it. We must take action to mitigate and adapt to climate change, and maintaining the Tongass in a roadless state is critical for a sustainable future.

I urge the Forest Service to listen to the voices of the American people and prioritize them over corporate interests. The Forest Service should strengthen public involvement in developing land management policy and focus on broadly supported work rather than allowing special corporate interests to guide policy changes. Attempting to exempt inventoried roadless areas on the Chugach National Forest from the Alaska Roadless Rule adds further insult to injury, and this proposal has not received any sufficient environmental impact analysis or public input. Choosing a full exemption will not create a long lasting, durable solution for roadless areas in Alaska it will only increase the legal challenges, uncertainty for businesses, and conflict over these forests going forward.

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Suzan
Last name: Ward
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Suzan Ward and I live in Clayton, Georgia.

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, Suzan Ward

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Tarron
Last name: Ward
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC692

Dear Secretary Perdue,

I am writing to support the *No-Action Alternative* [text bolded for emphasis] for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed changes to the Alaska Roadless Rule. I strongly object to your plans to 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,

Tarron Ward

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Terrence
Last name: Ward
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Terrence Ward and I live in Midlothian, Illinois.

WTF????

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, Terrence Ward

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Thomas
Last name: Ward
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Thomas Ward and I live in Del Monte Forest, 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, Thomas Ward

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/12/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Tyson
Last name: Ward
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): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Virginia
Last name: Ward
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, Virginia Ward

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Virginia
Last name: Ward
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Virginia Ward and I live in Auburn, 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, Virginia Ward

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Sue
Last name: Ward-McCurdy
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Sue Ward-McCurdy and I live in Portland, Oregon.

If you keep cutting down the trees there wont be air to breathe. The land will be destroyed by roads for logging. Its the wrong thing to do.

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, Sue Ward-McCurdy

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Susanna
Last name: Ward-Saltini
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, Susanna Ward-Saltini

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/14/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Elizabeth
Last name: WardDonahue
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Elizabeth WardDonahue and I live in Midland, Michigan.

To gas is a national jewel that belongs to America's citizens, to be preserved for our future generations.

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, Elizabeth WardDonahue

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/11/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Kathryn
Last name: Wardell
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I write regarding the push to open the old-growth Tongass National Forest in Alaska to logging, a move that imperils the future of Alaskans such as my family and the state's economic health.

The Tongass is an invaluable ecosystem for animals and plants, as well as a vital part of the economic survival of the state and central Alaskan industries such as tourism and fishing. Creating roads within the Tongass and logging it will damage this ecosystem and the livelihoods that depend on it.

Furthermore, given the increasingly damaging effects of the climate crisis and the many taxpayer dollars that have already been spent to address the increased flooding, fires, and illnesses related to climate, to destroy an old-growth forest that does so much to absorb carbon and moderate temperatures is short-sighted and foolhardy. It is a horrible irony that at a time when nations across the world from Iceland to Nigeria are investing in massive reforestation projects to address the climate crisis the the government of the United States is considering damaging one of our greatest natural resources and thereby increasing the monies that will have to be spent to address the climate crisis.

Thank you for taking my feedback.

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/11/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: MacKenzie
Last name: Wardell
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Mackenzie Wardell and I live in Stowe, VT. I am writing a comment on the Alaska Roadless Rule DEIS because I am concerned with how the Rule and the proposed full exemption will affect the Tongass National Forest and the Chugach National Forest.

My best friend is living in Sitka after finishing a year of AmeriCorps service there. She has been very connected to the natural world around her in Sitka and I got the opportunity to visit her and experience its beauty. I also had the chance to go to See the red woods in California and learned that something like 8% of all the red woods are old growth. And 55% of those trees are subject to being removed forever. Those old growth forests were the best part of the California and the oldest trees in the world. Any piece of land that has that kind of life span and has survived for that long should be protected, like the old growth in Tongass National Forest and its surrounding diverse protected environment.

I think it smart to have a strong trail system, with access to these special areas. As these create opportunities for more support and understanding of how special places like this are.

I urge the Forest Service to select Alternative 1, the no action alternative, for the final decision on the Alaska Roadless Rule. This alternative protects the inventoried roadless areas in Alaska that are full of pristine wilderness and provide important fish and wildlife habitat, and already allows for important community and economic development projects. As an American citizen, I value the Tongass National Forest and the Chugach National Forest for its huge swaths of intact ecosystems and all the biodiversity it contains its status as the largest intact temperate rainforest in the world the high density of incredible wildlife it contains to keep public lands wild for future generations the lifestyles of the indigenous communities that the forest supports its status as Americau2019s best natural solution to climate change and its sequestering of millions of metric tons of carbon and mitigating climate change its wild salmon populations and the world-class fishing opportunities . A full exemption does not protect these priorities, nor does it effectively balance economic development with the countless other benefits provided by roadless areas. I would like the Forest Service to manage roadless areas for low-impact recreation (camping hiking hunting foraging etc) passiveactive watershed restoration (stream and habitat) to improvemaintain roadless characteristics (culvert removalreplacement improve fish passage wildlife thinning etc) . It is important to me that high-value intact habitat including the T77 watersheds and the TNC conservation priority areas retain their roadless protections in any alternative selected.

The Forest Service is wasting taxpayers' valuable time and money by trying to prop up a failing timber industry in Southeast Alaska. The nonpartisan, independent taxpayer watchdog Taxpayers for Common Sense reported that the Tongass timber program has losses of over $600 million of taxpayers money in the past 20 years. I would rather see my taxpayer dollars used to restore salmon habitat that was hurt by past logging practices perform restorative actions that support wildlife populations on previously degraded landscapes that support wildlife populations develop more recreational opportunities like trails and cabins establish the economic value of the carbon stored in the Tongass . We need to stop subsidizing the clearcutting of old growth on the Tongass through taxpayer funded roadbuilding. If a full exemption were chosen, it would not create opportunities and would instead prioritize the special interests of one industry over the interests of the entire American public.

The Tongass is Americas homegrown natural solution to climate change. The forest sequesters 8% of the carbon stored in forests throughout the contiguous US states, some 3 billion metric tons of it. We must take

action to mitigate and adapt to climate change, and maintaining the Tongass in a roadless state is critical for a sustainable future.

I urge the Forest Service to listen to the voices of the American people and prioritize them over corporate interests. The Forest Service should strengthen public involvement in developing land management policy and focus on broadly supported work rather than allowing special corporate interests to guide policy changes. Attempting to exempt inventoried roadless areas on the Chugach National Forest from the Alaska Roadless Rule adds further insult to injury, and this proposal has not received any sufficient environmental impact analysis or public input. Choosing a full exemption will not create a long lasting, durable solution for roadless areas in Alaska it will only increase the legal challenges, uncertainty for businesses, and conflict over these forests going forward.

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Valerie
Last name: Warden
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Valerie Warden and I live in Mercer Island, WA

Tongass National Forest is vital to the survival of many species & to the culture of native peoples. It belongs to all Americans, not just to corporate interests. Do not allow it to be opened to clearcutting.

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, Valerie Warden

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/11/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Jessica
Last name: Wardlaw
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Jessica Wardlaw and I live in Cottage Grove, Minnesota.

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, Jessica Wardlaw

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Ann
Last name: Wardowski
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Ann Wardowski and I live in Hillsboro, Oregon.

Planet Earth needs every forest to remain intact now more than ever. Next generations are at risk of extinction.

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, Ann Wardowski

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/13/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Daneen
Last name: Wardrop
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I strongly oppose the Proposed Rule which will exempt the Tongas National Forest from the 2001 Roadless Rule.
The Roadless Rule fights climate change. The Tongass National Forest stores the equivalent of 8 percent of all the stored carbon in the Lower 48's national forests put together, making it one of the most important carbon sinks in the country.
The Roadless Rule protects drinking water, salmon runs (80% of commercial salmon in SE Alaska), and imperiled wildlife.
Daneen Wardrop

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Alissa
Last name: Wardwell
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, Alissa Wardwell

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Clifton
Last name: Ware
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Clifton Ware and I live in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

The environment is an interconnected ecosystem that provides sustenance for all living things. Attacking nature in any way will only result in the ongoing ruin of civilization and the planet.

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, Clifton Ware

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: john
Last name: ware
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Please don't exempt Tongass Ntl Forest from the 2001 roadless rules

Hi, I'm John Ware from Boulder Colorado. I object to exempting Tongass from the roadless rules.

Please choose:

* Alternative 1 takes no action and would leave all of Alaska under the 2001 Roadless Rule, including the Tongass National Forest.

thank you

--

John

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Judy
Last name: Ware
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
To the US Forest Service,

It is crucial that the US Forest Service protect the old growth forests of the Tongass National Forest and that the forest remains under the 2001 Roadless Rule.

This is public land that I believe needs to remain roadless and to be conserved for wildlife, fisheries, outdoor recreation, native habitat and the positive impact to the future of our planet.

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Nic
Last name: ware
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Nic ware and I live in Savannah, Georgia.

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, Nic ware

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/2/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Nina
Last name: Ware
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Don't exempt the Tongass from the Roadless Rule

U.S. Forest Service

RE: Don't exempt the Tongass from the Roadless Rule

null

Docket Number: FS-2019-0023

Secretary Perdue:

Please keep the Roadless Area Conservation Rule intact for the Tongass National Forest.

The Roadless Rule has been such a salvation for places like The Tongass. Keep the civilized

world out of the area and let nature has a haven. I am convinced we (as humans) will be quite thankful for this decision in the future.

No roads in the Tongass, please!

Sincerely,

Nina Coulter Ware

Sincerely,

Nina Ware

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: William
Last name: Ware
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, William Ware

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/23/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Timothy
Last name: Warenz
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I would like to express my objection to the USDA Forest Service Alaska rule making #54511. Humankind does not have the full understanding and knowledge to adequately and properly "manage" any ecosystem. We are not omnipotent and the valuable Tongass National Forest provides numerous benefits as it is to humans and critical species it is home to. Humankind has wrought enough damage and degradation to every part of the world we have touched or tried to manage. It is time for good stewardship of the remaining natural ecosystems and reparations to those areas damaged.

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/21/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Dawn
Last name: Warfield
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Dawn Warfield and I live in Charleston, West Virginia.

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, Dawn Warfield

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Frances
Last name: Warfield
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Frances Warfield of Eagle Lake, Texas,
Dear Senator Cruz,
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, Frances Warfield

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/12/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Tara
Last name: Warfield
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Tara Warfield and I live in Estero, Florida.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Tara Warfield

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Deanna
Last name: Wargowski
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, Deanna Wargowski

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Claire
Last name: Waring
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Claire Waring and I live in Portland, Oregon.

Now is the time for more stringent anti-pollution policies, not relaxing them and endangering future generations.

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, Claire Waring

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/11/2019 10:11:52 AM
First name: Margo
Last name: Waring
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Margo Waring and I live in Juneau, Alaska. I have lived in Southeast Alaska for 48 years. The Tongass has become central to who I am. I am writing a comment on the Alaska Roadless Rule DEIS because I am concerned with how the Rule and the proposed full exemption will impact my the status of the Tongass as a national and global treasure, the forest's ability to sequester carbon and mitigate climate change impacts, the conservation of resources for future generations recreating, the peace and solitude I find in nature, foraging for wild foods,.

Out of the alternatives described in the AKRR DEIS I support alternative 1: no action. The rule is working fine as it is by balancing the conservation of our fish and wildlife habitat with important development projects.. I depend on roadless areas in the Tongass National Forest for healthy fish habitat, foraging and gathering wild foods, recreating and enjoying nature, carbon sequestration and local climate change mitigation, viewing wildlife, keeping public lands wild for future generations, fiscal responsibility and saving taxpayer dollars . A full exemption does not protect these values, nor does it effectively balance economic development and conservation of roadless area characteristics. A full exemption from the Roadless Rule and increased logging and roadbuilding will negatively impact the Tongass and what I and many others use and depend on the forest to provide for us.

The Roadless areas on the Tongass that are especially important to me are those on or around all of the inventoried roadless areas on the Tongass. I want the roadless areas in these locations to stay in roadless status in any alternative selected by the Forest Service, and be managed to provide for passive or active watershed restoration of salmon streams and wildlife habitat hydroelectric development. It is important to me that the T77 and the TNC conservation priority areas retain their roadless protections.

I do not support the Forest Services preferred alternative of a full exemption. A full exemption is not in the interests of Southeast Alaskans who live in and use the Tongass National Forest, because The current Roadless Rule works and should be retained because the health of the planet depends on the health of our intact temperate rainforest. Other sources of timber exist where trees are grown for harvesting. But the Tongass is unique and essential. Further, trying to revive a dead industry in SE with federal subsidies is a waste of taxpayer money.. The State of Alaska says that a full exemption is needed for rural economic development opportunities. However, a full exemption would not help create more rural economic development opportunities, it would instead harm our existing rural economies that are based on the visitor industry and commercial fishing industry.

It would further harm rural economic opportunities because pursuing the same outdated economic model of old growth clearcut harvesting for export stifles innovation and possibility in other sectors, such as mariculture, sustainable young growth harvest, and rural agriculture. If the Forest Service wants to support rural economic development, they should devote resources to support our fishing and visitor industries transition to second growth logging.

I urge the Forest Service to prioritize the voices of Southeast Alaskans over those of our political representation and corporate interests. Choosing a full exemption will not create a long lasting, durable solution for roadless areas on the Tongass. It will only increase the legal challenges, uncertainty for businesses, and conflict on the Tongass going forward.

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Terry
Last name: Warkentine
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Terry Warkentine and I live in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Do your fucking job, for a change!

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, Terry Warkentine

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/9/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Jeanne
Last name: Warme
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am the mother of 4 children and I am deeply concerned about the environmental impacts of our current lives and what we are leaving for the next generation and beyond. PLEASE consider leaving the Tongass area in its wild state. Enough damage has already been done. We have adequate managed forests and logging areas already. Let's leave this in its natural state. It is a precious resource that cannot be replaced. Respectfully submitted.

J. Warme

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Susan
Last name: Warmer
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC5685

Dear U.S. Forest Service,

CC: Alaska Congressional Delegation and Federal Administration

I support the no-action alternative to leave the 2001 Roadless Rule in place on the Tongass National Forest. We must continue to phase out old-growth clear-cut logging and instead prioritize restoring degraded watersheds and fish streams that contribute to the growing fisheries and tourism-based economies of Southeast. To that end, please conserve the Tongass 77 and TNC priority areas in the final Roadless Rule.

Sincerely,

Comments: *(Eg: list locations you recreate, or why you value Tongass fish & wildlife)* [Text italicized for emphasis]

Salmon is our life + our economy. Don't go down this "road."

[Box unchecked] I would like to get more involved in the campaign!

*By taking this action, you are consenting to receive future communications via phone, text message, email, or mail from Sitka Conservation Society and its partners working to protect the Tongass. * [Text italicized for emphasis]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: ann
Last name: warner
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is ann warner and I live in [@advCity], New Jersey.

It is tragic enough that the Amazon is being ruined by set fires and now big business is willing to risk the destruction of North America's "lungs" for the Almighty dollar ? If you care about the future of your grandchildren and their children, use your responsibility wisely ---- protect the Tongass National Forest !!!

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.

Regards, ann warner

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Barbara
Last name: Warner
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to strongly support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. We must keep this priceless place protected to help stop climate change and for future generations. 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, Barbara Warner

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Barbara
Last name: Warner
Organization:
Title:
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Regards, Barbara Warner

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Bruce
Last name: Warner
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Bruce Warner and I live in Portland, Oregon.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Bruce Warner

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Carolyn
Last name: Warner
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Carolyn Warner and I live in St. Petersburg, Florida.

Clean air is vital to health.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Carolyn Warner

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Chris
Last name: Warner
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Chris Warner and I live in Lagunitas, 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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Chris Warner

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: DANE
Last name: Warner
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Dane Warner and I live in Washington, DC. I am writing a comment on the Alaska Roadless Rule DEIS because I am concerned with how the Rule and the proposed full exemption will affect the Tongass National Forest and the Chugach National Forest.

Please take these comments into full consideration when making your decisions!! These are the people who will be affected by your actions as the entire world is fighting a losing battle against climate change. You have the power to do something - do it!!

As a temperate rainforest, we have to do everything possible to maintain these beautiful creations. They trap tons of carbon - something the entire world needs right now!

I urge the Forest Service to select Alternative 1, the no action alternative, for the final decision on the Alaska Roadless Rule. This alternative protects the inventoried roadless areas in Alaska that are full of pristine wilderness and provide important fish and wildlife habitat, and already allows for important community and economic development projects. As an American citizen, I value the Tongass National Forest and the Chugach National Forest for its status as America's best natural solution to climate change and its sequestering of millions of metric tons of carbon and mitigating climate change, its wild salmon populations and the world-class fishing opportunities, its huge swaths of intact ecosystems and all the biodiversity it contains, its status as the largest intact temperate rainforest in the world, the recreational opportunities it provides, the high density of incredible wildlife it contains, to keep public lands wild for future generations, its status as a national and global treasure, the lifestyles of the indigenous communities that the forest supports. A full exemption does not protect these priorities, nor does it effectively balance economic development with the countless other benefits provided by roadless areas. I would like the Forest Service to manage roadless areas for passive/active watershed restoration (stream and habitat) to improve/maintain roadless characteristics (culvert removal/replacement, improve fish passage, wildlife thinning, etc), low-impact recreation (camping, hiking, hunting, foraging, etc). It is important to me that high-value intact habitat including the T77 watersheds and the TNC conservation priority areas retain their roadless protections in any alternative selected.

The Forest Service is wasting taxpayers' valuable time and money by trying to prop up a failing timber industry in Southeast Alaska. The nonpartisan, independent taxpayer watchdog Taxpayers for Common Sense reported that the Tongass timber program has losses of over $600 million of taxpayers money in the past 20 years. I would rather see my taxpayer dollars used to restore salmon habitat that was hurt by past logging practices, perform restorative actions that support wildlife populations on previously degraded landscapes that support wildlife populations, support small-scale, sustainable logging, establish the economic value of the carbon stored in the Tongass. We need to stop subsidizing the clearcutting of old growth on the Tongass through taxpayer funded roadbuilding. If a full exemption were chosen, it would not create opportunities and would instead prioritize the special interests of one industry over the interests of the entire American public.

The Tongass is Americas homegrown natural solution to climate change. The forest sequesters 8% of the carbon stored in forests throughout the contiguous US states, some 3 billion metric tons of it. We must take action to mitigate and adapt to climate change, and maintaining the Tongass in a roadless state is critical for a sustainable future.

I urge the Forest Service to listen to the voices of the American people and prioritize them over corporate interests. The Forest Service should strengthen public involvement in developing land management policy and focus on broadly supported work rather than allowing special corporate interests to guide policy changes. Attempting to exempt inventoried roadless areas on the Chugach National Forest from the Alaska Roadless Rule adds further insult to injury, and this proposal has not received any sufficient environmental impact analysis or public input. Choosing a full exemption will not create a long lasting, durable solution for roadless areas in Alaska it will only increase the legal challenges, uncertainty for businesses, and conflict over these forests going forward.

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Frederick
Last name: Warner
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC5343

U.S. Forest Service Alaska Roadless Rule Committee:

Further road building at taxpayer expense defies logic and reason. There is already sufficient roads for harvesting timber in these areas which should be preserved, not harvested. These timber lands are far more valuable for recreation, salmon and wildlife production and pollution control these areas need the protection of no action to safeguard their great value in their natural state.

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 more than 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,

Frederick Warner

Ithaca, NY 14850

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Gayle
Last name: Warner
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Gayle Warner and I live in Cynthiana, Kentucky.

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, Gayle Warner

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Kate
Last name: Warner
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, Kate Warner

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/5/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: mathew
Last name: warner
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Please leave the Tongass National Forest under the "Roadless" rule. Short term gain from logging revenues will not make up for the loss of habitat that creates jobs in the Outdoor Recreation industry.

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Paula
Last name: Warner
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, Paula Warner

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/5/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Peter
Last name: Warner
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): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Rita
Last name: Warner
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, Rita Warner

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Rita
Last name: Warner
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Rita Warner and I live in Greenback, Tennessee.

No amount of money is worth the misery & death this methane will cause for people & animals. That P in EPA is supposed to stand for Protection, not Pollution.

Thank You,Mrs. Rita E. Warner

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, Rita Warner

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: thomas
Last name: warner
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is thomas warner and I live in Castleton, New York.

we are sick of the endless effort by greedy and corrupt timber interests to cut the last standing tree if they can get away with it.

I am writing to express extreme 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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.

Regards, thomas warner

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: thomas
Last name: warner
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is thomas warner and I live in Castleton-on-hudson, New York.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, thomas warner

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/10/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Zoe
Last name: Warner
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Zoe Warner and I live in Malvern, Pennsylvania.

The Tongass National Forest has been protected by roadless rules for nearly 20 years. These rules have enabled the forest to remain largely intact, providing habitat for wildlife and clean air and water benefits. Corporations have other options besides clear-cutting when using natural resources. Their focus should be on implementing sustainable practices, and the federal government's focus should be on conserving the American people's shared resources.

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.

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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, Zoe Warner

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Vicki
Last name: Warner-Huggins
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Vicki Warner-Huggins and I live in Ridgway, Colorado.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Vicki Warner-Huggins

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Danica
Last name: Warns
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, Danica Warns

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Danica
Last name: Warns
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.

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Regards, Danica Warns

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Danica
Last name: Warns
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
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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.

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Regards, Danica Warns

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/18/2019 4:47:47 PM
First name: Jean
Last name: Warp
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Comments to oppose modification to the Roadless Rule

Dear U.S. Forest Service,

The Roadless Rule helps protect old-growth habitat for birds like the Prince of Wales Spruce Grouse and Northern Goshawk, as well as for mammals like wolves and deer. Opening roadless areas to more logging and roads will fragment the forest and eliminate more of the big old trees that these animals rely on.

Yet, all of the action alternatives in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement allow more roadbuilding and logging across the Tongass National Forest. Logging roads and timber operations cost tens of millions of taxpayer dollars every year, with zero return on investment. Meanwhile, these destructive activities degrade the naturally sustainable wealth of salmon, wildlife watching, and tourism opportunities.

It is time to stop opening more and more acres to the timber industry and instead bolster protections to the old-growth forests and wild areas on the Tongass. I urge you to select the "No Action" Alternative (Alternative 1) and allow the Roadless Rule to remain intact on the Tongass National Forest.

Sincerely,
Jean Warp
Crystal, MN 55422

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Carley
Last name: Warren
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, Carley Warren

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/13/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Christi
Last name: Warren
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC536

Dear Secretary Perdue and Senator Murkowski,

I am a visitor of Sitka, and I am currently on a boat cruise off the coast of Kruzof Island. On this cruise, I am exploring and learning about the natural habitat of the area and how important it is to the visitor industry, commercial fishermen, and locals as well. fishermen, and locals as well. fishermen, and locals as well.

Only 10 miles west of Sitka, it is widely apparent that Kruzof Island is heavily utilized by visitors and local residents alike. Allen Marine boats and small cruise ships pass by the lush shores of the island to watch the fantastic marine animals that frolic in the rich coastal waters, sharing the oceans with many independent fishing guides that lead daily trips to catch the king and coho salmon that are sustained by the prolific feed found off the coast. The beautiful landscape, abundant wildlife, and intact forests throughout the Tongass National Forest are an important part of why I chose to visit Southeast Alaska; these vistas are fast disappearing in the continental United States.

Kruzof Island is currently protected from old-growth clearcut logging under the 2001 Roadless Rule. *It is important to me that the 2001 Roadless Rule remains in place on Kruzof Island, and throughout the Tongass National Forest.* [text bolded for emphasis] This intact temperate rainforest is a sight unique to Southeast Alaska; such lush and varied flora and fauna are rare in other corners of the world.

I want to see Kruzof Island and the Tongass National Forest protected because:

I do not want to see the Roadless Rule repealed on Kruzof, or anywhere else in the Tongass. [text bolded for emphasis] Please keep this national and global treasure of a rainforest intact for generations yet to come.

Sincerely, Chrisi Warren

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: David
Last name: Warren
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is David Warren and I live in Palm Bay, Florida.

We must not allow me to polluters to backslide on the Clean Air measures they have already taken.

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, David Warren

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Deborah
Last name: Warren
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Deborah Warren and I live in Glastonbury, Connecticut.

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.

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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, Deborah Warren

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Gail
Last name: Warren
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, Gail Warren

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: GRADY
Last name: WARREN
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is GRADY WARREN and I live in Lawrenceburg, Tennessee.

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, GRADY WARREN

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/4/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Greg
Last name: Warren
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
The find the Alaska Roadless Rule DEIS comments that are attached. Thank you

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

Sonny Perdue, Secretary of Agriculture
December 4, 2019 Department of Agriculture

1400 Independence Ave SW

Washington, DC. 20250

Greg Warren

Frisco, Colorado

Subject: USDA Forest Service Proposed Alaska Roadless Rule Comments submitted through: www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=54511.

Dear Secretary Perdue,

I am writing to comment on the Alaska Roadless Rule DEIS as described and referenced in Federal Register Document 2019-22638.

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I. Alaska Roadless Rule Federal Register Notice

A. State Petition

The Federal Register Notice describes that, [ldquo]In selecting the proposed rule among the several alternatives considered, the Department has given substantial weight to the State's policy preferences as expressed in the incoming Petition... The State's views on how to balance economic development and environmental protection offer valuable insight when making management decisions concerning NFS lands within Alaska... The proposed rule provides local forest managers an avenue for a long-term durable approach for managing the Tongass National Forest, unencumbered by the 2001 Roadless Rule, through the local forest planning process....[rdquo]

Comment: The State of Alaska[rsquo]s decision to ignore all of the Roadless Rule[rsquo]s existing exemptions makes it clear that the purpose of the petition is to seek road building and logging permissions instead of protecting the unique benefits of undeveloped areas of the Tongass National Forest. The State of Alaska[rsquo]s petition for rulemaking should have been denied by the Secretary.

The rationale presented does not reflect the national significance of the Tongass National Forest Roadless Areas. The need to protect the Alaska Roadless Areas is better described in the 2001 Roadless Rule,1 which states in part that, [ldquo]Inventoried roadless areas... function as biological strongholds for populations of threatened and endangered species. They provide large, relatively undisturbed landscapes that are important to biological diversity and the long-term survival of many at risk species. Inventoried roadless areas provide opportunities for dispersed outdoor recreation, opportunities that diminish as open space and natural settings are developed elsewhere. They also... provide reference areas for study and research.[rdquo] Roadless Areas also protect Alaska watersheds from degradation. The State[rsquo]s idea of local timber production desires should not supplant the national need to protect these National Forest System lands.

It is unfortunate that the Secretary is giving preference to the State of Alaska for managing the national resources of the Tongass National Forest and dismissing the Forest Supervisor[rsquo]s rationale for the 2016 Plan Amendment decisions. The 2016 Forest Plan FEIS ROD on page 19 states that: [ldquo]Based on my review of the Final EIS and the project record, I believe the best way to bring stability to the management of roadless areas on the Tongass is to not recommend any modifications to the Roadless Rule. Harvest in roadless areas is not necessary to meet the purpose and need of the amendment. The Selected Alternative can be implemented without proposing any new regulations while still achieving transition objectives... Additionally, the Roadless Rule provides that the construction or reconstruction of roads in an inventoried roadless area may be authorized under certain circumstances. In May, 2012, the Chief of the

1 66 FR 3243

Forest Service identified a process where the Chief reviews and may authorize certain activities to occur within roadless areas, when consistent with the Roadless Rule. Projects are reviewed by the Chief to ensure the Forest Service is applying a consistent approach to implementation of the 2001 Roadless Rule and that the agency is doing all it can to protect roadless area characteristics. Since 2012, the Tongass has requested and received timely approval from the Chief for qualifying activities within roadless areas, including those in support of hydroelectric energy projects and transmission, and road rights-of-way under applicable statutes....[rdquo]

1. Rationale for the Proposed Rule

The Federal Register Notice describes that, [ldquo]The Secretary of Agriculture has broad authority to protect and administer the National Forest System through regulation as provided by the Organic Administration Act of 1897 (the Organic Act), the Multiple-Use Sustained Yield Act of 1960 (MUSYA), and the National Forest Management Act of 1976 (NFMA). These statutes provide the Secretary with discretion to determine the proper uses within any area, including the appropriate resource emphasis and mix of uses.[rdquo]

Comment: The proposed rule recognizes the authority of the NFMA for rulemaking. However, the proposed rule and alternatives were prepared following processes that are inconsistent with the requirements of the land and resource management plans requirements of 16 U.S.C. 1604 parts (a), (c), (f), (g) and (k). A specific concern is the rule proposal to modify desired

conditions and land suitability decisions without amending or revising the Forest Plan. This is a critical flaw, and with this flaw, I recommend that the proposed 36 CFR 294.50 rule be withdrawn from the rulemaking process.

1. Forest Plan Management Direction

The Federal Register Notice describes that, [ldquo]The proposed Alaska Roadless Rule would not alter the Forest Plan's management area designations, harvest levels, substantive requirements (goals, objectives, standards, and guidelines), or the young-growth transition strategy, except for the administrative changes noted below concerning suitable lands determinations specifically issued to implement the 2001 Roadless Rule.[rdquo]

Comment: The assertion is unfounded that the Secretary has the authority without a Forest Plan amendment EA or EIS to effect a change to the 2016 Forest Plan FEIS decisions that established desired conditions and lands suitability. The effects of this change would eliminate the principle plan component that protects roadless areas on the Tongass National Forest. The 2016 Forest Plan FEIS does not address the effects on roadless areas of eliminating the not suitable for timber production decision.

The 2016 Forest Plan FEIS ROD states that, [ldquo]Because suitability is a Plan component under the 2012 Planning Rule, any changes to the suitable timber base must be made by amending or revising the Forest Plan.[rdquo] The integrated resource management decisions of the 2016 Forest Plan, including desired conditions and where timber suitability determinations apply, cannot be

modified by the Alaska Roadless Area rulemaking process as presented in the DEIS. The timber suitability plan component decision as proposed by the ARR DEIS action alternatives are not administrative changes; instead, the proposed changes would clearly modify the integrated resource management decisions approved by the FEIS ROD, including the determination that the plan is consistent with the Tongass Conservation Strategy. Apparently, not only does the Secretary feel encumbered by the 2001 Roadless Rule, but also by the requirements of the National Forest Management Act as implemented through Forest Planning amendment processes2 for making changes to plan components. Appropriate National Forest planning processes for determining timber suitability and establishing other plan components is found in the National Forest Management Act3 as implemented through the 2012 Planning Rule4 and related directives.

The 2016 FEIS on page 2-14 describes that, [ldquo]Under Alternatives 1, 4, and 5 IRAs are withdrawn from timber production and not suitable for timber production (FSH 1909.12, chapter 60,

section 61.11),[rdquo] and on page 2-33, [ldquo]As in Alternatives 1 and 4, the 2001 Roadless Rule would apply and no old-growth or young-growth harvest would occur in roadless areas.[rdquo] Alternative 5 is the selected alternative.

A roadless area on the Tongass National Forest is defined as, [ldquo]an area of undeveloped public land within which there are no improved roads maintained for travel by means of motorized vehicles intended for highway use. For purposes of the Forest Plan environmental impact statement analysis, this is a generic term that includes inventoried roadless areas and unroaded areas[rdquo] (Forest Plan, page 7-51).

Suitability determinations and identifying where the plan components apply are inherently NFMA planning functions that cannot be dismissed through a resource allocation and management process as proposed in this

DEIS. Instead, the Tongass National Forest Plan must be revised or amended to address changes to the assignment of plan components.

II. Record of Decision Forest Plan Amendment FEIS 2016 A. Forest Plan Amendment Record of Decision

ROD: The Record of Decision for the 2016 Forest Plan amendment EIS on pages 6-8 describes that, [ldquo]The decision I am making today is to approve the 2016 Forest Plan Amendment, which is Alternative 5 (the Selected Alternative) as described in the Final EIS... As required by law and regulation, this decision is fully supported by the environmental analysis documented in the Final EIS... I have made my decision after careful consideration of the public comments on the Draft EIS for the 2016 Tongass Land and Resource Management Plan Amendment...

2 36 CFR 219.13(a)

3 16 U.S.C. 1604

4 36 CFR 219

Alternative 5 is based on the recommendations from the Tongass Advisory Committee (TAC), a formally established Federal Advisory Committee that included representatives from Federally Recognized Tribes, Alaska Native organizations, Alaska Native corporations, national and regional environmental and conservation organizations, timber industry operators, Federal, State, and local governments, permittees, other commercial operators, and the general public...

The Selected Alternative allows old-growth harvest only within that portion of the Tongass included in Phase 1 of the timber sale program adaptive management strategy adopted by the Regional Forester as part of the Record of Decision for the 2008 Tongass Forest Plan Amendment. That strategy was aimed at reducing impacts to high-value roadless areas of the Tongass, based on a more recent inventory of roadless areas than that used in development of the 2001 Roadless Rule, including some areas not included in the 2001 Roadless Rule. The strategy separated roadless areas into three categories (low-, medium-, and high-value), and limited timber harvest to roaded areas of the National Forest and low-value roadless areas (called Phase 1) unless timber harvest reached 100 million board feet (MMBF) for two consecutive fiscal years, when harvest would also have been allowed in Phase 2[rsquo]s medium-value roadless areas... No old-growth or young-growth harvest will occur in roadless areas identified in the 2001 Roadless Rule...

Alternative 5 also incorporates TAC recommendations to protect certain watersheds known as the [ldquo]Tongass 77[rdquo] (T77), that have been identified by Trout Unlimited as high priority watersheds for protection due to their outstanding habitat values, fish production, and diversity of fish species present. In addition, the TAC recommended protection of [ldquo]conservation priority areas[rdquo] identified by The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and Audubon Alaska (Albert and Schoen 2007)... Old-growth harvest will not be allowed, however, and old-growth acres within these watersheds and conservation areas that are allocated to development LUDs are classified as unsuitable under Alternative 5. Young-growth timber harvest will be allowed in some of these watersheds and conservation areas.[rdquo]

Comment: The Tongass Forest Plan amendment selected alternative describes a decision that was based on recommendations by the Tongass Advisory Committee that no old-growth or young-growth harvest will occur in roadless area locations. The proposed ARR, cannot legally modify the timber harvest decision for areas of undeveloped public land within which there are no improved roads by simply declaring that these areas are no longer not suitable for timber production.

B. Forest Plan Amendment FEIS Alternatives [ndash] Future Roadless Rulemaking

ROD: The Record of Decision for the 2016 Forest Plan amendment EIS on pages 10-11 describes that, [ldquo]Alternative 2... the portions of inventoried roadless areas (IRAs) that were roaded before the 2001 Roadless Rule and during the 2001 Roadless Rule exemption period for the Tongass would be available for

young-growth and old growth harvest. This would require rulemaking to modify 36 CFR 294.13(b)(4) (2001). The prohibitions of the 2001 Roadless Rule

would continue to apply to these areas until the completion of rulemaking... Alternative 3... This alternative would allow young-growth and old-growth harvest in 2001 Roadless Rule IRAs. The prohibitions of the 2001 Roadless Rule, consistent with the District Court of Alaska[rsquo]s 2011 judgment reinstating the Roadless Rule on the Tongass, would apply until the completion of rulemaking....[rdquo]

Comment: The 2016 Forest Plan Amendment FEIS considered and rejected approving management direction for the Tongass National Forest that was based on a future change to the Roadless Rule. The proposed ARR has the appearance of being an attempt to evade Forest Plan approval processes by avoiding NFMA planning requirements for the ARR proposed actions that would lead to resource developments and road construction.

C. Decision Description

ROD: The Record of Decision for the 2016 Forest Plan amendment EIS on page 22 describes that, [ldquo]...The Selected Alternative will relax the S&Gs for the scenic integrity objectives to allow additional harvest... By shifting away from old-growth harvest, the Tongass will preserve undeveloped land in unroaded areas, contributing to unfragmented wildlife habitats and intact watersheds. Young-growth timber harvest will occur within the previously harvested footprint and maximizes the use of existing roads to access young-growth stands... Under the Selected Alternative, the annual Projected Timber Sale Quantity will be 46 MMBF during the first decade and 72 MMBF during the second decade... Therefore, more old-growth is retained under the Selected Alternative than under the current plan (Final EIS, Appendix D).

Under the Selected Alternative, 91 percent of the original POG forest is anticipated to remain over the next 100 years. This equates to approximately 400,000 more acres old-growth than were assumed during the development and evaluation of the Conservation Strategy. Likewise, under the 1997 Forest Plan approximately 8,500 miles of roads were anticipated to exist on NFS lands by 2095, whereas under the Selected Alternative less than 6,100 total miles of roads are anticipated to exist by 2095. This translates to substantially lower road densities than under the 1997 Plan. The additional area of POG will function as additional reserves, enhancing the existing reserves, and increasing the habitat quality when located around harvest units. Thus, the substantially greater spatial extent of old-growth forest on the landscape and fewer roads across the planning area will outweigh the local, adverse effects of young-growth harvest proposed by the Selected Alternative in the Old-growth Habitat LUD, the beach and estuary fringe, and RMAs (Final EIS, Appendix D).[rdquo]

Comment: The proposed rule, without following the integrated resource management planning requirements of the NFMA, asserts that the Forest Service can clearly identify those areas within inventoried roadless areas that would have been designated suitable for timber production if it was not for the 2001 Roadless Rule. However, the 2016 Forest Plan Amendment ROD did not unmistakably identify those areas that were excluded from being suitable for timber production based solely on the Roadless Rule.

Substantial changes to the 2001 Roadless Rule that allow for the construction of roads and timber production must follow both Special Area rulemaking guidance and Forest Plan amendment or revision processes. Otherwise, the Department would not be able to demonstrate that the agency acted holistically and used consistent rationale for decisions. Specifically, it would not be in compliance with the Administrative Procedures Act for the Secretary to reject the 2016 Forest Plan amendment decision rationale if a new decision is to be based on the narrow State of Alaska petition and the ARR DEIS planning framework.

III. Alaska Roadless Rule Draft Environmental Impact Statement A. Compliance with NFMA, NEPA, and Other Laws

DEIS: The DEIS on page 1-1 states that, [ldquo]The Forest Service has prepared this draft environmental impact statement (DEIS) in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and other relevant federal laws and regulations. This DEIS discloses the potential environmental consequences that may result from the alternatives considered for the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule.[rdquo]

The DEIS on page 7-25 associates the ARR DEIS with the requirements of the NFMA when defining Suitability of Lands. [ldquo]A determination that specific lands within a plan area may be used, or not, for various multiple uses or activities, based on the desired conditions applicable to those lands. The suitability of lands determinations need not be made for every use or activity, but every plan must identify those lands that are not suitable for timber production (FSH 1909.12 chapter 20, section 22.15). (See FSH 1909.12 chapter 60 for timber production suitability,)[rdquo] and on page 7-27 in the definition of timber production suitability, [ldquo]a forest plan must identify the lands that are suited and not suited for timber production. (FSH 1909.12, chapter 60).[rdquo]

Comment: The purpose and applicability of the NFMA planning regulations describes that, [ldquo]This subpart sets out the planning requirements for developing, amending, and revising land management plans (also referred to as plans) for units of the National Forest System (NFS), as required by the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974, as amended by the National Forest Management Act of 1976 (16 U.S.C. 1600 et seq.) (NFMA). This subpart also sets out the requirements for plan components and other content in land management plans. This part is applicable to all units of the NFS as defined by 16 U.S.C. 1609 or subsequent statute... Consistent with the Multiple-Use Sustained-Yield Act of 1960 (16 U.S.C. 528[ndash]531) (MUSYA), the Forest Service manages the NFS to sustain the multiple use of its renewable resources in perpetuity while maintaining the long-term health and productivity of the land. Resources are managed through a combination of approaches and concepts for the benefit of human communities and natural resources. Land management plans guide sustainable, integrated resource management of the resources within the plan area in the context of the

broader landscape, giving due consideration to the relative values of the various resources in particular areas.[rdquo] 5

The NFMA requires that a Forest Plan adhere to specific requirements.6 The ARR must adopt the Forest Service planning regulations; otherwise, and only if permissible by the NFMA, the agency must promulgate special rules for the development [ldquo]permissions[rdquo] that would be granted by the ARR.

1. Scope and Applicability

DEIS: The DEIS on page 1-2 states that, [ldquo]Roadless rules are narrowly focused prohibitions and exceptions established by the Secretary concerning whether and how timber harvest and road construction/ reconstruction may be allowed within specifically designated roadless areas. The alternatives evaluated in this DEIS focus on the particular prohibitions and exceptions. General guidance considering other discretionary aspects of management of the Tongass is better addressed through forest planning. Forest Plans are periodically revised and provide greater flexibility to adapt as the Forest Service gains greater understanding and/or circumstances change on the ground.[rdquo]

Comment: This characterization of the proposed ARR does not clearly disclose the development aspects of the proposed rule and should be amended to embed a statement such as, [ldquo]Previously, Roadless Areas have been designated to protect the Roadless Area Character of areas by establishing protective prohibitions with narrowly focused exemptions. However, the alternatives developed in the Alaska Roadless Rule DEIS identify both prohibitions as well as permissions to develop lands for such uses as timber production and road construction.[rdquo]

1. Purpose and Need

DEIS: The DEIS on page 1-4 states that, [ldquo]In response to the State of Alaska[rsquo]s petition for rulemaking, the Forest Service and State of Alaska agree the controversy surrounding the management of Tongass roadless areas may be resolved through state-specific rulemaking. A long-term, durable approach to roadless area management is desired that accommodates the unique biological, social, and economic situation found in and around the Tongass. The Tongass is unique from other national forests with respect to size, percentage of IRAs, amount of NFS lands and subsequent dependency of 32 communities on federal lands, and unique Alaska and Tongass-specific statutory considerations (e.g., Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act, Tongass Timber Reform Act)... The USDA and Forest Service believe the 2001 Roadless Rule prohibitions on timber harvest and road construction/reconstruction can be adjusted for the Tongass in a manner that meaningfully addresses local economic and development concerns and roadless area conservation needs.[rdquo]

5 36 CFR 219.1(a) and (b)

6 16 U.S.C. 1604(f), (g), and (k)

Comment: The scope of the Alaska Roadless Area EIS includes not only protections, but also permissions to develop Roadless Areas. Providing for timber harvest flexibility in the ARR expands the scope in this rule beyond previous Roadless Rules. A clear and full statement of purpose and need is critical since it is the foundation for the formulation, evaluation, and comparison of alternatives. The statements of purpose and need for the ARR must be amended to clarify the purpose and need of the regulations for addressing key issues.

The scope of this EIS must include the purposes of Roadless Area Conservation, which should be addressed by adding the following purpose and need statements: (1) [ldquo]Roadless areas are important because they are, among other things, important fish and wildlife habitat, semi-primitive or primitive recreation areas, including motorized and non-motorized recreation opportunities, and naturally appearing landscapes. A need exists to provide for the conservation and management of roadless area characteristics;[rdquo] and (2) [ldquo]The Department and the Forest Service recognize that timber cutting, sale, or removal and road construction/reconstruction have the greatest likelihood of altering and fragmenting landscapes, resulting in immediate, long-term loss of roadless area characteristics.[rdquo]

1. Key Issues [ndash] National Forest Management Act

DEIS: The DEIS on page 1-7 describes that, [ldquo]NEPA regulations require the agency to identify and eliminate from detailed study those issues that are not significant or that have been covered by prior environmental review, to narrow the scope of the analysis. Reasons for eliminating issues from detailed study include when the issues are related to the following: ... Items addressed by other laws, regulations, or policies.[rdquo]

Comment: The NFMA is clearly the authority for establishing suitability determinations and for integrated resource planning. The proposed ARR provides for development permissions. Sustainable management of the Alaska Roadless Areas where resource developments are to be approved requires that the rule embrace the Forest Service planning regulations that address modifying plan components.

1. Features Common to Multiple Alternatives

DEIS: The DEIS on page 2-1 states that, [ldquo]Except for the timber land suitability determinations described below, none of the alternatives would make any changes to the Forest Plan including the following: Goals and Objectives; Land Use Designations or Management Prescriptions; Forest-wide Standards and Guidelines; Plan Components developed under the 2012 Planning Rule; and/or Projected Timber Sale Quantity (PTSQ), Projected Wood Sale Quantity (PWSQ), and the Young-growth Transition... Activities that are not otherwise prohibited are permissible in roadless areas under all alternatives, including the no-action alternative (2001 Roadless Rule), if not restricted by other law, regulations, and/or policies.[rdquo]

Comment: The proposed change to the timber suitability decision would have a cascading effect of daylighting management prescription flaws in the Forest Plan. For example, the Forest

Plan fails to establish appropriate Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) desired conditions plan components for roadless areas.7 The effect of removing the [ldquo]not suitable for timber production[rdquo] plan component for Roadless Areas would lead to Roaded Modified settings in some alternatives for areas where the plan should have protected unroaded characteristics by establishing more primitive ROS settings. This is a specific resource example for why the proposed timber suitability change must follow amendment or revision processes.

Regulated forest structure conditions maintained by periodic stand tending, forest harvest and regeneration, and associated road construction and reconstruction is incompatible with providing for Primitive, Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized (SPNM), and Semi-Primitive Motorized (SPM) ROS class desired conditions and must not be classified as suitable for timber production. These observations are based on my experience and understanding of the ROS planning framework as demonstrated by coauthoring a ROS Planning Handbook: Recreation Opportunity Setting as a Management Tool Technical Guide by Warren Bacon, George Stankey, and Greg Warren.8

The Alaska Roadless Area rulemaking EIS should recognize the need to change the Forest Plan roadless areas ROS plan components. The existing Forest Plan should be amended or directed by this rule to establish a Forest Plan standard for roadless areas describing that, [ldquo]Resource management actions and allowed uses must be compatible with maintaining or restoring Primitive, Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized, or Semi-Primitive Motorized ROS class settings. Accepted ROS class inconsistencies include activities and uses that are provided for in ANILCA and TTRA. Manage ROS class inconsistencies with the objective of minimizing effects on roadless area values.[rdquo] An ARR management prescription should include a timber suitability plan component that states, [ldquo]Lands are not suitable for timber production.[rdquo]

ROS standard and guidelines are described in Appendix I of the Forest Plan and Desired Conditions are defined on page 7-47 of the 2016 Forest Plan. The describe settings and indicators adequately define ROS settings for the Tongass National Forest and should be adopted for the ARR.

DEIS: The DEIS on page 2-2 states that, [ldquo]Alternatives 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 would result in an administrative change to the timber land suitability determinations made in the 2016 Forest Plan. Specifically, lands identified as suitable for timber production that were deemed unsuitable solely due to roadless designation in the Plan would be designated as suitable for timber production. This administrative change would apply to lands removed from the roadless inventory and to lands identified as [ldquo]Community Priority[rdquo] or [ldquo]Timber Priority[rdquo] in Alternatives 3 and 4, respectively. This change to the Tongass suitability determinations does not preclude future suitability determinations as part of Forest Plan amendment or revision processes.[rdquo]

7 36 CFR 219.10 (b)(1)(i), FSH 1909.12 23.23a(2)

8http://nstrail.org/carrying_capacity/ros_tool_1986.pdf

Comment: Timber suitability and where it applies is a plan component that cannot be changed by an administrative decision unless the change is in accordance with a law or regulations that are consistent with the requirements of the NFMA for granting development permissions. Since the proposed action purpose is to allow for the development of roadless areas vs. describing regulations to avoid degradation of these areas, the

proposed rule is subject to NFMA planning requirements for preparing a Forest Plan amendment or through revision processes.

The 2016 Forest Plan FEIS timber suitability decisions and Roadless Areas are not clearly associated. The ROD states or describes decisions that are not solely related to a not suitable for timber production plan component, which would continue to be in effect even if the directed administrative change to modify the timber suitability plan component was enacted. Examples of other related decisions include:

* The decision, [ldquo]allows young-growth harvest in all three phases of the 2008 timber sale program adaptive management strategy, but only outside of roadless areas identified in the 2001 Roadless Rule...
* The Selected Alternative allows old-growth harvest only within that portion of the Tongass included in Phase 1 of the timber sale program adaptive management strategy adopted by the Regional Forester as part of the Record of Decision for the 2008 Tongass Forest Plan Amendment. That strategy was aimed at reducing impacts to high-value roadless areas of the Tongass, based on a more recent inventory of roadless areas than that used in development of the 2001 Roadless Rule, including some areas not included in the 2001 Roadless Rule...
* No old-growth or young-growth harvest will occur in roadless areas identified in the 2001 Roadless Rule....[rdquo]

These decisions describe a location for where the direction applies (e.g., outside of 2001 roadless areas) that cannot be nullified by an administrative change. Changing these timber harvest location decisions would require a plan amendment or be addressed through revision following EIS processes.

The timber suitability component of the proposed rule goes beyond redacting the not suitable for timber production decision for roadless areas, but adds new direction for lands suitability stating that, [ldquo]This administrative change would apply to lands... identified as [ldquo]Community Priority[rdquo] or [ldquo]Timber Priority[rdquo] in Alternatives 3 and 4.[rdquo] If for no other reason, Alternatives 3 and 4 must be dropped from further consideration in this Alaska Roadless Area rulemaking process, since assignment of desired conditions and lands suitability is clearly outside of the scope of what is allowed by an administrative change to the Forest Plan.

Any further consideration of mandating that Alaska Roadless Areas be managed for timber production should be addressed through the 36 CFR 219 rulemaking processes and not 36 CFR 294 Special Area regulations. Specifically, 36 CFR 219.11[mdash]timber requirements based on

the NFMA[mdash]should be supplemented to include specific direction for Alaska Roadless Areas.

DEIS[mdash]Definitions: The DEIS on page 2-2 define Alaska Roadless Areas as, [ldquo]Lands within the Tongass National Forest designated pursuant to this subpart and identified in a set of maps maintained by the national headquarters office of the Forest Service.[rdquo] The Glossary on page 7[shy]22 defines roadless area as, [ldquo]See Inventoried roadless area (IRA) definition. Within this document, roadless areas may also be used to describe areas proposed to be designated as Alaska Roadless Areas.[rdquo] On page 7-11 inventoried roadless area (IRA) is defined as, [ldquo]Areas identified in a set of inventoried roadless area maps, contained in Forest Service Roadless Area Conservation, Final Environmental Impact Statement, Volume 2, dated November 2000, which are held at the National headquarters office of the Forest Service, or any subsequent update or revision of those maps. (36 CFR 294.11).[rdquo]

Comment: The Forest Service Roadless Area Conservation, Final Environmental Impact Statement, Volume 1, dated November 2000, states that, [ldquo]An inventoried roadless area is described as, [ldquo]Undeveloped areas typically exceeding 5,000 acres that met the minimum criteria for wilderness consideration under the Wilderness Act and that were inventoried during the Forest Service[rsquo]s Roadless Area Review and Evaluation (RARE II) process, subsequent assessments, or forest planning.[rdquo] The 2016 Forest Plan defines an inventoried roadless area as, [ldquo]An undeveloped area typically exceeding 5,000 acres that meets the minimum criteria for Wilderness consideration under the Wilderness Act... Areas identified in a set of inventoried roadless area maps, contained in Forest Service Roadless Area Conservation, Final Environmental

Impact Statement, Volume 2, dated November 2000, which are held at the National headquarters office of the Forest Service, or any subsequent update or revision of those maps. (36 CFR 294.11).[rdquo]

To be consistent with the expectations of Special Areas,9 any area designated as an Alaska Roadless Area should exhibit the characteristics of being undeveloped and be managed to provide for Primitive, Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized, or Semi-Primitive Motorized (with no roads) ROS setting desired conditions.

DEIS: The DEIS on page 2-3 describes Roadless Area Characteristics. Remoteness is defined as, [ldquo]Roadless areas provide economic opportunity due to rich primitive, semi-primitive motorized, and semi-primitive non-motorized classes of dispersed recreation.[rdquo]

Comment: The [ldquo]remoteness[rdquo] attribute in this list should be replaced with desired Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) descriptions. The FEIS should describe that, [ldquo]Primitive, semi-primitive non-motorized, and semi-primitive motorized Recreation Opportunity Spectrum class settings have a natural or natural-appearing environment. These ROS settings are not suitable for timber production.[rdquo]

9 36 CFR 294

DEIS: The DEIS beginning on page 2-4 describes Alaska Roadless Area Land Management Categories and states that, [ldquo]Alternatives 2, 3, 4, and 5 provide for a variety of management approaches within roadless areas through ARA land management categories which include Land Use Designation (LUD) II Priority, Watershed Priority, Roadless Priority, Community Priority, and Timber Priority. The management categories prohibit timber harvest, road construction, and road reconstruction with a range of exceptions that are applied differentially across the alternatives. A brief description of each management category follows....[rdquo] The categories are: LUD II Priority (Alternatives 2, 4, and 5), Watershed Priority (Alternatives 2 and 3), Roadless Priority (Alternatives 2, 3, 4, and 5), Community Priority (Alternative 3), and Timber Priority (Alternative 4).

Comment: I find no compelling reason to collapse LUD categories from those that are found in the Forest Plan. An ARR should use the same LUD categories that are found in the Forest Plan to allow for better integration of the rule direction and plan components.

DEIS: The DEIS further describes in this section that, [ldquo]Notably, Alternative 3 proposes to remove all LUD II areas from roadless designation rather than designating LUD II lands into an ARA. LUD II areas under Alternative 3 would continue to be managed as directed by their congressional designations... In all cases, activities within Community Priority ARAs would have to be consistent with the underlying Forest Plan LUD requirements. This is to say that even if a timber harvest, road building, or other activity would be permissible under the Alaska Roadless Rule, it may not be allowable because of Forest Plan requirements specific to the LUD that applies to the area.[rdquo]

Comment: One of the strongest combinations of protecting National Forest System lands from degradation is overlapping special area designations. Overlapping designations within unroaded areas would help ensure National Forest System lands are protected for current and future generations by protecting roadless area, watershed priorities, LUD II lands, and more primitive ROS setting values. These overlapping designations provide a complimentary framework for a high-level of protection from overuse and development of federal lands. The LUD II Priority lands; Watershed Priority; Roadless Priority LUDs; and Primitive, SPNM, and SPM ROS settings should be overlaid and the most restrictive provisions would control.

It is confusing and inappropriate to include the Timber Priority LUD within the ARR boundary. Timber production is incompatible with protecting roadless area values. Alternative 4 should describe exempting/excluding 749,000 acres of the Timber Production Priority LUD land from the ARR or preferably be eliminated from further consideration in this rulemaking process.

DEIS: The DEIS on page 2-5 states that, [ldquo]As with all roadless rule provisions, the new prohibition would supersede the current and future forest plans, with the plan continuing to provide management direction in other regards.[rdquo]

Comment: The new rule permissions were not developed following NFMA processes and should be discarded. There is no demonstrated urgent need for the ARR. Rulemaking and

Forest Plan revision should occur as parallel processes to develop integrated management direction for the Tongass National Forest in a revised Forest Plan and associated ARR.

1. Alternatives Considered in Detail

DEIS: The DEIS on page 2-9 states that, [ldquo]Based on information obtained during scoping, Cooperating Agency input, and consultation with Alaska Native tribes, the Forest Service developed six alternatives for detailed analysis, including the no action and proposed action alternatives.[rdquo]

Comment: The 2016 Tongass Forest Plan Amendment failed to protect roadless area values where the plan established [ldquo]Development LUDs[rdquo] within roadless areas. For example, the Timber Production LUD management prescription is generally managed for a Roaded Modified ROS setting, which is inconsistent with protecting Roadless Area Characteristics. Removing roadless area protections provided by the [ldquo]not suitable for timber production[rdquo] plan component would lead to actions that substantially degrade Tongass National Forest unroaded area values.

Proposed New Alternative: A principle concern that is not addressed in the presented alternatives is establishing additional plan components to protect roadless area values. A reasonable alternative to be considered in detail is to modify the Tongass Forest Plan to remove [ldquo]Development LUDs[rdquo] designations from roadless areas. In this new alternative, and as part of the rule decisions, the Development LUD areas would be reassigned to Natural Setting LUDs. In addition, Natural Setting LUDs would establish an ARR standard stating that the Alaska Roadless Area must be managed for a Primitive, Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized, or Semi-Primitive Motorized ROS setting.

1. Development Alternatives

DEIS: The DEIS on page 2-12 thru 2-17 describes:

* Alternative 2 changes, [ldquo]a net of 18,000 old-growth acres and 10,000 young-growth acres previously identified as unsuitable timber lands would become suitable timber lands.[rdquo]
* Alternative 3, [ldquo]converts a net of 76,000 old-growth acres and 14,000 young-growth acres, previously identified as unsuitable timber lands, to suitable timber lands.[rdquo]
* Alternative 4 converts a net of 158,000 old-growth acres and 15,000 young-growth acres previously identified as unsuitable timber lands to suitable timber lands.
* Alternative 5 also converts a net 165,000 old-growth acres and 17,000 young-growth acres previously identified as unsuitable timber lands to suitable timber lands.
* Alternative 6 converts a net total of 165,000 old-growth acres and 20,000 young-growth acres previously identified as unsuitable timber lands to suitable timber lands and includes an administrative correction and modification provision for the Chugach National Forest only.[rdquo]

Comment: The regulations for each alternative should restate the information that is summarized in Table 3.1-2.

The DEIS ARA management category prescriptions, including the proposed changes to suitable timber lands and old growth harvest acres, must be addressed through Forest Plan amendment or revision processes if the

change is to be consistent with the NFMA and forest planning regulations. To be clear, these changes cannot be deemed as administrative in nature based on this arbitrary ARR rulemaking process.

Reviewing Officer Beth Pendleton in response to Forest Plan objections stated that, [ldquo]Objectors express concerns about the relationship between the status of the Roadless Rule and the activities allowed under the Selected Alternative. The IRAs identified in the maps as depicted in the 2000 Roadless Area Conservation Rule EIS, Volume 2, are identified as lands not suitable for timber production under the Selected Alternative [FEIS, p. 2-41]. Therefore, no timber harvest or associated road construction or reconstruction would occur in these IRAs regardless of the status of the Roadless Rule... If the status of the Roadless Rule were to change with regard to its applicability to the Tongass National Forest, a forest plan amendment would be necessary if the Forest decided to pursue modifications to the suitable timber base to include IRAs....[rdquo]

H. Forest Products Industry Economic Opportunities

DEIS: The DEIS beginning on page 2-20 describes that, [ldquo]None of the action alternatives would result in changes to the PTSQ and the timber objectives of the Forest Plan would continue to require transitioning to primarily young-growth harvest... However, the alternatives do vary in terms of the amount and location of acres suitable for timber production. Greater acreage of suitable land would provide greater flexibility in the selection of future timber sale areas, as well as the potential for more flexibility in sale design, depending on the planning areas selected... Under Alternative 1, about 230,000 acres of old growth... are currently suitable for timber

production... For old growth, however, the suitable acreage increase would range from 7 percent for Alternative 2 to 72 percent for Alternatives 5 and 6. For Alternatives 3 and 4 the increase would be 33 percent and 69 percent, respectively....[rdquo]

Comment: The ARR DEIS states that, [ldquo]alternatives do vary in terms of the amount and location of acres suitable for timber production.[rdquo] Establishing suitability of lands is a requirement of the NFMA as implemented through planning regulations,10 which is outside of the scope of developing a Special Area protection rule. Suitability determinations must occur through Forest Plan amendment or revision processes.

1. Alaska Roadless Area Land Management Categories

DEIS: The DEIS on page 3-4 describes that, [ldquo]Alternatives 2, 3, 4, and 5 provide for a variety of management approaches within roadless areas through ARA land management categories which include Land Use Designation (LUD) II Priority, Watershed Priority, Roadless Priority, Community Priority, and Timber Priority. The management categories prohibit timber harvest, road construction, and road reconstruction with a range of exceptions that are applied differentially across the alternatives....[rdquo]

Comment: Land use allocations that allow for timber production and road building in roadless areas must be established following NFMA amendment or revision processes. It is misleading to describe that the development permissions are exceptions to the roadless rule. For example, the Timber Priority area as presented in Alternative 4 is not a narrowly focused exception to roadless area desired conditions.

DEIS: The DEIS on page 3-12 describes that: [ldquo]Altogether, these special LUDs cover 273,000 acres within 2001 roadless areas (Alternative 1). Under Alternative 2, these acres would actually increase slightly to 275,000 acres, and they would be little changed under Alternatives 3, 4, and 5 at 270,000 acres, 268,000 acres, and 272,000 acres, respectively. However, under Alternative 6, the roadless acreage within these special LUDs would decrease to zero.[rdquo]

Comment: This section should clearly state that the designated Alaska Roadless Areas and LUD II Priority lands are not suitable for timber production, since timber production and road construction is inconsistent with Roadless Area and LUD II desired conditions. The Change to Timber Land Suitability acres must be corrected to reflect that timber production will not occur in Alaska Roadless Areas.

1. Environmental Consequences [ndash] Forest Products

DEIS: The DEIS beginning on page 3-43 describes that, [ldquo]This DEIS provides an assessment of the potential impacts that may result from the alternatives considered for a proposed Alaska Roadless Rule... Overall timber harvest levels and composition (old-growth versus young-

10 16 U.S.C. 1604(g),

growth) are expected to remain unaffected by the final rule. Timber program output levels are expected to remain constant and involve a similar number of acres under all alternatives, varying only by the location of timber harvest.[rdquo]

Comment: I disagree with the description that, [ldquo]Overall timber harvest levels and composition (old-growth versus young-growth) are expected to remain unaffected by the final rule.[rdquo] Table 2-11 describes that timber suitable old growth would change from 230,000 to 395,000 acres in development focus alternatives, which would result in substantially more habitat fragmentation, watershed degradation, and other resource impacts across broad landscapes.

K. Environmental Consequences [ndash] Recreation Opportunity Spectrum

DEIS: The DEIS on page 3-167 thru 171 describes that, [ldquo]Recreational visitors with an expectation of a remote experience would be most affected by timber production in Primitive, SPNM, and SPM settings... Changes in roadless area designations have the potential to affect the spatial distribution of future development activities, especially timber harvest... Alternatives 4 to 6 would result in relatively large increases in suitable old-growth acres available for harvest in SPNM ROS settings... Timber harvest and associated road construction in Primitive and Semi-Primitive (SPNM and SPM) ROS settings has the potential to affect recreation activities and users dependent on remote, natural settings with low to no evidence of human use. Harvest in these settings could affect the quality of the recreation experience and displace visitors to other parts of the Forest... Impacts are likely to be most acute in Primitive and Semi-Primitive areas where recreation use is already at or near capacity, including areas where competition already exists between resident recreationists, independent visitors, and commercial outfitter/guide operations....[rdquo]

Comment: Planning regulations require that lands identified as suitable for timber production be consistent with ROS desired conditions and aligned with mapped ROS class boundaries. Similar to a Management Area/LUD, ROS classes is a land area identified within the planning area that has the same set of ROS plan components. To meet the analysis requirements of using the Best Available Scientific Information and to ensure CEQ requirements for Methodology and Scientific Accuracy, ROS plan components must include not only desired conditions, but also supporting standards, guidelines, and suitability of land determinations that define and protect the established ROS class conditions.

As previously discussed, the 2016 Forest Plan Amendment did not establish compatible Roadless Area ROS class settings for roadless areas, but instead relied solely on those lands being protected by a suitability of lands plan component that established that roadless areas were not suitable for timber production. Suitability of lands is a plan component that identify areas of land as suitable or not suitable for specific uses is based on the desired conditions. Appropriate ROS class settings for Roadless Areas would be Primitive, Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized, and Semi-Primitive Motorized with allowance for limited inconsistencies. These ROS classes are not suitable for timber production, since timber production is inconsistent with the desired

conditions for these ROS settings. The Forest Plan should have established ROS settings that would have protected unroaded areas from being subject to the impacts that are described in this section of the DEIS.

The proposed changes to suitable timber lands for each of these alternatives must be addressed through Forest Plan amendment or revision processes if the change is to be consistent with the NFMA planning regulations. To be clear, changes to suitability, desired conditions, and objectives cannot be deemed as administrative changes to the Forest Plan.

L. Alaska Roadless Areas Rule Regulatory Language

DEIS: The DEIS on page G-1 states that: [ldquo][sect] 294.10 Purpose. The purpose of this subpart is to provide, within the context of multiple use management, lasting protection for inventoried roadless areas within the National Forest System.[rdquo]

Comment: The purpose of the 2001 Roadless Rule is narrowly focused on the protection of roadless areas within the National Forest System.

DEIS: The DEIS on pages G-7, G-23, and G-30 states for Alternatives 2, 4 and 5, [ldquo][sect] 294.50 Purpose. The purpose of this subpart is to provide, in the context of multiple-use management, State-specific direction for the conservation of roadless areas for the Tongass National Forest while providing for local concerns for economic and community development. This subpart sets forth the procedures for management of Alaska Roadless Areas.[rdquo]

The purpose of the Tongass Forest Plan is described as, [ldquo]This Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan) guides all-natural resource management activities and establishes management direction for the Tongass National Forest. It describes resource management practices, levels of resource production and management, and the availability and suitability of lands for different kinds of resource management... This Forest Plan embodies the provisions of the National Forest Management Act, the implementing regulations, and other guiding documents. The Forestwide desired conditions and multiple-use goals and objectives (Chapter 2), Land Use Designation Standards and Guidelines (Chapter 3), Forest-wide Standards and Guidelines (Chapter 4), and Plan Content1 Developed Under the 2012 Planning Rule (Chapter 5) constitute a statement of the Forest Plan's management direction[rdquo] (Forest Plan, page 1-1).

Comment: The purpose of the Alaska Roadless Rule is beyond the scope of the protection of the special areas that are found on the Tongass and Chugach National Forests. The proposed action and alternatives clearly align with a Forest Plan purpose of providing for the protecting and development of resources through integrated planning that result in one plan. Specifically, changes to desired conditions and plan components (e.g., timber suitability) must be addressed through Forest Plan amendment or revision processes to be valid.

DEIS: The DEIS on pages G-8, G-16, G-24, and G-32 describes for Alternatives 2 and 4 that, [ldquo][sect]294.53 Road construction and reconstruction in Alaska Roadless Areas... (b) LUD II Priority. Notwithstanding the prohibition in paragraph (a) of this section, a road may be

constructed or reconstructed in an Alaska Roadless Area designated as LUD II Priority...[rdquo] Alternative 3 describes road construction for Community Priorities.

Comment: LUD II Priority and Roadless Priority allocations should not be separate. Instead, they should be overlaid where the most restrictive road construction provision prevails.

DEIS: The DEIS on pages G-10, G-18, G-26, G-34, describe for Alternatives 2, 3, 4, and 5 that, [ldquo]Timber harvest is needed for one of the following purposes and will maintain or improve one or more of the roadless area characteristics: (i) To maintain, restore, or improve fish and wildlife habitat....[rdquo]

Comment: Providing for Roadless Area Characteristics does not need timber harvests to maintain, restore, or improve fish and wildlife habitat. Since 1994, the State of Alaska has been managing wildlife in accordance with the state[rsquo]s Intensive Management principles laid out in the Alaska Code (ALASKA STAT. [sect]

16.05.255). The State of Alaska wildlife management mandates are at odds with maintaining desired ecosystem characteristics in roadless areas. This part should be deleted, since the State could influence wildlife habitat management proposals which has happened with this ARR proposal.

DEIS: 294.56 Scope and Applicability [ndash] The DEIS at G-11, G-19, G-27, and G-35 describe that: (d) [ldquo]The provisions set forth in this subpart shall take precedence over any inconsistent land management plan component of the Tongass Land Management Plan. Land management plan components that are not inconsistent with this subpart will continue to provide guidance for projects and activities within Alaska Roadless Areas. This subpart does not compel the amendment or revision of any land management plan, but the Tongass Forest Supervisor shall issue a ministerial Notice of Administrative Change pursuant to 36 CFR 219.13(c) identifying plan changes made in conformance with the regulatory requirements of this subpart, including rescission of the portion of the December 9, 2016, Record of Decision concerning suitable timber lands attributed to implementation of the January 12, 2001, Roadless Area Conservation Rule (66 FR 3244)[rdquo]

Comment 294.56 Part (d)[mdash]All Action Alternatives: The ARR does not clearly described those parts of the Forest Plan that are [ldquo]not inconsistent[rdquo] with the proposed rule and alternatives. The direction fails to disclose effects that are due to the unknown Forest Plan management direction that would be discarded by the rule, which does not allow for informed comments on the proposed change.

This part describes that, [ldquo]the Tongass Forest Supervisor shall issue a ministerial Notice of Administrative Change....[rdquo] However, the Secretary authority for establishing a rule that assigns Forest Plan suitability determinations is the NFMA. The Secretary does not have the authority through this Special Area rulemaking process to direct that an administrative change be made to Forest Plan desired conditions and suitability plan components that were approved in the 2016

Forest Plan FEIS ROD. Instead, Planning Rule amendment or revision processes must be followed to make any change to plan components.11

The Federal Register Notice of Final Planning Directives (80 FR 6683) state that, [ldquo]FSM 1920 and FSH 1909.12 (planning directives) provide policy direction, objectives, instructions, and guidance for Forest Service Line Officers and primary staff to plan and execute the process of developing, revising, amending, and making administrative changes to land management plans to provide for the sustainability of ecosystems and resources; meet the need for forest restoration and conservation, watershed protection, and species diversity and conservation; and assist the Agency in providing a sustainable flow of benefits, including economic benefits, services, and uses of NFS lands. The 2012 Planning Rule and the FSM 1920 and FSH 19092.12 together provide requirements and guidance for the Agency in land management planning pursuant to the National Forest Management Act.[rdquo]

The Planning Rule Federal Register Notice, in response to comments, describe that, [ldquo]Plan components are the plan[rsquo]s desired conditions, objectives, standards, guidelines, suitability of areas, or goals described in [sect] 219.7. An amendment is required if a change, other than correction of a clerical error or a change needed to conform to new statutory or regulatory requirements, needs to be applied to any of these plan components... Administrative changes are made to correct clerical errors to plan components, to alter content in the plan other than the plan components, or to achieve conformance of the plan to new statutory or regulatory requirements. A clerical error is an error of the presentation of material in the plan such as phrasing, grammar, typographic errors, or minor errors in data or mapping that were appropriately evaluated in the development of the plan, plan revision, or plan amendment. An administrative change could not otherwise be used to change plan components or the location in the plan area where plan components apply, except to conform the plan to new statutory or regulatory requirements.[rdquo]

The ARR proposed action and alternatives were developed following processes that are inconsistent with the requirements of the NFMA; and therefore, cannot establish management direction that would supplant the amendment and revision requirements of the planning rule (36 CFR 219).

DEIS: 294.56 Scope and Applicability [ndash] The DEIS describes that: (e) [ldquo]The prohibitions and permissions set forth in this subpart are not subject to reconsideration, revision, or rescission in subsequent project decisions or land and resource management plan amendments or revisions undertaken pursuant to 36 CFR part 219.[rdquo]

Comment 294.56 Part (e): The 2012 Forest Service planning regulations were promulgated under the principles of the Multiple-Use Sustained-Yield Act of 1960.12 Planning regulation

11 36 CFR 219.13(a); FSH 1909.12 part 21.3

12 16 U.S.C. 1604(g)

describes, [ldquo]Purpose and applicability. (a) This subpart sets out the planning requirements for developing, amending, and revising land management plans for units of the National Forest System (NFS), as required by the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974, as amended by the National Forest Management Act of 1976 (16 U.S.C. 1600 et seq.) (NFMA). This subpart also sets out the requirements for plan components and other content in land management plans. This part is applicable to all units of the NFS as defined by 16 U.S.C. 1609 or subsequent statute.[rdquo]13

Unlike the 2001 Roadless Rule clauses that addressed [ldquo]prohibitions and restrictions,[rdquo] this proposed substantive rule grants [ldquo]permissions[rdquo] that are not [ldquo]subject to reconsideration, revision, or rescission in subsequent project decisions or land and resource management plan amendments or revisions undertaken pursuant to 36 CFR part 219.[rdquo] There is no authority to grant [ldquo]permissions[rdquo] for changing desired conditions and timber suitability determinations and locations that are apart from the requirements of the NFMA amendment and revision processes.

IV. Review and Recommendation

The Alaska Roadless Rule (ARR) proposes to grant timber production and road development permissions14 and to rescind the 2016 Forest Plan FEIS timber suitability decision for Roadless Areas. The draft ARR declares that a timber suitability modification to the Forest Plan would be a mere administrative change. However, Department planning regulations require that such permissions be addressed through amendment15 or revision16 processes. As proposed, the ARR would not legally modify the Forest Plan roadless area timber harvest decisions by simply declaring that these areas are no longer not suitable for timber production. The proposed rule was prepared following processes that are inconsistent with the requirements of the NFMA.17 The proposed rule permissions and processes do not result in one integrated Forest Plan as required by NFMA.18

I recommend that the Secretary withdraw the Alaska Roadless Area proposed rule and EIS. Increasing the timber management program flexibility is not a compelling reason for expending resources to prepare an ARR, especially since the DEIS describes similar outcomes for each alternative. If modifying the Roadless Rule continues to be an interest, the Forest Service should revise the Tongass Forest Plan and the Department should establish an Alaska Roadless Rule as parallel and coordinated processes. This holistic approach to planning may result in a

sustainable solution to address the management of Roadless Areas on the Tongass National Forest.

13 36 CFR 219.1

14 36 CFR 294.56

15 36 CFR 219.13(a)

16 36 CFR 219.7(a)

17 16 U.S.C. 1604 parts (a), (c), (f), (g) and (k).

18 16 U.S.C 1604(f)(1)

In recent congressional testimony, retired Chief Mike Dombeck describes that, [ldquo]The Roadless Rule, finalized in 2001, ended the most damaging and expensive threats to those roadless areas. But carefully designed exceptions allow for some new road construction on a case-by-case basis, where that is in the public interest. Roads are permitted for firefighting, forest health, energy development and access to private inholdings, for instance, as well as public thoroughfares between communities. For example, on the Tongass National Forest alone, all 58 requests for entry into roadless areas since the Rule has been in place have been granted. These include roads for mining projects, hydropower and intertie projects, a geothermal lease, a road realignment, road reconstruction, and U.S. Coast Guard and Alaska Army National Guard projects, among others. Most projects are approved within a month, and that time is expected to become even shorter since authority to approve requests was delegated to the regional foresters in October 2018....

The Tongass is also one of the last remaining intact temperate rainforests in the world and a globally significant storehouse of carbon. According to Forest Service estimates, Tongass trees contain 650 million tons of carbon, which is equivalent to 2.4 billion tons of CO2. This is nearly half (45%) of the total carbon emissions for the entire U.S. in 2017...

For the Tongass, where two-thirds of the high-volume timber stands have already been logged at an immense social and economic cost, the Forest Service should focus on addressing the $100 million backlog of watershed restoration needs and the $68 million road maintenance backlog...

The 2001 Roadless Rule in my view is conservative public policy. It maintains the status quo, keeps options open for the future, and saves taxpayer money. The time and money spent attempting to roll back roadless area protections on the Tongass or any of the National Forests is a big step backwards to the era of gridlock and costly litigation.[rdquo]

Recommendation: After considering the information in the DEIS and the history of timber management and road construction and maintenance on the Tongass National Forest, I recommend that the Secretary select the No Action alternative.

[Position]

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

Sonny Perdue, Secretary of Agriculture
December 4, 2019 Department of Agriculture

1400 Independence Ave SW

Washington, DC. 20250

Greg Warren

Frisco, Colorado

Subject: USDA Forest Service Proposed Alaska Roadless Rule Comments submitted through: www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=54511.

Dear Secretary Perdue,

I am writing to comment on the Alaska Roadless Rule DEIS as described and referenced in Federal Register Document 2019-22638.

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I. Alaska Roadless Rule Federal Register Notice

A. State Petition

The Federal Register Notice describes that, [ldquo]In selecting the proposed rule among the several alternatives considered, the Department has given substantial weight to the State's policy preferences as expressed in the incoming Petition... The State's views on how to balance economic development and environmental protection offer valuable insight when making management decisions concerning NFS lands within Alaska... The proposed rule provides local forest managers an avenue for a long-term durable approach for managing the Tongass National Forest, unencumbered by the 2001 Roadless Rule, through the local forest planning process....[rdquo]

Comment: The State of Alaska[rsquo]s decision to ignore all of the Roadless Rule[rsquo]s existing exemptions makes it clear that the purpose of the petition is to seek road building and logging permissions instead of protecting the unique benefits of undeveloped areas of the Tongass National Forest. The State of Alaska[rsquo]s petition for rulemaking should have been denied by the Secretary.

The rationale presented does not reflect the national significance of the Tongass National Forest Roadless Areas. The need to protect the Alaska Roadless Areas is better described in the 2001 Roadless Rule,1 which states in part that, [ldquo]Inventoried roadless areas... function as biological strongholds for populations of threatened and endangered species. They provide large, relatively undisturbed landscapes that are important to biological diversity and the long-term survival of many at risk species. Inventoried roadless areas provide

opportunities for dispersed outdoor recreation, opportunities that diminish as open space and natural settings are developed elsewhere. They also... provide reference areas for study and research.[rdquo] Roadless Areas also protect Alaska watersheds from degradation. The State[rsquo]s idea of local timber production desires should not supplant the national need to protect these National Forest System lands.

It is unfortunate that the Secretary is giving preference to the State of Alaska for managing the national resources of the Tongass National Forest and dismissing the Forest Supervisor[rsquo]s rationale for the 2016 Plan Amendment decisions. The 2016 Forest Plan FEIS ROD on page 19 states that: [ldquo]Based on my review of the Final EIS and the project record, I believe the best way to bring stability to the management of roadless areas on the Tongass is to not recommend any modifications to the Roadless Rule. Harvest in roadless areas is not necessary to meet the purpose and need of the amendment. The Selected Alternative can be implemented without proposing any new regulations while still achieving transition objectives... Additionally, the Roadless Rule provides that the construction or reconstruction of roads in an inventoried roadless area may be authorized under certain circumstances. In May, 2012, the Chief of the

1 66 FR 3243

Forest Service identified a process where the Chief reviews and may authorize certain activities to occur within roadless areas, when consistent with the Roadless Rule. Projects are reviewed by the Chief to ensure the Forest Service is applying a consistent approach to implementation of the 2001 Roadless Rule and that the agency is doing all it can to protect roadless area characteristics. Since 2012, the Tongass has requested and received timely approval from the Chief for qualifying activities within roadless areas, including those in support of hydroelectric energy projects and transmission, and road rights-of-way under applicable statutes....[rdquo]

1. Rationale for the Proposed Rule

The Federal Register Notice describes that, [ldquo]The Secretary of Agriculture has broad authority to protect and administer the National Forest System through regulation as provided by the Organic Administration Act of 1897 (the Organic Act), the Multiple-Use Sustained Yield Act of 1960 (MUSYA), and the National Forest Management Act of 1976 (NFMA). These statutes provide the Secretary with discretion to determine the proper uses within any area, including the appropriate resource emphasis and mix of uses.[rdquo]

Comment: The proposed rule recognizes the authority of the NFMA for rulemaking. However, the proposed rule and alternatives were prepared following processes that are inconsistent with the requirements of the land and resource management plans requirements of 16 U.S.C. 1604 parts (a), (c), (f), (g) and (k). A specific concern is the rule proposal to modify desired

conditions and land suitability decisions without amending or revising the Forest Plan. This is a critical flaw, and with this flaw, I recommend that the proposed 36 CFR 294.50 rule be withdrawn from the rulemaking process.

1. Forest Plan Management Direction

The Federal Register Notice describes that, [ldquo]The proposed Alaska Roadless Rule would not alter the Forest Plan's management area designations, harvest levels, substantive requirements (goals, objectives, standards, and guidelines), or the young-growth transition strategy, except for the administrative changes noted below concerning suitable lands determinations specifically issued to implement the 2001 Roadless Rule.[rdquo]

Comment: The assertion is unfounded that the Secretary has the authority without a Forest Plan amendment EA or EIS to effect a change to the 2016 Forest Plan FEIS decisions that established desired conditions and lands suitability. The effects of this change would eliminate the principle plan component that protects roadless areas on the Tongass National Forest. The 2016 Forest Plan FEIS does not address the effects on roadless areas of eliminating the not suitable for timber production decision.

The 2016 Forest Plan FEIS ROD states that, [ldquo]Because suitability is a Plan component under the 2012 Planning Rule, any changes to the suitable timber base must be made by amending or revising the Forest Plan.[rdquo] The integrated resource management decisions of the 2016 Forest Plan, including desired conditions and where timber suitability determinations apply, cannot be

modified by the Alaska Roadless Area rulemaking process as presented in the DEIS. The timber suitability plan component decision as proposed by the ARR DEIS action alternatives are not administrative changes; instead, the proposed changes would clearly modify the integrated resource management decisions approved by the FEIS ROD, including the determination that the plan is consistent with the Tongass Conservation Strategy. Apparently, not only does the Secretary feel encumbered by the 2001 Roadless Rule, but also by the requirements of the National Forest Management Act as implemented through Forest Planning amendment processes2 for making changes to plan components. Appropriate National Forest planning processes for determining timber suitability and establishing other plan components is found in the National Forest Management Act3 as implemented through the 2012 Planning Rule4 and related directives.

The 2016 FEIS on page 2-14 describes that, [ldquo]Under Alternatives 1, 4, and 5 IRAs are withdrawn from timber production and not suitable for timber production (FSH 1909.12, chapter 60,

section 61.11),[rdquo] and on page 2-33, [ldquo]As in Alternatives 1 and 4, the 2001 Roadless Rule would apply and no old-growth or young-growth harvest would occur in roadless areas.[rdquo] Alternative 5 is the selected alternative.

A roadless area on the Tongass National Forest is defined as, [ldquo]an area of undeveloped public land within which there are no improved roads maintained for travel by means of motorized vehicles intended for highway use. For purposes of the Forest Plan environmental impact statement analysis, this is a generic term that includes inventoried roadless areas and unroaded areas[rdquo] (Forest Plan, page 7-51).

Suitability determinations and identifying where the plan components apply are inherently NFMA planning functions that cannot be dismissed through a resource allocation and management process as proposed in this DEIS. Instead, the Tongass National Forest Plan must be revised or amended to address changes to the assignment of plan components.

II. Record of Decision Forest Plan Amendment FEIS 2016 A. Forest Plan Amendment Record of Decision

ROD: The Record of Decision for the 2016 Forest Plan amendment EIS on pages 6-8 describes that, [ldquo]The decision I am making today is to approve the 2016 Forest Plan Amendment, which is Alternative 5 (the Selected Alternative) as described in the Final EIS... As required by law and regulation, this decision is fully supported by the environmental analysis documented in the Final EIS... I have made my decision after careful consideration of the public comments on the Draft EIS for the 2016 Tongass Land and Resource Management Plan Amendment...

2 36 CFR 219.13(a)

3 16 U.S.C. 1604

4 36 CFR 219

Alternative 5 is based on the recommendations from the Tongass Advisory Committee (TAC), a formally established Federal Advisory Committee that included representatives from Federally Recognized Tribes,

Alaska Native organizations, Alaska Native corporations, national and regional environmental and conservation organizations, timber industry operators, Federal, State, and local governments, permittees, other commercial operators, and the general public...

The Selected Alternative allows old-growth harvest only within that portion of the Tongass included in Phase 1 of the timber sale program adaptive management strategy adopted by the Regional Forester as part of the Record of Decision for the 2008 Tongass Forest Plan Amendment. That strategy was aimed at reducing impacts to high-value roadless areas of the Tongass, based on a more recent inventory of roadless areas than that used in development of the 2001 Roadless Rule, including some areas not included in the 2001 Roadless Rule. The strategy separated roadless areas into three categories (low-, medium-, and high-value), and limited timber harvest to roaded areas of the National Forest and low-value roadless areas (called Phase 1) unless timber harvest reached 100 million board feet (MMBF) for two consecutive fiscal years, when harvest would also have been allowed in Phase 2[rsquo]s medium-value roadless areas... No old-growth or young-growth harvest will occur in roadless areas identified in the 2001 Roadless Rule...

Alternative 5 also incorporates TAC recommendations to protect certain watersheds known as the [ldquo]Tongass 77[rdquo] (T77), that have been identified by Trout Unlimited as high priority watersheds for protection due to their outstanding habitat values, fish production, and diversity of fish species present. In addition, the TAC recommended protection of [ldquo]conservation priority areas[rdquo] identified by The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and Audubon Alaska (Albert and Schoen 2007)... Old-growth harvest will not be allowed, however, and old-growth acres within these watersheds and conservation areas that are allocated to development LUDs are classified as unsuitable under Alternative 5. Young-growth timber harvest will be allowed in some of these watersheds and conservation areas.[rdquo]

Comment: The Tongass Forest Plan amendment selected alternative describes a decision that was based on recommendations by the Tongass Advisory Committee that no old-growth or young-growth harvest will occur in roadless area locations. The proposed ARR, cannot legally modify the timber harvest decision for areas of undeveloped public land within which there are no improved roads by simply declaring that these areas are no longer not suitable for timber production.

B. Forest Plan Amendment FEIS Alternatives [ndash] Future Roadless Rulemaking

ROD: The Record of Decision for the 2016 Forest Plan amendment EIS on pages 10-11 describes that, [ldquo]Alternative 2... the portions of inventoried roadless areas (IRAs) that were roaded before the 2001 Roadless Rule and during the 2001 Roadless Rule exemption period for the Tongass would be available for young-growth and old growth harvest. This would require rulemaking to modify 36 CFR 294.13(b)(4) (2001). The prohibitions of the 2001 Roadless Rule

would continue to apply to these areas until the completion of rulemaking... Alternative 3... This alternative would allow young-growth and old-growth harvest in 2001 Roadless Rule IRAs. The prohibitions of the 2001 Roadless Rule, consistent with the District Court of Alaska[rsquo]s 2011 judgment reinstating the Roadless Rule on the Tongass, would apply until the completion of rulemaking....[rdquo]

Comment: The 2016 Forest Plan Amendment FEIS considered and rejected approving management direction for the Tongass National Forest that was based on a future change to the Roadless Rule. The proposed ARR has the appearance of being an attempt to evade Forest Plan approval processes by avoiding NFMA planning requirements for the ARR proposed actions that would lead to resource developments and road construction.

C. Decision Description

ROD: The Record of Decision for the 2016 Forest Plan amendment EIS on page 22 describes that, [ldquo]...The Selected Alternative will relax the S&Gs for the scenic integrity objectives to allow additional harvest... By shifting away from old-growth harvest, the Tongass will preserve undeveloped land in unroaded areas, contributing to unfragmented wildlife habitats and intact watersheds. Young-growth timber harvest will occur within the previously harvested footprint and maximizes the use of existing roads to access young-growth

stands... Under the Selected Alternative, the annual Projected Timber Sale Quantity will be 46 MMBF during the first decade and 72 MMBF during the second decade... Therefore, more old-growth is retained under the Selected Alternative than under the current plan (Final EIS, Appendix D).

Under the Selected Alternative, 91 percent of the original POG forest is anticipated to remain over the next 100 years. This equates to approximately 400,000 more acres old-growth than were assumed during the development and evaluation of the Conservation Strategy. Likewise, under the 1997 Forest Plan approximately 8,500 miles of roads were anticipated to exist on NFS lands by 2095, whereas under the Selected Alternative less than 6,100 total miles of roads are anticipated to exist by 2095. This translates to substantially lower road densities than under the 1997 Plan. The additional area of POG will function as additional reserves, enhancing the existing reserves, and increasing the habitat quality when located around harvest units. Thus, the substantially greater spatial extent of old-growth forest on the landscape and fewer roads across the planning area will outweigh the local, adverse effects of young-growth harvest proposed by the Selected Alternative in the Old-growth Habitat LUD, the beach and estuary fringe, and RMAs (Final EIS, Appendix D).[rdquo]

Comment: The proposed rule, without following the integrated resource management planning requirements of the NFMA, asserts that the Forest Service can clearly identify those areas within inventoried roadless areas that would have been designated suitable for timber production if it was not for the 2001 Roadless Rule. However, the 2016 Forest Plan Amendment ROD did not unmistakably identify those areas that were excluded from being suitable for timber production based solely on the Roadless Rule.

Substantial changes to the 2001 Roadless Rule that allow for the construction of roads and timber production must follow both Special Area rulemaking guidance and Forest Plan amendment or revision processes. Otherwise, the Department would not be able to demonstrate that the agency acted holistically and used consistent rationale for decisions. Specifically, it would not be in compliance with the Administrative Procedures Act for the Secretary to reject the 2016 Forest Plan amendment decision rationale if a new decision is to be based on the narrow State of Alaska petition and the ARR DEIS planning framework.

III. Alaska Roadless Rule Draft Environmental Impact Statement A. Compliance with NFMA, NEPA, and Other Laws

DEIS: The DEIS on page 1-1 states that, [ldquo]The Forest Service has prepared this draft environmental impact statement (DEIS) in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and other relevant federal laws and regulations. This DEIS discloses the potential environmental consequences that may result from the alternatives considered for the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule.[rdquo]

The DEIS on page 7-25 associates the ARR DEIS with the requirements of the NFMA when defining Suitability of Lands. [ldquo]A determination that specific lands within a plan area may be used, or not, for various multiple uses or activities, based on the desired conditions applicable to those lands. The suitability of lands determinations need not be made for every use or activity, but every plan must identify those lands that are not suitable for timber production (FSH 1909.12 chapter 20, section 22.15). (See FSH 1909.12 chapter 60 for timber production suitability,)[rdquo] and on page 7-27 in the definition of timber production suitability, [ldquo]a forest plan must identify the lands that are suited and not suited for timber production. (FSH 1909.12, chapter 60).[rdquo]

Comment: The purpose and applicability of the NFMA planning regulations describes that, [ldquo]This subpart sets out the planning requirements for developing, amending, and revising land management plans (also referred to as plans) for units of the National Forest System (NFS), as required by the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974, as amended by the National Forest Management Act of 1976 (16 U.S.C. 1600 et seq.) (NFMA). This subpart also sets out the requirements for plan components and other content in land management plans. This part is applicable to all units of the NFS as defined by 16 U.S.C. 1609 or subsequent statute... Consistent with the Multiple-Use Sustained-Yield Act of 1960 (16 U.S.C. 528[ndash]531) (MUSYA), the Forest Service manages the NFS to sustain the multiple use of its renewable resources in perpetuity while maintaining the long-term health and productivity of the land. Resources are managed through a combination of approaches and concepts for the benefit of human communities and natural

resources. Land management plans guide sustainable, integrated resource management of the resources within the plan area in the context of the

broader landscape, giving due consideration to the relative values of the various resources in particular areas.[rdquo] 5

The NFMA requires that a Forest Plan adhere to specific requirements.6 The ARR must adopt the Forest Service planning regulations; otherwise, and only if permissible by the NFMA, the agency must promulgate special rules for the development [ldquo]permissions[rdquo] that would be granted by the ARR.

1. Scope and Applicability

DEIS: The DEIS on page 1-2 states that, [ldquo]Roadless rules are narrowly focused prohibitions and exceptions established by the Secretary concerning whether and how timber harvest and road construction/ reconstruction may be allowed within specifically designated roadless areas. The alternatives evaluated in this DEIS focus on the particular prohibitions and exceptions. General guidance considering other discretionary aspects of management of the Tongass is better addressed through forest planning. Forest Plans are periodically revised and provide greater flexibility to adapt as the Forest Service gains greater understanding and/or circumstances change on the ground.[rdquo]

Comment: This characterization of the proposed ARR does not clearly disclose the development aspects of the proposed rule and should be amended to embed a statement such as, [ldquo]Previously, Roadless Areas have been designated to protect the Roadless Area Character of areas by establishing protective prohibitions with narrowly focused exemptions. However, the alternatives developed in the Alaska Roadless Rule DEIS identify both prohibitions as well as permissions to develop lands for such uses as timber production and road construction.[rdquo]

1. Purpose and Need

DEIS: The DEIS on page 1-4 states that, [ldquo]In response to the State of Alaska[rsquo]s petition for rulemaking, the Forest Service and State of Alaska agree the controversy surrounding the management of Tongass roadless areas may be resolved through state-specific rulemaking. A long-term, durable approach to roadless area management is desired that accommodates the unique biological, social, and economic situation found in and around the Tongass. The Tongass is unique from other national forests with respect to size, percentage of IRAs, amount of NFS lands and subsequent dependency of 32 communities on federal lands, and unique Alaska and Tongass-specific statutory considerations (e.g., Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act, Tongass Timber Reform Act)... The USDA and Forest Service believe the 2001 Roadless Rule prohibitions on timber harvest and road construction/reconstruction can be adjusted for the Tongass in a manner that meaningfully addresses local economic and development concerns and roadless area conservation needs.[rdquo]

5 36 CFR 219.1(a) and (b)

6 16 U.S.C. 1604(f), (g), and (k)

Comment: The scope of the Alaska Roadless Area EIS includes not only protections, but also permissions to develop Roadless Areas. Providing for timber harvest flexibility in the ARR expands the scope in this rule beyond previous Roadless Rules. A clear and full statement of purpose and need is critical since it is the

foundation for the formulation, evaluation, and comparison of alternatives. The statements of purpose and need for the ARR must be amended to clarify the purpose and need of the regulations for addressing key issues.

The scope of this EIS must include the purposes of Roadless Area Conservation, which should be addressed by adding the following purpose and need statements: (1) [ldquo]Roadless areas are important because they are, among other things, important fish and wildlife habitat, semi-primitive or primitive recreation areas, including motorized and non-motorized recreation opportunities, and naturally appearing landscapes. A need exists to provide for the conservation and management of roadless area characteristics;[rdquo] and (2) [ldquo]The Department and the Forest Service recognize that timber cutting, sale, or removal and road construction/reconstruction have the greatest likelihood of altering and fragmenting landscapes, resulting in immediate, long-term loss of roadless area characteristics.[rdquo]

1. Key Issues [ndash] National Forest Management Act

DEIS: The DEIS on page 1-7 describes that, [ldquo]NEPA regulations require the agency to identify and eliminate from detailed study those issues that are not significant or that have been covered by prior environmental review, to narrow the scope of the analysis. Reasons for eliminating issues from detailed study include when the issues are related to the following: ... Items addressed by other laws, regulations, or policies.[rdquo]

Comment: The NFMA is clearly the authority for establishing suitability determinations and for integrated resource planning. The proposed ARR provides for development permissions. Sustainable management of the Alaska Roadless Areas where resource developments are to be approved requires that the rule embrace the Forest Service planning regulations that address modifying plan components.

1. Features Common to Multiple Alternatives

DEIS: The DEIS on page 2-1 states that, [ldquo]Except for the timber land suitability determinations described below, none of the alternatives would make any changes to the Forest Plan including the following: Goals and Objectives; Land Use Designations or Management Prescriptions; Forest-wide Standards and Guidelines; Plan Components developed under the 2012 Planning Rule; and/or Projected Timber Sale Quantity (PTSQ), Projected Wood Sale Quantity (PWSQ), and the Young-growth Transition... Activities that are not otherwise prohibited are permissible in roadless areas under all alternatives, including the no-action alternative (2001 Roadless Rule), if not restricted by other law, regulations, and/or policies.[rdquo]

Comment: The proposed change to the timber suitability decision would have a cascading effect of daylighting management prescription flaws in the Forest Plan. For example, the Forest

Plan fails to establish appropriate Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) desired conditions plan components for roadless areas.7 The effect of removing the [ldquo]not suitable for timber production[rdquo] plan component for Roadless Areas would lead to Roaded Modified settings in some alternatives for areas where the plan should have protected unroaded characteristics by establishing more primitive ROS settings. This is a specific resource example for why the proposed timber suitability change must follow amendment or revision processes.

Regulated forest structure conditions maintained by periodic stand tending, forest harvest and regeneration, and associated road construction and reconstruction is incompatible with providing for Primitive, Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized (SPNM), and Semi-Primitive Motorized (SPM) ROS class desired conditions and must not be classified as suitable for timber production. These observations are based on my experience and understanding of the ROS planning framework as demonstrated by coauthoring a ROS Planning Handbook: Recreation Opportunity Setting as a Management Tool Technical Guide by Warren Bacon, George Stankey, and Greg Warren.8

The Alaska Roadless Area rulemaking EIS should recognize the need to change the Forest Plan roadless areas ROS plan components. The existing Forest Plan should be amended or directed by this rule to establish a Forest Plan standard for roadless areas describing that, [ldquo]Resource management actions and allowed uses must be compatible with maintaining or restoring Primitive, Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized, or Semi-Primitive Motorized ROS class settings. Accepted ROS class inconsistencies include activities and uses that are provided for in ANILCA and TTRA. Manage ROS class inconsistencies with the objective of minimizing effects on roadless area values.[rdquo] An ARR management prescription should include a timber suitability plan component that states, [ldquo]Lands are not suitable for timber production.[rdquo]

ROS standard and guidelines are described in Appendix I of the Forest Plan and Desired Conditions are defined on page 7-47 of the 2016 Forest Plan. The describe settings and indicators adequately define ROS settings for the Tongass National Forest and should be adopted for the ARR.

DEIS: The DEIS on page 2-2 states that, [ldquo]Alternatives 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 would result in an administrative change to the timber land suitability determinations made in the 2016 Forest Plan. Specifically, lands identified as suitable for timber production that were deemed unsuitable solely due to roadless designation in the Plan would be designated as suitable for timber production. This administrative change would apply to lands removed from the roadless inventory and to lands identified as [ldquo]Community Priority[rdquo] or [ldquo]Timber Priority[rdquo] in Alternatives 3 and 4, respectively. This change to the Tongass suitability determinations does not preclude future suitability determinations as part of Forest Plan amendment or revision processes.[rdquo]

7 36 CFR 219.10 (b)(1)(i), FSH 1909.12 23.23a(2)

8http://nstrail.org/carrying_capacity/ros_tool_1986.pdf

Comment: Timber suitability and where it applies is a plan component that cannot be changed by an administrative decision unless the change is in accordance with a law or regulations that are consistent with the requirements of the NFMA for granting development permissions. Since the proposed action purpose is to allow for the development of roadless areas vs. describing regulations to avoid degradation of these areas, the proposed rule is subject to NFMA planning requirements for preparing a Forest Plan amendment or through revision processes.

The 2016 Forest Plan FEIS timber suitability decisions and Roadless Areas are not clearly associated. The ROD states or describes decisions that are not solely related to a not suitable for timber production plan component, which would continue to be in effect even if the directed administrative change to modify the timber suitability plan component was enacted. Examples of other related decisions include:

* The decision, [ldquo]allows young-growth harvest in all three phases of the 2008 timber sale program adaptive management strategy, but only outside of roadless areas identified in the 2001 Roadless Rule...
* The Selected Alternative allows old-growth harvest only within that portion of the Tongass included in Phase 1 of the timber sale program adaptive management strategy adopted by the Regional Forester as part of the Record of Decision for the 2008 Tongass Forest Plan Amendment. That strategy was aimed at reducing impacts to high-value roadless areas of the Tongass, based on a more recent inventory of roadless areas than that used in development of the 2001 Roadless Rule, including some areas not included in the 2001 Roadless Rule...
* No old-growth or young-growth harvest will occur in roadless areas identified in the 2001 Roadless Rule....[rdquo]

These decisions describe a location for where the direction applies (e.g., outside of 2001 roadless areas) that cannot be nullified by an administrative change. Changing these timber harvest location decisions would require a plan amendment or be addressed through revision following EIS processes.

The timber suitability component of the proposed rule goes beyond redacting the not suitable for timber production decision for roadless areas, but adds new direction for lands suitability stating that, [ldquo]This

administrative change would apply to lands... identified as [ldquo]Community Priority[rdquo] or [ldquo]Timber Priority[rdquo] in Alternatives 3 and 4.[rdquo] If for no other reason, Alternatives 3 and 4 must be dropped from further consideration in this Alaska Roadless Area rulemaking process, since assignment of desired conditions and lands suitability is clearly outside of the scope of what is allowed by an administrative change to the Forest Plan.

Any further consideration of mandating that Alaska Roadless Areas be managed for timber production should be addressed through the 36 CFR 219 rulemaking processes and not 36 CFR 294 Special Area regulations. Specifically, 36 CFR 219.11[mdash]timber requirements based on

the NFMA[mdash]should be supplemented to include specific direction for Alaska Roadless Areas.

DEIS[mdash]Definitions: The DEIS on page 2-2 define Alaska Roadless Areas as, [ldquo]Lands within the Tongass National Forest designated pursuant to this subpart and identified in a set of maps maintained by the national headquarters office of the Forest Service.[rdquo] The Glossary on page 7[shy]22 defines roadless area as, [ldquo]See Inventoried roadless area (IRA) definition. Within this document, roadless areas may also be used to describe areas proposed to be designated as Alaska Roadless Areas.[rdquo] On page 7-11 inventoried roadless area (IRA) is defined as, [ldquo]Areas identified in a set of inventoried roadless area maps, contained in Forest Service Roadless Area Conservation, Final Environmental Impact Statement, Volume 2, dated November 2000, which are held at the National headquarters office of the Forest Service, or any subsequent update or revision of those maps. (36 CFR 294.11).[rdquo]

Comment: The Forest Service Roadless Area Conservation, Final Environmental Impact Statement, Volume 1, dated November 2000, states that, [ldquo]An inventoried roadless area is described as, [ldquo]Undeveloped areas typically exceeding 5,000 acres that met the minimum criteria for wilderness consideration under the Wilderness Act and that were inventoried during the Forest Service[rsquo]s Roadless Area Review and Evaluation (RARE II) process, subsequent assessments, or forest planning.[rdquo] The 2016 Forest Plan defines an inventoried roadless area as, [ldquo]An undeveloped area typically exceeding 5,000 acres that meets the minimum criteria for Wilderness consideration under the Wilderness Act... Areas identified in a set of inventoried roadless area maps, contained in Forest Service Roadless Area Conservation, Final Environmental Impact Statement, Volume 2, dated November 2000, which are held at the National headquarters office of the Forest Service, or any subsequent update or revision of those maps. (36 CFR 294.11).[rdquo]

To be consistent with the expectations of Special Areas,9 any area designated as an Alaska Roadless Area should exhibit the characteristics of being undeveloped and be managed to provide for Primitive, Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized, or Semi-Primitive Motorized (with no roads) ROS setting desired conditions.

DEIS: The DEIS on page 2-3 describes Roadless Area Characteristics. Remoteness is defined as, [ldquo]Roadless areas provide economic opportunity due to rich primitive, semi-primitive motorized, and semi-primitive non-motorized classes of dispersed recreation.[rdquo]

Comment: The [ldquo]remoteness[rdquo] attribute in this list should be replaced with desired Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) descriptions. The FEIS should describe that, [ldquo]Primitive, semi-primitive non-motorized, and semi-primitive motorized Recreation Opportunity Spectrum class settings have a natural or natural-appearing environment. These ROS settings are not suitable for timber production.[rdquo]

9 36 CFR 294

DEIS: The DEIS beginning on page 2-4 describes Alaska Roadless Area Land Management Categories and states that, [ldquo]Alternatives 2, 3, 4, and 5 provide for a variety of management approaches within roadless areas through ARA land management categories which include Land Use Designation (LUD) II Priority,

Watershed Priority, Roadless Priority, Community Priority, and Timber Priority. The management categories prohibit timber harvest, road construction, and road reconstruction with a range of exceptions that are applied differentially across the alternatives. A brief description of each management category follows....[rdquo] The categories are: LUD II Priority (Alternatives 2, 4, and 5), Watershed Priority (Alternatives 2 and 3), Roadless Priority (Alternatives 2, 3, 4, and 5), Community Priority (Alternative 3), and Timber Priority (Alternative 4).

Comment: I find no compelling reason to collapse LUD categories from those that are found in the Forest Plan. An ARR should use the same LUD categories that are found in the Forest Plan to allow for better integration of the rule direction and plan components.

DEIS: The DEIS further describes in this section that, [ldquo]Notably, Alternative 3 proposes to remove all LUD II areas from roadless designation rather than designating LUD II lands into an ARA. LUD II areas under Alternative 3 would continue to be managed as directed by their congressional designations... In all cases, activities within Community Priority ARAs would have to be consistent with the underlying Forest Plan LUD requirements. This is to say that even if a timber harvest, road building, or other activity would be permissible under the Alaska Roadless Rule, it may not be allowable because of Forest Plan requirements specific to the LUD that applies to the area.[rdquo]

Comment: One of the strongest combinations of protecting National Forest System lands from degradation is overlapping special area designations. Overlapping designations within unroaded areas would help ensure National Forest System lands are protected for current and future generations by protecting roadless area, watershed priorities, LUD II lands, and more primitive ROS setting values. These overlapping designations provide a complimentary framework for a high-level of protection from overuse and development of federal lands. The LUD II Priority lands; Watershed Priority; Roadless Priority LUDs; and Primitive, SPNM, and SPM ROS settings should be overlaid and the most restrictive provisions would control.

It is confusing and inappropriate to include the Timber Priority LUD within the ARR boundary. Timber production is incompatible with protecting roadless area values. Alternative 4 should describe exempting/excluding 749,000 acres of the Timber Production Priority LUD land from the ARR or preferably be eliminated from further consideration in this rulemaking process.

DEIS: The DEIS on page 2-5 states that, [ldquo]As with all roadless rule provisions, the new prohibition would supersede the current and future forest plans, with the plan continuing to provide management direction in other regards.[rdquo]

Comment: The new rule permissions were not developed following NFMA processes and should be discarded. There is no demonstrated urgent need for the ARR. Rulemaking and

Forest Plan revision should occur as parallel processes to develop integrated management direction for the Tongass National Forest in a revised Forest Plan and associated ARR.

1. Alternatives Considered in Detail

DEIS: The DEIS on page 2-9 states that, [ldquo]Based on information obtained during scoping, Cooperating Agency input, and consultation with Alaska Native tribes, the Forest Service developed six alternatives for detailed analysis, including the no action and proposed action alternatives.[rdquo]

Comment: The 2016 Tongass Forest Plan Amendment failed to protect roadless area values where the plan established [ldquo]Development LUDs[rdquo] within roadless areas. For example, the Timber Production LUD management prescription is generally managed for a Roaded Modified ROS setting, which is inconsistent with protecting Roadless Area Characteristics. Removing roadless area protections provided by the [ldquo]not suitable for timber production[rdquo] plan component would lead to actions that substantially degrade Tongass National Forest unroaded area values.

Proposed New Alternative: A principle concern that is not addressed in the presented alternatives is establishing additional plan components to protect roadless area values. A reasonable alternative to be considered in detail is to modify the Tongass Forest Plan to remove [ldquo]Development LUDs[rdquo] designations from roadless areas. In this new alternative, and as part of the rule decisions, the Development LUD areas would be reassigned to Natural Setting LUDs. In addition, Natural Setting LUDs would establish an ARR standard stating that the Alaska Roadless Area must be managed for a Primitive, Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized, or Semi-Primitive Motorized ROS setting.

1. Development Alternatives

DEIS: The DEIS on page 2-12 thru 2-17 describes:

* Alternative 2 changes, [ldquo]a net of 18,000 old-growth acres and 10,000 young-growth acres previously identified as unsuitable timber lands would become suitable timber lands.[rdquo]
* Alternative 3, [ldquo]converts a net of 76,000 old-growth acres and 14,000 young-growth acres, previously identified as unsuitable timber lands, to suitable timber lands.[rdquo]
* Alternative 4 converts a net of 158,000 old-growth acres and 15,000 young-growth acres previously identified as unsuitable timber lands to suitable timber lands.
* Alternative 5 also converts a net 165,000 old-growth acres and 17,000 young-growth acres previously identified as unsuitable timber lands to suitable timber lands.
* Alternative 6 converts a net total of 165,000 old-growth acres and 20,000 young-growth acres previously identified as unsuitable timber lands to suitable timber lands and includes an administrative correction and modification provision for the Chugach National Forest only.[rdquo]

Comment: The regulations for each alternative should restate the information that is summarized in Table 3.1-2.

The DEIS ARA management category prescriptions, including the proposed changes to suitable timber lands and old growth harvest acres, must be addressed through Forest Plan amendment or revision processes if the change is to be consistent with the NFMA and forest planning regulations. To be clear, these changes cannot be deemed as administrative in nature based on this arbitrary ARR rulemaking process.

Reviewing Officer Beth Pendleton in response to Forest Plan objections stated that, [ldquo]Objectors express concerns about the relationship between the status of the Roadless Rule and the activities allowed under the Selected Alternative. The IRAs identified in the maps as depicted in the 2000 Roadless Area Conservation Rule EIS, Volume 2, are identified as lands not suitable for timber production under the Selected Alternative [FEIS, p. 2-41]. Therefore, no timber harvest or associated road construction or reconstruction would occur in these IRAs regardless of the status of the Roadless Rule... If the status of the Roadless Rule were to change with regard to its applicability to the Tongass National Forest, a forest plan amendment would be necessary if the Forest decided to pursue modifications to the suitable timber base to include IRAs....[rdquo]

H. Forest Products Industry Economic Opportunities

DEIS: The DEIS beginning on page 2-20 describes that, [ldquo]None of the action alternatives would result in changes to the PTSQ and the timber objectives of the Forest Plan would continue to require transitioning to primarily young-growth harvest... However, the alternatives do vary in terms of the amount and location of acres suitable for timber production. Greater acreage of suitable land would provide greater flexibility in the selection of future timber sale areas, as well as the potential for more flexibility in sale design, depending on the planning areas selected... Under Alternative 1, about 230,000 acres of old growth... are currently suitable for timber

production... For old growth, however, the suitable acreage increase would range from 7 percent for Alternative 2 to 72 percent for Alternatives 5 and 6. For Alternatives 3 and 4 the increase would be 33 percent and 69 percent, respectively....[rdquo]

Comment: The ARR DEIS states that, [ldquo]alternatives do vary in terms of the amount and location of acres suitable for timber production.[rdquo] Establishing suitability of lands is a requirement of the NFMA as implemented through planning regulations,10 which is outside of the scope of developing a Special Area protection rule. Suitability determinations must occur through Forest Plan amendment or revision processes.

1. Alaska Roadless Area Land Management Categories

DEIS: The DEIS on page 3-4 describes that, [ldquo]Alternatives 2, 3, 4, and 5 provide for a variety of management approaches within roadless areas through ARA land management categories which include Land Use Designation (LUD) II Priority, Watershed Priority, Roadless Priority, Community Priority, and Timber Priority. The management categories prohibit timber harvest, road construction, and road reconstruction with a range of exceptions that are applied differentially across the alternatives....[rdquo]

Comment: Land use allocations that allow for timber production and road building in roadless areas must be established following NFMA amendment or revision processes. It is misleading to describe that the development permissions are exceptions to the roadless rule. For example, the Timber Priority area as presented in Alternative 4 is not a narrowly focused exception to roadless area desired conditions.

DEIS: The DEIS on page 3-12 describes that: [ldquo]Altogether, these special LUDs cover 273,000 acres within 2001 roadless areas (Alternative 1). Under Alternative 2, these acres would actually increase slightly to 275,000 acres, and they would be little changed under Alternatives 3, 4, and 5 at 270,000 acres, 268,000 acres, and 272,000 acres, respectively. However, under Alternative 6, the roadless acreage within these special LUDs would decrease to zero.[rdquo]

Comment: This section should clearly state that the designated Alaska Roadless Areas and LUD II Priority lands are not suitable for timber production, since timber production and road construction is inconsistent with Roadless Area and LUD II desired conditions. The Change to Timber Land Suitability acres must be corrected to reflect that timber production will not occur in Alaska Roadless Areas.

1. Environmental Consequences [ndash] Forest Products

DEIS: The DEIS beginning on page 3-43 describes that, [ldquo]This DEIS provides an assessment of the potential impacts that may result from the alternatives considered for a proposed Alaska Roadless Rule... Overall timber harvest levels and composition (old-growth versus young-

10 16 U.S.C. 1604(g),

growth) are expected to remain unaffected by the final rule. Timber program output levels are expected to remain constant and involve a similar number of acres under all alternatives, varying only by the location of timber harvest.[rdquo]

Comment: I disagree with the description that, [ldquo]Overall timber harvest levels and composition (old-growth versus young-growth) are expected to remain unaffected by the final rule.[rdquo] Table 2-11 describes that timber suitable old growth would change from 230,000 to 395,000 acres in development focus alternatives, which would result in substantially more habitat fragmentation, watershed degradation, and other resource impacts across broad landscapes.

K. Environmental Consequences [ndash] Recreation Opportunity Spectrum

DEIS: The DEIS on page 3-167 thru 171 describes that, [ldquo]Recreational visitors with an expectation of a remote experience would be most affected by timber production in Primitive, SPNM, and SPM settings... Changes in roadless area designations have the potential to affect the spatial distribution of future development activities, especially timber harvest... Alternatives 4 to 6 would result in relatively large increases in suitable old-growth acres available for harvest in SPNM ROS settings... Timber harvest and associated road construction in Primitive and Semi-Primitive (SPNM and SPM) ROS settings has the potential to affect recreation activities and users dependent on remote, natural settings with low to no evidence of human use. Harvest in these settings could affect the quality of the recreation experience and displace visitors to other parts of the Forest... Impacts are likely to be most acute in Primitive and Semi-Primitive areas where recreation use is already at or near capacity, including areas where competition already exists between resident recreationists, independent visitors, and commercial outfitter/guide operations....[rdquo]

Comment: Planning regulations require that lands identified as suitable for timber production be consistent with ROS desired conditions and aligned with mapped ROS class boundaries. Similar to a Management Area/LUD, ROS classes is a land area identified within the planning area that has the same set of ROS plan components. To meet the analysis requirements of using the Best Available Scientific Information and to ensure CEQ requirements for Methodology and Scientific Accuracy, ROS plan components must include not only desired conditions, but also supporting standards, guidelines, and suitability of land determinations that define and protect the established ROS class conditions.

As previously discussed, the 2016 Forest Plan Amendment did not establish compatible Roadless Area ROS class settings for roadless areas, but instead relied solely on those lands being protected by a suitability of lands plan component that established that roadless areas were not suitable for timber production. Suitability of lands is a plan component that identify areas of land as suitable or not suitable for specific uses is based on the desired conditions. Appropriate ROS class settings for Roadless Areas would be Primitive, Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized, and Semi-Primitive Motorized with allowance for limited inconsistencies. These ROS classes are not suitable for timber production, since timber production is inconsistent with the desired

conditions for these ROS settings. The Forest Plan should have established ROS settings that would have protected unroaded areas from being subject to the impacts that are described in this section of the DEIS.

The proposed changes to suitable timber lands for each of these alternatives must be addressed through Forest Plan amendment or revision processes if the change is to be consistent with the NFMA planning regulations. To be clear, changes to suitability, desired conditions, and objectives cannot be deemed as administrative changes to the Forest Plan.

L. Alaska Roadless Areas Rule Regulatory Language

DEIS: The DEIS on page G-1 states that: [ldquo][sect] 294.10 Purpose. The purpose of this subpart is to provide, within the context of multiple use management, lasting protection for inventoried roadless areas within the National Forest System.[rdquo]

Comment: The purpose of the 2001 Roadless Rule is narrowly focused on the protection of roadless areas within the National Forest System.

DEIS: The DEIS on pages G-7, G-23, and G-30 states for Alternatives 2, 4 and 5, [ldquo][sect] 294.50 Purpose. The purpose of this subpart is to provide, in the context of multiple-use management, State-specific direction for the conservation of roadless areas for the Tongass National Forest while providing for local concerns for economic and community development. This subpart sets forth the procedures for management of Alaska Roadless Areas.[rdquo]

The purpose of the Tongass Forest Plan is described as, [ldquo]This Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan) guides all-natural resource management activities and establishes management direction for the Tongass National Forest. It describes resource management practices, levels of resource production and management, and the availability and suitability of lands for different kinds of resource management... This

Forest Plan embodies the provisions of the National Forest Management Act, the implementing regulations, and other guiding documents. The Forestwide desired conditions and multiple-use goals and objectives (Chapter 2), Land Use Designation Standards and Guidelines (Chapter 3), Forest-wide Standards and Guidelines (Chapter 4), and Plan Content1 Developed Under the 2012 Planning Rule (Chapter 5) constitute a statement of the Forest Plan's management direction[rdquo] (Forest Plan, page 1-1).

Comment: The purpose of the Alaska Roadless Rule is beyond the scope of the protection of the special areas that are found on the Tongass and Chugach National Forests. The proposed action and alternatives clearly align with a Forest Plan purpose of providing for the protecting and development of resources through integrated planning that result in one plan. Specifically, changes to desired conditions and plan components (e.g., timber suitability) must be addressed through Forest Plan amendment or revision processes to be valid.

DEIS: The DEIS on pages G-8, G-16, G-24, and G-32 describes for Alternatives 2 and 4 that, [ldquo][sect]294.53 Road construction and reconstruction in Alaska Roadless Areas... (b) LUD II Priority. Notwithstanding the prohibition in paragraph (a) of this section, a road may be

constructed or reconstructed in an Alaska Roadless Area designated as LUD II Priority...[rdquo] Alternative 3 describes road construction for Community Priorities.

Comment: LUD II Priority and Roadless Priority allocations should not be separate. Instead, they should be overlaid where the most restrictive road construction provision prevails.

DEIS: The DEIS on pages G-10, G-18, G-26, G-34, describe for Alternatives 2, 3, 4, and 5 that, [ldquo]Timber harvest is needed for one of the following purposes and will maintain or improve one or more of the roadless area characteristics: (i) To maintain, restore, or improve fish and wildlife habitat....[rdquo]

Comment: Providing for Roadless Area Characteristics does not need timber harvests to maintain, restore, or improve fish and wildlife habitat. Since 1994, the State of Alaska has been managing wildlife in accordance with the state[rsquo]s Intensive Management principles laid out in the Alaska Code (ALASKA STAT. [sect] 16.05.255). The State of Alaska wildlife management mandates are at odds with maintaining desired ecosystem characteristics in roadless areas. This part should be deleted, since the State could influence wildlife habitat management proposals which has happened with this ARR proposal.

DEIS: 294.56 Scope and Applicability [ndash] The DEIS at G-11, G-19, G-27, and G-35 describe that: (d) [ldquo]The provisions set forth in this subpart shall take precedence over any inconsistent land management plan component of the Tongass Land Management Plan. Land management plan components that are not inconsistent with this subpart will continue to provide guidance for projects and activities within Alaska Roadless Areas. This subpart does not compel the amendment or revision of any land management plan, but the Tongass Forest Supervisor shall issue a ministerial Notice of Administrative Change pursuant to 36 CFR 219.13(c) identifying plan changes made in conformance with the regulatory requirements of this subpart, including rescission of the portion of the December 9, 2016, Record of Decision concerning suitable timber lands attributed to implementation of the January 12, 2001, Roadless Area Conservation Rule (66 FR 3244)[rdquo]

Comment 294.56 Part (d)[mdash]All Action Alternatives: The ARR does not clearly described those parts of the Forest Plan that are [ldquo]not inconsistent[rdquo] with the proposed rule and alternatives. The direction fails to disclose effects that are due to the unknown Forest Plan management direction that would be discarded by the rule, which does not allow for informed comments on the proposed change.

This part describes that, [ldquo]the Tongass Forest Supervisor shall issue a ministerial Notice of Administrative Change....[rdquo] However, the Secretary authority for establishing a rule that assigns Forest Plan suitability determinations is the NFMA. The Secretary does not have the authority through this Special Area rulemaking

process to direct that an administrative change be made to Forest Plan desired conditions and suitability plan components that were approved in the 2016

Forest Plan FEIS ROD. Instead, Planning Rule amendment or revision processes must be followed to make any change to plan components.11

The Federal Register Notice of Final Planning Directives (80 FR 6683) state that, [ldquo]FSM 1920 and FSH 1909.12 (planning directives) provide policy direction, objectives, instructions, and guidance for Forest Service Line Officers and primary staff to plan and execute the process of developing, revising, amending, and making administrative changes to land management plans to provide for the sustainability of ecosystems and resources; meet the need for forest restoration and conservation, watershed protection, and species diversity and conservation; and assist the Agency in providing a sustainable flow of benefits, including economic benefits, services, and uses of NFS lands. The 2012 Planning Rule and the FSM 1920 and FSH 19092.12 together provide requirements and guidance for the Agency in land management planning pursuant to the National Forest Management Act.[rdquo]

The Planning Rule Federal Register Notice, in response to comments, describe that, [ldquo]Plan components are the plan[rsquo]s desired conditions, objectives, standards, guidelines, suitability of areas, or goals described in [sect] 219.7. An amendment is required if a change, other than correction of a clerical error or a change needed to conform to new statutory or regulatory requirements, needs to be applied to any of these plan components... Administrative changes are made to correct clerical errors to plan components, to alter content in the plan other than the plan components, or to achieve conformance of the plan to new statutory or regulatory requirements. A clerical error is an error of the presentation of material in the plan such as phrasing, grammar, typographic errors, or minor errors in data or mapping that were appropriately evaluated in the development of the plan, plan revision, or plan amendment. An administrative change could not otherwise be used to change plan components or the location in the plan area where plan components apply, except to conform the plan to new statutory or regulatory requirements.[rdquo]

The ARR proposed action and alternatives were developed following processes that are inconsistent with the requirements of the NFMA; and therefore, cannot establish management direction that would supplant the amendment and revision requirements of the planning rule (36 CFR 219).

DEIS: 294.56 Scope and Applicability [ndash] The DEIS describes that: (e) [ldquo]The prohibitions and permissions set forth in this subpart are not subject to reconsideration, revision, or rescission in subsequent project decisions or land and resource management plan amendments or revisions undertaken pursuant to 36 CFR part 219.[rdquo]

Comment 294.56 Part (e): The 2012 Forest Service planning regulations were promulgated under the principles of the Multiple-Use Sustained-Yield Act of 1960.12 Planning regulation

11 36 CFR 219.13(a); FSH 1909.12 part 21.3

12 16 U.S.C. 1604(g)

describes, [ldquo]Purpose and applicability. (a) This subpart sets out the planning requirements for developing, amending, and revising land management plans for units of the National Forest System (NFS), as required by the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974, as amended by the National Forest Management Act of 1976 (16 U.S.C. 1600 et seq.) (NFMA). This subpart also sets out the requirements for

plan components and other content in land management plans. This part is applicable to all units of the NFS as defined by 16 U.S.C. 1609 or subsequent statute.[rdquo]13

Unlike the 2001 Roadless Rule clauses that addressed [ldquo]prohibitions and restrictions,[rdquo] this proposed substantive rule grants [ldquo]permissions[rdquo] that are not [ldquo]subject to reconsideration, revision, or rescission in subsequent project decisions or land and resource management plan amendments or revisions undertaken pursuant to 36 CFR part 219.[rdquo] There is no authority to grant [ldquo]permissions[rdquo] for changing desired conditions and timber suitability determinations and locations that are apart from the requirements of the NFMA amendment and revision processes.

IV. Review and Recommendation

The Alaska Roadless Rule (ARR) proposes to grant timber production and road development permissions14 and to rescind the 2016 Forest Plan FEIS timber suitability decision for Roadless Areas. The draft ARR declares that a timber suitability modification to the Forest Plan would be a mere administrative change. However, Department planning regulations require that such permissions be addressed through amendment15 or revision16 processes. As proposed, the ARR would not legally modify the Forest Plan roadless area timber harvest decisions by simply declaring that these areas are no longer not suitable for timber production. The proposed rule was prepared following processes that are inconsistent with the requirements of the NFMA.17 The proposed rule permissions and processes do not result in one integrated Forest Plan as required by NFMA.18

I recommend that the Secretary withdraw the Alaska Roadless Area proposed rule and EIS. Increasing the timber management program flexibility is not a compelling reason for expending resources to prepare an ARR, especially since the DEIS describes similar outcomes for each alternative. If modifying the Roadless Rule continues to be an interest, the Forest Service should revise the Tongass Forest Plan and the Department should establish an Alaska Roadless Rule as parallel and coordinated processes. This holistic approach to planning may result in a

sustainable solution to address the management of Roadless Areas on the Tongass National Forest.

13 36 CFR 219.1

14 36 CFR 294.56

15 36 CFR 219.13(a)

16 36 CFR 219.7(a)

17 16 U.S.C. 1604 parts (a), (c), (f), (g) and (k).

18 16 U.S.C 1604(f)(1)

In recent congressional testimony, retired Chief Mike Dombeck describes that, [ldquo]The Roadless Rule, finalized in 2001, ended the most damaging and expensive threats to those roadless areas. But carefully designed exceptions allow for some new road construction on a case-by-case basis, where that is in the public interest. Roads are permitted for firefighting, forest health, energy development and access to private inholdings, for instance, as well as public thoroughfares between communities. For example, on the Tongass National Forest alone, all 58 requests for entry into roadless areas since the Rule has been in place have been granted. These include roads for mining projects, hydropower and intertie projects, a geothermal lease, a road realignment, road reconstruction, and U.S. Coast Guard and Alaska Army National Guard projects, among others. Most projects are approved within a month, and that time is expected to become even shorter since authority to approve requests was delegated to the regional foresters in October 2018....

The Tongass is also one of the last remaining intact temperate rainforests in the world and a globally significant storehouse of carbon. According to Forest Service estimates, Tongass trees contain 650 million tons of carbon, which is equivalent to 2.4 billion tons of CO2. This is nearly half (45%) of the total carbon emissions for the entire U.S. in 2017...

For the Tongass, where two-thirds of the high-volume timber stands have already been logged at an immense social and economic cost, the Forest Service should focus on addressing the $100 million backlog of watershed restoration needs and the $68 million road maintenance backlog...

The 2001 Roadless Rule in my view is conservative public policy. It maintains the status quo, keeps options open for the future, and saves taxpayer money. The time and money spent attempting to roll back roadless area protections on the Tongass or any of the National Forests is a big step backwards to the era of gridlock and costly litigation.[rdquo]

Recommendation: After considering the information in the DEIS and the history of timber management and road construction and maintenance on the Tongass National Forest, I recommend that the Secretary select the No Action alternative.

[Position]

Sonny Perdue, Secretary of Agriculture
Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave SW
Washington, DC. 20250

December 4, 2019

Greg Warren
Frisco, Colorado

Subject: USDA Forest Service Proposed Alaska Roadless Rule

Comments submitted through: www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=54511.

Dear Secretary Perdue,

I am writing to comment on the Alaska Roadless Rule DEIS as described and referenced in Federal Register Document 2019-22638.

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I. Alaska Roadless Rule Federal Register Notice

A. State Petition

The Federal Register Notice describes that, "*In selecting the proposed rule among the several alternatives considered, the Department has given substantial weight to the State's policy preferences as expressed in the incoming Petition… The State's views on how to balance economic development and environmental protection offer valuable insight when making management decisions concerning NFS lands within Alaska… The proposed rule provides local forest managers an avenue for a long-term durable approach for managing the Tongass National Forest, unencumbered by the 2001 Roadless Rule, through the local forest planning process….*"

Comment: The State of Alaska's decision to ignore all of the Roadless Rule's existing exemptions makes it clear that the purpose of the petition is to seek road building and logging permissions instead of protecting the unique benefits of undeveloped areas of the Tongass National Forest. The State of Alaska's petition for rulemaking should have been denied by the Secretary.

The rationale presented does not reflect the national significance of the Tongass National Forest Roadless Areas. The need to protect the Alaska Roadless Areas is better described in the 2001 Roadless Rule,[1] which states in part that, "*Inventoried roadless areas… function as biological strongholds for populations of threatened and endangered species. They provide large, relatively undisturbed landscapes that are important to biological diversity and the long-term survival of many at risk species. Inventoried roadless areas provide opportunities for dispersed outdoor recreation, opportunities that diminish as open space and natural settings are developed elsewhere. They also… provide reference areas for study and research.*" Roadless Areas also protect Alaska watersheds from degradation. The State's idea of local timber production desires should not supplant the national need to protect these National Forest System lands.

It is unfortunate that the Secretary is giving preference to the State of Alaska for managing the national resources of the Tongass National Forest and dismissing the Forest Supervisor's rationale for the 2016 Plan Amendment decisions. The 2016 Forest Plan FEIS ROD on page 19 states that: "*Based on my review of the Final EIS and the project record, I believe the best way to bring stability to the management of roadless areas on the Tongass is to not recommend any modifications to the Roadless Rule. Harvest in roadless areas is not necessary to meet the purpose and need of the amendment. The Selected Alternative can be implemented without proposing any new regulations while still achieving transition objectives… Additionally, the Roadless Rule provides that the construction or reconstruction of roads in an inventoried roadless area may be authorized under certain circumstances. In May, 2012, the Chief of the*

[1] 66 FR 3243

Forest Service identified a process where the Chief reviews and may authorize certain activities to occur within roadless areas, when consistent with the Roadless Rule. Projects are reviewed by the Chief to ensure the Forest Service is applying a consistent approach to implementation of the 2001 Roadless Rule and that the agency is doing all it can to protect roadless area characteristics. Since 2012, the Tongass has requested and received timely approval from the Chief for qualifying activities within roadless areas, including those in support of hydroelectric energy projects and transmission, and road rights-of-way under applicable statutes…."

B. <u>Rationale for the Proposed Rule</u>

The Federal Register Notice describes that, "*The Secretary of Agriculture has broad authority to protect and administer the National Forest System through regulation as provided by the Organic Administration Act of 1897 (the Organic Act), the Multiple-Use Sustained Yield Act of 1960 (MUSYA), and the National Forest Management Act of 1976 (NFMA). These statutes provide the Secretary with discretion to determine the proper uses within any area, including the appropriate resource emphasis and mix of uses*."

Comment: The proposed rule recognizes the authority of the NFMA for rulemaking. However, the proposed rule and alternatives were prepared following processes that are inconsistent with the requirements of the land and resource management plans requirements of 16 U.S.C. 1604 parts (a), (c), (f), (g) and (k). A specific concern is the rule proposal to modify desired conditions and land suitability decisions without amending or revising the Forest Plan. This is a critical flaw, and with this flaw, I recommend that the proposed 36 CFR 294.50 rule be withdrawn from the rulemaking process.

C. <u>Forest Plan Management Direction</u>

The Federal Register Notice describes that, "*The proposed Alaska Roadless Rule would not alter the Forest Plan's management area designations, harvest levels, substantive requirements (goals, objectives, standards, and guidelines), or the young-growth transition strategy, except for the administrative changes noted below concerning suitable lands determinations specifically issued to implement the 2001 Roadless Rule*."

Comment: The assertion is unfounded that the Secretary has the authority without a Forest Plan amendment EA or EIS to effect a change to the 2016 Forest Plan FEIS decisions that established desired conditions and lands suitability. The effects of this change would eliminate the principle plan component that protects roadless areas on the Tongass National Forest. The 2016 Forest Plan FEIS does not address the effects on roadless areas of eliminating the *not suitable for timber production* decision.

The 2016 Forest Plan FEIS ROD states that, "*Because suitability is a Plan component under the 2012 Planning Rule, any changes to the suitable timber base must be made by amending or revising the Forest Plan*." The integrated resource management decisions of the 2016 Forest Plan, including desired conditions and where timber suitability determinations apply, cannot be

modified by the Alaska Roadless Area rulemaking process as presented in the DEIS. The timber suitability plan component decision as proposed by the ARR DEIS action alternatives are not administrative changes; instead, the proposed changes would clearly modify the integrated resource management decisions approved by the FEIS ROD, including the determination that the plan is consistent with the Tongass Conservation Strategy. Apparently, not only does the Secretary feel encumbered by the 2001 Roadless Rule, but also by the requirements of the National Forest Management Act as implemented through Forest Planning amendment processes[2] for making changes to plan components. Appropriate National Forest planning processes for determining timber suitability and establishing other plan components is found in the National Forest Management Act[3] as implemented through the 2012 Planning Rule[4] and related directives.

The 2016 FEIS on page 2-14 describes that, "*Under Alternatives 1, 4, and 5 IRAs are withdrawn from timber production and not suitable for timber production (FSH 1909.12, chapter 60, section 61.11),*" and on page 2-33, "*As in Alternatives 1 and 4, the 2001 Roadless Rule would apply and no old-growth or young-growth harvest would occur in roadless areas*." Alternative 5 is the selected alternative.

A roadless area on the Tongass National Forest is defined as, "*an area of undeveloped public land within which there are no improved roads maintained for travel by means of motorized vehicles intended for highway use. For purposes of the Forest Plan environmental impact statement analysis, this is a generic term that includes inventoried roadless areas and unroaded areas*" (Forest Plan, page 7-51).

Suitability determinations and identifying where the plan components apply are inherently NFMA planning functions that cannot be dismissed through a resource allocation and management process as proposed in this DEIS. Instead, the Tongass National Forest Plan must be revised or amended to address changes to the assignment of plan components.

II. Record of Decision Forest Plan Amendment FEIS 2016

A. Forest Plan Amendment Record of Decision

ROD: The Record of Decision for the 2016 Forest Plan amendment EIS on pages 6-8 describes that, "*The decision I am making today is to approve the 2016 Forest Plan Amendment, which is Alternative 5 (the Selected Alternative) as described in the Final EIS… As required by law and regulation, this decision is fully supported by the environmental analysis documented in the Final EIS… I have made my decision after careful consideration of the public comments on the Draft EIS for the 2016 Tongass Land and Resource Management Plan Amendment...*

[2] 36 CFR 219.13(a)
[3] 16 U.S.C. 1604
[4] 36 CFR 219

Alternative 5 is based on the recommendations from the Tongass Advisory Committee (TAC), a formally established Federal Advisory Committee that included representatives from Federally Recognized Tribes, Alaska Native organizations, Alaska Native corporations, national and regional environmental and conservation organizations, timber industry operators, Federal, State, and local governments, permittees, other commercial operators, and the general public…

The Selected Alternative allows old-growth harvest only within that portion of the Tongass included in Phase 1 of the timber sale program adaptive management strategy adopted by the Regional Forester as part of the Record of Decision for the 2008 Tongass Forest Plan Amendment. That strategy was aimed at reducing impacts to high-value roadless areas of the Tongass, based on a more recent inventory of roadless areas than that used in development of the 2001 Roadless Rule, including some areas not included in the 2001 Roadless Rule. The strategy separated roadless areas into three categories (low-, medium-, and high-value), and limited timber harvest to roaded areas of the National Forest and low-value roadless areas (called Phase 1) unless timber harvest reached 100 million board feet (MMBF) for two consecutive fiscal years, when harvest would also have been allowed in Phase 2's medium-value roadless areas… No old-growth or young-growth harvest will occur in roadless areas identified in the 2001 Roadless Rule…

Alternative 5 also incorporates TAC recommendations to protect certain watersheds known as the "Tongass 77" (T77), that have been identified by Trout Unlimited as high priority watersheds for protection due to their outstanding habitat values, fish production, and diversity of fish species present. In addition, the TAC recommended protection of "conservation priority areas" identified by The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and Audubon Alaska (Albert and Schoen 2007)… Old-growth harvest will not be allowed, however, and old-growth acres within these watersheds and conservation areas that are allocated to development LUDs are classified as unsuitable under Alternative 5. Young-growth timber harvest will be allowed in some of these watersheds and conservation areas."

Comment: The Tongass Forest Plan amendment selected alternative describes a decision that was based on recommendations by the Tongass Advisory Committee that no old-growth or young-growth harvest will occur in roadless area locations. The proposed ARR, cannot legally modify the timber harvest decision for *areas of undeveloped public land within which there are no improved roads* by simply declaring that these areas are no longer not suitable for timber production.

B. <u>Forest Plan Amendment FEIS Alternatives – Future Roadless Rulemaking</u>

ROD: The Record of Decision for the 2016 Forest Plan amendment EIS on pages 10-11 describes that, "*<u>Alternative 2</u>… the portions of inventoried roadless areas (IRAs) that were roaded before the 2001 Roadless Rule and during the 2001 Roadless Rule exemption period for the Tongass would be available for young-growth and old growth harvest. This would require rulemaking to modify 36 CFR 294.13(b)(4) (2001). The prohibitions of the 2001 Roadless Rule*

would continue to apply to these areas until the completion of rulemaking… Alternative 3… This alternative would allow young-growth and old-growth harvest in 2001 Roadless Rule IRAs. The prohibitions of the 2001 Roadless Rule, consistent with the District Court of Alaska's 2011 judgment reinstating the Roadless Rule on the Tongass, would apply until the completion of rulemaking…."

Comment: The 2016 Forest Plan Amendment FEIS considered and rejected approving management direction for the Tongass National Forest that was based on a future change to the Roadless Rule. The proposed ARR has the appearance of being an attempt to evade Forest Plan approval processes by avoiding NFMA planning requirements for the ARR proposed actions that would lead to resource developments and road construction.

C. Decision Description

ROD: The Record of Decision for the 2016 Forest Plan amendment EIS on page 22 describes that, "*…The Selected Alternative will relax the S&Gs for the scenic integrity objectives to allow additional harvest... By shifting away from old-growth harvest, the Tongass will preserve undeveloped land in unroaded areas, contributing to unfragmented wildlife habitats and intact watersheds. Young-growth timber harvest will occur within the previously harvested footprint and maximizes the use of existing roads to access young-growth stands… Under the Selected Alternative, the annual Projected Timber Sale Quantity will be 46 MMBF during the first decade and 72 MMBF during the second decade… Therefore, more old-growth is retained under the Selected Alternative than under the current plan (Final EIS, Appendix D).*

Under the Selected Alternative, 91 percent of the original POG forest is anticipated to remain over the next 100 years. This equates to approximately 400,000 more acres old-growth than were assumed during the development and evaluation of the Conservation Strategy. Likewise, under the 1997 Forest Plan approximately 8,500 miles of roads were anticipated to exist on NFS lands by 2095, whereas under the Selected Alternative less than 6,100 total miles of roads are anticipated to exist by 2095. This translates to substantially lower road densities than under the 1997 Plan. The additional area of POG will function as additional reserves, enhancing the existing reserves, and increasing the habitat quality when located around harvest units. Thus, the substantially greater spatial extent of old-growth forest on the landscape and fewer roads across the planning area will outweigh the local, adverse effects of young-growth harvest proposed by the Selected Alternative in the Old-growth Habitat LUD, the beach and estuary fringe, and RMAs (Final EIS, Appendix D)."

Comment: The proposed rule, without following the integrated resource management planning requirements of the NFMA, asserts that the Forest Service can clearly identify those areas within inventoried roadless areas that would have been designated suitable for timber production if it was not for the 2001 Roadless Rule. However, the 2016 Forest Plan Amendment ROD did not unmistakably identify those areas that were excluded from being suitable for timber production based solely on the Roadless Rule.

Substantial changes to the 2001 Roadless Rule that allow for the construction of roads and timber production must follow both Special Area rulemaking guidance and Forest Plan amendment or revision processes. Otherwise, the Department would not be able to demonstrate that the agency acted holistically and used consistent rationale for decisions. Specifically, it would not be in compliance with the Administrative Procedures Act for the Secretary to reject the 2016 Forest Plan amendment decision rationale if a new decision is to be based on the narrow State of Alaska petition and the ARR DEIS planning framework.

III. Alaska Roadless Rule Draft Environmental Impact Statement

A. Compliance with NFMA, NEPA, and Other Laws

DEIS: The DEIS on page 1-1 states that, "*The Forest Service has prepared this draft environmental impact statement (DEIS) in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and other relevant federal laws and regulations. This DEIS discloses the potential environmental consequences that may result from the alternatives considered for the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule.*"

The DEIS on page 7-25 associates the ARR DEIS with the requirements of the NFMA when defining Suitability of Lands. "*A determination that specific lands within a plan area may be used, or not, for various multiple uses or activities, based on the desired conditions applicable to those lands. The suitability of lands determinations need not be made for every use or activity, but every plan must identify those lands that are not suitable for timber production (FSH 1909.12 chapter 20, section 22.15). (See FSH 1909.12 chapter 60 for timber production suitability,)*" and on page 7-27 in the definition of timber production suitability, "*a forest plan must identify the lands that are suited and not suited for timber production. (FSH 1909.12, chapter 60).*"

Comment: The purpose and applicability of the NFMA planning regulations describes that, "*This subpart sets out the planning requirements for developing, amending, and revising land management plans (also referred to as plans) for units of the National Forest System (NFS), as required by the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974, as amended by the National Forest Management Act of 1976 (16 U.S.C. 1600 et seq.) (NFMA). This subpart also sets out the requirements for plan components and other content in land management plans. This part is applicable to all units of the NFS as defined by 16 U.S.C. 1609 or subsequent statute… Consistent with the Multiple-Use Sustained-Yield Act of 1960 (16 U.S.C. 528–531) (MUSYA), the Forest Service manages the NFS to sustain the multiple use of its renewable resources in perpetuity while maintaining the long-term health and productivity of the land. Resources are managed through a combination of approaches and concepts for the benefit of human communities and natural resources. Land management plans guide sustainable, integrated resource management of the resources within the plan area in the context of the*

broader landscape, giving due consideration to the relative values of the various resources in particular areas."[5]

The NFMA requires that a Forest Plan adhere to specific requirements.[6] The ARR must adopt the Forest Service planning regulations; otherwise, and only if permissible by the NFMA, the agency must promulgate special rules for the development "permissions" that would be granted by the ARR.

B. <u>Scope and Applicability</u>

DEIS: The DEIS on page 1-2 states that, "*Roadless rules are narrowly focused prohibitions and exceptions established by the Secretary concerning whether and how timber harvest and road construction/ reconstruction may be allowed within specifically designated roadless areas. The alternatives evaluated in this DEIS focus on the particular prohibitions and exceptions. General guidance considering other discretionary aspects of management of the Tongass is better addressed through forest planning. Forest Plans are periodically revised and provide greater flexibility to adapt as the Forest Service gains greater understanding and/or circumstances change on the ground.*"

Comment: This characterization of the proposed ARR does not clearly disclose the development aspects of the proposed rule and should be amended to embed a statement such as, *"Previously, Roadless Areas have been designated to protect the Roadless Area Character of areas by establishing protective prohibitions with narrowly focused exemptions. However, the alternatives developed in the Alaska Roadless Rule DEIS identify both prohibitions as well as permissions to develop lands for such uses as timber production and road construction."*

C. <u>Purpose and Need</u>

DEIS: The DEIS on page 1-4 states that, "*In response to the State of Alaska's petition for rulemaking, the Forest Service and State of Alaska agree the controversy surrounding the management of Tongass roadless areas may be resolved through state-specific rulemaking. A long-term, durable approach to roadless area management is desired that accommodates the unique biological, social, and economic situation found in and around the Tongass. The Tongass is unique from other national forests with respect to size, percentage of IRAs, amount of NFS lands and subsequent dependency of 32 communities on federal lands, and unique Alaska and Tongass-specific statutory considerations (e.g., Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act, Tongass Timber Reform Act)… The USDA and Forest Service believe the 2001 Roadless Rule prohibitions on timber harvest and road construction/reconstruction can be adjusted for the Tongass in a manner that meaningfully addresses local economic and development concerns and roadless area conservation needs.*"

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[5] 36 CFR 219.1(a) and (b)
[6] 16 U.S.C. 1604(f), (g), and (k)

Comment: The scope of the Alaska Roadless Area EIS includes not only protections, but also permissions to develop Roadless Areas. Providing for timber harvest flexibility in the ARR expands the scope in this rule beyond previous Roadless Rules. A clear and full statement of purpose and need is critical since it is the foundation for the formulation, evaluation, and comparison of alternatives. The statements of purpose and need for the ARR must be amended to clarify the purpose and need of the regulations for addressing key issues.

The scope of this EIS must include the purposes of Roadless Area Conservation, which should be addressed by adding the following purpose and need statements: (1) "*Roadless areas are important because they are, among other things, important fish and wildlife habitat, semi-primitive or primitive recreation areas, including motorized and non-motorized recreation opportunities, and naturally appearing landscapes. A need exists to provide for the conservation and management of roadless area characteristics*;" and (2) "*The Department and the Forest Service recognize that timber cutting, sale, or removal and road construction/reconstruction have the greatest likelihood of altering and fragmenting landscapes, resulting in immediate, long-term loss of roadless area characteristics*."

D. <u>Key Issues – National Forest Management Act</u>

DEIS: The DEIS on page 1-7 describes that, "*NEPA regulations require the agency to identify and eliminate from detailed study those issues that are not significant or that have been covered by prior environmental review, to narrow the scope of the analysis. Reasons for eliminating issues from detailed study include when the issues are related to the following: … Items addressed by other laws, regulations, or policies*."

Comment: The NFMA is clearly the authority for establishing suitability determinations and for integrated resource planning. The proposed ARR provides for development permissions. Sustainable management of the Alaska Roadless Areas where resource developments are to be approved requires that the rule embrace the Forest Service planning regulations that address modifying plan components.

E. <u>Features Common to Multiple Alternatives</u>

DEIS: The DEIS on page 2-1 states that, *"Except for the timber land suitability determinations described below, none of the alternatives would make any changes to the Forest Plan including the following: Goals and Objectives; Land Use Designations or Management Prescriptions; Forest-wide Standards and Guidelines; Plan Components developed under the 2012 Planning Rule; and/or Projected Timber Sale Quantity (PTSQ), Projected Wood Sale Quantity (PWSQ), and the Young-growth Transition… Activities that are not otherwise prohibited are permissible in roadless areas under all alternatives, including the no-action alternative (2001 Roadless Rule), if not restricted by other law, regulations, and/or policies*."

Comment: The proposed change to the timber suitability decision would have a cascading effect of daylighting management prescription flaws in the Forest Plan. For example, the Forest

Plan fails to establish appropriate Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) desired conditions plan components for roadless areas.[7] The effect of removing the "*not suitable for timber production*" plan component for Roadless Areas would lead to Roaded Modified settings in some alternatives for areas where the plan should have protected unroaded characteristics by establishing more primitive ROS settings. This is a specific resource example for why the proposed timber suitability change must follow amendment or revision processes.

Regulated forest structure conditions maintained by periodic stand tending, forest harvest and regeneration, and associated road construction and reconstruction is incompatible with providing for Primitive, Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized (SPNM), and Semi-Primitive Motorized (SPM) ROS class desired conditions and must not be classified as suitable for timber production. These observations are based on my experience and understanding of the ROS planning framework as demonstrated by coauthoring a ROS Planning Handbook: *Recreation Opportunity Setting as a Management Tool Technical Guide* by Warren Bacon, George Stankey, and Greg Warren.[8]

The Alaska Roadless Area rulemaking EIS should recognize the need to change the Forest Plan roadless areas ROS plan components. The existing Forest Plan should be amended or directed by this rule to establish a Forest Plan standard for roadless areas describing that, "*Resource management actions and allowed uses must be compatible with maintaining or restoring Primitive, Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized, or Semi-Primitive Motorized ROS class settings. Accepted ROS class inconsistencies include activities and uses that are provided for in ANILCA and TTRA. Manage ROS class inconsistencies with the objective of minimizing effects on roadless area values.*" An ARR management prescription should include a timber suitability plan component that states, "*Lands are not suitable for timber production.*"

ROS standard and guidelines are described in Appendix I of the Forest Plan and Desired Conditions are defined on page 7-47 of the 2016 Forest Plan. The describe settings and indicators adequately define ROS settings for the Tongass National Forest and should be adopted for the ARR.

DEIS: The DEIS on page 2-2 states that, "*Alternatives 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 would result in an administrative change to the timber land suitability determinations made in the 2016 Forest Plan. Specifically, lands identified as suitable for timber production that were deemed unsuitable solely due to roadless designation in the Plan would be designated as suitable for timber production. This administrative change would apply to lands removed from the roadless inventory and to lands identified as "Community Priority" or "Timber Priority" in Alternatives 3 and 4, respectively. This change to the Tongass suitability determinations does not preclude future suitability determinations as part of Forest Plan amendment or revision processes*."

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[7] 36 CFR 219.10 (b)(1)(i), FSH 1909.12 23.23a(2)
[8] http://nstrail.org/carrying_capacity/ros_tool_1986.pdf

Comment: Timber suitability and where it applies is a plan component that cannot be changed by an administrative decision unless the change is in accordance with a law or regulations that are consistent with the requirements of the NFMA for granting development permissions. Since the proposed action purpose is to allow for the development of roadless areas vs. describing regulations to avoid degradation of these areas, the proposed rule is subject to NFMA planning requirements for preparing a Forest Plan amendment or through revision processes.

The 2016 Forest Plan FEIS timber suitability decisions and Roadless Areas are not clearly associated. The ROD states or describes decisions that are not solely related to a *not suitable for timber production* plan component, which would continue to be in effect even if the directed administrative change to modify the timber suitability plan component was enacted. Examples of other related decisions include:

- The decision, *"allows young-growth harvest in all three phases of the 2008 timber sale program adaptive management strategy, but only outside of roadless areas identified in the 2001 Roadless Rule…*
- *The Selected Alternative allows old-growth harvest only within that portion of the Tongass included in Phase 1 of the timber sale program adaptive management strategy adopted by the Regional Forester as part of the Record of Decision for the 2008 Tongass Forest Plan Amendment. That strategy was aimed at reducing impacts to high-value roadless areas of the Tongass, based on a more recent inventory of roadless areas than that used in development of the 2001 Roadless Rule, including some areas not included in the 2001 Roadless Rule…*
- *No old-growth or young-growth harvest will occur in roadless areas identified in the 2001 Roadless Rule….*"

These decisions describe a location for where the direction applies (e.g., outside of 2001 roadless areas) that cannot be nullified by an administrative change. Changing these timber harvest location decisions would require a plan amendment or be addressed through revision following EIS processes.

The timber suitability component of the proposed rule goes beyond redacting the not suitable for timber production decision for roadless areas, but adds new direction for lands suitability stating that, "*This administrative change would apply to lands… identified as "Community Priority" or "Timber Priority" in Alternatives 3 and 4.*" If for no other reason, Alternatives 3 and 4 must be dropped from further consideration in this Alaska Roadless Area rulemaking process, since assignment of desired conditions and lands suitability is clearly outside of the scope of what is allowed by an administrative change to the Forest Plan.

Any further consideration of mandating that Alaska Roadless Areas be managed for timber production should be addressed through the 36 CFR 219 rulemaking processes and not 36 CFR 294 Special Area regulations. Specifically, 36 CFR 219.11—*timber requirements based on*

the NFMA—should be supplemented to include specific direction for Alaska Roadless Areas.

DEIS—Definitions: The DEIS on page 2-2 define Alaska Roadless Areas as, "*Lands within the Tongass National Forest designated pursuant to this subpart and identified in a set of maps maintained by the national headquarters office of the Forest Service*." The Glossary on page 7-22 defines roadless area as, "*See Inventoried roadless area (IRA) definition. Within this document, roadless areas may also be used to describe areas proposed to be designated as Alaska Roadless Areas.*" On page 7-11 inventoried roadless area (IRA) is defined as, "*Areas identified in a set of inventoried roadless area maps, contained in Forest Service Roadless Area Conservation, Final Environmental Impact Statement, Volume 2, dated November 2000, which are held at the National headquarters office of the Forest Service, or any subsequent update or revision of those maps. (36 CFR 294.11)*."

Comment: The Forest Service Roadless Area Conservation, Final Environmental Impact Statement, Volume 1, dated November 2000, states that, "*An inventoried roadless area is described as, "Undeveloped areas typically exceeding 5,000 acres that met the minimum criteria for wilderness consideration under the Wilderness Act and that were inventoried during the Forest Service's Roadless Area Review and Evaluation (RARE II) process, subsequent assessments, or forest planning*." The 2016 Forest Plan defines an inventoried roadless area as, "*An undeveloped area typically exceeding 5,000 acres that meets the minimum criteria for Wilderness consideration under the Wilderness Act… Areas identified in a set of inventoried roadless area maps, contained in Forest Service Roadless Area Conservation, Final Environmental Impact Statement, Volume 2, dated November 2000, which are held at the National headquarters office of the Forest Service, or any subsequent update or revision of those maps. (36 CFR 294.11)*."

To be consistent with the expectations of Special Areas,[9] any area designated as an Alaska Roadless Area should exhibit the characteristics of being undeveloped and be managed to provide for Primitive, Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized, or Semi-Primitive Motorized (with no roads) ROS setting desired conditions.

DEIS: The DEIS on page 2-3 describes Roadless Area Characteristics. Remoteness is defined as, "*Roadless areas provide economic opportunity due to rich primitive, semi-primitive motorized, and semi-primitive non-motorized classes of dispersed recreation.*"

Comment: The "remoteness" attribute in this list should be replaced with desired Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) descriptions. The FEIS should describe that, "*Primitive, semi-primitive non-motorized, and semi-primitive motorized Recreation Opportunity Spectrum class settings have a natural or natural-appearing environment. These ROS settings are not suitable for timber production.*"

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[9] 36 CFR 294

DEIS: The DEIS beginning on page 2-4 describes Alaska Roadless Area Land Management Categories and states that, "*Alternatives 2, 3, 4, and 5 provide for a variety of management approaches within roadless areas through ARA land management categories which include Land Use Designation (LUD) II Priority, Watershed Priority, Roadless Priority, Community Priority, and Timber Priority. The management categories prohibit timber harvest, road construction, and road reconstruction with a range of exceptions that are applied differentially across the alternatives. A brief description of each management category follows*…." The categories are: LUD II Priority (Alternatives 2, 4, and 5), Watershed Priority (Alternatives 2 and 3), Roadless Priority (Alternatives 2, 3, 4, and 5), Community Priority (Alternative 3), and Timber Priority (Alternative 4).

Comment: I find no compelling reason to collapse LUD categories from those that are found in the Forest Plan. An ARR should use the same LUD categories that are found in the Forest Plan to allow for better integration of the rule direction and plan components.

DEIS: The DEIS further describes in this section that, "*Notably, Alternative 3 proposes to remove all LUD II areas from roadless designation rather than designating LUD II lands into an ARA. LUD II areas under Alternative 3 would continue to be managed as directed by their congressional designations… In all cases, activities within Community Priority ARAs would have to be consistent with the underlying Forest Plan LUD requirements. This is to say that even if a timber harvest, road building, or other activity would be permissible under the Alaska Roadless Rule, it may not be allowable because of Forest Plan requirements specific to the LUD that applies to the area."*

Comment: One of the strongest combinations of protecting National Forest System lands from degradation is overlapping special area designations. Overlapping designations within unroaded areas would help ensure National Forest System lands are protected for current and future generations by protecting roadless area, watershed priorities, LUD II lands, and more primitive ROS setting values. These overlapping designations provide a complimentary framework for a high-level of protection from overuse and development of federal lands. The LUD II Priority lands; Watershed Priority; Roadless Priority LUDs; and Primitive, SPNM, and SPM ROS settings should be overlaid and the most restrictive provisions would control.

It is confusing and inappropriate to include the Timber Priority LUD within the ARR boundary. Timber production is incompatible with protecting roadless area values. Alternative 4 should describe exempting/excluding 749,000 acres of the Timber Production Priority LUD land from the ARR or preferably be eliminated from further consideration in this rulemaking process.

DEIS: The DEIS on page 2-5 states that, "*As with all roadless rule provisions, the new prohibition would supersede the current and future forest plans, with the plan continuing to provide management direction in other regards*."

Comment: The new rule permissions were not developed following NFMA processes and should be discarded. There is no demonstrated urgent need for the ARR. Rulemaking and

Forest Plan revision should occur as parallel processes to develop integrated management direction for the Tongass National Forest in a revised Forest Plan and associated ARR.

F. <u>Alternatives Considered in Detail</u>

DEIS: The DEIS on page 2-9 states that, "*Based on information obtained during scoping, Cooperating Agency input, and consultation with Alaska Native tribes, the Forest Service developed six alternatives for detailed analysis, including the no action and proposed action alternatives.*"

Comment: The 2016 Tongass Forest Plan Amendment failed to protect roadless area values where the plan established "Development LUDs" within roadless areas. For example, the Timber Production LUD management prescription is generally managed for a Roaded Modified ROS setting, which is inconsistent with protecting Roadless Area Characteristics. Removing roadless area protections provided by the "not suitable for timber production" plan component would lead to actions that substantially degrade Tongass National Forest unroaded area values.

<u>Proposed New Alternative</u>: A principle concern that is not addressed in the presented alternatives is establishing additional plan components to protect roadless area values. A reasonable alternative to be considered in detail is to modify the Tongass Forest Plan to remove "Development LUDs" designations from roadless areas. In this new alternative, and as part of the rule decisions, the Development LUD areas would be reassigned to Natural Setting LUDs. In addition, Natural Setting LUDs would establish an ARR standard stating that the Alaska Roadless Area must be managed for a Primitive, Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized, or Semi-Primitive Motorized ROS setting.

G. <u>Development Alternatives</u>

DEIS: The DEIS on page 2-12 thru 2-17 describes:

- Alternative 2 changes, "*a net of 18,000 old-growth acres and 10,000 young-growth acres previously identified as unsuitable timber lands would become suitable timber lands*."
- Alternative 3, "*converts a net of 76,000 old-growth acres and 14,000 young-growth acres, previously identified as unsuitable timber lands, to suitable timber lands*."
- *Alternative 4 converts a net of 158,000 old-growth acres and 15,000 young-growth acres previously identified as unsuitable timber lands to suitable timber lands.*
- *Alternative 5 also converts a net 165,000 old-growth acres and 17,000 young-growth acres previously identified as unsuitable timber lands to suitable timber lands.*
- *Alternative 6 converts a net total of 165,000 old-growth acres and 20,000 young-growth acres previously identified as unsuitable timber lands to suitable timber lands and includes an administrative correction and modification provision for the Chugach National Forest only*."

Comment: The regulations for each alternative should restate the information that is summarized in Table 3.1-2.

Table 3.1-2
Roadless Areas by Alternative and Management Category

Roadless Category (acres)	Alternative 1 No Action	2 Roaded Roadless	3 Logical Extension	4 Partial Dev. LUDs[1]	5 All Dev. LUDs	6 Full Exemption
Total Roadless Area	9,200,000	9,220,000	8,103,000	8,857,000	6,905,000	0
ARA Management Categories						
LUD II Priority	N/A	856,000	0	856,000	828,000	0
Watershed Priority	N/A	3,250,000	3,208,000	0	0	0
Roadless Priority	N/A	5,114,000	4,653,000	7,252,000	6,078,000	0
Community Priority	N/A	0	241,000	0	0	0
Timber Priority	N/A	0	0	749,000	0	0
Change in Roadless Area Acres						
Roadless Area Removed	0	113,000	1,202,000	375,000	2,298,000	9,200,000
Roadless Area Added	0	133,000	105,000	32,000	3,000	0
Net Change	0	20,000	-1,098,000	-343,000	-2,295,000	-9,200,000
Old-Growth Acres Suitable for Harvest						
Total Acres	230,000	247,000	305,000	388,000	395,000	395,000
Net Change	0	18,000	76,000	158,000	165,000	165,000

N/A = not applicable
[1] Includes Timber Production and Modified Landscape LUDs, but not Scenic Viewshed.

The DEIS ARA management category prescriptions, including the proposed changes to suitable timber lands and old growth harvest acres, must be addressed through Forest Plan amendment or revision processes if the change is to be consistent with the NFMA and forest planning regulations. To be clear, these changes cannot be deemed as administrative in nature based on this arbitrary ARR rulemaking process.

Reviewing Officer Beth Pendleton in response to Forest Plan objections stated that, "*Objectors express concerns about the relationship between the status of the Roadless Rule and the activities allowed under the Selected Alternative. The IRAs identified in the maps as depicted in the 2000 Roadless Area Conservation Rule EIS, Volume 2, are identified as lands not suitable for timber production under the Selected Alternative [FEIS, p. 2-41]. Therefore, no timber harvest or associated road construction or reconstruction would occur in these IRAs regardless of the status of the Roadless Rule… If the status of the Roadless Rule were to change with regard to its applicability to the Tongass National Forest, a forest plan amendment would be necessary if the Forest decided to pursue modifications to the suitable timber base to include IRAs….*"

H. <u>Forest Products Industry Economic Opportunities</u>

DEIS: The DEIS beginning on page 2-20 describes that, "*None of the action alternatives would result in changes to the PTSQ and the timber objectives of the Forest Plan would continue to require transitioning to primarily young-growth harvest… However, the alternatives do vary in terms of the amount and location of acres suitable for timber production. Greater acreage of suitable land would provide greater flexibility in the selection of future timber sale areas, as well as the potential for more flexibility in sale design, depending on the planning areas selected… Under Alternative 1, about 230,000 acres of old growth… are currently suitable for timber*

production… For old growth, however, the suitable acreage increase would range from 7 percent for Alternative 2 to 72 percent for Alternatives 5 and 6. For Alternatives 3 and 4 the increase would be 33 percent and 69 percent, respectively…."

Comment: The ARR DEIS states that, "*alternatives do vary in terms of the amount and location of acres suitable for timber production*." Establishing suitability of lands is a requirement of the NFMA as implemented through planning regulations,[10] which is outside of the scope of developing a Special Area protection rule. Suitability determinations must occur through Forest Plan amendment or revision processes.

I. <u>Alaska Roadless Area Land Management Categories</u>

DEIS: The DEIS on page 3-4 describes that, "*Alternatives 2, 3, 4, and 5 provide for a variety of management approaches within roadless areas through ARA land management categories which include Land Use Designation (LUD) II Priority, Watershed Priority, Roadless Priority, Community Priority, and Timber Priority. The management categories prohibit timber harvest, road construction, and road reconstruction with a range of exceptions that are applied differentially across the alternatives….*"

Comment: Land use allocations that allow for timber production and road building in roadless areas must be established following NFMA amendment or revision processes. It is misleading to describe that the development permissions are exceptions to the roadless rule. For example, the Timber Priority area as presented in Alternative 4 is not a narrowly focused exception to roadless area desired conditions.

DEIS: The DEIS on page 3-12 describes that: "*Altogether, these special LUDs cover 273,000 acres within 2001 roadless areas (Alternative 1). Under Alternative 2, these acres would actually increase slightly to 275,000 acres, and they would be little changed under Alternatives 3, 4, and 5 at 270,000 acres, 268,000 acres, and 272,000 acres, respectively. However, under Alternative 6, the roadless acreage within these special LUDs would decrease to zero*."

Comment: This section should clearly state that the designated Alaska Roadless Areas and LUD II Priority lands are not suitable for timber production, since timber production and road construction is inconsistent with Roadless Area and LUD II desired conditions. The *Change to Timber Land Suitability* acres must be corrected to reflect that timber production will not occur in Alaska Roadless Areas.

J. <u>Environmental Consequences – Forest Products</u>

DEIS: The DEIS beginning on page 3-43 describes that, "*This DEIS provides an assessment of the potential impacts that may result from the alternatives considered for a proposed Alaska Roadless Rule… Overall timber harvest levels and composition (old-growth versus young-*

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[10] 16 U.S.C. 1604(g),

growth) are expected to remain unaffected by the final rule. Timber program output levels are expected to remain constant and involve a similar number of acres under all alternatives, varying only by the location of timber harvest."

Comment: I disagree with the description that, "*Overall timber harvest levels and composition (old-growth versus young-growth) are expected to remain unaffected by the final rule*." Table 2-11 describes that timber suitable old growth would change from 230,000 to 395,000 acres in development focus alternatives, which would result in substantially more habitat fragmentation, watershed degradation, and other resource impacts across broad landscapes.

K. <u>Environmental Consequences – Recreation Opportunity Spectrum</u>

DEIS: The DEIS on page 3-167 thru 171 describes that, "*Recreational visitors with an expectation of a remote experience would be most affected by timber production in Primitive, SPNM, and SPM settings… Changes in roadless area designations have the potential to affect the spatial distribution of future development activities, especially timber harvest… Alternatives 4 to 6 would result in relatively large increases in suitable old-growth acres available for harvest in SPNM ROS settings… Timber harvest and associated road construction in Primitive and Semi-Primitive (SPNM and SPM) ROS settings has the potential to affect recreation activities and users dependent on remote, natural settings with low to no evidence of human use. Harvest in these settings could affect the quality of the recreation experience and displace visitors to other parts of the Forest… Impacts are likely to be most acute in Primitive and Semi-Primitive areas where recreation use is already at or near capacity, including areas where competition already exists between resident recreationists, independent visitors, and commercial outfitter/guide operations…."*

Comment: Planning regulations require that lands identified as suitable for timber production be consistent with ROS desired conditions and aligned with mapped ROS class boundaries. Similar to a Management Area/LUD, ROS classes is a land area identified within the planning area that has the same set of ROS plan components. To meet the analysis requirements of using the Best Available Scientific Information and to ensure CEQ requirements for Methodology and Scientific Accuracy, ROS plan components must include not only desired conditions, but also supporting standards, guidelines, and suitability of land determinations that define and protect the established ROS class conditions.

As previously discussed, the 2016 Forest Plan Amendment did not establish compatible Roadless Area ROS class settings for roadless areas, but instead relied solely on those lands being protected by a suitability of lands plan component that established that roadless areas were not suitable for timber production. Suitability of lands is a plan component that identify areas of land as suitable or not suitable for specific uses is based on the desired conditions. Appropriate ROS class settings for Roadless Areas would be Primitive, Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized, and Semi-Primitive Motorized with allowance for limited inconsistencies. These ROS classes are not suitable for timber production, since timber production is inconsistent with the desired

conditions for these ROS settings. The Forest Plan should have established ROS settings that would have protected unroaded areas from being subject to the impacts that are described in this section of the DEIS.

The proposed changes to suitable timber lands for each of these alternatives must be addressed through Forest Plan amendment or revision processes if the change is to be consistent with the NFMA planning regulations. To be clear, changes to suitability, desired conditions, and objectives cannot be deemed as administrative changes to the Forest Plan.

L. <u>Alaska Roadless Areas Rule Regulatory Language</u>

DEIS: The DEIS on page G-1 states that: "§ *294.10 Purpose. The purpose of this subpart is to provide, within the context of multiple use management, lasting protection for inventoried roadless areas within the National Forest System*."

Comment: The purpose of the 2001 Roadless Rule is narrowly focused on the protection of roadless areas within the National Forest System.

DEIS: The DEIS on pages G-7, G-23, and G-30 states for Alternatives 2, 4 and 5, *"§ 294.50 Purpose. The purpose of this subpart is to provide, in the context of multiple-use management, State-specific direction for the conservation of roadless areas for the Tongass National Forest while providing for local concerns for economic and community development. This subpart sets forth the procedures for management of Alaska Roadless Areas.*"

The purpose of the Tongass Forest Plan is described as, "*This Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan) guides all-natural resource management activities and establishes management direction for the Tongass National Forest. It describes resource management practices, levels of resource production and management, and the availability and suitability of lands for different kinds of resource management… This Forest Plan embodies the provisions of the National Forest Management Act, the implementing regulations, and other guiding documents. The Forestwide desired conditions and multiple-use goals and objectives (Chapter 2), Land Use Designation Standards and Guidelines (Chapter 3), Forest-wide Standards and Guidelines (Chapter 4), and Plan Content1 Developed Under the 2012 Planning Rule (Chapter 5) constitute a statement of the Forest Plan's management direction"* (Forest Plan, page 1-1).

Comment: The purpose of the Alaska Roadless Rule is beyond the scope of the protection of the special areas that are found on the Tongass and Chugach National Forests. The proposed action and alternatives clearly align with a Forest Plan purpose of providing for the protecting and development of resources through integrated planning that result in one plan. Specifically, changes to desired conditions and plan components (e.g., timber suitability) must be addressed through Forest Plan amendment or revision processes to be valid.

DEIS: The DEIS on pages G-8, G-16, G-24, and G-32 describes for Alternatives 2 and 4 that, *"§294.53 Road construction and reconstruction in Alaska Roadless Areas… (b) LUD II Priority. Notwithstanding the prohibition in paragraph (a) of this section, a road may be*

constructed or reconstructed in an Alaska Roadless Area designated as LUD II Priority…" Alternative 3 describes road construction for Community Priorities.

Comment: LUD II Priority and Roadless Priority allocations should not be separate. Instead, they should be overlaid where the most restrictive road construction provision prevails.

DEIS: The DEIS on pages G-10, G-18, G-26, G-34, describe for Alternatives 2, 3, 4, and 5 that, "*Timber harvest is needed for one of the following purposes and will maintain or improve one or more of the roadless area characteristics: (i) To maintain, restore, or improve fish and wildlife habitat….*"

Comment: Providing for Roadless Area Characteristics does not need timber harvests to maintain, restore, or improve fish and wildlife habitat. Since 1994, the State of Alaska has been managing wildlife in accordance with the state's Intensive Management principles laid out in the Alaska Code (ALASKA STAT. § 16.05.255). The State of Alaska wildlife management mandates are at odds with maintaining desired ecosystem characteristics in roadless areas. This part should be deleted, since the State could influence wildlife habitat management proposals which has happened with this ARR proposal.

DEIS: 294.56 Scope and Applicability – The DEIS at G-11, G-19, G-27, and G-35 describe that: (d) "*The provisions set forth in this subpart shall take precedence over any inconsistent land management plan component of the Tongass Land Management Plan. Land management plan components that are not inconsistent with this subpart will continue to provide guidance for projects and activities within Alaska Roadless Areas. This subpart does not compel the amendment or revision of any land management plan, but the Tongass Forest Supervisor shall issue a ministerial Notice of Administrative Change pursuant to 36 CFR 219.13(c) identifying plan changes made in conformance with the regulatory requirements of this subpart, including rescission of the portion of the December 9, 2016, Record of Decision concerning suitable timber lands attributed to implementation of the January 12, 2001, Roadless Area Conservation Rule (66 FR 3244)*"

Comment 294.56 Part (d)—All Action Alternatives: The ARR does not clearly described those parts of the Forest Plan that are "not inconsistent" with the proposed rule and alternatives. The direction fails to disclose effects that are due to the unknown Forest Plan management direction that would be discarded by the rule, which does not allow for informed comments on the proposed change.

This part describes that, "*the Tongass Forest Supervisor shall issue a ministerial Notice of Administrative Change….*" However, the Secretary authority for establishing a rule that assigns Forest Plan suitability determinations is the NFMA. The Secretary does not have the authority through this Special Area rulemaking process to direct that an administrative change be made to Forest Plan desired conditions and suitability plan components that were approved in the 2016

Forest Plan FEIS ROD. Instead, Planning Rule amendment or revision processes must be followed to make any change to plan components.[11]

The Federal Register Notice of Final Planning Directives (80 FR 6683) state that, "*FSM 1920 and FSH 1909.12 (planning directives) provide policy direction, objectives, instructions, and guidance for Forest Service Line Officers and primary staff to plan and execute the process of developing, revising, amending, and making administrative changes to land management plans to provide for the sustainability of ecosystems and resources; meet the need for forest restoration and conservation, watershed protection, and species diversity and conservation; and assist the Agency in providing a sustainable flow of benefits, including economic benefits, services, and uses of NFS lands. The 2012 Planning Rule and the FSM 1920 and FSH 19092.12 together provide requirements and guidance for the Agency in land management planning pursuant to the National Forest Management Act."*

The Planning Rule Federal Register Notice, in response to comments, describe that, "*Plan components are the plan's desired conditions, objectives, standards, guidelines, suitability of areas, or goals described in § 219.7. An amendment is required if a change, other than correction of a clerical error or a change needed to conform to new statutory or regulatory requirements, needs to be applied to any of these plan components… Administrative changes are made to correct clerical errors to plan components, to alter content in the plan other than the plan components, or to achieve conformance of the plan to new statutory or regulatory requirements. A clerical error is an error of the presentation of material in the plan such as phrasing, grammar, typographic errors, or minor errors in data or mapping that were appropriately evaluated in the development of the plan, plan revision, or plan amendment. An administrative change could not otherwise be used to change plan components or the location in the plan area where plan components apply, except to conform the plan to new statutory or regulatory requirements."*

The ARR proposed action and alternatives were developed following processes that are inconsistent with the requirements of the NFMA; and therefore, cannot establish management direction that would supplant the amendment and revision requirements of the planning rule (36 CFR 219).

DEIS: 294.56 Scope and Applicability – The DEIS describes that: (e) "*The prohibitions and permissions set forth in this subpart are not subject to reconsideration, revision, or rescission in subsequent project decisions or land and resource management plan amendments or revisions undertaken pursuant to 36 CFR part 219*."

Comment 294.56 Part (e): The 2012 Forest Service planning regulations were promulgated under the principles of the Multiple-Use Sustained-Yield Act of 1960.[12] Planning regulation

[11] 36 CFR 219.13(a); FSH 1909.12 part 21.3
[12] 16 U.S.C. 1604(g)

describes, "*Purpose and applicability. (a) This subpart sets out the planning requirements for developing, amending, and revising land management plans for units of the National Forest System (NFS), as required by the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974, as amended by the National Forest Management Act of 1976 (16 U.S.C. 1600 et seq.) (NFMA). This subpart also sets out the requirements for plan components and other content in land management plans. This part is applicable to all units of the NFS as defined by 16 U.S.C. 1609 or subsequent statute*."[13]

Unlike the 2001 Roadless Rule clauses that addressed "prohibitions and restrictions," this proposed substantive rule grants "permissions" that are not "*subject to reconsideration, revision, or rescission in subsequent project decisions or land and resource management plan amendments or revisions undertaken pursuant to 36 CFR part 219*." There is no authority to grant "permissions" for changing desired conditions and timber suitability determinations and locations that are apart from the requirements of the NFMA amendment and revision processes.

IV. Review and Recommendation

The Alaska Roadless Rule (ARR) proposes to grant timber production and road development permissions[14] and to rescind the 2016 Forest Plan FEIS timber suitability decision for Roadless Areas. The draft ARR declares that a timber suitability modification to the Forest Plan would be a mere administrative change. However, Department planning regulations require that such permissions be addressed through amendment[15] or revision[16] processes. As proposed, the ARR would not legally modify the Forest Plan roadless area timber harvest decisions by simply declaring that these areas are no longer *not suitable for timber production*. The proposed rule was prepared following processes that are inconsistent with the requirements of the NFMA.[17] The proposed rule permissions and processes do not result in one integrated Forest Plan as required by NFMA.[18]

I recommend that the Secretary withdraw the Alaska Roadless Area proposed rule and EIS. Increasing the timber management program flexibility is not a compelling reason for expending resources to prepare an ARR, especially since the DEIS describes similar outcomes for each alternative. If modifying the Roadless Rule continues to be an interest, the Forest Service should revise the Tongass Forest Plan and the Department should establish an Alaska Roadless Rule as parallel and coordinated processes. This holistic approach to planning may result in a sustainable solution to address the management of Roadless Areas on the Tongass National Forest.

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[13] 36 CFR 219.1
[14] 36 CFR 294.56
[15] 36 CFR 219.13(a)
[16] 36 CFR 219.7(a)
[17] 16 U.S.C. 1604 parts (a), (c), (f), (g) and (k).
[18] 16 U.S.C 1604(f)(1)

In recent congressional testimony, retired Chief Mike Dombeck describes that, "*The Roadless Rule, finalized in 2001, ended the most damaging and expensive threats to those roadless areas. But carefully designed exceptions allow for some new road construction on a case-by-case basis, where that is in the public interest. Roads are permitted for firefighting, forest health, energy development and access to private inholdings, for instance, as well as public thoroughfares between communities. For example, on the Tongass National Forest alone, all 58 requests for entry into roadless areas since the Rule has been in place have been granted. These include roads for mining projects, hydropower and intertie projects, a geothermal lease, a road realignment, road reconstruction, and U.S. Coast Guard and Alaska Army National Guard projects, among others. Most projects are approved within a month, and that time is expected to become even shorter since authority to approve requests was delegated to the regional foresters in October 2018….*

The Tongass is also one of the last remaining intact temperate rainforests in the world and a globally significant storehouse of carbon. According to Forest Service estimates, Tongass trees contain 650 million tons of carbon, which is equivalent to 2.4 billion tons of CO2. This is nearly half (45%) of the total carbon emissions for the entire U.S. in 2017…

For the Tongass, where two-thirds of the high-volume timber stands have already been logged at an immense social and economic cost, the Forest Service should focus on addressing the $100 million backlog of watershed restoration needs and the $68 million road maintenance backlog…

The 2001 Roadless Rule in my view is conservative public policy. It maintains the status quo, keeps options open for the future, and saves taxpayer money. The time and money spent attempting to roll back roadless area protections on the Tongass or any of the National Forests is a big step backwards to the era of gridlock and costly litigation."

Recommendation: After considering the information in the DEIS and the history of timber management and road construction and maintenance on the Tongass National Forest, I recommend that the Secretary select the **No Action** alternative.

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Jan
Last name: Warren
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Jan Warren and I live in Walnut Creek, 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, Jan Warren

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Karen
Last name: Warren
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Karen Warren and I live in Sunnyvale, 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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Karen Warren

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Megan
Last name: Warren
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Megan Warren and I live in Bloomington, Illinois.

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, Megan Warren

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/5/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Patrick
Last name: Warren
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): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Rev
Last name: Warren
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, Rev Warren

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Rev
Last name: Warren
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, Rev Warren

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Richard
Last name: Warren
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Richard Warren and I live in Halifax, Massachusetts.

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, Richard Warren

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/10/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Story
Last name: Warren
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
As someone who has traveled and spent money specifically to recreate in the Tongass National Forest, and 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, fishing, and wildlife watching.
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 wildlife, including mountain goats, black-tailed deer, wolves, 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): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Susan
Last name: Warren
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, Susan Warren

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/20/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: William
Last name: Warren-Aliff
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Protecting our American Wilderness

To the office of the USDA,

America has for over a century set an example of environmental conservation for our wild spaces. Roosevelt created the USFS in 1901. We created the Wild and Scenic River Act in 1968. The Endangered Species Act in 1973 and the Shore Protection Act in 1988. We protected national monuments in the West when miners wanted to enter and we protected beaches when pollution left fish dead on the sand. We've saved these places because they are the last of their kind; genuine slices of the god-given earth as it was and has been for tens of thousands of years.

If we are to be proud of our achievements, we can't let them be done in vain. Whatever decision is made on Tongass forest, if we were to privatize it, we would be failing in our duty to uphold our conservationist traditions. Privitization would lead to deforestation and mining for the sake of a short-term monetary gain, which would be an admission that America is no longer capable of protecting its sacred wilderness. This would be a stain on our conservationist legacy and a betrayal of our long-standing principles.

Please consider the future of the land in this decision. Alaska houses one of the last slices of the American wilderness- one of the last living artifacts of our origin. Let's do our duty to keep it that way.

Thank you for your consideration,

William Warren-Aliff

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/10/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: DEBRA
Last name: WARRENS
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is DEBRA WARRENS and I live in Waterloo, Iowa.

We have to ADVOCATE for our ENVIRONMENT and all living ANIMALS that depend on it for their SURVIVAL!

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, DEBRA WARRENS

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Sharon
Last name: Warrick
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.

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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, Sharon Warrick

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 1/1/0001 12:00:00 AM
First name: Justin
Last name: Warringer
Organization:
Title:
Comments:

Dear Secretary Perdue,

I live and work on the lands and waters of the Tongass National Forest. The health of the Tongass National Forest is critical to sustaining my way of life in this rugged region. From hunting and fishing, to hiking and camping, to our tourism and commercial fishing-based economies, we rely on the intact habitat that the roadless areas of the Tongass contain. That is why it is important to me that the 2001 Roadless Rule remain in place on the Tongass National Forest. A no-action alternative is the best option for Southeast Alaska.

Prioritizing one antiquated industry over private sectors is bad business, and bad for Southeast Alaska. I support the Tongass Transition and I would like the Forest Service to continue phasing out old growth clearcutting. Please prioritize conservation of the T77 and TNC conservation priority areas in any new Alaska Roadless Rule. This forest is a salmon forest, and the Forest Service should focus on restoring degraded watersheds and fish streams.

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 1/1/0001 12:00:00 AM
First name: Justin
Last name: Warringer
Organization:
Title:
Comments:

Dear Secretary Perdue,

I live and work on the lands and waters of the Tongass National Forest. The health of the Tongass National Forest is critical to sustaining my way of life in this rugged region. From hunting and fishing, to hiking and camping, to our tourism and commercial fishing-based economies, we rely on the intact habitat that the roadless areas of the Tongass contain. That is why it is important to me that the 2001 Roadless Rule remain in place on the Tongass National Forest. A no-action alternative is the best option for Southeast Alaska.

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Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Justin
Last name: Warringer
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC1112

Dear Secretary Perdue,

I live and work on the lands and waters of the Tongass National Forest. The health of the Tongass National Forest is critical to sustaining my way of life in this rugged region. From hunting and fishing, to hiking and camping, to our tourism and commercial fishing-based economies, we rely on the intact habitat that the roadless areas of the Tongass contain. That is why it is important to me that the 2001 Roadless Rule remain in place on the Tongass National Forest. A no-action alternative is the best option for Southeast Alaska.

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Last name: Warringer
Organization:
Title:
Comments:

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Last name: Warringer
Organization:
Title:
Comments:

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Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Janice
Last name: Warrington
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Janice Warrington and I live in Venice, Florida.

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, Janice Warrington

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/11/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: jason
Last name: warrington
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is jason warrington and I live in Oak Lawn, Illinois.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, jason warrington

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Susan
Last name: Warrow
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Susan Warrow and I live in Huntington Woods, Michigan.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Susan Warrow

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/17/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: david
Last name: warshauer
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is david warshauer and I live in Los Angeles, California.

Please stop disregarding the health of our planet. Please place the environment in higher regard.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, david warshauer

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Andrew
Last name: Warshaw
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Andrew Warshaw and I live in Brooklyn, New York.

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, Andrew Warshaw

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Steve
Last name: Warshawsky
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, Steve Warshawsky

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Tom
Last name: Warsinske
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.

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Regards, Tom Warsinske

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Scott
Last name: Warwick
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Scott Warwick and I live in Altadena, California.

Living in Los Angeles, prior to strict air pollution emissions laws, meant an almost constant pain in the lungs, eyes and a smoggy skyline. We can't go back!!

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, Scott Warwick

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Jean
Last name: was
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Jean was and I live in Louisville, Kentucky.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Jean was

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/18/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Ann
Last name: Wasgatt
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Comments to oppose modification to the Roadless Rule

Dear U.S. Forest Service,

The Roadless Rule helps protect old-growth habitat for birds like the Prince of Wales Spruce Grouse and Northern Goshawk, as well as for mammals like wolves and deer. Opening roadless areas to more logging and roads will fragment the forest and eliminate more of the big old trees that these animals rely on.

Yet, all of the action alternatives in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement allow more roadbuilding and logging across the Tongass National Forest. Logging roads and timber operations cost tens of millions of taxpayer dollars every year, with zero return on investment. Meanwhile, these destructive activities degrade the naturally sustainable wealth of salmon, wildlife watching, and tourism opportunities.

It is time to stop opening more and more acres to the timber industry and instead bolster protections to the old-growth forests and wild areas on the Tongass. I urge you to select the "No Action" Alternative (Alternative 1) and allow the Roadless Rule to remain intact on the Tongass National Forest.

The timber industry in Alaska is no longer profitable. Why spend money ruining the salmon habitat for an industry the simply costs taxpayers? Save the forest roadless rule to protect the salmon fishery. It is profitable! Tourism and hunting also demand good habitat for the wildlife attracting the tourists and hunters.

Sincerely,

Ann Wasgatt

Roseville, CA 95678

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Ann
Last name: Wasgatt
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Ann Wasgatt and I live in Roseville, California.

Why are you trying to destroy one of the major forces fighting carbon dioxide? That is cutting off your nose to spite your face. Sheer stupidity!

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, Ann Wasgatt

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Barbara
Last name: Washburn
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is [Barbara Washburn] and I live in [Wilton, CA].

The forests help mitigate the effects of climate change. We need to protect them every chance we get - we don't need more clear cutting, but sustainable management of existing logged areas.

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.

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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, Barbara Washburn

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Henry
Last name: Washburn
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, Henry Washburn

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Norvell
Last name: Washburn
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.

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Regards, Norvell Washburn

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Norvell
Last name: Washburn
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
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Regards, Norvell Washburn

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Tom
Last name: Washburn
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, Tom Washburn

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/7/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Gary
Last name: Washer
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): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Cherry
Last name: Washington
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, Cherry Washington

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/10/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Chris
Last name: Washington
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Chris Washington and I live in New York, New York.

People over profits. FIRST DO NO HARM.

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, Chris Washington

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Chris
Last name: Washko
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC743

Dear Alaska Roadless Rule Planning Committee,

I live and work on the lands and waters of the Tongass National Forest. From hunting and fishing, to hiking and camping, to our tourism and commercial fishing-based economies, Southeast Alaskans rely on the intact habitat that the roadless areas of the Tongass National Forest contain. *That is why I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule.* [text bolded for emphasis]

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 strongly oppose any efforts to weaken protections for Roadless areas in the Tongass National Forest and the Chugach National Forest.

The Forest Service needs to continue phasing out old-growth clearcutting. Please prioritize conservation of the T77 and TNC conservation priority areas in any new Alaska Roadless Rule. The Forest Service should focus on restoring degraded watershed and fish streams and carbon sequestration.

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Tom
Last name: Wasieleski
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Tom Wasieleski and I live in Oconto, WI. I am writing a comment on the Alaska Roadless Rule DEIS because I am concerned with how the Rule and the proposed full exemption will affect the Tongass National Forest and the Chugach National Forest.

The Tongass is a special and unique place in North America. It is more important than materials for the building industry and mining operations. It's one of the few "wild" places left in North America. It's a natural wonder of beauty. Its home to millions of animals. We are here on this earth for 80 years (if we're lucky). Allowing this eco system to be destroyed for hundreds of years and maybe forever is not the legacy I want. Protect the Tongass!

I urge the Forest Service to select Alternative 1, the no action alternative, for the final decision on the Alaska Roadless Rule. This alternative protects the inventoried roadless areas in Alaska that are full of pristine wilderness and provide important fish and wildlife habitat, and already allows for important community and economic development projects. As an American citizen, I value the Tongass National Forest and the Chugach National Forest for its status as America's best natural solution to climate change and its sequestering of millions of metric tons of carbon and mitigating climate change, its wild salmon populations and the world-class fishing opportunities, its huge swaths of intact ecosystems and all the biodiversity it contains, its status as the largest intact temperate rainforest in the world, the high density of incredible wildlife it contains, to keep public lands wild for future generations, its status as a national and global treasure, the lifestyles of the indigenous communities that the forest supports the recreational opportunities it provides. A full exemption does not protect these priorities, nor does it effectively balance economic development with the countless other benefits provided by roadless areas. I would like the Forest Service to manage roadless areas for low-impact recreation (camping, hiking, hunting, foraging, etc). It is important to me that high-value intact habitat including the T77 watersheds and the TNC conservation priority areas retain their roadless protections in any alternative selected.

The Forest Service is wasting taxpayers' valuable time and money by trying to prop up a failing timber industry in Southeast Alaska. The nonpartisan, independent taxpayer watchdog Taxpayers for Common Sense reported that the Tongass timber program has losses of over $600 million of taxpayers money in the past 20 years. I would rather see my taxpayer dollars used to restore salmon habitat that was hurt by past logging practices, perform restorative actions that support wildlife populations on previously degraded landscapes that support wildlife populations. We need to stop subsidizing the clearcutting of old growth on the Tongass through taxpayer funded roadbuilding. If a full exemption were chosen, it would not create opportunities and would instead prioritize the special interests of one industry over the interests of the entire American public.

The Tongass is Americas homegrown natural solution to climate change. The forest sequesters 8% of the carbon stored in forests throughout the contiguous US states, some 3 billion metric tons of it. We must take action to mitigate and adapt to climate change, and maintaining the Tongass in a roadless state is critical for a sustainable future.

I urge the Forest Service to listen to the voices of the American people and prioritize them over corporate interests. The Forest Service should strengthen public involvement in developing land management policy and focus on broadly supported work rather than allowing special corporate interests to guide policy changes. Attempting to exempt inventoried roadless areas on the Chugach National Forest from the Alaska Roadless

Rule adds further insult to injury, and this proposal has not received any sufficient environmental impact analysis or public input. Choosing a full exemption will not create a long lasting, durable solution for roadless areas in Alaska it will only increase the legal challenges, uncertainty for businesses, and conflict over these forests going forward.

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Alison
Last name: Wasielewski
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Alison Wasielewski and I live in Fairfield, Iowa.

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, Alison Wasielewski

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Nicholas
Last name: Wasierski
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
These are some of the last ancient forests in the world, we have an opportunity today not just to save them but also to answer the question in 15 years "what did we do to save the lungs of this earth." Did we stand by and watch these tree be turned into pulp then into toilet paper or did we stand up for the land and the people who have always occupied that land. When I was a teenager I lived in those forests and hope that when the teenagers of the next generation are here they will also have that forest to live it. Please don't cut old growth forests.

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/21/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Robert
Last name: Wasilewski
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Keep 'Roadless Rule' Protections for the Tongass National Forest

Dear U.S. Forest Service,

I strongly oppose the Forest Service's plan to eliminate "Roadless Rule" protections for the Tongass National Forest, and I urge you to select the "no action" alternative instead.

As you know, the Tongass National Forest, with its more than 9 million acres of roadless areas, is America's wildest remaining national forest. The Tongass is home to a wide range of wildlife, including Alexander Archipelago wolves, grizzly bears, and salmon. It also stores a vast amount of carbon, with its centuries-old trees serving as an effective carbon sink in this time of climate change. Logging would release most of that carbon into the atmosphere while diminishing, if not outright eliminating, the Tongass' ability to continue to remove CO2 from the atmosphere.

Your proposal to open the door to clearcutting and bulldozing is irresponsible and fundamentally threatens the Tongass' value. The Tongass belongs to all Americans, and it should not be sacrificed to the timber industry, which provides a small fraction of the jobs and income in Southeast Alaska compared to tourism and fishing, both of which rely on intact forests to thrive. Saving these last remaining roadless areas is even more important since your agency already has fragmented and logged so much of our national forests, harming wildlife and waters along the way.

Furthermore, I oppose your plan to allow the Forest Service to open any of the five million acres of roadless areas on the Chugach National Forest to bulldozing and clearcutting for logging. This is simply a backdoor repeal of the 2001 Roadless Rule, which protects all roadless lands because of the critical role they play in protecting pure water, secure wildlife habitat, and remote recreation.

Please consider the impacts on our climate and on future generations that repealing the "Roadless Rule" for the Tonagass and Chugach National Forests would have, and please select the "no action" alternative to maintain "Roadless Rule" protections for the Tongass and Chugach National Forests.

Sincerely,

Robert Wasilewski

Wilkes Barre, PA 18702

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/14/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Marcy
Last name: Wasinski
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Marcy Wasinski and I live in Valparaiso, Indiana.

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, Marcy Wasinski

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Christine
Last name: Wasko
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Christine Wasko and I live in Setauket- East Setauket, New York.

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, Christine Wasko

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: David
Last name: Wasley
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, David Wasley

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Pamela
Last name: Wassell
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Pamela Wassell and I live in Erie, Pennsylvania.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Pamela Wassell

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Harriet
Last name: Wasserman
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to urge the Forest Service to pursue Alternative 1, which would maintain the status quo and keep the so-called roadless rule for the the Tongass (and other areas). The rule has been effective in protecting this large, pristine area from mining, logging and other activities that disrupt the salmon spawning grounds, birds and other wildlife and preserves the valuable natural resources for generations to come. The rule has been in effect for over 20 years and there has been no harm to the logging, timber, or mining industries as a consequence of restricting their access to what is known as the Amazon of America. Thus, there is no meaningful reason to loosen the roadless rule for the Tongass, and every reason to preserve the sanctity of this beautiful American forest.

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Linda
Last name: Wasserman
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
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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, Linda Wasserman

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Linda
Last name: Wasserman
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
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Regards, Linda Wasserman

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Linda
Last name: Wasserman
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Linda Wasserman and I live in Tacoma, Washington.

These lands belong to all of us/not specific groups! Trump is trying to take away from America to fill his own pockets and his greedy friends pockets as well!!!

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.

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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, Linda Wasserman

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Bonnie
Last name: Wassmer
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
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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, Bonnie Wassmer

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Jean
Last name: Wassum
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.

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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, Jean Wassum

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/10/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Kathleen
Last name: Waste
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Kathleen Waste and I live in Lyme, New Hampshire.

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, Kathleen Waste

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/5/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Phillip
Last name: Wasz
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): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Jennifer
Last name: Watabayashi
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Jennifer Watabayashi and I live in Waipahu, Hawaii.

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.

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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, Jennifer Watabayashi

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Jennifer
Last name: Watabayashi
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, Jennifer Watabayashi

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Wayne
Last name: Watanabe
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC3303

U.S. Forest Service Alaska Roadless Rule

Comment Period

Comment Period Alaska Roadless Rule:

The Roadless Rule has been instrumental in conserving the Tongass National Forest and in supporting its 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. 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,

Wayne Watanabe

Placentia, CA 92870

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 1/1/0001 12:00:00 AM
First name: Wayne
Last name: Watanabe
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
3303

U.S. Forest Service Alaska Roadless Rule
Comment Period

Comment Period Alaska Roadless Rule:

The Roadless Rule has been instrumental in conserving the Tongass National Forest and in supporting its 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. 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,
Wayne Watanabe
Placentia, CA 92870

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/10/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: L.
Last name: Watchempino
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is L. Watchempino and I live in Acomita Lake, New Mexico.

Protect Our Forests and Uphold the Roadless Rule

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 widespread public support to protect some of our nations most pristine public lands, including large parts of the Tongass National Forest. I urge you to continue implementing the Roadless Rule in the Tongass National Forest. Any other alternative would fly in the face of overwhelming public support for conserving the vast natural and cultural resources of the Tongass for all Americans and future generations, and would disproportionately harm Alaskan Natives.

Tourism accounts for 28% of employment in southeastern Alaska, and generating an annual $1 billion in economic benefit. Tourism is far more of an economic driver than the timber industry, which comprises less than 1% of the regional economy.

Undoing the Roadless Rule in the Tongass will endanger wildlife and critical habitat, threaten access to clean water, and hasten climate change jeopardizing Alaskans and taxpayers in the lower 48 states as we face the severe challenges posed by climate change and the sea level rises resulting from warming temperatures. I urge you to continue implementing the protective conservation measures of the Roadless Rule in Alaska by choosing the "No Action" alternative.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Regards, L. Watchempino

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/14/2019 11:57:15 AM
First name: Greg
Last name: Watchers
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Greg Watchers and I live in Sitka, Alaska. 37 years
My income is derived directly from salmon. I am writing a comment on the Alaska Roadless Rule DEIS because I am concerned with how the Rule and the proposed full exemption will impact my fishing, hunting, recreating, the status of the Tongass as a national and global treasure, the forest's ability to sequester carbon and mitigate climate change impacts, the conservation of resources for future generations the peace and solitude I find in nature, subsistence harvesting, foraging for wild foods.

Out of the alternatives described in the AKRR DEIS I support alternative 1: no action. It protects important fish and wildlife habitat from clearcutting and roadbuilding. I depend on roadless areas in the Tongass National Forest for economic livelihood, healthy fish habitat, deer habitat and subsistence hunting, foraging and gathering wild foods, recreating and enjoying nature, carbon sequestration and local climate change mitigation, viewing wildlife, keeping public lands wild for future generations, fiscal responsibility and saving taxpayer dollars . A full exemption does not protect these values, nor does it effectively balance economic development and conservation of roadless area characteristics. A full exemption from the Roadless Rule and increased logging and roadbuilding will negatively impact the Tongass and what I and many others use and depend on the forest to provide for us.

The Roadless areas on the Tongass that are especially important to me are those on or around Baranof Island, Chichagof Island, Admiralty Island, Yakutat forelands, Wrangell and Etolin Islands, Kuiu Island, the southern mainland from Bradfield Canal to Dixon Entrance . I want the roadless areas in these locations to stay in roadless status in any alternative selected by the Forest Service, and be managed to provide for the uses and activities I listed above. It is important to me that the T77 and the TNC conservation priority areas retain their roadless protections.

I do not support the Forest Services preferred alternative of a full exemption. A full exemption is not in the interests of Southeast Alaskans who live in and use the Tongass National Forest, because I want economic development in Tongass that does not remove the forest. The forest supports all the other economic drivers. I do not want my tax dollars building roads for an industry whose day has come and gone.. The State of Alaska says that a full exemption is needed for rural economic development opportunities. However, a full exemption would not help create more rural economic development opportunities, it would instead harm our existing rural economies that are based on the visitor industry and commercial fishing industry.

It would further harm rural economic opportunities because pursuing the same outdated economic model of old growth clearcut harvesting for export stifles innovation and possibility in other sectors, such as mariculture, sustainable young growth harvest, and rural agriculture. If the Forest Service wants to support rural economic development, they should devote resources to support our fishing and visitor industries invest in creating and maintaining recreation infrastructure improve and streamline existing permitting processes for important community projects rather than rehashing old conflicts transition to second growth logging.

I urge the Forest Service to prioritize the voices of Southeast Alaskans over those of our political representation and corporate interests. Choosing a full exemption will not create a long lasting, durable solution for roadless areas on the Tongass. It will only increase the legal challenges, uncertainty for businesses, and conflict on the Tongass going forward.

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 1/1/0001 12:00:00 AM
First name: Paul
Last name: Waterfield
Organization:
Title:
Comments:

Dear Chief Christiansen,

I live and work on the lands and waters of the Tongass National Forest. The health of the Tongass National Forest is critical to sustaining my way of life in this rugged region. From hunting and fishing, to hiking and camping, to our tourism and commercial fishing-based economies, we rely on the intact habitat that the roadless areas of the Tongass contain. That is why it is important to me that the 2001 Roadless Rule remain in place on the Tongass National Forest. A no-action alternative is the best option for Southeast Alaska.

Prioritizing one antiquated industry over private sectors is bad business, and bad for Southeast Alaska. I support the Tongass Transition and I would like the Forest Service to continue phasing out old growth clearcutting. Please prioritize conservation of the T77 and TNC conservation priority areas in any new Alaska Roadless Rule. This forest is a salmon forest, and the Forest Service should focus on restoring degraded watersheds and fish streams.

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 1/1/0001 12:00:00 AM
First name: Paul
Last name: Waterfield
Organization:
Title:
Comments:

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Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Paul
Last name: Waterfield
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC1374

Dear Chief Christiansen,

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Last name: Waterfield
Organization:
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Comments:

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Last name: Waterfield
Organization:
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Comments:

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Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Marian
Last name: Waterkotte
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, Marian Waterkotte

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Marian
Last name: Waterkotte
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, Marian Waterkotte

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Carol
Last name: Waterman
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Carol Waterman and I live in Albany, New York.

It took centuries to grow those trees. It is a sin to cut them down.

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, Carol Waterman

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: JM
Last name: Waterman
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
The so-called timber industry that Alaska's politicians romanticize collapsed years before the Roadless Rule was put into effect. It's important to remember that the timber industry has been less than 1% of the regional economy for decades. Since the decline of timber, the Southeast Alaska economy has diversified, and tourism has grown significantly - now tourism jobs outnumber timber jobs 20 to 1.

For the U.S. Forest Service to ignore and exacerbate our climate emergency, while wasting taxpayer dollars on resurrecting a timber industry whose time has long since passed, is beyond irresponsible - it's foolhardy.

I ask that U.S. Forest Service decision-makers leave the Roadless Rule intact for the Tongass by selecting the "no action" alternative.

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/26/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Nancy
Last name: Waterman
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC273

November 13, 2019

Comment:

Of the Proposed Alternatives, Action #1 will provide the best level of conservation, community well-being, and habitat & biodiversity intact function.

The best chance of intact ecosystem services in and from the Tongass National Forest (a single, vast, highly productive forest which extends from mountaintop to open ocean) will come from selecting Action #1.

More specific decisions will still be guided by the regulations in the 2016 Forest Plan.

The Tongass National Forest is globally significant for its temperature rainforest habitat, diversity of species including a sustainable human community, and sequestration of carbon in soil and vegetation. Let's follow the Roadless Rule that is in place and in this way provide the least potential impact on existing old growth acres.

Select NO Action, Alternative #1.

Thank you, [Signature]

Nancy Waterman

Juneau, AK 99802

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Scott
Last name: Waterman
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC1076

Dear Secretary Perdue,

I live and work on the lands and waters of the Tongass National Forest. The health of the Tongass National Forest is critical to sustaining my way of life in this rugged region. From hunting and fishing, to hiking and camping, to our tourism and commercial fishing-based economies, we rely on the intact habitat that the roadless areas of the Tongass contain. That is why it is important to me that the 2001 Roadless Rule remain in place on the Tongass National Forest. A no-action alternative is the best option for Southeast Alaska.

Prioritizing one antiquated industry over private sectors is bad business, and bad for Southeast Alaska. I support the Tongass Transition and I would like the Forest Service to continue phasing out old growth clearcutting. Please prioritize conservation of the T77 and TNC conservation priority areas in any new Alaska Roadless Rule. This forest is a salmon forest, and the Forest Service should focus on restoring degraded watersheds and fish streams.

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Brenda
Last name: Waters
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Brenda Waters and I live in Jefferson City, Missouri.

The people who will be most affected by this change are the ones who can least afford it: children and the elderly.

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, Brenda Waters

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Brenda
Last name: Waters
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, Brenda Waters

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Brian
Last name: Waters
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC3339

U.S. Forest Service Alaska Roadless Rule

Comment Period

Comment Period Alaska Roadless Rule:

The Roadless Rule has been instrumental in conserving the Tongass National Forest and in supporting its 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. 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,

Brian Waters

Orinda, CA 94563

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/13/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Brittany
Last name: Waters
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Vote for Alternative 1

Hello,

I would like to lodge my vote for Alternative 1. Please don't cut down any more trees, especially old growth. That would be such a travesty for our future children and Grandchildren.

Please advise if you need any further information.

Thank you,

Brittany Waters

Santee, CA 92071

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/13/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Chelsey
Last name: Waters
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Alaska Roadless Rulemaking #54511

Dear Secretary Perdue,

I support the No-Action Alternative, #1, for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, and I oppose any reduction of protections for national forest roadless areas.

Please keep our forests wild, our streams clean, and our wildlife protected. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Chelsey Waters

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Constance
Last name: Waters
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Constance Waters and I live in Saint Petersburg, Florida.

Coal and ash are not good for my lungs nor yours nor any one's.. We must get rid of these power plants burning tons of coal every year! Thank you.

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, Constance Waters

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/11/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Garrett
Last name: Waters
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): 12/15/2019 2:11:41 AM
First name: Julia
Last name: Waters
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Julia Waters and I live in Camarillo, CA. I have visited and received peace and joy from the forest. I value its contribution to the oxygen on the planet, its species and its unadulterated beauty. I am writing a comment on the Alaska Roadless Rule DEIS because I am concerned with how the Rule and the proposed full exemption will impact my subsistence harvesting, foraging for wild foods, the peace and solitude I find in nature, the conservation of resources for future generations the forest's ability to sequester carbon and mitigate climate change impacts, the status of the Tongass as a national and global treasure.

Out of the alternatives described in the AKRR DEIS I support alternative 1: no action. It protects important fish and wildlife habitat from clearcutting and roadbuilding. I depend on roadless areas in the Tongass National Forest for recreating and enjoying nature, carbon sequestration and local climate change mitigation, viewing wildlife, keeping public lands wild for future generations, foraging and gathering wild foods. A full exemption does not protect these values, nor does it effectively balance economic development and conservation of roadless area characteristics. A full exemption from the Roadless Rule and increased logging and roadbuilding will negatively impact the Tongass and what I and many others use and depend on the forest to provide for us.

The Roadless areas on the Tongass that are especially important to me are those on or around all of the inventoried roadless areas on the Tongass. I want the roadless areas in these locations to stay in roadless status in any alternative selected by the Forest Service, and be managed to provide for the uses and activities I listed above. It is important to me that the T77 and the TNC conservation priority areas retain their roadless protections.

I do not support the Forest Services preferred alternative of a full exemption. A full exemption is not in the interests of Southeast Alaskans who live in and use the Tongass National Forest, because It will harm an area of climate support, beauty and preserve for future generations. The State of Alaska says that a full exemption is needed for rural economic development opportunities. However, a full exemption would not help create more rural economic development opportunities, it would instead harm our existing rural economies that are based on the visitor industry and commercial fishing industry.

It would further harm rural economic opportunities because pursuing the same outdated economic model of old growth clearcut harvesting for export stifles innovation and possibility in other sectors, such as mariculture, sustainable young growth harvest, and rural agriculture. If the Forest Service wants to support rural economic development, they should invest in creating and maintaining recreation infrastructure.

Decisions made today by you impact the children of tomorrow

I urge the Forest Service to prioritize the voices of Southeast Alaskans over those of our political representation and corporate interests. Choosing a full exemption will not create a long lasting, durable solution for roadless areas on the Tongass. It will only increase the legal challenges, uncertainty for businesses, and conflict on the Tongass going forward.

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Justin
Last name: Waters
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC5188

U.S. Forest Service Alaska Roadless Rule Committee:

This area of the country is far too precious and delicate to risk any changes to this massively important conservation rule. This area provides countless recreation and family opportunities to enjoy a true wilderness experience. Thank you for reading and considering our plea.

The Roadless Rule has been instrumental in conserving the Tongass National Forest and in supporting its 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. 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,

Justin Waters

Bremerton, WA 98312

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/7/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Kahle
Last name: Waters
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): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Lynn
Last name: Waters
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, Lynn Waters

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Melissa
Last name: Waters
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Melissa Waters and I live in Laguna Niguel, California.

This is a beautiful and significant area, please dont do more harm!

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, Melissa Waters

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Nan
Last name: Waters
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Nan Waters and I live in Sebastopol, California.

As an organic chemist, I don't understand why plastic could not be recycled into the original petrochemicals it is made from and used from there to recreate plastics.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.

Regards, Nan Waters

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Shannon
Last name: Waters
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Shannon Waters and I live in Springfield, Illinois.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Shannon Waters

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/5/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Tom
Last name: Waters
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): 12/11/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Tom
Last name: Waters
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.
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Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Trisha
Last name: Waters
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Trisha Waters and I live in Chatham, New York.

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, Trisha Waters

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Kim
Last name: Waterson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Kim Waterson and I live in Orange, California.

Please respect and keep the Tongass Forest intact . Please do not take away protections

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Kim Waterson

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Laura
Last name: Waterworth
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Laura Waterworth and I live in Aurora, Colorado.

Please protect our forests. Thank you.

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, Laura Waterworth

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Pamela
Last name: Waterworth
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Pamela Waterworth and I live in Lanham, Maryland.

We need to have some enforceable rules for the PFAS class of chemical.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Pamela Waterworth

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Joseph
Last name: Wathen
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, Joseph Wathen

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Wayne
Last name: Wathen
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Wayne Wathen and I live in Littleton, Colorado.

EPA needs to do their job, not kill people. Should change the name to the Unenvironments nonprotection agency.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.

Regards, Wayne Wathen

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/5/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Wayne
Last name: Wathen
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): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Bobbie
Last name: Watilo
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Bobbie Watilo and I live in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

Do the polluters not care that we have a nation of sick people including themselves?

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, Bobbie Watilo

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Anita
Last name: Watkins
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Anita Watkins and I live in Oakland, California.

Is there no end to this administration's willingness to ruin our world? PLEASE don't let it happen!

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Anita Watkins

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/23/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Glen
Last name: Watkins
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Alaska Roadless Rulemaking #54511

Roadless Rulemaking,

RE: Alaska Roadless DEIS Comment

Dear Secretary Perdue:

If you can't act to protect one of the world's greatest resources, the devastation of the Amazon making it the greatest, you are against life itself. Simple as that.

Glen Watkins

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: James
Last name: Watkins
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is James Watkins and I live in Knox, Indiana.

I want my kids to be able to inherit all of the pristine wilderness areas which I have valued as a resource of my country.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.

Regards, James Watkins

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/10/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Jeff
Last name: Watkins
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): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Jeremiah
Last name: Watkins
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Jeremiah Watkins and I live in Los Angeles, 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, Jeremiah Watkins

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Jim
Last name: Watkins
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Jim Watkins and I live in Kentwood, Michigan.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Jim Watkins

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Marietta
Last name: Watkins
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, Marietta Watkins

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Samuel
Last name: Watkins
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.

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Regards, Samuel Watkins

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Teri
Last name: Watkins
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Teri Watkins and I live in Watkins Glen, New York.

My neighbor works for DuPont and he was diagnosed with testicular cancer last year. Had surgery and chemo. He is 38 yrs. old!!

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.

Regards, Teri Watkins

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Vivian
Last name: Watkins
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Vivian Watkins and I live in Chicago, Illinois.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Vivian Watkins

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Tomeka
Last name: Watkinson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Tomeka Watkinson and I live in Wachapreague, Virginia.

We MUST save the environment for ALL - that's animals and people.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Tomeka Watkinson

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Sue
Last name: Watlington
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, Sue Watlington

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Angie
Last name: Watson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Angie Watson and I live in Brandon, Florida.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Angie Watson

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Anne
Last name: Watson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Please do not open this space for logging. Please take no action on this issue.

Thanks, Anne

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Ara
Last name: Watson
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.

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Regards, Ara Watson

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/20/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Becky
Last name: Watson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Becky Watson and I live in W Cnshohocken, Pennsylvania.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Becky Watson

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Beth
Last name: Watson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Tongass roadless

I don't like the idea of taking the entire Tongass and opening it to logging. The tongass represents our continents Amazon keeping carbon emissions in check. Since this administration cares little for the environment and is enthusiastic about quick rich schemes at the cost of our future this is a disaster. I would support SOME maybe ? selective cutting because I understand the need for economy. Leave our few vestiges of wilderness land be. I'm appalled that one of the institutions meant to protect our lands have so blatantly turned their back on all the scientists employed in their agency. I'm not a tree hugger. But I've been all over our country and these lands need us to manage them. Yes that means ranching, logging etc but listen to your scientists. They aren't tree huggers either. Cutting does need done, grazing is important. Don't do it all at once. Have test plot areas, research done more. Trees are incredibly renewable but some need preserved for their worth in keeping a lab for us to not only appreciate but use as a living lab.

Sent from my iPhone

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/14/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Bonnie
Last name: Watson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Bonnie Watson and I live in Baldwinsville, New York.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Bonnie Watson

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Carol
Last name: Watson
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, Carol Watson

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Carol
Last name: Watson
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.

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Regards, Carol Watson

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Carrie
Last name: Watson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Carrie Watson and I live in Huntsville, Texas.

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, Carrie Watson

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Chris
Last name: Watson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Chris Watson and I live in Knoxville, Tennessee.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Chris Watson

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Claire
Last name: Watson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Claire Watson and I live in Dayton, Ohio.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Claire Watson

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Donald
Last name: Watson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Donald Watson and I live in Monrovia, Maryland.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Donald Watson

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Fran
Last name: Watson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Fran Watson and I live in Spring Valley, 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.
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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Fran Watson

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/14/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Fran
Last name: Watson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Fran Watson and I live in Spring Valley, 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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Fran Watson

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Harold
Last name: Watson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Harold Watson and I live in Springfield, Missouri.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Harold Watson

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Harold
Last name: Watson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Harold Watson and I live in Springfield, Missouri.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Harold Watson

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Ian
Last name: Watson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Ian Watson and I live in Mount Vernon, Ohio.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Ian Watson

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Jay
Last name: Watson
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, Jay Watson

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Jennifer
Last name: Watson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC5494

Dear U.S. Forest Service,

CC: Alaska Congressional Delegation and Federal Administration

I support the no-action alternative to leave the 2001 Roadless Rule in place on the Tongass National Forest. We must continue to phase out old-growth clear-cut logging and instead prioritize restoring degraded watersheds and fish streams that contribute to the growing fisheries and tourism-based economies of Southeast. To that end, please conserve the Tongass 77 and TNC priority areas in the final Roadless Rule.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Watson

Juneau, AK 99802

Comments: *(Eg: list locations you recreate, or why you value Tongass fish & wildlife)* [Text italicized for emphasis]

[Box unchecked] I would like to get more involved in the campaign!

*By taking this action, you are consenting to receive future communications via phone, text message, email, or mail from Sitka Conservation Society and its partners working to protect the Tongass. * [Text italicized for emphasis]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: John
Last name: Watson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is John Watson and I live in Skokie, Illinois.

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.

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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, John Watson

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/23/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Jonathan
Last name: Watson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
USDA Forest Service,

I strongly oppose "Alternative 6" and support "Alternative 2" as an approach to balance industry aspirations with the conservation of America's largest temperate rain forest. Alaska is warming faster than any other state in the country and its forest and water resources should not be stressed by extensive logging and road creation. Alternative 6 would be a disaster for the integrity of the old growth forest ecosystem and the valuable natural resources (e.g., salmon) that depend on this ecosystem for persistence in the face of dramatic environmental change. Please protect public lands for all Americans, not just vocal resource extraction companies.

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Kathleen
Last name: Watson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Kathleen Watson and I live in Forestville, California.

Please PROTECT our public lands!

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Kathleen Watson

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Kathy
Last name: Watson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
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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, Kathy Watson

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Kathy
Last name: Watson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Kathy Watson and I live in Tucson, Arizona.

Toxins in our environment do not just go away...they HARM ALL LIFE...Including Human Life!!!

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Kathy Watson

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/11/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Kris
Last name: Watson
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): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Lara
Last name: Watson
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.

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Regards, Lara Watson

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/23/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Laurel
Last name: Watson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Laurel Watson and I live in Maricopa, Arizona.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Laurel Watson

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Linda
Last name: Watson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Linda Watson and I live in Leavenworth, Washington.

Stop the maddness, now.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Linda Watson

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Lisa
Last name: Watson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Lisa Watson and I live in West Mifflin, Pennsylvania.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Lisa Watson

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Lisa
Last name: Watson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
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Regards, Lisa Watson

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Michael
Last name: Watson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Michael Watson and I live in Sonoma, 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.

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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, Michael Watson

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/23/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Michael
Last name: Watson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
The alternatives proposed to the Alaska Roadless Rule are ridiculous. I do not support changing the rule. I believe any change will cause devastating harm to the Tongass National Forest. Alternative number 6 is very disturbing and the Department of Agriculture should be ashamed of such a recommendation. Once again, I DO NOT SUPPORT any alternative to the current rule and believe Tongass National Forest should keep its current protections. The Department of Agriculture should be working to strengthen protections for ALL FEDERAL LAND.

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Michael
Last name: Watson
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, Michael Watson

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Michael
Last name: Watson
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.

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Regards, Michael Watson

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Nan
Last name: Watson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Nan Watson and I live in Burlington, Massachusetts.

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, Nan Watson

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Pamela
Last name: Watson
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, Pamela Watson

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Pamela
Last name: Watson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Pamela Watson and I live in Richmond, Virginia.

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, Pamela Watson

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/13/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Richard
Last name: Watson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Richard Watson and I live in Long Beach, 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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Richard Watson

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Richard
Last name: Watson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Richard Watson and I live in Lindenwold, New Jersey.

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, Richard Watson

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/10/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Suzanne
Last name: Watson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Suzanne Watson and I live in Big Prairie, Ohio.

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.
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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Suzanne Watson

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: tammy
Last name: Watson
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, tammy Watson

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Tracy
Last name: Watson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Tracy Watson and I live in Park City, Utah.

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, Tracy Watson

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Travis
Last name: Watson
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, Travis Watson

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Virginia
Last name: Watson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Virginia Watson and I live in Los Angeles, 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, Virginia Watson

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Virginia
Last name: Watson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Virginia Watson and I live in Los Angeles, 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.

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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, Virginia Watson

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Julie
Last name: Watt
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Julie Watt and I live in Mountain View, 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, Julie Watt

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Roland
Last name: Watt
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC6425

Dear Secretary Perdue,

I am writing to support the *No-Action Alternative*[text bolded for emphasis] 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 temperature 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): 12/16/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Sophia
Last name: Watt
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
[Attached postcard received 12/31/2019. Redacted to protect personally identifiable information. Original is in the project record.]

Text:

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 to 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,

Name:

Address:

City: Zip:

Email:

Phone:

[Position]

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 to 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,

Name: Sophia Watt

Address: [redacted]

City:

Email:

Phone:

Dec. 31, 2019

Ken Tu
ID Team Leader
Alaska Roadless Rule
USDA Forest Service
P.O. Box 2168
Juneau, Alaska 99802-1628

Brenda Berry

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/26/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Britt
Last name: Watters
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC35

I've lived, worked and played in the Tongass Rainforest for over 30 years. Today I learned the Tongass national Forest absorbs more CO2 per acre than the Amazon rainforest. We must keep this forest fully intact. I urge *NO ACTION* [Text underlined for emphasis] on the Roadless Rule (which is working!).

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Whitney
Last name: watters
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Whitney watters and I live in Knoxville, Tennessee.

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, Whitney watters

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: zayne
Last name: watters
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is zayne watters and I live in Lorain, Ohio.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, zayne watters

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Gary
Last name: Wattles
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Gary Wattles and I live in Meridian, Idaho.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Gary Wattles

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Mike
Last name: Watton
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I didn't write the following, but it represents my thoughts entirely -
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, Mike Watton

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/11/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Barbara
Last name: Watts
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Barbara Watts and I live in Louisville, Kentucky.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Barbara Watts

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/11/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Diane
Last name: Watts
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Diane Watts and I live in Greenbank, Washington.

I am writing as I am very against clearcutting Alaska's Tongass National Forest. I understand the wood is being used for toilet paper. Please preserve our forests. They are critical to wildlife and our air quality. They also provide medicine. All nature now must be nurtured and kept healthy for the welfare of the earth. Thank you.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.

Regards, Diane Watts

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Eli
Last name: Watts
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Eli Watts and I live in Brooklyn, New York.

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, Eli Watts

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Elizabeth
Last name: Watts
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Elizabeth Watts and I live in Boynton Beach, Florida.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Elizabeth Watts

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Elizabeth
Last name: Watts
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Elizabeth Watts and I live in Richmond, California.

We need to keep this forest for the environment...Who doesn't like to breathe?!

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Elizabeth Watts

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Gloria
Last name: Watts
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, Gloria Watts

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Julie
Last name: Watts
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Julie Watts and I live in Auburn, Alabama.

DO WHAT IS RIGHT AND PROTECT OUR RIGHT TO CLEAN AIR

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Julie Watts

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Karen
Last name: Watts
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
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Regards, Karen Watts

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Pamela
Last name: Watts
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC5801

Dear U.S. Forest Service,

CC: Alaska Congressional Delegation and Federal Administration

I support the no-action alternative to leave the 2001 Roadless Rule in place on the Tongass National Forest. We must continue to phase out old-growth clear-cut logging and instead prioritize restoring degraded watersheds and fish streams that contribute to the growing fisheries and tourism-based economies of Southeast. To that end, please conserve the Tongass 77 and TNC priority areas in the final Roadless Rule.

Sincerely,

Comments: *(Eg: list locations you recreate, or why you value Tongass fish & wildlife)* [Text italicized for emphasis]

[Box unchecked] I would like to get more involved in the campaign!

*By taking this action, you are consenting to receive future communications via phone, text message, email, or mail from Sitka Conservation Society and its partners working to protect the Tongass. * [Text italicized for emphasis]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Susan
Last name: Watts
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Susan Watts and I live in Riverside, 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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Susan Watts

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Susan
Last name: Watts
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
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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, Susan Watts

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Theodora
Last name: Watts
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
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Regards, Theodora Watts

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: William
Last name: Watts
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is William Watts and I live in Athens, Georgia.

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, William Watts

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Timothy
Last name: Wauford
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
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.
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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Timothy Wauford

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/12/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Brian
Last name: Waugh
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): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Michele
Last name: Wauson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Michele Wauson and I live in Kailua-kona, Hawaii.

PLEASE dont cut down trees. Mother Earth needs more trees to help prevent more climate changes.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Michele Wauson

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Chris
Last name: Wawiorka
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, Chris Wawiorka

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Rica
Last name: Waxxxxx
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Rica Waxxxxx and I live in Whiteville, North Carolina.

Please stop destroying our world.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Rica Waxxxxx

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/16/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Evelyn
Last name: Way
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Evelyn Way and I live in Spotsylvania Courthouse, Virginia.

When I travel to Alaska, I want to see forest, animals, glaciers. The glaciers are disappearing. By not protecting the Roadless Rule, you are forcing the disappearance of the forest and the animals I want to see. If I cannot see those things, I, and possibly others, will not venture to Alaska. The livelihood of guides, store keepers, & and others will also be negatively affected. Your actions and decisions have consequences. It is in your power whether those consequences are positive or negative for good of the state and nation, or for a select few. I hope you choose the former.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.

Regards, Evelyn Way

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Evelyn
Last name: Way
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.

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Regards, Evelyn Way

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 1/1/0001 12:00:00 AM
First name: Meaghan
Last name: Way
Organization:
Title:
Comments:

Dear Chief Christiansen,

I live and work on the lands and waters of the Tongass National Forest. The health of the Tongass National Forest is critical to sustaining my way of life in this rugged region. From hunting and fishing, to hiking and camping, to our tourism and commercial fishing-based economies, we rely on the intact habitat that the roadless areas of the Tongass contain. That is why it is important to me that the 2001 Roadless Rule remain in place on the Tongass National Forest. A no-action alternative is the best option for Southeast Alaska.

Prioritizing one antiquated industry over private sectors is bad business, and bad for Southeast Alaska. I support the Tongass Transition and I would like the Forest Service to continue phasing out old growth clearcutting. Please prioritize conservation of the T77 and TNC conservation priority areas in any new Alaska Roadless Rule. This forest is a salmon forest, and the Forest Service should focus on restoring degraded watersheds and fish streams.

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Meaghan
Last name: Way
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC1347

Dear Chief Christiansen,

I live and work on the lands and waters of the Tongass National Forest. The health of the Tongass National Forest is critical to sustaining my way of life in this rugged region. From hunting and fishing, to hiking and camping, to our tourism and commercial fishing-based economies, we rely on the intact habitat that the roadless areas of the Tongass contain. That is why it is important to me that the 2001 Roadless Rule remain in place on the Tongass National Forest. A no-action alternative is the best option for Southeast Alaska.

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Last name: Way
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Comments:

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Title:
Comments:

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Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/22/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Jeffrey
Last name: Waybright
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Catering to old-growth logging in an environmentally sensitive area which has already proven to be fiscally irresponsible is a slap in the face to Americans and our proven desire to preserve our pristine areas. No action should be taken and the roadless-rule should be upheld in the rest of the Tongass.

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/21/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Stephanie
Last name: Waye
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am against logging and development of the Tongass National Forest in southeast Alaska. Because it is the largest temperate rainforest in the world and the largest national forest in the US; At almost 17 million acres, it's a wonderland for hunting and fishing that should be preserved for the sake of the planet and for future generations to enjoy and experience in its unadulterated condition.In this country, mountain goats roam the alpine, Sitka blacktail deer slink through the old growth forests, moose and ducks are scattered throughout costal marshes, and brown and black bears areeverywhere. The fishing is even more robust. The Tongass rivers and creeks support more salmon than all other national forests combined, and the fishing and tourism account for more than 25 percent of local jobs in the region. The Tongass produces 28 percent of Alaskas commercial salmon catch and Tongass salmon fishing generates $1 billion annually, according to Trout Unlimited.

Its an old-growth cathedral of evergreen rainforest. Spruce, cedar, and hemlock thrive in steep terrain thats often many miles from any established road.

And it's important to note that old-growth logging isn't the booming industry that it used to be in Southeast. In fact, reigniting the old-growth logging here would likely require some serious federal subsidies. The Forest Service lost about $600 million through its management of the Tongass National Forest, according to a new report from the Taxpayers for Common Sense. The nonpartisan group calculated the Forest Service's losses through road-building and timber sales and found that the average net loss was about $30 million annually over the past 20 years.

Building new logging roads through vast wilderness is expensive. What's more, Tongass timber is a mix high-value sawtimber and low-quality trees. In other words, for loggers to get to the good stuff, they've got to churn through a ton of low-value timber. And according to one 2013 study, about 66 percent of the large-tree old-growth forest on the Tongass has already been logged.

The whole ecology of the Tongass relies on two key factors: giant coniferous trees and clean, cold water. The massive trees force the creeks and rivers to meander, which creates ideal spawning habitat for salmon (the place is nicknamed the Salmon Forest).Those salmon die after they spawn, and those rotting fish carcasses put tons of nutrients back into the forest. Black and brown bears gorge on the salmon, but so do eagles, ravens, wolves, and even ducks (local waterfowlers dont like shooting mallards during the later stages of the salmon runs here because they taste fishy after gobbling salmon eggs and carcasses). Blacktail deer need those old-growth forests for wintering habitat. And locals rely on all these critters for subsistence hunting and fishing, as well as the dollars they bring in from traveling outdoors people.

When you compare that existing, thriving economy to the potential new one from a resurgence in old-growth logging, the smart bet is on conserving this habitat for hunting, fishing, and tourism.

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/14/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Anon
Last name: Wayfarer
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I support Alternative 1, to leave all of Alaska under the 2001 Roadless rule, including Tongass.

I support Alternative 1, to leave all of Alaska under the 2001 Roadless rule, including Tongass.

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Nat
Last name: Wayman
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC5029

I, Nat Wayman, am strongly in favor of alternative one's plan relating to the Tongass National Forest. I feel their opening this land to development , logging and road-building would lead to the loss of needed habitats and food for many fragile creatures. America needs the TREES.

-[Signature]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/12/2019 7:17:49 PM
First name: Howard
Last name: Wayne
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Howard Wayne and I live in Sitka, Alaska. I have lived in Southeast Alaska since the late 1960's and have resided in Ketchikan, Wrangell, Juneau and Sitka. I currently spend much of my leisure time hiking, and subsistence hunting/fishing around Sitka. I am writing a comment on the Alaska Roadless Rule DEIS because I am concerned with how the Rule and the proposed full exemption will impact my fishing, hunting, subsistence harvesting, foraging for wild foods, the peace and solitude I find in nature, recreating, the status of the Tongass as a national and global treasure, the forest's ability to sequester carbon and mitigate climate change impacts, practicing my culture, the conservation of resources for future generations .

Out of the alternatives described in the AKRR DEIS I support alternative 1: no action. It protects important fish and wildlife habitat from clearcutting and roadbuilding. I depend on roadless areas in the Tongass National Forest for healthy fish habitat, deer habitat and subsistence hunting, foraging and gathering wild foods, practicing my culture, recreating and enjoying nature, carbon sequestration and local climate change mitigation, viewing wildlife, keeping public lands wild for future generations, fiscal responsibility and saving taxpayer dollars . A full exemption does not protect these values, nor does it effectively balance economic development and conservation of roadless area characteristics. A full exemption from the Roadless Rule and increased logging and roadbuilding will negatively impact the Tongass and what I and many others use and depend on the forest to provide for us.

The Roadless areas on the Tongass that are especially important to me are those on or around all of the inventoried roadless areas on the Tongass. I want the roadless areas in these locations to stay in roadless status in any alternative selected by the Forest Service, and be managed to provide for the uses and activities I listed above. It is important to me that the T77 and the TNC conservation priority areas retain their roadless protections.

I do not support the Forest Services preferred alternative of a full exemption. A full exemption is not in the interests of Southeast Alaskans who live in and use the Tongass National Forest, because I don't believe that a timber industry in SE Alaska is viable without significant federal subsidies. Harvesting old-growth timber will only further harm wildlife, and harvesting second-growth won't be cost-effective.. The State of Alaska says that a full exemption is needed for rural economic development opportunities. However, a full exemption would not help create more rural economic development opportunities, it would instead harm our existing rural economies that are based on the visitor industry and commercial fishing industry.

It would further harm rural economic opportunities because pursuing the same outdated economic model of old growth clearcut harvesting for export stifles innovation and possibility in other sectors, such as mariculture, sustainable young growth harvest, and rural agriculture. If the Forest Service wants to support rural economic development, they should devote resources to support our fishing and visitor industries invest in creating and maintaining recreation infrastructure improve and streamline existing permitting processes for important community projects rather than rehashing old conflicts.

I urge the Forest Service to prioritize the voices of Southeast Alaskans over those of our political representation and corporate interests. Choosing a full exemption will not create a long lasting, durable solution for roadless areas on the Tongass. It will only increase the legal challenges, uncertainty for businesses, and conflict on the Tongass going forward.

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/18/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Mackenzie
Last name: Wayne
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Mackenzie Wayne and I live in Austin, Texas.

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, Mackenzie Wayne

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/18/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Mackenzie
Last name: Wayne
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Mackenzie Wayne

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/18/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: stacey
Last name: wayne
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
roadless rule for tongass

As a lifetime Alaskan, I am strongly opposed to changing the roadless rule.

I am a subsistence hunter and have always fed my family with venison caught in the Tongass. If you are wondering how important subsistence hunting is to people here, know that there are about 70,000 people living in the Tongass and we eat about 40,000 deer a year. About 45% of people live in Juneau, where subsistence hunting is not allowed, so you can see that in the other communities, hunting is vital. Deer can not overwinter in second growth if there is a year of heavy snow. It takes too many calories for them to walk in deep snow and the total stem exclusion caused by logging chokes out underbrush they need to survive in the winter. In areas like Hoonah that have allowed extensive clear cutting, hundreds of carcasses rot on the beaches when the snow melts after a hard winter. Most of the old growth in the Tongass has already been logged. I live in Sitka and hunt all over this region. I often cross through second growth while hunting and can assure you these are dead zones that are very difficult to navigate for man (or in this case, woman) or beast.

We all understand that logging here has never been about profit. Road building is so expensive, logging jobs need to be heavily subsidized. I say if we need more timer industry jobs, they should be reconstruction jobs and not logging. The original loggers used our streams as roads or cleared them of debris after so salmon fry have no habitat. Thinning the second growth would speed up the recovery of the forest. There is much stream restoration to be done to repair the damage left by previous logging. I also understand that only a handful of people still rely on logging for employment. These mills need to transition to second growth. If 50 years is not time enough to grow viable trees for local mills, then we have no business treating the Tongass like a tree farm. When you compare the number of people who rely on fishing and tourism to the number who work at mills, clearly logging the Tongass threatens the livelihoods of thousands to provide short term employment to dozens. It makes no sense!

When we heard the Amazon was burning this summer we all condemned leadership there for being short sighted. The Amazon is the lungs of the planet. Well so is the Tongass. The trees hear hold 8% of the carbon on the planet. Cutting the old trees releases vast quantities of carbon and removes our biggest consumers of carbon. Why would we do something so short-sighted? History will look back on the decision to log the Tongass in disbelief that we could be so selfish. Please reconsider lifting the roadless rule. Locals want the Tongass to remain as it is. We hunt, fish and recreate in the Tongass. Old growth is vital to our way of life. Leave it be!

Stacey Wayne

Sitka, Alaska

99835

Occupation: mediator

Lived in Alaska since 1968

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Straight
Last name: Wayne
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Straight Wayne and I live in Eldersburg, Maryland.

We as human beings have a fundamental right to expect not to have to breathe industrial pollutants. Since we can't stop breathing and live, we can and must insist that you not allow others to poison the air on which we depend. Since you and yours also have to breathe to survive, it's ultimately to your best interests as well.

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, Straight Wayne

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/20/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Kyle
Last name: Wayner
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Please do not log the old forests. It seems to me not to be economically beneficial over the long term as well as a waste of our resources.

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: james
Last name: wayrynen
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is james wayrynen and I live in Entiat, Washington.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, james wayrynen

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Gila
Last name: Wdowinski
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Gila Wdowinski and I live in Laguna Beach, 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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Gila Wdowinski

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Sara
Last name: Wealer
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Do NOT exempt the Tongass Nat'l Forest in Alaska from the Roadless Area Conservation Rule.

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Margaret
Last name: Weant-Leavitt
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Margaret Weant-Leavitt and I live in Cornville, Arizona.

I can't breathe!

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Margaret Weant-Leavitt

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Brian
Last name: Weatherby
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Brian Weatherby and I live in Covington, Washington.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Brian Weatherby

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Susan
Last name: Weatherby
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Susan Weatherby and I live in Madras, Oregon.

Our children deserve better than the stewardship you are delivering.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Susan Weatherby

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Vicki
Last name: Weatherford
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, Vicki Weatherford

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Organization:
Title:
Comments:
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Regards, Vicki Weatherford

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Tamara
Last name: Weatherly
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Tamara Weatherly and I live in Cortland, Ohio.

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.

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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, Tamara Weatherly

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Andrea
Last name: Weathers
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC1087

Dear Secretary Perdue,

I live and work on the lands and waters of the Tongass National Forest. The health of the Tongass National Forest is critical to sustaining my way of life in this rugged region. From hunting and fishing, to hiking and camping, to our tourism and commercial fishing-based economies, we rely on the intact habitat that the roadless areas of the Tongass contain. That is why it is important to me that the 2001 Roadless Rule remain in place on the Tongass National Forest. A no-action alternative is the best option for Southeast Alaska.

Prioritizing one antiquated industry over private sectors is bad business, and bad for Southeast Alaska. I support the Tongass Transition and I would like the Forest Service to continue phasing out old growth clearcutting. Please prioritize conservation of the T77 and TNC conservation priority areas in any new Alaska Roadless Rule. This forest is a salmon forest, and the Forest Service should focus on restoring degraded watersheds and fish streams.

[smiley face]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Safire
Last name: Weathers
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC1040

Dear Secretary Perdue,

I live and work on the lands and waters of the Tongass National Forest. The health of the Tongass National Forest is critical to sustaining my way of life in this rugged region. From hunting and fishing, to hiking and camping, to our tourism and commercial fishing-based economies, we rely on the intact habitat that the roadless areas of the Tongass contain. That is why it is important to me that the 2001 Roadless Rule remain in place on the Tongass National Forest. A no-action alternative is the best option for Southeast Alaska.

Prioritizing one antiquated industry over private sectors is bad business, and bad for Southeast Alaska. I support the Tongass Transition and I would like the Forest Service to continue phasing out old growth clearcutting. Please prioritize conservation of the T77 and TNC conservation priority areas in any new Alaska Roadless Rule. This forest is a salmon forest, and the Forest Service should focus on restoring degraded watersheds and fish streams.

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/13/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Safire
Last name: Weathers
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC505

Dear Roadless Rule Planning Team,

The health of the Tongass National Forest is important to me. I depend on the Tongass which is a unique and global treasure.

The freshwater streams where salmon and old growth forest of the Tongass provide spawning habitat for these fish, which in turn feed a matrix of bears, birds, insects, and other wildlife that Alaska is so famous for. The health of our economy, which is heavily dependent on the fishing and tourism industries, also depends on the salmon, wildlife and presence of old growth forests. A sustainable future for Southeast Alaska requires protecting expansive areas of intact habitat - in short, it requires keeping our Roadless areas roadless! I urge the Forest Service and the Secretary to protect important salmon spawning habitat, maintain old growth forests for winter deer habitat, and keep the places I like to recreate free of clearcuts and roadbuilding.

WHO I AM: [text bolded for emphasis] Include your name, where you live, and any relevant biographical information. Do you live or work on the Tongass National Forest? What is your relationship to the Tongass?

I am Safire Weathers and I live in petersburg, Ak and I have grown up in the tongas for 14 years

PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE: [text bolded for emphasis] The Forest Service will choose how to proceed from a number of different alternatives. If you want the Roadless Rule to remain on the Tongass, write "No Action."

No Action

WHY I PREFER THIS ALTERNATIVE: [text bolded for emphasis] How would this alternative affect you and Southeast Alaskans?

Because our forest will be destory, so I belive no ation is the best action

AREAS: [text bolded for emphasis] Are there specific islands, watersheds, or mountains that you depend on? Name the most important areas that the Roadless Rule to protect. Examples include the Tenakee Inlet, Nakwasina Sound, Fish Bay, Ushk Bay, Northern Prince of Wales, T77 salmon watershed areas, Audobon TNC ecological priority areas, etc.

I come from ny the Stikine so everything within a 200 mile radise is my home

USE: [text bolded for emphasis] What activities do you use the Tongass National Forest for? Hunting, fishing, recreation, subsistence, business, tourism, etc.

My momn and me gothe make medicnals with harvests from the tongass and my dad hunts for all our food in the winter

SUGGESTION: [text bolded for emphasis] How should the Forest Service manage the Tongass National Forest, rather than old-growth clearcut logging? More sustainable alternatives to timber harvest include salmon watershed restoration, visitor industry infrastructure, deer habitat enhancement, young growth thinning, and maintenance of recreation infrastructure such as trails and cabins.

I definitely think the maintence of cabins are very important because my family travel to cabins so much

Additional comments for the Forest Service:

Safire Weathers

Sincerely,

I want to receive a copy of the Draft Environmental Statement

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Christine
Last name: Weathersbee
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Christine Weathersbee and I live in Gilbert, Arizona.

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, Christine Weathersbee

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/10/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Nancy
Last name: Weatherwax
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Nancy Weatherwax and I live in Albion, Michigan.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Nancy Weatherwax

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/18/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Nancy
Last name: Weatherwax
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Comments to oppose modification to the Roadless Rule

Dear U.S. Forest Service,

The Roadless Rule helps protect old-growth habitat for birds like the Prince of Wales Spruce Grouse and Northern Goshawk, as well as for mammals like wolves and deer. Opening roadless areas to more logging and roads will fragment the forest and eliminate more of the big old trees that these animals rely on.

Yet, all of the action alternatives in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement allow more roadbuilding and logging across the Tongass National Forest. Logging roads and timber operations cost tens of millions of taxpayer dollars every year, with zero return on investment. Meanwhile, these destructive activities degrade the naturally sustainable wealth of salmon, wildlife watching, and tourism opportunities.

It is time to stop opening more and more acres to the timber industry and instead bolster protections to the old-growth forests and wild areas on the Tongass. I urge you to select the "No Action" Alternative (Alternative 1) and allow the Roadless Rule to remain intact on the Tongass National Forest.

Sincerely,

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Bradley
Last name: Weaver
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Bradley Weaver and I live in Cuba, New York.

Our natural resources are not merely commodities to be expended for profit. It is irresponsible to treat them as such, and in the current tempest of climate changes, may be ranked as a crime against humanity for placing a price upon the survival of humanity.

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, Bradley Weaver

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Brian
Last name: Weaver
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC1055

Dear Secretary Perdue,

I live and work on the lands and waters of the Tongass National Forest. The health of the Tongass National Forest is critical to sustaining my way of life in this rugged region. From hunting and fishing, to hiking and camping, to our tourism and commercial fishing-based economies, we rely on the intact habitat that the roadless areas of the Tongass contain. That is why it is important to me that the 2001 Roadless Rule remain in place on the Tongass National Forest. A no-action alternative is the best option for Southeast Alaska.

Prioritizing one antiquated industry over private sectors is bad business, and bad for Southeast Alaska. I support the Tongass Transition and I would like the Forest Service to continue phasing out old growth clearcutting. Please prioritize conservation of the T77 and TNC conservation priority areas in any new Alaska Roadless Rule. This forest is a salmon forest, and the Forest Service should focus on restoring degraded watersheds and fish streams.

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Cheyenne
Last name: Weaver
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Cheyenne Weaver and I live in Austin, Texas.

Our public lands must be protected FOREVER. They belong to all of us and to the health of the planet and thus our health. Keeping the Tongass roadless will help keep private interests from pillaging this precious place for quick money. Do the adult thing!

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, Cheyenne Weaver

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Dorothy
Last name: Weaver
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Dorothy Weaver and I live in Sheffield, Massachusetts.

It is the time to plant trees and to reduce logging and especially the time to preserve the boreal forests for the sake of survival in the Arctic.

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, Dorothy Weaver

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Dorothy
Last name: Weaver
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, Dorothy Weaver

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Esther
Last name: Weaver
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Esther Weaver and I live in Highland, New York.

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, Esther Weaver

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/11/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: J
Last name: Weaver
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is J Weaver and I live in Westerville, Ohio.

We need to protect our wild spaces and leave some of them untouched by man. The Tongass National Forest is one of those places that should be left alone and protected!

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, J Weaver

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/13/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Jack
Last name: Weaver
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC638

Dear Secretary Perdue and Senator Murkowski,

I am currently on a boat cruise in Redoubt Bay, an iconic local subsistence and recreation site. Located just twelve miles from the city of Sitka, Redoubt Falls is one of Sitka's most important subsistence fishing spots. We dipnet for Redoubt sockeye to stock our freezers and cupboards with the rich red flesh of this all-important fish. In recent years, the Forest Service has estimated that Redoubt has provided up to 60% of the total sockeye subsistence harvest in the Sitka Management Area. We feed our families out of Tongass watershed like Redoubt Bay.

The Forest Service supports our subsistence harvest by maintaining a weir system at Redoubt to monitor and count the fish entering the lake. The Forest Service coordinates with the Alaska Department of Fish & Game to make management decisions based on the data collected throughout the season, which determines the safe allotment limit for our subsistence harvest. Our harvest of salmon depends entirely on the intact ecosystem and productivity of Tongass watersheds. Healthy forests support our ability to fulfill our subsistence needs at Redoubt, as well as supporting commercial and sport salmon fisheries across the Tongass.

Currently, Redoubt ay is listed as a T77 watershed. T77 watersheds are areas of the Tongass National Forest identified as particularly prolific, intact salmon habitat. Much of the 15,000 miles of streams on the Tongass support salmon populations, but the T77 watersheds are especially critical to protect. It is important to me that the 2001 Roadless Rule remains in place on high value salmon watersheds like the T77, and throughout the Tongass National Forest. Opening up these areas to more clearcutting and roadbuilding will jeopardize our way of life, and will sacrifice the spirit of Sitka that brings so many people to this special place. I support keeping the 2001 Roadless Rule in effect on the Tongass, and I urge the Secretary to select a no action alternative in the Alaska-specific Roadless rulemaking process. Please protect this land for future generations to enjoy in perpetuity.

Personal Comments: I am not interested in learning more!

I support selective harvest

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/13/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Jack
Last name: Weaver
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC549

Dear Secretary Perdue and Senator Murkowski,

I am currently on a boat cruise off the coast of Kruzof Island, near Baranof Island. On this cruise, I am exploring and learning about the natural habitat of this area that is so special to residents of Sitka like me.

Only 10 miles west of Sitka, Kruzof is widely used as a place for locals to fish, hunt, forage and recreate. From Sea Lion Bay to Shelikof, North Beach to Shoals Point, the Forest Service manages extensive recreation infrastructure such as cabins, trails, and the existing road system for our enjoyment. Sitka black-tailed deer are plentiful, as are chum and pink salmon that run through the numerous stream systems on the island. This island contains productive, intact fish habitat, with three Tongass 77 and four TNC 'conservation priority areas' identified on the island. Mt. Edgecumbe volcano is an incredible day hike, and only a piece of the island's fascinating geologic activity.

Kruzof is prolific and peaceful. We are incredibly lucky to have such a place to work and play so close to town, and many of us visit Kruzof often. I value Kruzof island because:

I've hunted there since I was 11 I shot my first deer there and I would like for it to be maintained so that that's where I can shoot my last

Currently, Kruzof Island is protected from old-growth clearcutting and road building under the 2001 Roadless Rule. As it stands, the 2001 Roadless Rule safeguards our recreation and subsistence activities on Kruzof. *It is important to me that the 2001 Roadless Rule remains in place on Kruzof Island, and throughout the Tongass National Forest.* [text bolded for emphasis] Opening up this area to more clearcutting and roadbuilding will jeopardize my way of life, and will sacrifice the spirit of Sitka that brings so many people to this special place. I do not want to see the 2001 Roadless Rule repealed on Kruzof, or anywhere else in the Tongass. Please protect this land for future generations to enjoy in perpetuity.

Sincerely, Jack Weaver

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Jenny
Last name: Weaver
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, Jenny Weaver

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Jenny
Last name: Weaver
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Jenny Weaver and I live in Thomasville, North Carolina.

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, Jenny Weaver

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Jim
Last name: Weaver
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, Jim Weaver

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/10/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Karen
Last name: Weaver
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Karen Weaver and I live in Farmington Hills, Michigan.

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, Karen Weaver

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: kathleen
Last name: weaver
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is kathleen weaver and I live in Berkeley, California.

Please! It is urgent.

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, kathleen weaver

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Kathy
Last name: Weaver
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Kathy Weaver and I live in Redding, 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, Kathy Weaver

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Lana
Last name: Weaver
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC809

Dear Secretary Perdue,

I live and work on the lands and waters of the Tongass National Forest. The health of the Tongass National Forest is critical to sustaining my way of life in this rugged region - from hunting and fishing, to hiking and camping, to our tourism and commercial fishing-based economies, we rely on the intact habitat that the roadless areas of the Tongass contain. That is why it is important to me that the 2001 Roadless Rule remain in place on the Tongass National Forest. A no-action alternative is the best option for Southeast Alaska.

I support the Tongass Transition and I would like the Forest Service to continue phasing out old growth clearcutting. This forest is a salmon forest, and the Forest Service should focus on restoring degraded watersheds and fish streams. Please prioritize conservation of the T77 and TNC conservation priority areas in any new Alaska Roadless Rule. Prioritizing one antiquated industry over other private sectors is bad business, and bad for Southeast Alaska.

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/11/2019 10:49:55 AM
First name: Madyson
Last name: Weaver
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Madyson Weaver and I live in Sitka, Alaska. I moved to SE AK in March. I depend on the forest for my mental and physical health. I value its beauty, history, and the rich resources it provides for all those that live here, whether it be animals, plants, or humans. I am writing a comment on the Alaska Roadless Rule DEIS because I am concerned with how the Rule and the proposed full exemption will impact my foraging for wild foods, the peace and solitude I find in nature, recreating, the status of the Tongass as a national and global treasure, the forest's ability to sequester carbon and mitigate climate change impacts, the conservation of resources for future generations .

Out of the alternatives described in the AKRR DEIS I support alternative 1: no action. It protects important fish and wildlife habitat from clearcutting and roadbuilding. I depend on roadless areas in the Tongass National Forest for foraging and gathering wild foods, viewing wildlife, recreating and enjoying nature, carbon sequestration and local climate change mitigation, keeping public lands wild for future generations, healthy fish habitat, deer habitat and subsistence hunting. A full exemption does not protect these values, nor does it effectively balance economic development and conservation of roadless area characteristics. A full exemption from the Roadless Rule and increased logging and roadbuilding will negatively impact the Tongass and what I and many others use and depend on the forest to provide for us.

The Roadless areas on the Tongass that are especially important to me are those on or around Baranof Island, Chichagof Island, Admiralty Island, the northern mainland above Port Snettisham (around Juneau), the central mainland from Hobart Bay to Stikine River, the southern mainland from Bradfield Canal to Dixon Entrance Kupreanof Island, all of the inventoried roadless areas on the Tongass Yakutat forelands, Revillagigedo Island (near Ketchikan), Prince of Wales Island, Wrangell and Etolin Islands, Kuiu Island. I want the roadless areas in these locations to stay in roadless status in any alternative selected by the Forest Service, and be managed to provide for low-impact recreation such as camping, hiking, hunting, and fishing passive or active watershed restoration of salmon streams and wildlife habitat. It is important to me that the T77 and the TNC conservation priority areas retain their roadless protections.

I do not support the Forest Services preferred alternative of a full exemption. A full exemption is not in the interests of Southeast Alaskans who live in and use the Tongass National Forest, because No action the best action.. The State of Alaska says that a full exemption is needed for rural economic development opportunities. However, a full exemption would not help create more rural economic development opportunities, it would instead harm our existing rural economies that are based on the visitor industry and commercial fishing industry.

It would further harm rural economic opportunities because pursuing the same outdated economic model of old growth clearcut harvesting for export stifles innovation and possibility in other sectors, such as mariculture, sustainable young growth harvest, and rural agriculture. If the Forest Service wants to support rural economic development, they should transition to second growth logging invest in creating and maintaining recreation infrastructure.

I urge the Forest Service to prioritize the voices of Southeast Alaskans over those of our political representation and corporate interests. Choosing a full exemption will not create a long lasting, durable solution for roadless areas on the Tongass. It will only increase the legal challenges, uncertainty for businesses, and conflict on the Tongass going forward.

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Madyson
Last name: Weaver
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC1057

Dear Secretary Perdue,

I live and work on the lands and waters of the Tongass National Forest. The health of the Tongass National Forest is critical to sustaining my way of life in this rugged region. From hunting and fishing, to hiking and camping, to our tourism and commercial fishing-based economies, we rely on the intact habitat that the roadless areas of the Tongass contain. That is why it is important to me that the 2001 Roadless Rule remain in place on the Tongass National Forest. A no-action alternative is the best option for Southeast Alaska.

Prioritizing one antiquated industry over private sectors is bad business, and bad for Southeast Alaska. I support the Tongass Transition and I would like the Forest Service to continue phasing out old growth clearcutting. Please prioritize conservation of the T77 and TNC conservation priority areas in any new Alaska Roadless Rule. This forest is a salmon forest, and the Forest Service should focus on restoring degraded watersheds and fish streams.

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/26/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Margaret
Last name: Weaver
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC54

Forest Service Folks!

The Roadless Rule works for all of us Alaskans in the Southeast! We support the No-Action Alternative. Respect the Tongass and its inhabitants!

Thanks,

Margaret Weaver

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Mark
Last name: Weaver
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I support Alternative One. I do not want road building in presently roadless areas of Tongass NF.

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Michael
Last name: Weaver
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Michael Weaver and I live in St. Charles, Illinois.

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, Michael Weaver

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/12/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Michael
Last name: Weaver
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Michael Weaver and I live in Noblesville, Indiana.

I like to breath fresh air, how about you?

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.

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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, Michael Weaver

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/11/2019 11:05:57 AM
First name: Rachel
Last name: Weaver
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Rachel Weaver and I live in Austin, TX. I am writing a comment on the Alaska Roadless Rule DEIS because I am concerned with how the Rule and the proposed full exemption will affect the Tongass National Forest and the Chugach National Forest.

It is important to maintaining the balance of CO2 and oxygen in our atmosphere. And it is rugged and beautiful and should remain untouched.

I urge the Forest Service to select Alternative 1, the no action alternative, for the final decision on the Alaska Roadless Rule. This alternative protects the inventoried roadless areas in Alaska that are full of pristine wilderness and provide important fish and wildlife habitat, and already allows for important community and economic development projects. As an American citizen, I value the Tongass National Forest and the Chugach National Forest for its status as Americau2019s best natural solution to climate change and its sequestering of millions of metric tons of carbon and mitigating climate change its wild salmon populations and the world-class fishing opportunities its huge swaths of intact ecosystems and all the biodiversity it contains its status as the largest intact temperate rainforest in the world the recreational opportunities it provides the high density of incredible wildlife it contains to keep public lands wild for future generations its status as a national and global treasure the lifestyles of the indigenous communities that the forest supports. A full exemption does not protect these priorities, nor does it effectively balance economic development with the countless other benefits provided by roadless areas. I would like the Forest Service to manage roadless areas for low-impact recreation (camping hiking hunting foraging etc) passiveactive watershed restoration (stream and habitat) to improvemaintain roadless characteristics (culvert removalreplacement improve fish passage wildlife thinning etc) . It is important to me that high-value intact habitat including the T77 watersheds and the TNC conservation priority areas retain their roadless protections in any alternative selected.

The Forest Service is wasting taxpayers' valuable time and money by trying to prop up a failing timber industry in Southeast Alaska. The nonpartisan, independent taxpayer watchdog Taxpayers for Common Sense reported that the Tongass timber program has losses of over $600 million of taxpayers money in the past 20 years. I would rather see my taxpayer dollars used to restore salmon habitat that was hurt by past logging practices perform restorative actions that support wildlife populations on previously degraded landscapes that support wildlife populations . We need to stop subsidizing the clearcutting of old growth on the Tongass through taxpayer funded roadbuilding. If a full exemption were chosen, it would not create opportunities and would instead prioritize the special interests of one industry over the interests of the entire American public.

The Tongass is Americas homegrown natural solution to climate change. The forest sequesters 8% of the carbon stored in forests throughout the contiguous US states, some 3 billion metric tons of it. We must take action to mitigate and adapt to climate change, and maintaining the Tongass in a roadless state is critical for a sustainable future.

I urge the Forest Service to listen to the voices of the American people and prioritize them over corporate interests. The Forest Service should strengthen public involvement in developing land management policy and focus on broadly supported work rather than allowing special corporate interests to guide policy changes. Attempting to exempt inventoried roadless areas on the Chugach National Forest from the Alaska Roadless Rule adds further insult to injury, and this proposal has not received any sufficient environmental impact analysis or public input. Choosing a full exemption will not create a long lasting, durable solution for roadless areas in Alaska it will only increase the legal challenges, uncertainty for businesses, and conflict over these forests going forward.

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Roxie
Last name: Weaver
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Roxie Weaver and I live in Franklin, Ohio.

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, Roxie Weaver

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Sarah
Last name: Weaver
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC6040

Dear U.S. Forest Service:

The Roadless Rule has been instrumental in conserving the Tongass National Forest and in supporting its fish and wildlife-based industries for more than 20 years. *Please uphold the Rule's protections for important fish and wildlife areas, including the Tongass 77.* [Text bolded for emphasis] 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 are protection for habitat that our irreplaceable fish and wildlife populations need to survive.* [Text bolded for emphasis]

Customize your comment by listing reasons the Tongass is important to you or why you value Alaska Roadless areas: (ex: specific locations you recreate, activities you do, or why you value fish & wildlife) [Text italicized]

Sincerely,

Would you like to volunteer with TU Alaska to Help America's Salmon Forest?

Yes No

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/10/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Sayre
Last name: Weaver
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Sayre Weaver and I live in Laguna Woods, California.

The efforts to roll back the Roadless Rule are motivated entirely by corporate greed, will do no long term social, environmental, or true economic good, and will come at great costs to the environment, the animals who live in the Tongass National Forest, and our efforts to combat climate change.

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, Sayre Weaver

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Steven
Last name: Weaver
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Steven Weaver and I live in Charlotte, North Carolina.

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, Steven Weaver

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Tammy
Last name: Weaver
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Tammy Weaver and I live in Columbus, Ohio.

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, Tammy Weaver

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Wes
Last name: Weaver
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Wes Weaver and I live in Boone, North Carolina.

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, Wes Weaver

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Jennifer
Last name: Weaver-Neist
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, Jennifer Weaver-Neist

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Jennifer
Last name: Weaver-Neist
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, Jennifer Weaver-Neist

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Jennifer
Last name: Weaver-Neist
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Jennifer Weaver-Neist and I live in Hillsboro, Oregon.

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, Jennifer Weaver-Neist

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Ellen
Last name: Web
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC5048

USDA Forest Service

Attn: Alaska Roadless Rule

[Address]

Juneau, Alaska 99802

To the US Forest Service,

I am writing to express my strong *disapproval* of the proposal to exempt the Alaska's Tongass National Forest from the Roadless Rule [text bolded for emphasis].

I visited Alaska in 2015. i saw the vast Tongass National Forest and was awed by it. I saw brown bears and eagles and more amazing wildlife. These wild species are already impacted by climate change. I know from my experience in other forests that roads impact the wildlife and wilderness in countless ways. This forest is a wilderness and there is not many places that are still this wild. It is meaningful to all species including human beings.

We know forests sequester carbon and are essential to the well-being of the planet. This is indisputably important given our current extreme climate crisis. Please save this forest from inroads and destruction.

Though I was not able to set foot in the Tongass when I visited Alaska, just seeing it and knowing it existed gave me hope. This wild resource is rare and we need to preserve it as intact as possible. Roads would transform and desecrate this wilderness.

Please protect this rare, special and amazing resource for everyone and for the health of our planet. We can never go back once the destruction occurs.

Sincerely,

[Signture]

Ellen Webb

[Address]

Oakland, CA 94611

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Aleia
Last name: Webb
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Aleia Webb and I live in Portland, Oregon.

Your mandate is to serve the PEOPLE of the USA, not the for-profit CORPORATIONS!!!

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, Aleia Webb

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/13/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Allen
Last name: Webb
Organization: WMU
Title:
Comments:
I strongly oppose the Proposed Rule which will exempt the Tongas National Forest from the 2001 Roadless Rule.
The Roadless Rule fights climate change. The Tongass National Forest stores the equivalent of 8 percent of all the stored carbon in the Lower 48's national forests put together, making it one of the most important carbon sinks in the country.
The Roadless Rule protects drinking water, salmon runs (80% of commercial salmon in SE Alaska), and imperiled wildlife.

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Carol
Last name: Webb
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Carol Webb and I live in Brooklyn, New York.

we are leaving a path of destruction for our future generations. we are slowly destroying their heritage.

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, Carol Webb

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Charles
Last name: Webb
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, Charles Webb

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 1/1/0001 12:00:00 AM
First name: Chrissy
Last name: Webb
Organization:
Title:
Comments:

Dear Secretary Perdue,

I live and work on the lands and waters of the Tongass National Forest. The health of the Tongass National Forest is critical to sustaining my way of life in this rugged region. From hunting and fishing, to hiking and camping, to our tourism and commercial fishing-based economies, we rely on the intact habitat that the roadless areas of the Tongass contain. That is why it is important to me that the 2001 Roadless Rule remain in place on the Tongass National Forest. A no-action alternative is the best option for Southeast Alaska.

Prioritizing one antiquated industry over private sectors is bad business, and bad for Southeast Alaska. I support the Tongass Transition and I would like the Forest Service to continue phasing out old growth clearcutting. Please prioritize conservation of the T77 and TNC conservation priority areas in any new Alaska Roadless Rule. This forest is a salmon forest, and the Forest Service should focus on restoring degraded watersheds and fish streams.

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 1/1/0001 12:00:00 AM
First name: Chrissy
Last name: Webb
Organization:
Title:
Comments:

Dear Secretary Perdue,

I live and work on the lands and waters of the Tongass National Forest. The health of the Tongass National Forest is critical to sustaining my way of life in this rugged region. From hunting and fishing, to hiking and camping, to our tourism and commercial fishing-based economies, we rely on the intact habitat that the roadless areas of the Tongass contain. That is why it is important to me that the 2001 Roadless Rule remain in place on the Tongass National Forest. A no-action alternative is the best option for Southeast Alaska.

Prioritizing one antiquated industry over private sectors is bad business, and bad for Southeast Alaska. I support the Tongass Transition and I would like the Forest Service to continue phasing out old growth clearcutting. Please prioritize conservation of the T77 and TNC conservation priority areas in any new Alaska Roadless Rule. This forest is a salmon forest, and the Forest Service should focus on restoring degraded watersheds and fish streams.

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Chrissy
Last name: Webb
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC1143

Dear Secretary Perdue,

I live and work on the lands and waters of the Tongass National Forest. The health of the Tongass National Forest is critical to sustaining my way of life in this rugged region. From hunting and fishing, to hiking and camping, to our tourism and commercial fishing-based economies, we rely on the intact habitat that the roadless areas of the Tongass contain. That is why it is important to me that the 2001 Roadless Rule remain in place on the Tongass National Forest. A no-action alternative is the best option for Southeast Alaska.

Prioritizing one antiquated industry over private sectors is bad business, and bad for Southeast Alaska. I support the Tongass Transition and I would like the Forest Service to continue phasing out old growth clearcutting. Please prioritize conservation of the T77 and TNC conservation priority areas in any new Alaska Roadless Rule. This forest is a salmon forest, and the Forest Service should focus on restoring degraded watersheds and fish streams.

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 7:32:38 AM
First name: Chrissy
Last name: Webb
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Chrissy Webb and I live in Polson, MT. I had the amazing opportunity to work in SE AK this summer as a fisheries technician for the Sitka Sound Science Center and ADFG. I fell in love with this unique landscape, and was blown away by the intact ecosystems and thriving salmon populations. I am writing a comment on the Alaska Roadless Rule DEIS because I am concerned with how the Rule and the proposed full exemption will impact my fishing, the peace and solitude I find in nature, recreating, the status of the Tongass as a national and global treasure, the forest's ability to sequester carbon and mitigate climate change impacts, the conservation of resources for future generations .

Out of the alternatives described in the AKRR DEIS I support alternative 1: no action. It shows the Forest Service is responding to the needs and voices of Southeast Alaskan communities. I depend on roadless areas in the Tongass National Forest for healthy fish habitat, recreating and enjoying nature, carbon sequestration and local climate change mitigation, viewing wildlife, keeping public lands wild for future generations. A full exemption does not protect these values, nor does it effectively balance economic development and conservation of roadless area characteristics. A full exemption from the Roadless Rule and increased logging and roadbuilding will negatively impact the Tongass and what I and many others use and depend on the forest to provide for us.

The Roadless areas on the Tongass that are especially important to me are those on or around Baranof Island, Chichagof Island, Admiralty Island, the northern mainland above Port Snettisham (around Juneau). I want the roadless areas in these locations to stay in roadless status in any alternative selected by the Forest Service, and be managed to provide for the uses and activities I listed above. It is important to me that the T77 and the TNC conservation priority areas retain their roadless protections.

I do not support the Forest Services preferred alternative of a full exemption. A full exemption is not in the interests of Southeast Alaskans who live in and use the Tongass National Forest, because The economy, spirituality, and culture of many Alaskans depends on having healthy fish and wildlife populations, and beautiful wild places. This should not be threatened by exempting the Tongass from the Roadless Rule. Worldwide, we need intact ecosystems like the Tongass to help combat climate change through carbon sequestration.. The State of Alaska says that a full exemption is needed for rural economic development opportunities. However, a full exemption would not help create more rural economic development opportunities, it would instead harm our existing rural economies that are based on the visitor industry and commercial fishing industry.

It would further harm rural economic opportunities because pursuing the same outdated economic model of old growth clearcut harvesting for export stifles innovation and possibility in other sectors, such as mariculture, sustainable young growth harvest, and rural agriculture. If the Forest Service wants to support rural economic development, they should devote resources to support our fishing and visitor industries.

We, as humans, need places like the Tongass to remind us of the strength and beauty of the natural, wild world. Keep it roadless.

I urge the Forest Service to prioritize the voices of Southeast Alaskans over those of our political representation and corporate interests. Choosing a full exemption will not create a long lasting, durable solution for roadless areas on the Tongass. It will only increase the legal challenges, uncertainty for businesses, and conflict on the Tongass going forward.

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 1/1/0001 12:00:00 AM
First name: Chrissy
Last name: Webb
Organization:
Title:
Comments:

Dear Secretary Perdue,

I live and work on the lands and waters of the Tongass National Forest. The health of the Tongass National Forest is critical to sustaining my way of life in this rugged region. From hunting and fishing, to hiking and camping, to our tourism and commercial fishing-based economies, we rely on the intact habitat that the roadless areas of the Tongass contain. That is why it is important to me that the 2001 Roadless Rule remain in place on the Tongass National Forest. A no-action alternative is the best option for Southeast Alaska.

Prioritizing one antiquated industry over private sectors is bad business, and bad for Southeast Alaska. I support the Tongass Transition and I would like the Forest Service to continue phasing out old growth clearcutting. Please prioritize conservation of the T77 and TNC conservation priority areas in any new Alaska Roadless Rule. This forest is a salmon forest, and the Forest Service should focus on restoring degraded watersheds and fish streams.

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 1/1/0001 12:00:00 AM
First name: Chrissy
Last name: Webb
Organization:
Title:
Comments:

Dear Secretary Perdue,

I live and work on the lands and waters of the Tongass National Forest. The health of the Tongass National Forest is critical to sustaining my way of life in this rugged region. From hunting and fishing, to hiking and camping, to our tourism and commercial fishing-based economies, we rely on the intact habitat that the roadless areas of the Tongass contain. That is why it is important to me that the 2001 Roadless Rule remain in place on the Tongass National Forest. A no-action alternative is the best option for Southeast Alaska.

Prioritizing one antiquated industry over private sectors is bad business, and bad for Southeast Alaska. I support the Tongass Transition and I would like the Forest Service to continue phasing out old growth clearcutting. Please prioritize conservation of the T77 and TNC conservation priority areas in any new Alaska Roadless Rule. This forest is a salmon forest, and the Forest Service should focus on restoring degraded watersheds and fish streams.

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Chrissy
Last name: Webb
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Public Comment-- Roadless Rule Draft EIS, Tongass National Forest AK

Hi there,

Below is a comment I would like to be considered for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement regarding the Roadless Rule on the Tongass National Forest in Alaska:

I had the pleasure of living in SE Alaska this summer. I was working as a fisheries technician for the Sitka Sound Science Center and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. I had the amazing opportunity to sample chum salmon on streams throughout the Tongass, around the towns of Sitka and Juneau. The Tongass is unlike anywhere else in the country. This is one of the last remaining intact, wild ecosystems we have in the country, and nothing should threaten this. I do not support exempting the Tongass from the Roadless Rule, and believe NO ACTION should be taken. After living, working, and recreating in various Wilderness areas in Montana, Wyoming, Utah, Idaho, Washington, and now Southeast Alaska, I have learned that nothing in the lower 48 states compares to the rich, healthy ecosystem of the Tongass. We sampled thousands of chum salmon in streams within the Tongass. Salmon are the core of Alaska livelihood, not just economically, but culturally and spiritually. With salmon populations in decline in so many other parts of the Pacific, every effort should be taken to protect their habitat, including keeping the Tongass within the Roadless Rule.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Ms. Chrissy Webb

Polson MT 59860

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Eada
Last name: Webb
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Eada Webb and I live in Oak Ridge, Tennessee.

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, Eada Webb

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Gerard
Last name: Webb
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, Gerard Webb

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: John
Last name: Webb
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.

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Regards, John Webb

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Jon
Last name: Webb
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
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Regards, Jon Webb

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Jonathan
Last name: Webb
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Leave our natural resources alone. We have no reason to harvest a forest when there is plenty of renewable resources available if handled properly. 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.
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Regards, Jonathan Webb

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Kathleen
Last name: Webb
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
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Regards, Kathleen Webb

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Kathleen
Last name: Webb
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
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Regards, Kathleen Webb

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Kathleen
Last name: Webb
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
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Regards, Kathleen Webb

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/14/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Kinari
Last name: Webb
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Kinari Webb and I live in Kensington, CA. I am writing a comment on the Alaska Roadless Rule DEIS because I am concerned with how the Rule and the proposed full exemption will affect the Tongass National Forest and the Chugach National Forest.

As a physician, I am very worried about the health of our planet and the health of all her people if we continue to believe in scarcity. If we leave spaces like this for the natural world, they care for us in perpetuity.

I urge the Forest Service to select Alternative 1, the no action alternative, for the final decision on the Alaska Roadless Rule. This alternative protects the inventoried roadless areas in Alaska that are full of pristine wilderness and provide important fish and wildlife habitat, and already allows for important community and economic development projects. As an American citizen, I value the Tongass National Forest and the Chugach National Forest for its status as America's best natural solution to climate change and its sequestering of millions of metric tons of carbon and mitigating climate change, its wild salmon populations and the world-class fishing opportunities, its huge swaths of intact ecosystems and all the biodiversity it contains, its status as the largest intact temperate rainforest in the world, the recreational opportunities it provides, the high density of incredible wildlife it contains, to keep public lands wild for future generations, its status as a national and global treasure, the lifestyles of the indigenous communities that the forest supports. A full exemption does not protect these priorities, nor does it effectively balance economic development with the countless other benefits provided by roadless areas. I would like the Forest Service to manage roadless areas for low-impact recreation (camping, hiking, hunting, foraging, etc), passive/active watershed restoration (stream and habitat) to improve/maintain roadless characteristics (culvert removal/replacement, improve fish passage, wildlife thinning, etc). It is important to me that high-value intact habitat including the T77 watersheds and the TNC conservation priority areas retain their roadless protections in any alternative selected.

The Forest Service is wasting taxpayers' valuable time and money by trying to prop up a failing timber industry in Southeast Alaska. The nonpartisan, independent taxpayer watchdog Taxpayers for Common Sense reported that the Tongass timber program has losses of over $600 million of taxpayers money in the past 20 years. I would rather see my taxpayer dollars used to restore salmon habitat that was hurt by past logging practices, perform restorative actions that support wildlife populations on previously degraded landscapes that support wildlife populations, develop more recreational opportunities, like trails and cabins, establish the economic value of the carbon stored in the Tongass. We need to stop subsidizing the clearcutting of old growth on the Tongass through taxpayer funded roadbuilding. If a full exemption were chosen, it would not create opportunities and would instead prioritize the special interests of one industry over the interests of the entire American public.

The Tongass is Americas homegrown natural solution to climate change. The forest sequesters 8% of the carbon stored in forests throughout the contiguous US states, some 3 billion metric tons of it. We must take action to mitigate and adapt to climate change, and maintaining the Tongass in a roadless state is critical for a sustainable future.

I urge the Forest Service to listen to the voices of the American people and prioritize them over corporate interests. The Forest Service should strengthen public involvement in developing land management policy and focus on broadly supported work rather than allowing special corporate interests to guide policy changes.

Attempting to exempt inventoried roadless areas on the Chugach National Forest from the Alaska Roadless Rule adds further insult to injury, and this proposal has not received any sufficient environmental impact analysis or public input. Choosing a full exemption will not create a long lasting, durable solution for roadless areas in Alaska it will only increase the legal challenges, uncertainty for businesses, and conflict over these forests going forward.

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Leah
Last name: Webb
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, Leah Webb

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Linda
Last name: Webb
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Linda Webb and I live in Rancho Palos Verdes, 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, Linda Webb

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Maureen
Last name: Webb
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Maureen Webb and I live in Chatham, Virginia.

This is an attack on our environment and every person in the US. We need to be making the regulations tougher. Climate change is upon us and we are running out of time to try to fix it.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.

Regards, Maureen Webb

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Meredith
Last name: Webb
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Keep Roadless Rule

To whom it may concern:

I oppose the proposed removal of the Roadless status of Alaska and the Tongass National Forest. We must preserve the forest by choosing Alternative 1, maintaining the Roadless Rule.

Our planet has fewer and fewer swaths of forest and wildlife, and we must protect them. Please KEEP the roadless rule for Tongass.

Sincerely,

Meredith Webb

Minneapolis, Minnesota 55406

--

Meredith Webb

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Michael
Last name: Webb
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Michael Webb and I live in Amelia, Ohio.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Michael Webb

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Michael
Last name: Webb
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Michael Webb and I live in Providence, Rhode Island.

Trump is oblivious to his own stupidity. Trump is so dumb; he doesnt have enough intelligence to know he is stupid. You can tell when Trump is lying, his lips are moving. How does a corrupt, self serving, pathological liar get into our White House? You can thank the GOP, the dark money receivers, the Republican Party. We need to take a close look at Republican lying self serving deceitful politics. They are not working for us, the US Taxpayers. They do nothing for America or our Democracy. They cater to themselves, big business, and the rich by vicarious methods, and I don't call it Democracy, I call it dark money and deceit. We need a law that prohibits Government officials, employees from accepting money from the rich, or big business corporations. Example problem: Republican Paul Ryan Collected $500,000 In Koch Contributions Days after House Passed Tax Law. Thats peanuts compared with what the Koch brothers will save. This is pure Republican greedy self serving crap. This is a documented fact, imagine how much money that is not documented, under the table! Wake up people the self serving Republican idiot morons have to go. They are responsible for Trump, the useless pathological liar sitting in our White House. We deserve better for our money than useless poorly educated greedy Republican idiot morons. They all need to be held accountable for their actions working in our Government against US Taxpayer well being. If you can call lying and deceit a job. They are an embarrassment to America, our Democracy, and what we stand for. Wake up people, the Republicans, Trump, big business are destroying our planet for the almighty dollar. The only reason we all pay outrageous prices for everything is market manipulation by big business, the rich. We need to fire them all. We cant allow another Trump to happen, the disgrace of the world. Eliminate the Electoral College vote, popular vote wins, end voter suppression, gerrymandering. No non transparent, unqualified, corrupt, self serving liars allowed in our Government. Wake up!

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Michael Webb

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Nina
Last name: Webb
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Nina Webb and I live in Bethlehem, NH. I am writing a comment on the Alaska Roadless Rule DEIS because I am concerned with how the Rule and the proposed full exemption will affect the Tongass National Forest and the Chugach National Forest.

We as caretakers of the world have a duty to preserve life on earth for as long as we can. Doing nothing, or worse, damaging a critical ecosystem to our planet does more harm than good. We shall respect and show love.

I urge the Forest Service to select Alternative 1, the no action alternative, for the final decision on the Alaska Roadless Rule. This alternative protects the inventoried roadless areas in Alaska that are full of pristine wilderness and provide important fish and wildlife habitat, and already allows for important community and economic development projects. As an American citizen, I value the Tongass National Forest and the Chugach National Forest for its status as America's best natural solution to climate change and its sequestering of millions of metric tons of carbon and mitigating climate change, its wild salmon populations and the world-class fishing opportunities, its huge swaths of intact ecosystems and all the biodiversity it contains, its status as the largest intact temperate rainforest in the world, the recreational opportunities it provides, the high density of incredible wildlife it contains, to keep public lands wild for future generations, its status as a national and global treasure, the lifestyles of the indigenous communities that the forest supports. A full exemption does not protect these priorities, nor does it effectively balance economic development with the countless other benefits provided by roadless areas. I would like the Forest Service to manage roadless areas for low-impact recreation (camping, hiking, hunting, foraging, etc), medium-impact recreation (FS cabins, trails, mooring buoys, 3-sided shelters), passive/active watershed restoration (stream and habitat) to improve/maintain roadless characteristics (culvert removal/replacement, improve fish passage, wildlife thinning, etc), hydroelectric development, inter-tie/transmission line construction. It is important to me that high-value intact habitat including the T77 watersheds and the TNC conservation priority areas retain their roadless protections in any alternative selected.

The Forest Service is wasting taxpayers' valuable time and money by trying to prop up a failing timber industry in Southeast Alaska. The nonpartisan, independent taxpayer watchdog Taxpayers for Common Sense reported that the Tongass timber program has losses of over $600 million of taxpayers money in the past 20 years. I would rather see my taxpayer dollars used to support small-scale, sustainable logging, establish the economic value of the carbon stored in the Tongass, restore salmon habitat that was hurt by past logging practices, perform restorative actions that support wildlife populations on previously degraded landscapes that support wildlife populations, develop more recreational opportunities, like trails and cabins. We need to stop subsidizing the clearcutting of old growth on the Tongass through taxpayer funded roadbuilding. If a full exemption were chosen, it would not create opportunities and would instead prioritize the special interests of one industry over the interests of the entire American public.

The Tongass is Americas homegrown natural solution to climate change. The forest sequesters 8% of the carbon stored in forests throughout the contiguous US states, some 3 billion metric tons of it. We must take action to mitigate and adapt to climate change, and maintaining the Tongass in a roadless state is critical for a sustainable future.

I urge the Forest Service to listen to the voices of the American people and prioritize them over corporate interests. The Forest Service should strengthen public involvement in developing land management policy and focus on broadly supported work rather than allowing special corporate interests to guide policy changes. Attempting to exempt inventoried roadless areas on the Chugach National Forest from the Alaska Roadless Rule adds further insult to injury, and this proposal has not received any sufficient environmental impact analysis or public input. Choosing a full exemption will not create a long lasting, durable solution for roadless areas in Alaska it will only increase the legal challenges, uncertainty for businesses, and conflict over these forests going forward.

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Patricia
Last name: Webb
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, Patricia Webb

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Patricia
Last name: Webb
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
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Regards, Patricia Webb

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Patricia
Last name: Webb
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Patricia Webb and I live in Madison Heights, Virginia.

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, Patricia Webb

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Randall
Last name: Webb
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Randall Webb and I live in Portland, Oregon.

At a time when we must have more trees, cutting the forest is akin to global suicide.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Randall Webb

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Robert
Last name: Webb
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, Robert Webb

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/7/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Stewart
Last name: Webb
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): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Lee
Last name: Webber
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.

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Regards, Lee Webber

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Mathew
Last name: Webber
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.

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Regards, Mathew Webber

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/7/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Norman
Last name: Webber
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.
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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): 11/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Taylor
Last name: Webber
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Taylor Webber and I live in Sappington, Missouri.

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, Taylor Webber

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/10/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Alex
Last name: Weber
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.
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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): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Bonnie
Last name: Weber
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Bonnie Weber and I live in Flanders, New York.

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, Bonnie Weber

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/13/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Carol
Last name: Weber
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Dear Sir/Madam:
My name is Carol Weber, and I live in Baltimore, Maryland.
I am writing to express my strong opposition to efforts to roll back the Roadless Area Conservation Rule (Roadless Rule) in Alaska and 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 all Alaskans, including native Alaskans, and taxpayers across this nation.
In Southeast Alaska, tourism accounts for 28% of employment and generates $1 billion annually in economic benefit, making tourism far more of an economic driver than the timber industry, which is less than 1% of the regional economy.
Any other choice but the No Action alternative would also put wildlife and critical habitat at risk, threaten access to clean water, and be a major step in the wrong direction on climate change jeopardizing Alaskans, and the planet, at a time when the state already faces severe challenges related to global rising temperatures. I urge you not to abandon the Roadless Rule in Alaska and instead put the planet's interest above corporate profits by choosing to keep the rule in place unchanged.
Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Carol Weber

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Charles
Last name: Weber
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Charles Weber and I live in Oceanside, California.

Stop clearcutting in the Tongass now

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, Charles Weber

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/7/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Connor
Last name: Weber
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.
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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): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Corinna
Last name: Weber
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Corinna Weber and I live in Marina, 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.

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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, Corinna Weber

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/7/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: David
Last name: Weber
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.
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Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/18/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: David
Last name: Weber
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Comments to oppose modification to the Roadless Rule

Dear U.S. Forest Service,

The Roadless Rule is key. It preserves options for the future. It treats forest as forest; "multiple use" only works if it is applied very cautiously. The Tongass is not a tree farm. David Weber

Sincerely,

David Weber

Exeter, NH 03833

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Donald
Last name: Weber
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Donald Weber and I live in Vidalia, Georgia.

When are you going to start doing what is best for our country and world? If you cannot do this, resign.

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, Donald Weber

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Ethan
Last name: Weber
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC5442

U.S. Forest Service Alaska Roadless Rule Committee:

I believe that the move to repeal the "Roadless Rule" in the tongass national forest is a move to favor major extraction industries operating on public lands, lands that are some of the most pristine forests in the country. I am a Marine scientist at Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute, so I understand the potential negative impacts on the environment and fish populations of the area (which support a multi-million dollar sport fishing industry). To allow this action would potentially damage native salmon runs and disrupt animal/nutrient industry). To allow this action would potentially damage native salmon runs and disrupt animal/nutrient movement through the landscape, it is proven in numerous scientific studies that building roads through forests has adverse negative effects. Additionally, this rule repeal is being done for the benefit of the logging industry, NOT the benefit of most citizens! Although there are pretenses that boosting logging in this area will boost the local economy and provide jobs, in reality the jobs created will be few and temporary, the major economic benefits will mostly be exported elsewhere along with the logs, and lastly the damage to old growth forests will be detrimental and irreparable. On the other hand, it has been shown that renewable industries such as ecotourism, fishing, and hunting can support a more robust economy with long term employment. Also, the majority of economic benefits will go directly to the local citizens operating these ventures.

Although I may not be from the area I do with to one day be able to enjoy the pristine wilderness and amazing fisheries it has to offer (I'm and avid fly fisherman), and I'm sure many others share the same sentiment. That is why it is in Alaska's best interest to preserve the pristine wilderness of the Tongass and Chugach National Forest and work with local communities to build sustainable industries based on the renewable use of its resources (logging in this area is NOT renewable). I STRONGLY encourage the use of the "No action" alternative 1, but also the alternative 2 with the most protections kept for watersheds and the smallest amount of logging land opened is the next best choice.

Thanks for taking the time to read my comments,

Sincerely,

Ethan Weber

Fort Pierce, FL 34950

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/10/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Greg
Last name: Weber
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Greg Weber and I live in Arlington, Washington.

This land belongs to the citizens, not the highest-bidding mining or oil company. Keep it public!

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Greg Weber

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Jan
Last name: Weber
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, Jan Weber

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Jeanine
Last name: Weber
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
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Regards, Jeanine Weber

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Jeanine
Last name: Weber
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Jeanine Weber and I live in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Thank you for fighting for (y)our future.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Jeanine Weber

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Jeanine
Last name: Weber
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, Jeanine Weber

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/12/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Jerry
Last name: Weber
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Jerry Weber and I live in Bayside, Wisconsin.

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, Jerry Weber

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/18/2019 3:15:44 PM
First name: Jessica
Last name: Weber
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Comments to oppose modification to the Roadless Rule

Dear U.S. Forest Service,

The Roadless Rule helps protect old-growth habitat for birds like the Prince of Wales Spruce Grouse and Northern Goshawk, as well as for mammals like wolves and deer. Opening roadless areas to more logging and roads will fragment the forest and eliminate more of the big old trees that these animals rely on.

Yet, all of the action alternatives in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement allow more roadbuilding and logging across the Tongass National Forest. Logging roads and timber operations cost tens of millions of taxpayer dollars every year, with zero return on investment. Meanwhile, these destructive activities degrade the naturally sustainable wealth of salmon, wildlife watching, and tourism opportunities.

It is time to stop opening more and more acres to the timber industry and instead bolster protections to the old-growth forests and wild areas on the Tongass. I urge you to select the "No Action" Alternative (Alternative 1) and allow the Roadless Rule to remain intact on the Tongass National Forest.

Sincerely,
Jessica Weber
Kent, OH 44240

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Jessica
Last name: Weber
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Jessica Weber and I live in Kent, Ohio.

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, Jessica Weber

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/10/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Joyce
Last name: Weber
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Joyce Weber and I live in Skokie, Illinois.

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, Joyce Weber

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Kathleen
Last name: Weber
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, Kathleen Weber

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Kay
Last name: Weber
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Kay Weber and I live in San Francisco, 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, Kay Weber

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Lawrence
Last name: Weber
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Lawrence Weber and I live in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

We have enough climate distortion. For all of out lives please don't make it worse so a few companies can profit.

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, Lawrence Weber

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Linda
Last name: Weber
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Linda Weber and I live in St. Louis Park, Minnesota.

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, Linda Weber

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/7/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Lindsey
Last name: Weber
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): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Marissa
Last name: Weber
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, Marissa Weber

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Mary
Last name: Weber
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Mary Weber and I live in Scottsville, New York.

Leave this place alone, enough irreversible damage has already been done to the earth!!!!

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, Mary Weber

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/5/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: MICHAEL
Last name: WEBER
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): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Michael
Last name: Weber
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Michael Weber and I live in Baltimore, Maryland.

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, Michael Weber

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/14/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Nadine
Last name: Weber
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Nadine Weber and I live in Prescott, AZ. I am writing a comment on the Alaska Roadless Rule DEIS because I am concerned with how the Rule and the proposed full exemption will affect the Tongass National Forest and the Chugach National Forest.

My husband and I have had the opportunity to work for eight years as guides on small tour ships in SE Alaska. The beauty and vastness of the Tongass is a very essential and unique part of what makes this location in America so incredibly special. There are few places left that have not been altered in some way for development or economic purposes. What the Tongass provides to nature, to the human spirit and also to the fishing economy in the region is priceless. To look upon this forest from the air and see something that so seldom exists anymore on earth should be meaningful to all humans, and be something that we, as Americans, should feel a need to protect. We are stewards of what will be there in the future, and this forest needs to continue to exist as it is.

I urge the Forest Service to select Alternative 1, the no action alternative, for the final decision on the Alaska Roadless Rule. This alternative protects the inventoried roadless areas in Alaska that are full of pristine wilderness and provide important fish and wildlife habitat, and already allows for important community and economic development projects. As an American citizen, I value the Tongass National Forest and the Chugach National Forest for its status as America's best natural solution to climate change and its sequestering of millions of metric tons of carbon and mitigating climate change, its wild salmon populations and the world-class fishing opportunities, its huge swaths of intact ecosystems and all the biodiversity it contains, its status as the largest intact temperate rainforest in the world, the recreational opportunities it provides, the high density of incredible wildlife it contains, to keep public lands wild for future generations, its status as a national and global treasure, the lifestyles of the indigenous communities that the forest supports. A full exemption does not protect these priorities, nor does it effectively balance economic development with the countless other benefits provided by roadless areas. I would like the Forest Service to manage roadless areas for medium-impact recreation (FS cabins, trails, mooring buoys, 3-sided shelters), low-impact recreation (camping, hiking, hunting, foraging, etc), passive/active watershed restoration (stream and habitat) to improve/maintain roadless characteristics (culvert removal/replacement, improve fish passage, wildlife thinning, etc). It is important to me that high-value intact habitat including the T77 watersheds and the TNC conservation priority areas retain their roadless protections in any alternative selected.

The Forest Service is wasting taxpayers' valuable time and money by trying to prop up a failing timber industry in Southeast Alaska. The nonpartisan, independent taxpayer watchdog Taxpayers for Common Sense reported that the Tongass timber program has losses of over $600 million of taxpayers money in the past 20 years. I would rather see my taxpayer dollars used to restore salmon habitat that was hurt by past logging practices, perform restorative actions that support wildlife populations on previously degraded landscapes that support wildlife populations, develop more recreational opportunities, like trails and cabins, support small-scale, sustainable logging, establish the economic value of the carbon stored in the Tongass. We need to stop subsidizing the clearcutting of old growth on the Tongass through taxpayer funded roadbuilding. If a full exemption were chosen, it would not create opportunities and would instead prioritize the special interests of one industry over the interests of the entire American public.

The Tongass is Americas homegrown natural solution to climate change. The forest sequesters 8% of the carbon stored in forests throughout the contiguous US states, some 3 billion metric tons of it. We must take

action to mitigate and adapt to climate change, and maintaining the Tongass in a roadless state is critical for a sustainable future.

I urge the Forest Service to listen to the voices of the American people and prioritize them over corporate interests. The Forest Service should strengthen public involvement in developing land management policy and focus on broadly supported work rather than allowing special corporate interests to guide policy changes. Attempting to exempt inventoried roadless areas on the Chugach National Forest from the Alaska Roadless Rule adds further insult to injury, and this proposal has not received any sufficient environmental impact analysis or public input. Choosing a full exemption will not create a long lasting, durable solution for roadless areas in Alaska it will only increase the legal challenges, uncertainty for businesses, and conflict over these forests going forward.

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Nicole
Last name: Weber
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Nicole Weber and I live in Pasadena, Maryland.

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, Nicole Weber

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Robert
Last name: Weber
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC3710

U.S. Forest Service Alaska Roadless Rule

Comment Period:

Comment Period Alaska Roadless Rule:

I am writing in support of the 'no action' alternative to leave the Roadless Rule unchanged in Alaska. I am concerned that changes to the rule would lead to greatly expand clear-cut logging of old growth timber and costly road building in undeveloped, wild areas of both the Tongass and Chugach Forests. These activities increase sedimentation, hurt water quality, often block salmon migration, and add to an already large backlog of needed road maintenance and restoration.

Our fisheries and wild forests are critical to the economy of Alaska. To grow these sectors of our economy, we need intact habitat. Please leave the Alaska Roadless Rule in place.

Sincerely,

Robert Weber

Ames, IA 50010

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 1/1/0001 12:00:00 AM
First name: Robert
Last name: Weber
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
3710

U.S. Forest Service Alaska Roadless Rule
Comment Period:

Comment Period Alaska Roadless Rule:

I am writing in support of the 'no action' alternative to leave the Roadless Rule unchanged in Alaska. I am concerned that changes to the rule would lead to greatly expand clear-cut logging of old growth timber and costly road building in undeveloped, wild areas of both the Tongass and Chugach Forests. These activities increase sedimentation, hurt water quality, often block salmon migration, and add to an already large backlog of needed road maintenance and restoration.
Our fisheries and wild forests are critical to the economy of Alaska. To grow these sectors of our economy, we need intact habitat. Please leave the Alaska Roadless Rule in place.

Sincerely,
Robert Weber
Ames, IA 50010

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Ron
Last name: Weber
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, Ron Weber

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Susanna
Last name: Weber
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, Susanna Weber

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Suzette
Last name: Weber
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Suzette Weber and I live in Los Angeles, 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, Suzette Weber

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Ted
Last name: Weber
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Ted Weber and I live in Annapolis, Maryland.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Ted Weber

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Victoria
Last name: Weber
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Victoria Weber and I live in Antigo, Wisconsin.

Thank you for your help and work in protecting our environment for this generation and the generations to come.

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, Victoria Weber

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/12/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Victoria
Last name: Weber
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
To US Forest Service: Please leave the Tongass National Forest alone. This forest is one of the few old growth forests left. It is working hard to hold carbon and to allow all the natural processes to work together. We do not need the wood from this forest enough to ruin it as an ecosystem. This has already happened in so many other places - with bad results. The National Forests belong to all US people, both those of us living now, AND also those coming in the future. We must save some of the true forests that have not yet been logged. Any sort of logging will harm the web of nature in the Tongass. Please take no action. Holding on to this valuable ecosystem is much more important than logging, taking the important parts away for short term gain.

As a landowner I have worked hard to conserve an older forest that I inherited so that it can be a seed bank for near-by lands. As a former environmental law librarian at Vermont Law School, I know the value of old growth ecosystems. There is so much more than just trees going on in Tongass. Please keep it that way.

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Wanda
Last name: Weber
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, Wanda Weber

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Wanda
Last name: Weber
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.

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Regards, Wanda Weber

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Zorina
Last name: Weber
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Zorina Weber and I live in Montclair, New Jersey.

Stop destroying our forests, our air, our water! Stop the exploitation of our planet for corporate greed

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, Zorina Weber

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/18/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Melanie
Last name: Weberg
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Proposed Alaskan Roadless Rule

I support Alternative 1 - "takes no action and would leave all of Alaska under the 2000 Roadless Rule, including the Tongass National Forest".

I support alternative 1 for the following reasons:

- The most obvious wildlife corridors have already been cut; those left are absolutely necessary. Island ecosystems do not provide intact services.

- The Salmon industry is reliant on old-growth trees. The fishing industry is reliant on an old-growth intact Tongass Forest.

- 25% of state economy is tourism. Tourism is reliant on an intact Tongass National Forest.

- 1% of state economy is logging. Industrial logging is heavily subsidized and only a FEW people are making money off of it in this region. It has a short life (boom & bust) and is done for the benefit of one mill. This mill is refusing to transition to second growth equipment and has stated they will leave when the old-growth is gone.

Thank you for your time.

Melanie Weberg

Osceola,WI 54020

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/1/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Melanie
Last name: Weberg
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I'm writing to request the "No Action Alternative" on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule to keep Roadless Rule protections intact for the Tongass National Forest.

The proposed action opens pristine roadless areas of our largest national forest (an old-growth temperate rain forest) to logging and road development.

Not only does this threaten habitat for wildlife including grizzly bears, moose, and salmon, it also sets a bad precedent that could open up roadless areas in wild forests across the nation.

The Tongass forest's role in the global carbon cycle is significant-storing more carbon than any forest in the nation. It is the most productive carbon-trapping forest on Earth.

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/5/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Alan
Last name: Webster
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): 11/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Bernadette
Last name: Webster
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Bernadette Webster and I live in Whitethorn, California.

Give us the earth we were born to. Money-making does not justify killing/harming all life.

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, Bernadette Webster

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Betsy
Last name: Webster
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Betsy Webster and I live in Mount Ulla, North Carolina.
There need to be some places man doesnt destroy for profit
I am opposed to efforts to roll back the Roadless Area Conservation 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. Please dont 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, Betsy Webster

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Bobbie
Last name: Webster
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, Bobbie Webster

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Catherine
Last name: Webster
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
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Regards, Catherine Webster

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/24/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Catherine
Last name: Webster
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Catherine Webster and I live in Pine, Arizona.

I was born in Alaska before it became a state, so it holds a special place in my heart. It's also the most beautiful place I've ever seen. It must be preserved, not exploited.

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.

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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, Catherine Webster

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/23/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Catherine
Last name: Webster
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Catherine Webster and I live in Pine, Arizona.

I was born in Alaska before it became a state, so it holds a special place in my heart. It's also the most beautiful place I've ever seen. It must be preserved, not exploited.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.

Regards, Catherine Webster

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Christopher
Last name: Webster
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, Christopher Webster

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Ellen
Last name: Webster
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Ellen Webster and I live in Port Angeles, Washington.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Ellen Webster

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: James
Last name: Webster
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC3693

U.S. Forest Service Alaska Roadless Rule

Comment Period:

Comment Period Alaska Roadless Rule:

I am writing in support of the 'no action' alternative to leave the Roadless Rule unchanged in Alaska. I am concerned that changes to the rule would lead to greatly expand clear-cut logging of old growth timber and costly road building in undeveloped, wild areas of both the Tongass and Chugach Forests. These activities increase sedimentation, hurt water quality, often block salmon migration, and add to an already large backlog of needed road maintenance and restoration.

Our fisheries and wild forests are critical to the economy of Alaska. To grow these sectors of our economy, we need intact habitat. Please leave the Alaska Roadless Rule in place.

Sincerely,

James Webster

Mebane, NC 27302

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 1/1/0001 12:00:00 AM
First name: James
Last name: Webster
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
3693

U.S. Forest Service Alaska Roadless Rule
Comment Period:

Comment Period Alaska Roadless Rule:

I am writing in support of the 'no action' alternative to leave the Roadless Rule unchanged in Alaska. I am concerned that changes to the rule would lead to greatly expand clear-cut logging of old growth timber and costly road building in undeveloped, wild areas of both the Tongass and Chugach Forests. These activities increase sedimentation, hurt water quality, often block salmon migration, and add to an already large backlog of needed road maintenance and restoration.
Our fisheries and wild forests are critical to the economy of Alaska. To grow these sectors of our economy, we need intact habitat. Please leave the Alaska Roadless Rule in place.

Sincerely,
James Webster
Mebane, NC 27302

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Joel
Last name: Webster
Organization: Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership
Title:
Comments:
TRCP Alaska Roadless Proposed Rule DEIS Comments 12_17_19_Final

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

USDA Forest Service

Attn: Alaska Roadless Rule

P.O. Box 21628

Juneau, Alaska 99802

RE: TRCP Comments on USDA Rulemaking for an Alaska Roadless Rule Dear Alaska Roadless Rulemaking Team:

The Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership (TRCP) is a national conservation organization with more than 100,000 members working to guarantee all Americans a quality place to hunt and fish. We are writing in regard to the management of 9.2 million acres of national forest inventoried roadless areas within the Tongass National Forest (Tongass NF) in Alaska, and we offer the following comments on the proposed Alaska roadless rule exemption and DEIS.

The Tongass NF supports robust salmon runs that are critical for subsistence, recreation, and commercial fishing; rivers, lakes, and streams in the Tongass NF supply 80 percent of the commercial salmon in Southeast Alaska.i Within the Tongass NF, 49 percent of salmon stream miles are contained by roadess areas.ii Roadless areas in the Tongass NF also support excellent habitat for Sitka black-tailed deer, an important food source for Alaskans and one of the few big game species in Alaska that out-of-state hunters can legally pursue without a guide, making them recreationally important as well. Sitka black-tailed deer are dependent on the overstory of old growth forests to intercept snow and provide more forage during winter months than can be provided by early seral forests, and logging has been shown to reduce their numbers.iii Black bear, mountain goat, moose, and Roosevelt elk are also important game species found in the Tongass NF. All of these species are important to our members, and increased roadbuilding and logging in the Tongass NF would likely have a detrimental effect on fisheries and game species over the long[shy]term.

Since our founding in 2002, the TRCP been involved in the management and conservation of national forest roadless areas for the benefit of fish, wildlife, and America's 47 million sportsmen and women. We support the 2001 Roadless Area Conservation Rule (2001 RACR) and the benefits it provides to clean water for both people and fish, high-quality wildlife habitat, and excellent hunting and fishing opportunities. The conservation management of these lands has long been established and is working. Despite our strong support for the 2001 RACR, the TRCP played a major role in the creation of the Idaho Roadless Rule and the Colorado

Roadless Rule, and we are supportive of those final rules because they were:

* established through an inclusive public process;

* based on stakeholder engagement that included pragmatic representatives from a broad base of interest groups; and
* resulted in net conservation gain, whereby new development allowances for roads, timber harvest, and mineral extraction were compensated for with increased safeguards for the highest value roadless areas.

When the Alaska roadless rulemaking process was initiated, we were optimistic that the process could result in a successful and durable solution similar to Idaho and Colorado, and one such solution was within the range of proposed options recommended by the Citizens Advisory Committee chartered by Governor Walker. To that end, the TRCP joined other partners and local businesses to actively support a compromise alternative that would include Alaska-specific flexibilities for roadless area management, while protecting the majority of inventoried roadless areas on the Tongass and increasing conservation for critical salmon-bearing watersheds and wildlife habitat.

Despite our hopes for a durable compromise for Alaska, the USFS proposed preferred Alternative 6 is the most extreme option and[mdash]if adopted[mdash]would eliminate an entire layer of conservation safeguards from 9.2 million acres of undeveloped lands and create long-term uncertainty for valuable fish and wildlife habitat and the people of Alaska. Alternative 6 would also cause economic and social harm by damaging existing tourism and recreation activities, as well as impacting salmon and big game species that are hunted and fished for subsistence and recreational uses, as well as commercial fishing.

The preferred alternative in the DEIS and proposed rule will jeopardize the goodwill and trust that has been established through many years of collaboration among a wide range of local interests, including through the recent Tongass Land Management Plan amendment. We also believe that[mdash]contrary to the stated purpose and need for this rulemaking[mdash]the preferred alternative is so extreme that it is unlikely to be a durable outcome for these lands, as stakeholder groups will work to see its reversal.

Because the preferred alternative (Alternative 6) lacks balance and would undermine years of collaboration, we request that the USFS choose Alternative 1, the no action alternative, and retain the 2001 Roadless Area Conservation Rule as the management rule for all roadless areas within the Tongass NF and Alaska.

If the USFS chooses to proceed with the completion of a state specific roadless rule for Alaska, we believe that the USFS must shift direction and complete a rule that represents a durable compromise. To that end, we offer the following recommendations:

The TRCP believes that if a state specific Alaska rule is to be completed, it must result in net

conservation gain, whereby new development allowances for roads, timber harvest, and mineral extraction are compensated for with increased safeguards for the highest value roadless areas. The current preferred alternative is polarizing and indefensible. From reviewing the alternatives, the TRCP believes that a potentially supportable Alaska specific roadless rule[mdash]one that protects roadless areas,

while providing certainty for local communities[mdash]would be Alternative 2, with the inclusion of a specific element from Alternative 3.

First, the TRCP would be supportive of the updated inventory in Alternative 2 that increases the geographic scope of roadless areas by adding an additional 133,000 acres as Alaska Roadless Areas while removing 113,000 acres where roadless characteristics have been substantially altered (commonly referred to as "roaded roadless"). It simply makes sense to use the most up-to-date and accurate roadless inventory, and this updated inventory would potentially make 18,000 acres of old growth available to local mills, providing the wood products industry with a bridge as they transition from old growth to second growth timber production. If paired with additional watershed protections as discussed below, this change would be consistent with the 2016 Tongass Land Management Plan Amendment, which TRCP supports, and would reflect the compromises that were created during the amendment process.

The TRCP would also support the provision in Alternative 2 that would allocate Watershed Priority to 3.25 million acres, primarily identified as T77 Watersheds and TNC/Audubon Conservation Priority Areas. These areas provide the most vital fisheries and wildlife habitat in the Tongass NF and deserve elevated safeguards.

The TRCP would support keeping the LUD areas within the management direction of the roadless rule and aligning timber harvest with congressional intent, as proposed in Alternative 2. The TRCP is generally comfortable with the approach in Alternative 2 of proposing timber harvest exceptions for Roadless Priority ARAs at a slightly broader level than under the 2001 RACR to better address Alaska's unique economic development needs. We would also support writing timber harvest restrictions slightly narrower for the Watershed Priority ARAs to address aquatic and terrestrial habitat needs that are unique to Alaska's rural economic conditions and subsistence activities. This tailored management approach is very similar in concept to what was done with tiered levels of protections in both the Idaho Roadless Rule and the Colorado Roadless Rule, and we believe it has worked well.

We are also generally supportive of the road building restrictions in Alternative 2 that would make the Roadless Priority ARA road construction/reconstruction exceptions slightly broader than under the 2001 RACR; make the Watershed Priority ARA road construction/reconstruction exceptions slightly narrower than under the 2001 RACR; and make the LUD II Priority ARA road construction/reconstruction exceptions slightly broader than under the 2001 RACR. While many of these projects may be approved using flexibility already present in the 2001 RACR, the TRCP can support clarifications that assist local community objectives. As stated above, this tiered management approach is analogous to what was adopted in the Colorado and Idaho roadless rules, and it has a track record of working because it offers compromise that benefits both conservation and development interests.

Finally, from Alternative 3, the TRCP would support adopting the restrictions on old-growth timber harvest on the portion of the T77 and TNC/Audubon Conservation Areas that extend beyond roadless areas boundaries. Even outside of roadless areas, the T77 and TNC/Audubon Conservation Areas collectively provide the most important areas for long-term conservation of temperate rainforests and

associated fisheries, social, economic and ecological values, and they deserve elevated conservation measures. Because conservation of these areas is justified based on the best scientific information and is broadly supported by stakeholders, extending additional safeguards to the T77 Watersheds and the TNC/Audubon Conservation Priority areas is the best opportunity to create balance in the Alaska Roadless Rule. In context of our other recommendations, this provision would go a long way in establishing a state specific roadless rule that we could potentially support.

Additional comments

In addition to the changes above, we ask that all changes related to the Chugach National Forest (Chugach NF) be removed from the final rule. U.S. Department of Agriculture and USFS materials repeatedly communicated the intent that changes would apply only to the Tongass NF, and that the 2001 RACR would continue to apply on the Chugach NF. While the changes proposed in the preferred alternative may seem narrow and administrative in scope, they would create an enormous loophole in how the 2001 RACR may be modified in the future.

If the intent is simply to allow for administrative corrections and updates to roadless areas on the Chugach NF, then the language is not needed because the 2001 RACR allows for updates and revisions of inventoried roadless area maps. If the intent is to allow future land managers the ability to change the classification and boundaries of roadless areas on the Chugach NF after public notice and a 45-day comment period, then that action is beyond the purpose and need for this rulemaking, and was not appropriately disclosed or analyzed.

Conclusion

The 2001 RACR currently provides important safeguards to unroaded, intact habitats and watersheds on the Tongass NF. These areas are important for hunting and subsistence use of big game species, and they encompass watersheds critical for commercial and recreational fishing and other tourism.

We support the No Action Alternative and continued application of the 2001 RACR and[mdash]if the USFS chooses to proceed with a state focused rule[mdash]we believe that a modified Alternative 2 could offer a path to a durable, compromise option for Alaska that allows for increased flexibility on the Tongass NF while improving net conservation outcomes.

We appreciate the USFS's recognition of the progress represented by the 2016 Tongass Land Management Plan amendment, and the importance of a durable approach that reflects the biological, social and economic situation in and around the Tongass NF. Moving forward with Alternative 6 in the final rule would directly contradict those goals. It risks upending hard-won collaborative progress, and could cause biologic, social and economic harm, including to critical fish and wildlife habitat and to businesses that depend on those species. It could also make it more difficult to advance timber sales and other projects, because of the loss of collaborative support.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments on the USFS proposed rule and DEIS for roadless areas in the Tongass NF in Alaska. We hope that you will change course and work towards a durable

outcome that safeguards Alaska roadless areas, while benefitting local communities, tribal interests, and sportsmen and women.

Sincerely,

[signature]

Joel Webster

Director, Center for Western Lands

Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership

Missoula, MT 59802

i Tongass National Forest Salmon Factsheet. Available at

https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/fseprd554592.pdf

ii 2018 Alaska Anadromous Waters Catalog (AWC)

iii Schoen, J.W., M.D. Kirchoff, and M. H. Thomas. 1985. Seasonal distribution and habitat use by Sitka black-tailed deer in southeast Alaska. Alaska Dept. Fish and Game. Available at: http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/static/home/library/pdfs/wildlife/research_pdfs/sitka_black_tailed_deer_old_growth_rel ationships_implications_management.pdf

[Position]

His Vision ~ Our Mission

725 West Alder St. Suite 1
Missoula, MT 59802
406-926-3201
WWW.TRCP.ORG

December 17, 2019

USDA Forest Service
Attn: Alaska Roadless Rule
P.O. Box 21628
Juneau, Alaska 99802

RE: TRCP Comments on USDA Rulemaking for an Alaska Roadless Rule

Dear Alaska Roadless Rulemaking Team:

The Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership (TRCP) is a national conservation organization with more than 100,000 members working to guarantee all Americans a quality place to hunt and fish. We are writing in regard to the management of 9.2 million acres of national forest inventoried roadless areas within the Tongass National Forest (Tongass NF) in Alaska, and we offer the following comments on the proposed Alaska roadless rule exemption and DEIS.

The Tongass NF supports robust salmon runs that are critical for subsistence, recreation, and commercial fishing; rivers, lakes, and streams in the Tongass NF supply 80 percent of the commercial salmon in Southeast Alaska.[i] Within the Tongass NF, 49 percent of salmon stream miles are contained by roadess areas.[ii] Roadless areas in the Tongass NF also support excellent habitat for Sitka black-tailed deer, an important food source for Alaskans and one of the few big game species in Alaska that out-of-state hunters can legally pursue without a guide, making them recreationally important as well. Sitka black-tailed deer are dependent on the overstory of old growth forests to intercept snow and provide more forage during winter months than can be provided by early seral forests, and logging has been shown to reduce their numbers.[iii] Black bear, mountain goat, moose, and Roosevelt elk are also important game species found in the Tongass NF. All of these species are important to our members, and increased roadbuilding and logging in the Tongass NF would likely have a detrimental effect on fisheries and game species over the long-term.

Since our founding in 2002, the TRCP been involved in the management and conservation of national forest roadless areas for the benefit of fish, wildlife, and America's 47 million sportsmen and women. We support the 2001 Roadless Area Conservation Rule (2001 RACR) and the benefits it provides to clean water for both people and fish, high-quality wildlife habitat, and excellent hunting and fishing opportunities. The conservation management of these lands has long been established and is working. Despite our strong support for the 2001 RACR, the TRCP played a major role in the creation of the Idaho Roadless Rule and the Colorado

Roadless Rule, and we are supportive of those final rules because they were:

- established through an inclusive public process;
- based on stakeholder engagement that included pragmatic representatives from a broad base of interest groups; and
- resulted in net conservation gain, whereby new development allowances for roads, timber harvest, and mineral extraction were compensated for with increased safeguards for the highest value roadless areas.

When the Alaska roadless rulemaking process was initiated, we were optimistic that the process could result in a successful and durable solution similar to Idaho and Colorado, and one such solution was within the range of proposed options recommended by the Citizens Advisory Committee chartered by Governor Walker. To that end, the TRCP joined other partners and local businesses to actively support a compromise alternative that would include Alaska-specific flexibilities for roadless area management, while protecting the majority of inventoried roadless areas on the Tongass and increasing conservation for critical salmon-bearing watersheds and wildlife habitat.

Despite our hopes for a durable compromise for Alaska, the USFS proposed preferred Alternative 6 is the most extreme option and—if adopted—would eliminate an entire layer of conservation safeguards from 9.2 million acres of undeveloped lands and create long-term uncertainty for valuable fish and wildlife habitat and the people of Alaska. Alternative 6 would also cause economic and social harm by damaging existing tourism and recreation activities, as well as impacting salmon and big game species that are hunted and fished for subsistence and recreational uses, as well as commercial fishing.

The preferred alternative in the DEIS and proposed rule will jeopardize the goodwill and trust that has been established through many years of collaboration among a wide range of local interests, including through the recent Tongass Land Management Plan amendment. We also believe that—contrary to the stated purpose and need for this rulemaking—the preferred alternative is so extreme that it is unlikely to be a durable outcome for these lands, as stakeholder groups will work to see its reversal.

Because the preferred alternative (Alternative 6) lacks balance and would undermine years of collaboration, **we request that the USFS choose Alternative 1, the no action alternative, and retain the 2001 Roadless Area Conservation Rule as the management rule for all roadless areas within the Tongass NF and Alaska.**

<u>If the USFS chooses to proceed with the completion of a state specific roadless rule for Alaska, we believe that the USFS must shift direction and complete a rule that represents a durable compromise. To that end, we offer the following recommendations:</u>

The TRCP believes that if a state specific Alaska rule is to be completed, it must result in net conservation gain, whereby new development allowances for roads, timber harvest, and mineral extraction are compensated for with increased safeguards for the highest value roadless areas. The current preferred alternative is polarizing and indefensible. From reviewing the alternatives, the TRCP believes that a potentially supportable Alaska specific roadless rule—one that protects roadless areas,

while providing certainty for local communities—would be Alternative 2, with the inclusion of a specific element from Alternative 3.

First, the TRCP would be supportive of the updated inventory in Alternative 2 that increases the geographic scope of roadless areas by adding an additional 133,000 acres as Alaska Roadless Areas while removing 113,000 acres where roadless characteristics have been substantially altered (commonly referred to as "roaded roadless"). It simply makes sense to use the most up-to-date and accurate roadless inventory, and this updated inventory would potentially make 18,000 acres of old growth available to local mills, providing the wood products industry with a bridge as they transition from old growth to second growth timber production. If paired with additional watershed protections as discussed below, this change would be consistent with the 2016 Tongass Land Management Plan Amendment, which TRCP supports, and would reflect the compromises that were created during the amendment process.

The TRCP would also support the provision in Alternative 2 that would allocate Watershed Priority to 3.25 million acres, primarily identified as T77 Watersheds and TNC/Audubon Conservation Priority Areas. These areas provide the most vital fisheries and wildlife habitat in the Tongass NF and deserve elevated safeguards.

The TRCP would support keeping the LUD areas within the management direction of the roadless rule and aligning timber harvest with congressional intent, as proposed in Alternative 2. The TRCP is generally comfortable with the approach in Alternative 2 of proposing timber harvest exceptions for Roadless Priority ARAs at a slightly broader level than under the 2001 RACR to better address Alaska's unique economic development needs. We would also support writing timber harvest restrictions slightly narrower for the Watershed Priority ARAs to address aquatic and terrestrial habitat needs that are unique to Alaska's rural economic conditions and subsistence activities. This tailored management approach is very similar in concept to what was done with tiered levels of protections in both the Idaho Roadless Rule and the Colorado Roadless Rule, and we believe it has worked well.

We are also generally supportive of the road building restrictions in Alternative 2 that would make the Roadless Priority ARA road construction/reconstruction exceptions slightly broader than under the 2001 RACR; make the Watershed Priority ARA road construction/reconstruction exceptions slightly narrower than under the 2001 RACR; and make the LUD II Priority ARA road construction/reconstruction exceptions slightly broader than under the 2001 RACR. While many of these projects may be approved using flexibility already present in the 2001 RACR, the TRCP can support clarifications that assist local community objectives. As stated above, this tiered management approach is analogous to what was adopted in the Colorado and Idaho roadless rules, and it has a track record of working because it offers compromise that benefits both conservation and development interests.

Finally, from Alternative 3, the TRCP would support adopting the restrictions on old-growth timber harvest on the portion of the T77 and TNC/Audubon Conservation Areas that extend beyond roadless areas boundaries. Even outside of roadless areas, the T77 and TNC/Audubon Conservation Areas collectively provide the most important areas for long-term conservation of temperate rainforests and

associated fisheries, social, economic and ecological values, and they deserve elevated conservation measures. Because conservation of these areas is justified based on the best scientific information and is broadly supported by stakeholders, extending additional safeguards to the T77 Watersheds and the TNC/Audubon Conservation Priority areas is the best opportunity to create balance in the Alaska Roadless Rule. In context of our other recommendations, this provision would go a long way in establishing a state specific roadless rule that we could potentially support.

Additional comments

In addition to the changes above, we ask that all changes related to the Chugach National Forest (Chugach NF) be removed from the final rule. U.S. Department of Agriculture and USFS materials repeatedly communicated the intent that changes would apply only to the Tongass NF, and that the 2001 RACR would continue to apply on the Chugach NF. While the changes proposed in the preferred alternative may seem narrow and administrative in scope, they would create an enormous loophole in how the 2001 RACR may be modified in the future.

If the intent is simply to allow for administrative corrections and updates to roadless areas on the Chugach NF, then the language is not needed because the 2001 RACR allows for updates and revisions of inventoried roadless area maps. If the intent is to allow future land managers the ability to change the classification and boundaries of roadless areas on the Chugach NF after public notice and a 45-day comment period, then that action is beyond the purpose and need for this rulemaking, and was not appropriately disclosed or analyzed.

Conclusion

The 2001 RACR currently provides important safeguards to unroaded, intact habitats and watersheds on the Tongass NF. These areas are important for hunting and subsistence use of big game species, and they encompass watersheds critical for commercial and recreational fishing and other tourism.

We support the No Action Alternative and continued application of the 2001 RACR and—if the USFS chooses to proceed with a state focused rule—we believe that a modified Alternative 2 could offer a path to a durable, compromise option for Alaska that allows for increased flexibility on the Tongass NF while improving net conservation outcomes.

We appreciate the USFS's recognition of the progress represented by the 2016 Tongass Land Management Plan amendment, and the importance of a durable approach that reflects the biological, social and economic situation in and around the Tongass NF. Moving forward with Alternative 6 in the final rule would directly contradict those goals. It risks upending hard-won collaborative progress, and could cause biologic, social and economic harm, including to critical fish and wildlife habitat and to businesses that depend on those species. It could also make it more difficult to advance timber sales and other projects, because of the loss of collaborative support.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments on the USFS proposed rule and DEIS for roadless areas in the Tongass NF in Alaska. We hope that you will change course and work towards a durable

outcome that safeguards Alaska roadless areas, while benefitting local communities, tribal interests, and sportsmen and women.

Sincerely,

Joel Webster
Director, Center for Western Lands
Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership
Missoula, MT 59802

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[i] Tongass National Forest Salmon Factsheet. Available at https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/fseprd554592.pdf
[ii] 2018 Alaska Anadromous Waters Catalog (AWC)
[iii] Schoen, J.W., M.D. Kirchoff, and M. H. Thomas. 1985. Seasonal distribution and habitat use by Sitka black-tailed deer in southeast Alaska. Alaska Dept. Fish and Game. Available at: http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/static/home/library/pdfs/wildlife/research_pdfs/sitka_black_tailed_deer_old_growth_relationships_implications_management.pdf

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: John
Last name: Webster
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, John Webster

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/29/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Joseph
Last name: Webster
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Joseph Webster and I live in Decatur, Illinois.

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, Joseph Webster

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/5/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Keith
Last name: Webster
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): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Keith
Last name: Webster
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC3876

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,

Keith Webster

Sparta, GA 31087

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Robert
Last name: Webster
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Robert Webster and I live in Oxford, Massachusetts.

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, Robert Webster

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Sharon
Last name: Webster
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, Sharon Webster

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Sharon
Last name: Webster
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Sharon Webster and I live in Huntingtn Bch, 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, Sharon Webster

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Ty
Last name: Webster
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Ty Webster and I live in Trempealeau, Wisconsin.

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, Ty Webster

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/28/2019 4:00:00 PM
First name: Tyler
Last name: Webster
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): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Bruce
Last name: Wechsler
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, Bruce Wechsler

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Bruce
Last name: Wechsler
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Bruce Wechsler and I live in Londonderry, New Hampshire.

I strongly urge you to consider the protection of tourism, the protection of wildlife and natural resources over the timber industry, not to mention the need for pristine areas to stop further adverse effects on our climate.

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, Bruce Wechsler

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Susan
Last name: Wechsler
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Susan Wechsler and I live in Corvallis, Oregon.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Susan Wechsler

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Tim
Last name: Weddington
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Tim Weddington and I live in Hurricane, West Virginia.

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, Tim Weddington

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/12/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Luke
Last name: Weddle
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): 11/5/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: bradley
Last name: wedeberg
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.
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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): 11/6/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Brett
Last name: Wedeking
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Tongass Roadless Rule Public Comment

I strongly urge the Forest Service to implement Alternative 1 and leave the current Tongass National Forest Roadless Rule in place.

The Tongass is our nation's largest national forest and the last, large stronghold of in-tact old growth habitat. The forest provides critical habitat for numerous big game, small game and bird species. The untouched forest is also a stronghold for salmon and steelhead, species that are ESA listed throughout much of their range in the lower-48 and are struggling elsewhere in Alaska.

The wonderful natural resources of the Tongass provide a renewable resource and sustainable fishing and hunting based economy for Southesast Alaska. If opened to logging the Tongass would provide a short-term economic boon and potential ruination of more long-term sustainable economic practices. Once the old growth is cut, it's not coming back. The fisheries are of infinite value.

Native communities that have lived in the area for thousands of years still rely on healthy salmon runs and healthy forests to maintain their way of life. The federal government has the responsibility to work with these native groups and listen to them, to respect their wishes. The Tlingit and Haida tribes have made is clear they do not support eliminating the Tongass Roadless Rule and also made it clear they are sovereign nations that deserve a seat at the table in determinig what happens in the ancestral lands.

Allowing logging in the Tongass roadless areas is shameful, greedy and shortsighted. The Tongass currently provides outstanding fish and wildlife habitat, carbon sequestration, sustainable sport, commercial and tribal fishing opportunities and an economic benefit to the local community and the nation, and is the home to native peoples whom the federal government is not listening to. Implement Alternative 1 and leave the Tongass alone.

Brett Wedeking

Seattle, WA

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Elizabeth
Last name: Wedel
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Elizabeth Wedel and I live in Hot Springs, Arkansas.

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, Elizabeth Wedel

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Indira
Last name: Wedell
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Indira Wedell and I live in Sausalito, California.

I want the people of the earth to have a future. Please leave the Tongass alone.Roadless!!!!!

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Indira Wedell

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Indira
Last name: Wedell
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. An overwhelming majority of Americans oppose the exploitation of the Tongass. 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, Indira Wedell

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: JoAnn
Last name: Wedge
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is JoAnn Wedge and I live in Seffner, Florida.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, JoAnn Wedge

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/18/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Grant
Last name: Wedlock
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
0_Alaska_Roadless_Rule-Draft-EIS.pdf

I respectfully ask that you read this letter

Kind regards

Grant Wedlock

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

The Honorable Sonny Perdue, Secretary

United States Department of Agriculture

1400 Independence Avenue, SW

Washington, DC 20250

David E. Schmid, Regional Forester

USDA Forest Service, Alaska Region

Attn: Alaska Roadless Rule

P.O. Box 21628

Juneau, Alaska, 99802

Submitted electronically at: https://www.fs.usda.gov/roadmain/roadless/alaskaroadlessrule

Attn: Roadless Area Conservation; National Forest System Lands in Alaska

Dear Secretary Perdue and Mr. Schmid:The Tongass is the country's largest national forest[mdash]and home to nearly one-third of all old-growth temperate rainforest remaining in the entire world, and is prime habitat for wolves, specifically the Alexander Archipelago wolf, and their prey, the Sitka black-tailed deer. The Tongass old-growth forests provide ideal nesting habitat for the Queen Charlotte Goshawk, an endemic rainforest raptor that lives in coastal British Columbia and Southeast Alaska. The old-growth trees within Tongass roadless areas provide necessary shade for salmon streams. Both the Tongass and the Chugach play a vital role in capturing excess carbon from the atmosphere and mitigating some of the impact of global warming, as well as providing ecosystems services that reach beyond Alaska.

The wildlands of these forests are a treasured natural resource that should be valued and protected from the destruction of logging. Changing or repealing the Roadless Rule will lead to nothing but environmental degradation in these vital forest ecosystems. The Tongass has already lost at least half of its old growth forest since the 1950s, due to scorched-earth logging practices that utilized a technique of clear cutting full forest areas. Large areas that were clearcut are slowly growing back into dense thickets of young trees that are

nearly impenetrable to wildlife. Old logging roads fall into disrepair, filling salmon streams with erosion and blocking the way for fish.

An "Alaska state-specific" version of the Roadless Rule, would allow for increased resource extraction in the form of roadbuilding and old growth timber logging in the farthest reaches of Alaska, would be a step away from sustainable development, would run counter to the interests of all Americans, and is a rule change that we vehemently oppose. The Roadless Rule was put in place for good reason, and aims to protect sensitive habitats and wild areas, as well as to conserve natural resources in all of our national forests[mdash]an obligation that is part of the U.S. Forest Service's mandate to manage public land for multiple uses. Because it reflects a shift from the long history of subsidized logging of the Tongass' old-growth forests and toward a more sustainable management approach that capitalizes on the region's globally unique ecology, the rule has become a contentious issue with the extraction industry and a small minority insisting on exceptions or exemptions in the form of an "Alaska version" of the Roadless Rule, pursuing an antiquated strategy; a subterfuge which is clearly unsustainable, goes against the majority of citizen stakeholders as well as the agency's mission.

Science shows that the clear cutting of old growth trees for timber puts whole systems at risk and destroys wildlife habitats. This timber-centric approach not only disregards scientific research, but also neglects the opportunities that the Tongass has created for other industries, namely tourism and commercial fisheries, which are cornerstones of southeast Alaska's regional economy. Managing the Tongass for timber, an industry that has been heavily subsidized by the taxpayer, accounts for not even 1 percent[mdash]less than 400[mdash]of Southeast Alaska's jobs. More profitable industries, on the other hand, such as tourism and commercial fishing, together generate more than $2 billion in revenue annually and employ more than 10,000 people in the region.

The administration's move to rollback the Roadless Rule to expand logging in the Tongass follows decades of the federal government subsidizing timber sales in the Tongass, often at the expense of over $20 million per year (1). For example, a controversial southeast Alaska timber sale this year, in June, on Kuiu Island, promoted heavily by the USFS, received no bids, despite significant federal subsidies that included USFS investments of $3.1 million in new roads. Despite the expense to taxpayers, the USFS estimated the sale would generate just $200,000 in revenue. This particular timber sale of old-growth lies in an area of Kuiu that contains one of the most important watersheds for salmon production in the Tongass, underscoring how focusing on timber production not only wastes vast amounts of taxpayer dollars but completely ignores environmental damage and species' dependence on intact ecosystems. Further, not only is the dwindling timber industry heavily subsidized by taxpayers, but it regularly exports unprocessed logs abroad, thus contributing little to the local economy; the USFS has already granted a waiver to allow timber logged on Kuiu to be exported to mills overseas for processing immediately following harvest (2).The Tongass National Forest is home to more than 9 million acres of roadless area. The Roadless Rule protects ecosystems, which, in turn, helps make the Tongass the country'ssingle most important national forest for carbon sequestration and climate changemitigation. As parts of Alaska are warming at roughly twice the rate of the rest of the planet, maintaining an intact Tongass ecosystem can help provide climate change solutions for Alaska and contribute to international climate efforts. Forest conservation plays a major role in the race to stem climate disruption. Deforestation, on the other hand generates nearly a quarter of all the world's greenhouse gas emissions. The world must preserve its remaining old forests and the massive carbon reserves they've accumulated over the centuries if we are to reduce the impacts of climate change. Rather than destroying ancient intact forest ecosystems, the wood we use should come from sustainably managed plantations and young stands that quickly regrow and recapture the carbon they lose to logging.

I strongly urge you against granting any exemptions or exceptions to the Roadless Rule in Alaska, and advise the Forest Service to refrain from pursuing an Alaska version of the Roadless Rule. Rather, continue to uphold the 2001 Roadless Area Conservation Rule, as is offered in "alternative one," protecting these biologically rich, carbon dense, irreplaceable, and stunning forests.Thank you for taking the time for my comment,

August E. Allen

Director

In the Shadow of the Wolf

(1) https://www.taxpayer.net/article/u-s-forest-service-tongass-national-forest-financials/

(0) https://www.alaskapublic.org/2018/06/06/no-bids-on-controversial-old-growth-timber-sale-again/

[Position]

IN THE SHADOW OF THE WOLF

The Honorable Sonny Perdue, Secretary
United States Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20250

David E. Schmid, Regional Forester
USDA Forest Service, Alaska Region
Attn: Alaska Roadless Rule
P.O. Box 21628
Juneau, Alaska, 99802

Submitted electronically at: https://www.fs.usda.gov/roadmain/roadless/alaskaroadlessrule
Attn: Roadless Area Conservation; National Forest System Lands in Alaska

Dear Secretary Perdue and Mr. Schmid:

The Tongass is the country's largest national forest—and home to nearly one-third of all old-growth temperate rainforest remaining in the entire world, and is prime habitat for wolves, specifically the Alexander Archipelago wolf, and their prey, the Sitka black-tailed deer. The Tongass old-growth forests provide ideal nesting habitat for the Queen Charlotte Goshawk, an endemic rainforest raptor that lives in coastal British Columbia and Southeast Alaska. The old-growth trees within Tongass roadless areas provide necessary shade for salmon streams. Both the Tongass and the Chugach play a vital role in capturing excess carbon from the atmosphere and mitigating some of the impact of global warming, as well as providing ecosystems services that reach beyond Alaska.

The wildlands of these forests are a treasured natural resource that should be valued and protected from the destruction of logging. Changing or repealing the Roadless Rule will lead to nothing but environmental degradation in these vital forest ecosystems. The Tongass has already lost at least half of its old growth forest since the 1950s, due to scorched-earth logging practices that utilized a technique of clear cutting full forest areas. Large areas that were clearcut are slowly growing back into dense thickets of young trees that are nearly impenetrable to wildlife. Old logging roads fall into disrepair, filling salmon streams with erosion and blocking the way for fish.

An “Alaska state-specific” version of the Roadless Rule, would allow for increased resource extraction in the form of roadbuilding and old growth timber logging in the farthest reaches of Alaska, would be a step away from sustainable development, would run counter to the interests of all Americans, and is a rule change that we vehemently oppose. The Roadless Rule was put in place for good reason, and aims to protect sensitive habitats and wild areas, as well as to conserve natural resources in all of our national forests—an obligation that is part of the U.S. Forest Service’s mandate to manage public land for multiple uses. Because it reflects a shift from the long history of subsidized logging of the Tongass’ old-growth forests and toward a more sustainable management approach that capitalizes on the region’s globally unique ecology, the rule has become a contentious issue with the extraction industry and a small minority insisting on exceptions or exemptions in the form of an “Alaska version" of the Roadless Rule, pursuing an antiquated strategy; a subterfuge which is clearly unsustainable, goes against the majority of citizen stakeholders as well as the agency's mission.

Science shows that the clear cutting of old growth trees for timber puts whole systems at risk and destroys wildlife habitats. This timber-centric approach not only disregards scientific research, but also neglects the opportunities that the Tongass has created for other industries, namely tourism and commercial fisheries, which are cornerstones of southeast Alaska’s regional economy. Managing the Tongass for timber, an industry that has been heavily subsidized by the taxpayer, accounts for not even 1 percent—less than 400—of Southeast Alaska’s jobs. More profitable industries, on the other hand, such as tourism and commercial fishing, together generate more than $2 billion in revenue annually and employ more than 10,000 people in the region.

The administration’s move to rollback the Roadless Rule to expand logging in the Tongass follows decades of the federal government subsidizing timber sales in the Tongass, often at the expense of over $20 million per year (1). For example, a controversial southeast Alaska timber sale this year, in June, on Kuiu Island, promoted heavily by the USFS, received no bids, despite significant federal subsidies that included USFS investments of $3.1 million in new roads. Despite the expense to taxpayers, the USFS estimated the sale would generate just $200,000 in revenue. This particular timber sale of old-growth lies in an area of Kuiu that contains one of the most important watersheds for salmon production in the Tongass, underscoring how focusing on timber production not only wastes vast amounts of taxpayer dollars but completely ignores environmental damage and species' dependence on intact ecosystems. Further, not only is the dwindling timber industry heavily subsidized by taxpayers, but it regularly exports unprocessed logs abroad, thus contributing little to the local economy; the USFS has already granted a waiver to allow timber logged on Kuiu to be exported to mills overseas for processing immediately following harvest (2).

The Tongass National Forest is home to more than 9 million acres of roadless area. The Roadless Rule protects ecosystems, which, in turn, helps make the Tongass the country's

single most important national forest for carbon sequestration and climate change mitigation. As parts of Alaska are warming at roughly twice the rate of the rest of the planet, maintaining an intact Tongass ecosystem can help provide climate change solutions for Alaska and contribute to international climate efforts. Forest conservation plays a major role in the race to stem climate disruption. Deforestation, on the other hand generates nearly a quarter of all the world's greenhouse gas emissions. The world must preserve its remaining old forests and the massive carbon reserves they've accumulated over the centuries if we are to reduce the impacts of climate change. Rather than destroying ancient intact forest ecosystems, the wood we use should come from sustainably managed plantations and young stands that quickly regrow and recapture the carbon they lose to logging.

I strongly urge you against granting any exemptions or exceptions to the Roadless Rule in Alaska, and advise the Forest Service to refrain from pursuing an Alaska version of the Roadless Rule. Rather, continue to uphold the 2001 Roadless Area Conservation Rule, as is offered in "alternative one," protecting these biologically rich, carbon dense, irreplaceable, and stunning forests.

Thank you for taking the time for my comment,

August E. Allen
Director
In the Shadow of the Wolf

(1) https://www.taxpayer.net/article/u-s-forest-service-tongass-national-forest-financials/
(2) https://www.alaskapublic.org/2018/06/06/no-bids-on-controversial-old-growth-timber-sale-again/

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Noreen
Last name: Wedman
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Roadless Rule Tongass

People come to see wilderness - not roads and clearcuts - and that protects local jobs. Old Growth Forests and their adjacent mature second growth forests do the heavy lifting of sequestering carbon in the battle of climate change. These forests also preserve water in the air and soil, preserve species diversification, and cool air temperatures. They are worth more intact, than cut down for the health and wealth of our country and planet. There should be no exceptions to the Roadless Rule.

Sincerely,

Noreen Wedman

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Nancy
Last name: Wedow
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Nancy Wedow and I live in Hoffman Est, Illinois.

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, Nancy Wedow

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/18/2019 3:00:24 PM
First name: Nancy
Last name: Wedow
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Comments to oppose modification to the Roadless Rule

Dear U.S. Forest Service,

The Roadless Rule helps protect old-growth habitat for birds like the Prince of Wales Spruce Grouse and Northern Goshawk, as well as for mammals like wolves and deer. Opening roadless areas to more logging and roads will fragment the forest and eliminate more of the big old trees that these animals rely on.

Yet, all of the action alternatives in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement allow more roadbuilding and logging across the Tongass National Forest. Logging roads and timber operations cost tens of millions of taxpayer dollars every year, with zero return on investment. Meanwhile, these destructive activities degrade the naturally sustainable wealth of salmon, wildlife watching, and tourism opportunities.

It is time to stop opening more and more acres to the timber industry and instead bolster protections to the old-growth forests and wild areas on the Tongass. I urge you to select the "No Action" Alternative (Alternative 1) and allow the Roadless Rule to remain intact on the Tongass National Forest.

Sincerely,
Nancy Wedow
Palatine, IL 60067

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/17/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: BEE
Last name: Wee
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is BEE Wee and I live in Felton, 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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, BEE Wee

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: A
Last name: Weed
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is A Weed and I live in Archer, Florida.

We, all of us, everywhere have to stop destroying things that can never be replaced. Most of the destruction is at public expense to make it possible for private entities to make a larger profit in shorter time. Private entities usually have no other interest in these except for what they can get out of it for themselves. The people who live in and near protected places hold them in high regard. These places are protected and need to remain protected. I think of protected places as young children and the corporations as predators. The damage they cause is profound and everlasting. Keep the Roadless Rule in place and unchanged.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.

Regards, A Weed

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Mary
Last name: Weeden
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Mary Weeden and I live in Lake Geneva, Wisconsin.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Mary Weeden

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Linda
Last name: Weedman
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, Linda Weedman

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Cheryl-Ann
Last name: Weekes
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Cheryl-Ann Weekes and I live in Boston, Massachusetts.

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, Cheryl-Ann Weekes

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/12/2019 5:24:09 PM
First name: Erin
Last name: Weekly
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Erin Weekly and I live in Sitka, Alaska. I have lived in Sitka for my entire life. My friends and family fish and hunt subsistence as well as fishing commercially. Southeast Alaska is also a unique and beautiful place to camp and hike. I am writing a comment on the Alaska Roadless Rule DEIS because I am concerned with how the Rule and the proposed full exemption will impact my fishing, hunting, subsistence harvesting, foraging for wild foods, the peace and solitude I find in nature, recreating, the status of the Tongass as a national and global treasure, the forest's ability to sequester carbon and mitigate climate change impacts, the conservation of resources for future generations .

Out of the alternatives described in the AKRR DEIS I support alternative 1: no action. It protects important fish and wildlife habitat from clearcutting and roadbuilding. I depend on roadless areas in the Tongass National Forest for healthy fish habitat, deer habitat and subsistence hunting, foraging and gathering wild foods, recreating and enjoying nature, carbon sequestration and local climate change mitigation, viewing wildlife, keeping public lands wild for future generations, economic livelihood. A full exemption does not protect these values, nor does it effectively balance economic development and conservation of roadless area characteristics. A full exemption from the Roadless Rule and increased logging and roadbuilding will negatively impact the Tongass and what I and many others use and depend on the forest to provide for us.

The Roadless areas on the Tongass that are especially important to me are those on or around Baranof Island, Chichagof Island, Admiralty Island, the central mainland from Hobart Bay to Stikine River, all of the inventoried roadless areas on the Tongass Yakutat forelands, the northern mainland above Port Snettisham (around Juneau), the southern mainland from Bradfield Canal to Dixon Entrance Kupreanof Island, Kuiu Island, Wrangell and Etolin Islands, Prince of Wales Island, Revillagigedo Island (near Ketchikan). I want the roadless areas in these locations to stay in roadless status in any alternative selected by the Forest Service, and be managed to provide for the uses and activities I listed above. It is important to me that the T77 and the TNC conservation priority areas retain their roadless protections.

I do not support the Forest Services preferred alternative of a full exemption. A full exemption is not in the interests of Southeast Alaskans who live in and use the Tongass National Forest, because The full exemption is important because it conserves the areas for future hunting and fishing. The areas provide many resources that many people depend on, not to mention the effect deforestation has on climate change.. The State of Alaska says that a full exemption is needed for rural economic development opportunities. However, a full exemption would not help create more rural economic development opportunities, it would instead harm our existing rural economies that are based on the visitor industry and commercial fishing industry.

It would further harm rural economic opportunities because pursuing the same outdated economic model of old growth clearcut harvesting for export stifles innovation and possibility in other sectors, such as mariculture, sustainable young growth harvest, and rural agriculture. If the Forest Service wants to support rural economic development, they should devote resources to support our fishing and visitor industries.

I urge the Forest Service to prioritize the voices of Southeast Alaskans over those of our political representation and corporate interests. Choosing a full exemption will not create a long lasting, durable solution for roadless areas on the Tongass. It will only increase the legal challenges, uncertainty for businesses, and conflict on the Tongass going forward.

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Brittany
Last name: Weeks
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): 11/9/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Charles
Last name: WEEKS
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Charles WEEKS and I live in Bisbee, Arizona.

For the love of posterity and a healthy environment please DO NOT desecrate the Tongass National Forest and maintain the Roadless Rule.

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, Charles WEEKS

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Frederick
Last name: Weeks
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, Frederick Weeks

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: George
Last name: Weeks
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.

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Regards, George Weeks

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 1/1/0001 12:00:00 AM
First name: Jamison
Last name: Weeks
Organization:
Title:
Comments:

Dear Chief Christiansen,

I live and work on the lands and waters of the Tongass National Forest. The health of the Tongass National Forest is critical to sustaining my way of life in this rugged region. From hunting and fishing, to hiking and camping, to our tourism and commercial fishing-based economies, we rely on the intact habitat that the roadless areas of the Tongass contain. That is why it is important to me that the 2001 Roadless Rule remain in place on the Tongass National Forest. A no-action alternative is the best option for Southeast Alaska.

Prioritizing one antiquated industry over private sectors is bad business, and bad for Southeast Alaska. I support the Tongass Transition and I would like the Forest Service to continue phasing out old growth clearcutting. Please prioritize conservation of the T77 and TNC conservation priority areas in any new Alaska Roadless Rule. This forest is a salmon forest, and the Forest Service should focus on restoring degraded watersheds and fish streams.

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 1/1/0001 12:00:00 AM
First name: Jamison
Last name: Weeks
Organization:
Title:
Comments:

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I live and work on the lands and waters of the Tongass National Forest. The health of the Tongass National Forest is critical to sustaining my way of life in this rugged region. From hunting and fishing, to hiking and camping, to our tourism and commercial fishing-based economies, we rely on the intact habitat that the roadless areas of the Tongass contain. That is why it is important to me that the 2001 Roadless Rule remain in place on the Tongass National Forest. A no-action alternative is the best option for Southeast Alaska.

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Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Jamison
Last name: Weeks
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC1363

Dear Chief Christiansen,

I live and work on the lands and waters of the Tongass National Forest. The health of the Tongass National Forest is critical to sustaining my way of life in this rugged region. From hunting and fishing, to hiking and camping, to our tourism and commercial fishing-based economies, we rely on the intact habitat that the roadless areas of the Tongass contain. That is why it is important to me that the 2001 Roadless Rule remain in place on the Tongass National Forest. A no-action alternative is the best option for Southeast Alaska.

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Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 1/1/0001 12:00:00 AM
First name: Jamison
Last name: Weeks
Organization:
Title:
Comments:

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Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 1/1/0001 12:00:00 AM
First name: Jamison
Last name: Weeks
Organization:
Title:
Comments:

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Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Janice
Last name: Weeks
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Janice Weeks and I live in Danville, Indiana.

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, Janice Weeks

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: jason
Last name: weeks
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing in response to the proposed changes to the Alaska roadless rule. I urge you to select Alternative 1, which takes no action and would leave all of Alaska under the 2001 Roadless Rule, including the Tongass National Forest.

There's almost no need to defend alternative 1. In a time of unmitigated climate change, and with numerous alternative resources available (hemp, for example), there's no reason to cut the Tongass or any other national forest. To do so is short-sighted and morally reprehensible. The damage inflicted on the Tongass will be irreparable. Roads will divide watersheds, contribute to erosion, destroy the landscape, kill and injure wildlife, increase pollution, damage streams, negatively affect water and air quality, and cause financial loss and hardship for local people and local economies, which are currently sustainable (money earned stays local). Attempts to subvert protections are the result of corporate greed paired with political power - aka fascism - and are designed without the forest's best interest in mind, without the people's best interested in mind, and without the country's best interests in mind.

You will be giving away public land to out-of-state corporations for nothing more than their own profit, at the expense of the taxpayer, and the mere fact that you even think this needs to be discussed is reprehensible. Why is this even a matter of debate? You know better than this. There is no alternative aside from the status quo - do not cut the Tongass, do not build roads, stay the hell out of the forest. You've long lost any moral authority to manage public land.

Now for a question for you (and I expect an answer): what will the FS do to regain that moral authority?

Sincerely,

A pissed off and angry taxpayer, citizen, and human being.

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Sandra
Last name: Weeks
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Sandra Weeks and I live in Chattanooga, Tennessee.

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, Sandra Weeks

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: steve
Last name: weeks
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
First choice is Alternative 1. Second choice, with reservation, is Alternative 6.

All depends on First Nations' (AK and BC) preferences, impact on fisheries.

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/11/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Zachary
Last name: Weeks
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): 11/4/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Zachary
Last name: Weeks
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.
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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): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Elizabeth
Last name: Weems
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, Elizabeth Weems

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Susan
Last name: Weems
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.

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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, Susan Weems

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/13/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: David
Last name: Weeshoff
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Alaska Roadless Rulemaking #54511

Roadless Rulemaking,

RE: Alaska Roadless DEIS Comment

Dear Secretary Perdue:

I have been there - seen, heard, smelled, touched, even tasted the rich natural resources of the Tongass. On foot, in a helicopter and a plane, on multiple boats and ships I have been awed by the natural wonders there.

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.

In addition, I strongly object to your plans to reduce and remove protections from our national forest's roadless areas.

David Weeshoff

LaCescenta, California 91214

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Cindy
Last name: Weever
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.

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Regards, Cindy Weever

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Cindy
Last name: Weever
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, Cindy Weever

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Gabe
Last name: Wegenee
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC3481

U.S. Forest Service Alaska Roadless Rule

Comment Period

Comment Period Alaska Roadless Rule:

The Roadless Rule has been instrumental in conserving the Tongass National Forest and in supporting its 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. 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,

Gabe Wegenee

Ellengsburg, WA 98926

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: NEAL
Last name: WEGENER
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
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Regards, NEAL WEGENER

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Allen
Last name: Weggemann
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
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Regards, Allen Weggemann

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Arnold
Last name: Wegh
Organization:
Title:
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Regards, Arnold Wegh

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Regards, Arnold Wegh

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/13/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Kimberly
Last name: Weglar
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Kimberly Weglar and I live in Cary, North Carolina.

Don't do this!

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, Kimberly Weglar

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/13/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Francis
Last name: Wegman-Lawless
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC488

Dear Roadless Rule Planning Team,

The health of the Tongass National Forest is important to me. I depend on the Tongass which is a unique and global treasure.

The freshwater streams where salmon and old growth forest of the Tongass provide spawning habitat for these fish, which in turn feed a matrix of bears, birds, insects, and other wildlife that Alaska is so famous for. The health of our economy, which is heavily dependent on the fishing and tourism industries, also depends on the salmon, wildlife and presence of old growth forests. A sustainable future for Southeast Alaska requires protecting expansive areas of intact habitat - in short, it requires keeping our Roadless areas roadless! I urge the Forest Service and the Secretary to protect important salmon spawning habitat, maintain old growth forests for winter deer habitat, and keep the places I like to recreate free of clearcuts and roadbuilding.

WHO I AM: [text bolded for emphasis] Include your name, where you live, and any relevant biographical information. Do you live or work on the Tongass National Forest? What is your relationship to the Tongass?

My name is Francis Wegman-Lawless and I live on Kodiak Island and visit Sitka in the summer to hike, camp and berry pick which is in the tongass

PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE: [text bolded for emphasis] The Forest Service will choose how to proceed from a number of different alternatives. If you want the Roadless Rule to remain on the Tongass, write "No Action."

No action

WHY I PREFER THIS ALTERNATIVE: [text bolded for emphasis] How would this alternative affect you and Southeast Alaskans?

We need no development in these areas to preserve our way of life.

AREAS: [text bolded for emphasis] Are there specific islands, watersheds, or mountains that you depend on? Name the most important areas that the Roadless Rule to protect. Examples include the Tenakee Inlet, Nakwasina Sound, Fish Bay, Ushk Bay, Northern Prince of Wales, T77 salmon watershed areas, Audobon TNC ecological priority areas, etc.

Sitka Sound, Sitka [illegible] and North Baranof are all areas I use for hiking, camping, and berry picking.

USE: [text bolded for emphasis] What activities do you use the Tongass National Forest for? Hunting, fishing, recreation, subsistence, business, tourism, etc.

fishing, hiking, camping and berry picking.

SUGGESTION: [text bolded for emphasis] How should the Forest Service manage the Tongass National Forest, rather than old-growth clearcut logging? More sustainable alternatives to timber harvest include salmon watershed restoration, visitor industry infrastructure, deer habitat enhancement, young growth thinning, and maintenance of recreation infrastructure such as trails and cabins.

The Forest Service should manage the Tongass conservatively by using sustainable alternations to harvest timber and focus on maintaining infrastructure like trails and cabins. Salmon watershed restoration should also be a focus.

Additional comments for the Forest Service:

Sincerely,

Francis Wegman-Lawless

I want to receive a copy of the Draft Environmental Statement

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/18/2019 9:03:52 PM
First name: Shelley
Last name: Wehberg
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Comments to oppose modification to the Roadless Rule

Dear U.S. Forest Service,

The Roadless Rule helps protect old-growth habitat for birds like the Prince of Wales Spruce Grouse and Northern Goshawk, as well as for mammals like wolves and deer. Opening roadless areas to more logging and roads will fragment the forest and eliminate more of the big old trees that these animals rely on.

Yet, all of the action alternatives in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement allow more roadbuilding and logging across the Tongass National Forest. Logging roads and timber operations cost tens of millions of taxpayer dollars every year, with zero return on investment. Meanwhile, these destructive activities degrade the naturally sustainable wealth of salmon, wildlife watching, and tourism opportunities.

It is time to stop opening more and more acres to the timber industry and instead bolster protections to the old-growth forests and wild areas on the Tongass. I urge you to select the "No Action" Alternative (Alternative 1) and allow the Roadless Rule to remain intact on the Tongass National Forest.

Sincerely,
Shelley Wehberg
Houston, TX 77064

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Michaela
Last name: Wehner
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Michaela Wehner and I live in Seattle, Washington.

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, Michaela Wehner

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/18/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Paula
Last name: Wehr
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Comments to oppose modification to the Roadless Rule

Dear U.S. Forest Service,

The US Forest Service has prohibited road building and logging for nearly two decades. The Roadless Rule currently protects more than half of the Tongass National Forest in Alaska.

I ask you to continue the protection of part of the largest remaining temperate rainforest on Earth. Please do NOT allow more logging and new roads in the currently roadless area. That will only fragment the forest and remove more of the large, old-growth specimens. An intact forest is a stronghold of climate resilience.

Now is not the time to change course. Please select the "No Action" Alternative (Alternative 1) and allow the Roadless Rule to remain intact on the Tongass National Forest.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Sincerely,

Paula Wehr

Ormond Beach, FL 32174

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/26/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Todd
Last name: Wehres
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC210

I grew up in Juneau and have lived here my entire life. I'm Alaskan Native and so my family has been here for 1,000s of years. Old growth is important and we need to continue to protect our forests for future generations.

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/10/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Ginny
Last name: Wehrli-Hemmeter
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Ginny Wehrli-Hemmeter and I live in Naperville, Illinois.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Ginny Wehrli-Hemmeter

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: The
Last name: Wei
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
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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, The Wei

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/10/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Brendan
Last name: Weibel
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Brendan Weibel and I live in Austin, TX. I am writing a comment on the Alaska Roadless Rule DEIS because I am concerned with how the Rule and the proposed full exemption will affect the Tongass National Forest and the Chugach National Forest.

Ive visited Alaska several times and am in awe of its natural beauty. I imagine there is no other place like it. We must protect the habitats of the wildlife there and this natural wonder.

I urge the Forest Service to select Alternative 1, the no action alternative, for the final decision on the Alaska Roadless Rule. This alternative protects the inventoried roadless areas in Alaska that are full of pristine wilderness and provide important fish and wildlife habitat, and already allows for important community and economic development projects. As an American citizen, I value the Tongass National Forest and the Chugach National Forest for its status as America's best natural solution to climate change and its sequestering of millions of metric tons of carbon and mitigating climate change, its wild salmon populations and the world-class fishing opportunities, the recreational opportunities it provides, its status as the largest intact temperate rainforest in the world, its huge swaths of intact ecosystems and all the biodiversity it contains, the high density of incredible wildlife it contains, to keep public lands wild for future generations, its status as a national and global treasure, the lifestyles of the indigenous communities that the forest supports. A full exemption does not protect these priorities, nor does it effectively balance economic development with the countless other benefits provided by roadless areas. I would like the Forest Service to manage roadless areas for hydroelectric development, passive/active watershed restoration (stream and habitat) to improve/maintain roadless characteristics (culvert removal/replacement, improve fish passage, wildlife thinning, etc), low-impact recreation (camping, hiking, hunting, foraging, etc). It is important to me that high-value intact habitat including the T77 watersheds and the TNC conservation priority areas retain their roadless protections in any alternative selected.

The Forest Service is wasting taxpayers' valuable time and money by trying to prop up a failing timber industry in Southeast Alaska. The nonpartisan, independent taxpayer watchdog Taxpayers for Common Sense reported that the Tongass timber program has losses of over $600 million of taxpayers money in the past 20 years. I would rather see my taxpayer dollars used to restore salmon habitat that was hurt by past logging practices, perform restorative actions that support wildlife populations on previously degraded landscapes that support wildlife populations, develop more recreational opportunities, like trails and cabins, support small-scale, sustainable logging, establish the economic value of the carbon stored in the Tongass. We need to stop subsidizing the clearcutting of old growth on the Tongass through taxpayer funded roadbuilding. If a full exemption were chosen, it would not create opportunities and would instead prioritize the special interests of one industry over the interests of the entire American public.

The Tongass is Americas homegrown natural solution to climate change. The forest sequesters 8% of the carbon stored in forests throughout the contiguous US states, some 3 billion metric tons of it. We must take action to mitigate and adapt to climate change, and maintaining the Tongass in a roadless state is critical for a sustainable future.

I urge the Forest Service to listen to the voices of the American people and prioritize them over corporate interests. The Forest Service should strengthen public involvement in developing land management policy and

focus on broadly supported work rather than allowing special corporate interests to guide policy changes. Attempting to exempt inventoried roadless areas on the Chugach National Forest from the Alaska Roadless Rule adds further insult to injury, and this proposal has not received any sufficient environmental impact analysis or public input. Choosing a full exemption will not create a long lasting, durable solution for roadless areas in Alaska it will only increase the legal challenges, uncertainty for businesses, and conflict over these forests going forward.

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/9/2019 10:07:55 PM
First name: Marguerite
Last name: Weibel
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Marguerite Weibel and I live in Seattle, WA. I am writing a comment on the Alaska Roadless Rule DEIS because I am concerned with how the Rule and the proposed full exemption will affect the Tongass National Forest and the Chugach National Forest.

Alaska is a unique place. I want it to stay that way.

I urge the Forest Service to select Alternative 1, the no action alternative, for the final decision on the Alaska Roadless Rule. This alternative protects the inventoried roadless areas in Alaska that are full of pristine wilderness and provide important fish and wildlife habitat, and already allows for important community and economic development projects. As an American citizen, I value the Tongass National Forest and the Chugach National Forest for its status as America's best natural solution to climate change and its sequestering of millions of metric tons of carbon and mitigating climate change, its wild salmon populations and the world-class fishing opportunities, its huge swaths of intact ecosystems and all the biodiversity it contains, its status as the largest intact temperate rainforest in the world, the recreational opportunities it provides, the high density of incredible wildlife it contains, to keep public lands wild for future generations, its status as a national and global treasure, the lifestyles of the indigenous communities that the forest supports. A full exemption does not protect these priorities, nor does it effectively balance economic development with the countless other benefits provided by roadless areas. I would like the Forest Service to manage roadless areas for low-impact recreation (camping, hiking, hunting, foraging, etc), medium-impact recreation (FS cabins, trails, mooring buoys, 3-sided shelters). It is important to me that high-value intact habitat including the T77 watersheds and the TNC conservation priority areas retain their roadless protections in any alternative selected.

The Forest Service is wasting taxpayers' valuable time and money by trying to prop up a failing timber industry in Southeast Alaska. The nonpartisan, independent taxpayer watchdog Taxpayers for Common Sense reported that the Tongass timber program has losses of over $600 million of taxpayers money in the past 20 years. I would rather see my taxpayer dollars used to restore salmon habitat that was hurt by past logging practices, perform restorative actions that support wildlife populations on previously degraded landscapes that support wildlife populations, develop more recreational opportunities, like trails and cabins, support small-scale, sustainable logging, establish the economic value of the carbon stored in the Tongass. We need to stop subsidizing the clearcutting of old growth on the Tongass through taxpayer funded roadbuilding. If a full exemption were chosen, it would not create opportunities and would instead prioritize the special interests of one industry over the interests of the entire American public.

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Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/10/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Mathias
Last name: Weibel
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Mathias Weibel and I live in Queens, NY. I am writing a comment on the Alaska Roadless Rule DEIS because I am concerned with how the Rule and the proposed full exemption will affect the Tongass National Forest and the Chugach National Forest.

I've visited the waters and forest of Southeast Alaska via sailboat and also fished the waters surrounding the Alexander Archipelago as a commercial salmon troller. I am in favor of preserving wild lands to the maximum extent possible to protect the ecosystems that produce the salmon, timber, water and other resources we all depend on.

I urge the Forest Service to select Alternative 1, the no action alternative, for the final decision on the Alaska Roadless Rule. This alternative protects the inventoried roadless areas in Alaska that are full of pristine wilderness and provide important fish and wildlife habitat, and already allows for important community and economic development projects. As an American citizen, I value the Tongass National Forest and the Chugach National Forest for its status as America's best natural solution to climate change and its sequestering of millions of metric tons of carbon and mitigating climate change, its wild salmon populations and the world-class fishing opportunities, its huge swaths of intact ecosystems and all the biodiversity it contains, its status as the largest intact temperate rainforest in the world, the high density of incredible wildlife it contains, to keep public lands wild for future generations, its status as a national and global treasure, the lifestyles of the indigenous communities that the forest supports and the recreational opportunities it provides. A full exemption does not protect these priorities, nor does it effectively balance economic development with the countless other benefits provided by roadless areas. I would like the Forest Service to manage roadless areas for low-impact recreation (camping, hiking, hunting, foraging, etc). It is important to me that high-value intact habitat including the T77 watersheds and the TNC conservation priority areas retain their roadless protections in any alternative selected.

The Forest Service is wasting taxpayers' valuable time and money by trying to prop up a failing timber industry in Southeast Alaska. The nonpartisan, independent taxpayer watchdog Taxpayers for Common Sense reported that the Tongass timber program has losses of over $600 million of taxpayers money in the past 20 years. I would rather see my taxpayer dollars used to restore salmon habitat that was hurt by past logging practices, perform restorative actions that support wildlife populations on previously degraded landscapes that support wildlife populations, support small-scale, sustainable logging and establish the economic value of the carbon stored in the Tongass. We need to stop subsidizing the clearcutting of old growth on the Tongass through taxpayer funded roadbuilding. If a full exemption were chosen, it would not create opportunities and would instead prioritize the special interests of one industry over the interests of the entire American public.

The Tongass is Americas homegrown natural solution to climate change. The forest sequesters 8% of the carbon stored in forests throughout the contiguous US states, some 3 billion metric tons of it. We must take action to mitigate and adapt to climate change, and maintaining the Tongass in a roadless state is critical for a sustainable future.

I urge the Forest Service to listen to the voices of the American people and prioritize them over corporate interests. The Forest Service should strengthen public involvement in developing land management policy and focus on broadly supported work rather than allowing special corporate interests to guide policy changes.

Attempting to exempt inventoried roadless areas on the Chugach National Forest from the Alaska Roadless Rule adds further insult to injury, and this proposal has not received any sufficient environmental impact analysis or public input. Choosing a full exemption will not create a long lasting, durable solution for roadless areas in Alaska it will only increase the legal challenges, uncertainty for businesses, and conflict over these forests going forward.

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: David
Last name: Weible
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, David Weible

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Colton
Last name: Weich
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC6200

Dear U.S. Forest Service:

The Roadless Rule has been instrumental in conserving the Tongass National Forest and in supporting its fish and wildlife-based industries for more than 20 years. *Please uphold the Rule's protections for important fish and wildlife areas, including the Tongass 77.* [Text bolded for emphasis] 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 are protection for habitat that our irreplaceable fish and wildlife populations need to survive.* [Text bolded for emphasis]

Customize your comment by listing reasons the Tongass is important to you or why you value Alaska Roadless areas: (ex: specific locations you recreate, activities you do, or why you value fish & wildlife) [Text italicized]

Sincerely,

Would you like to volunteer with TU Alaska to Help America's Salmon Forest?

Yes No

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Layla
Last name: Weide
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, Layla Weide

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Susan
Last name: Weidenbach
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.

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Regards, Susan Weidenbach

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/7/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Andrew
Last name: Weidmann
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
No more public land made should be made private in Alaska!

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Kathleen
Last name: Weidmann
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Leave what is protected alone.

Profit at the cost of Climate Change,and profit at the cost of our country is insane.

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Edward
Last name: Weigand
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Edward Weigand and I am a Nature conservationist who makes very little money but cares deeply for our planets biodiversity,Stop the insanity and cancer you spread to killing off millions of species of plants and animals that provide billions of dollars of wealth for medicines, food, pollination and health for 7.8 billion people on our planet.You corporations in the extractive industries are full of a cancer you spread that will suck the life out of you and send you to HELl. See how far your money goes as you burn for eternity.

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, Edward Weigand

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Jerri
Last name: Weigand
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, Jerri Weigand

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Jerri
Last name: Weigand
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.

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Regards, Jerri Weigand

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/18/2019 5:49:23 PM
First name: Alice
Last name: Weigel
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Comments to oppose modification to the Roadless Rule

Dear U.S. Forest Service,

The Roadless Rule helps protect old-growth habitat for birds like the Prince of Wales Spruce Grouse and Northern Goshawk, as well as for mammals like wolves and deer. Opening roadless areas to more logging and roads will fragment the forest and eliminate more of the big old trees that these animals rely on.

Yet, all of the action alternatives in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement allow more roadbuilding and logging across the Tongass National Forest. Logging roads and timber operations cost tens of millions of taxpayer dollars every year, with zero return on investment. Meanwhile, these destructive activities degrade the naturally sustainable wealth of salmon, wildlife watching, and tourism opportunities.

It is time to stop opening more and more acres to the timber industry and instead bolster protections to the old-growth forests and wild areas on the Tongass. I urge you to select the "No Action" Alternative (Alternative 1) and allow the Roadless Rule to remain intact on the Tongass National Forest.

Sincerely,
Alice Weigel
Watsonville, CA 95076

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Alice
Last name: Weigel
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Alice Weigel and I live in Watsonville, 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, Alice Weigel

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Rebecca
Last name: Weigel
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. This is an attack 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, Rebecca Weigel

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/2/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Wendy
Last name: Weigman
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am a 40+ year fisheries biologist. Do not open Tongass to vehicles, allowing logging and the removal of any resources. This is a unique critical habitat that should not be used to make money for a few. It should be held, with the trust we gave you, for the environment and all citizens.

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/10/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Elaine
Last name: Weihman
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Elaine Weihman and I live in Sacramento, California.

For the sake of our environment -and wildlife - we need to reduce plastic waste in this way. Please support these bills.

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, Elaine Weihman

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Elaine
Last name: Weihman
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, Elaine Weihman

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Maria
Last name: Weiinger
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.

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Regards, Maria Weiinger

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/31/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: HOLLY
Last name: WEIK
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Please choose the TAKE NO ACTION option, instead of removing any protections for this National Forest area! I loved living in Alaska and feeling like it was a remaining, unspoiled wilderness. Don't turn it into the lower 48! Exempting this area from the Roadless Rule is irresponsible and greedy. The State government is run by money-grabber politicians who pander to timber companies. It's not their land to sell; it's mine, and I don't want it logged.

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/1/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Scott
Last name: Weikart
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Alaska Roadless Rulemaking #54511

Roadless Rulemaking,

Dear Secretary Perdue:

Keep the current Roadless Rule protections in place for the Tongass National Forest. The Tongass is a carbon sink containing 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. If we're going to chastise Brazil for slowly burning down the Amazon, we need to protect the Tongass National Forest.

Scott Weikart

Palo Alto, California 94301

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Wendy
Last name: Weikel
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.

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Regards, Wendy Weikel

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Wendy
Last name: Weikel
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.

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Regards, Wendy Weikel

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Wendy
Last name: Weikel
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
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Regards, Wendy Weikel

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First name: Wendy
Last name: Weikel
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
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Regards, Wendy Weikel

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/13/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Wendy
Last name: Weikel
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Wendy Weikel and I live in Berkeley, California.

Let us breathe!

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, Wendy Weikel

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: j
Last name: weikert
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is j weikert and I live in Richmond, Virginia.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, j weikert

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Diane
Last name: Weil
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, Diane Weil

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/24/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Jeffrey
Last name: weil
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Tongass National Forest public comment

To Whom It Should Concern

I am writing in opposition to the proposed removal of Tongass National Forest from the 2001 Roadless Rule. Alternative 6 is unacceptable as it would allow "the road" to assessing precious old growth forests as "suitable timber lands."

Once access is allowed by construction of roads, the impact to the old and vital ecosystem is disrupted. Can we not, as a nation, safe guard these essential wilderness and understand human boundaries need to be imposed for the greater good.

Nancy Weil

Falcon Cove, Oregon U.S.A.

Sent from Mail for Windows 10

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Nancy
Last name: Weil
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Nancy Weil and I live in Arch Cape, Oregon.

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, Nancy Weil

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/13/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Peter
Last name: Weil
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Leave the Alaska Roadless Rule in place

Dear Comment Period Alaska Roadless Rule,

I am writing to indicate, in the strongest way, my support of the 'NO ACTION' alternative to leave the Roadless Rule unchanged in Alaska.

I am certain that the proposed changes to the rule WILL lead to greatly expanded clear-cut logging of old growth timber in parallel with costly, and destructive road building in undeveloped, wild areas of both the Tongass and Chugach Forests. Logging, road building and truck traffic on these new roads will absolutely increase soil loss and erosion of native creeks, streams and rivers within these pristine, yet delicate ecosystems.

Such activities will irreversibly harm water quality, often block salmon migration, while simultaneously adding to an already large backlog of needed road maintenance and restoration.

I've visited both of these areas of Alaska for hiking, fishing and camping activities. This portion of Alaska is among some of the most beautiful and wild areas of the United States, an area that must be protected and preserved for all future citizens of our country.

Fisheries and wild forests are critical to the economy of Alaska; indeed the attendant tourism of wild Alaska brings in much more revenue and employs many more people than the proposed expansion of logging will. Thus, it is critical to actually grow these sectors of Alaska's economy (i.e. hunting, fishing, hiking camping). In order to do this, we need intact, wild, habitat. Please leave the Alaska Roadless Rule in place.

Sincerely,

Peter Anthony Weil

Franklin, TN 37069

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Sara
Last name: Weil
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, Sara Weil

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Susanne
Last name: Weil
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Susanne Weil and I live in Onalaska, Washington.

We are in a climate change emergency. It is frankly insane to cut rainforests. Science doesnt care about politics.

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, Susanne Weil

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Sherry
Last name: Weiland
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, Sherry Weiland

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Sherry
Last name: Weiland
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
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Regards, Sherry Weiland

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 1/1/0001 12:00:00 AM
First name: Shirissa
Last name: Weiland
Organization:
Title:
Comments:

Dear Chief Christiansen,

I live and work on the lands and waters of the Tongass National Forest. The health of the Tongass National Forest is critical to sustaining my way of life in this rugged region. From hunting and fishing, to hiking and camping, to our tourism and commercial fishing-based economies, we rely on the intact habitat that the roadless areas of the Tongass contain. That is why it is important to me that the 2001 Roadless Rule remain in place on the Tongass National Forest. A no-action alternative is the best option for Southeast Alaska.

Prioritizing one antiquated industry over private sectors is bad business, and bad for Southeast Alaska. I support the Tongass Transition and I would like the Forest Service to continue phasing out old growth clearcutting. Please prioritize conservation of the T77 and TNC conservation priority areas in any new Alaska Roadless Rule. This forest is a salmon forest, and the Forest Service should focus on restoring degraded watersheds and fish streams.

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 1/1/0001 12:00:00 AM
First name: Shirissa
Last name: Weiland
Organization:
Title:
Comments:

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First name: Shirissa
Last name: Weiland
Organization:
Title:
Comments:

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Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 1/1/0001 12:00:00 AM
First name: Shirissa
Last name: Weiland
Organization:
Title:
Comments:

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Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Shirissa
Last name: Weiland
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC1304

Dear Chief Christiansen,

I live and work on the lands and waters of the Tongass National Forest. The health of the Tongass National Forest is critical to sustaining my way of life in this rugged region. From hunting and fishing, to hiking and camping, to our tourism and commercial fishing-based economies, we rely on the intact habitat that the roadless areas of the Tongass contain. That is why it is important to me that the 2001 Roadless Rule remain in place on the Tongass National Forest. A no-action alternative is the best option for Southeast Alaska.

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Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/10/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: jennifer
Last name: weill
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is jennifer weill and I live in San Pablo, 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, jennifer weill

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/14/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Margaret
Last name: Weimer
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Margaret Weimer and I live in San Mateo, California.

Some people like to kill, some like to preserve. I am on the side of preservation. These forests help slow climate change by absorbing carbon, which is devastating the planet. You get a feeling of inspiration when looking at miles of forests; and, a feeling of deflation whenlooking at miles of stumps.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.

Regards, Margaret Weimer

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/4/2019 4:27:19 PM
First name: Molly
Last name: Weinbender
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Molly Weinbender and I live in Mcminnville, Oregon. Ive only visited SE Alaska but I know how important a roadless forest is to preserve the biodiversity of the region and protect clean water. I am writing a comment on the Alaska Roadless Rule DEIS because I am concerned with how the Rule and the proposed full exemption will impact my the peace and solitude I find in nature, recreating, the status of the Tongass as a national and global treasure, the forest's ability to sequester carbon and mitigate climate change impacts, the conservation of resources for future generations .

Out of the alternatives described in the AKRR DEIS I support alternative 1: no action. It protects important fish and wildlife habitat from clearcutting and roadbuilding. I depend on roadless areas in the Tongass National Forest for carbon sequestration and local climate change mitigation, keeping public lands wild for future generations. A full exemption does not protect these values, nor does it effectively balance economic development and conservation of roadless area characteristics. A full exemption from the Roadless Rule and increased logging and roadbuilding will negatively impact the Tongass and what I and many others use and depend on the forest to provide for us.

The Roadless areas on the Tongass that are especially important to me are those on or around all of the inventoried roadless areas on the Tongass. I want the roadless areas in these locations to stay in roadless status in any alternative selected by the Forest Service, and be managed to provide for the uses and activities I listed above. It is important to me that the T77 and the TNC conservation priority areas retain their roadless protections.

I do not support the Forest Services preferred alternative of a full exemption. A full exemption is not in the interests of Southeast Alaskans who live in and use the Tongass National Forest, because It discounts the voices of the southeast Alaskans who have spoken out in support of a no action alternative.. The State of Alaska says that a full exemption is needed for rural economic development opportunities. However, a full exemption would not help create more rural economic development opportunities, it would instead harm our existing rural economies that are based on the visitor industry and commercial fishing industry.

It would further harm rural economic opportunities because pursuing the same outdated economic model of old growth clearcut harvesting for export stifles innovation and possibility in other sectors, such as mariculture, sustainable young growth harvest, and rural agriculture. If the Forest Service wants to support rural economic development, they should devote resources to support our fishing and visitor industries.

I urge the Forest Service to prioritize the voices of Southeast Alaskans over those of our political representation and corporate interests. Choosing a full exemption will not create a long lasting, durable solution for roadless areas on the Tongass. It will only increase the legal challenges, uncertainty for businesses, and conflict on the Tongass going forward.

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: patti
Last name: weinberg
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is patti weinberg and I live in Sag Harbor, New York.

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, patti weinberg

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Rob
Last name: Weinberg
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Rob Weinberg and I live in Winfield, Illinois.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Rob Weinberg

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Robert
Last name: Weinberg
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, Robert Weinberg

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Robert
Last name: Weinberg
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Robert Weinberg and I live in Hallandale Beach, Florida.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Robert Weinberg

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/23/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Benjamin
Last name: Weinberger
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Please reject this proposal and keep the Tongass Forest protected

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Daniel
Last name: Weinberger
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Daniel Weinberger and I live in West Orange, New Jersey.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Daniel Weinberger

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Diane
Last name: Weinberger
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Diane Weinberger and I live in Greenbank, Washington.

I am against any destructive activities in critical habitat areas. Protection of wildlife and habitat is critical to human life.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.

Regards, Diane Weinberger

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/19/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Jeff
Last name: Weinberger
Organization: --None--
Title:
Comments:
I unequivocally oppose the recently announced plan to open up 9.2 million acres of the Tongass National Forest to logging and development, and to exempt the Tongass from the Roadless Rule which was implemented under the Clinton administration. No more logging in this national treasure whatsoever!

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Mark
Last name: Weinberger
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Mark Weinberger and I live in San Francisco, 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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Mark Weinberger

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Herbert
Last name: Weinblatt
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, Herbert Weinblatt

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Bernard
Last name: Weiner
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.

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Regards, Bernard Weiner

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Felicia
Last name: Weiner
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.

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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, Felicia Weiner

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Felicia
Last name: Weiner
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.

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Regards, Felicia Weiner

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/6/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Kate
Last name: Weiner
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
In the wake of global climate crisis, protecting the Tongass National Forest- the largest remaining intact temperate rainforest on earth and the traditional territory of the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples-is integral to our collective right to life. As a young person, I'm deeply concerned for my future and for the future of the people and places I love. Destroying the forest for short-term profit will dramatically destabilize our human and ecological communities. Please preserve the Roadless Rule protections on 9.2 million acres of land in support of our indigenous land stewards and our youth who deserve a world worth growing into.

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Linda
Last name: Weiner
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Linda Weiner and I live in San Francisco, California.

Why would we not limit coal ash? It is toxic and fouls the air and water. Do NOT weaken the safeguards!

Keep Alaska pristine! Alaska's natural habitats and forests are so incredibly beautiful - I want my grandchildren to see them in their pristine condition.

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, Linda Weiner

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Nona
Last name: Weiner
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Nona Weiner and I live in San Jose, California.

'm writing in support of SB 54 and AB 1080 by Senator Behn Allen and Assemblywoman Lorena Gonzalez legislation that would reduce plastic pollution in our oceans, waterways, and communities and help to protect marine life.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.

Regards, Nona Weiner

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Peter
Last name: Weiner
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, Peter Weiner

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Larry
Last name: Weingart
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Larry Weingart and I live in New York, New York.

Stop messing up the frigging environment already! Its the only one we all have!

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Larry Weingart

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Doug
Last name: Weingarten
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): 12/12/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Luke
Last name: Weingarten
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.
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Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Carol
Last name: Weingeist
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, Carol Weingeist

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Marcia
Last name: Weinhold
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Marcia Weinhold and I live in Angola, Indiana.

Trees are invaluable. They belong to our children and grandchildren. We have no right to destroy them!

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, Marcia Weinhold

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Gail
Last name: Weininger
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Gail Weininger and I live in Alameda, California.

Let's protect our environment where we can!

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Gail Weininger

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Gail
Last name: Weininger
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I 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, Gail Weininger

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Gail
Last name: Weininger
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
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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, Gail Weininger

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/23/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Gail
Last name: Weininger
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Alaska Roadless Rulemaking #54511

Roadless Rulemaking,

RE: Alaska Roadless DEIS Comment

Dear Secretary Perdue:

I support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1: We must keep the current Roadless Rule protections intact for the Tongass National Forest.

This forest is a major carbon sink containing some of the largest intact old-growth temperate rainforest in the world; it's essential in providing clean water for fish and wildlife habitat and for 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.

I strongly object to all your plans to reduce and remove protections from our national forest[rsquo]s roadless areas. The Roadless Rule is one of the smartest and most popular land management policies the Federal Government has ever adopted: It preserves some of America[rsquo]s best fish and wildlife habitat, and 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.

Gail Weininger

Alameda, California 94501-1151

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/21/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Gail
Last name: Weininger
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Keep 'Roadless Rule' Protections for the Tongass National Forest

Dear U.S. Forest Service,

I strongly oppose the Forest Service's plan to eliminate "Roadless Rule" protections for the Tongass National Forest and urge you to select the "no action" alternative instead.

The Tongass is America's wildest remaining national forest, with more than 9 million acres of roadless areas, home to an amazingly wide range of wildlife. It also provides vast storage vast for carbon, with its centuries-old trees serving as a carbon-reserve life raft in this time of climate change--whereas logging releases most of that carbon into the atmosphere.

Your proposal to open the door to clearcutting and bulldozing is irresponsible and fundamentally threatens these values. The Tongass shouldn't be sacrificed to the timber industry, which provides a small fraction of the jobs and income in Southeast Alaska, compared to tourism and fishing - both of which rely on intact forests to thrive.

Further, I oppose your plan to allow the agency to open any of the 5 million acres of roadless areas on the Chugach National Forest to bulldozing and clearcutting for logging. This is simply a backdoor repeal of the 2001 Roadless Rule, which protects all roadless lands because of the critical role they play in protecting pure water, secure wildlife habitat and remote recreation.

Please - think of future generations by selecting the "no action" alternative to maintain "Roadless Rule" protections for the Tongass and Chugach.

Sincerely,

Gail Weininger

Alameda, CA 94501

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Merrill
Last name: weinrich
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Merrill weinrich and I live in Berwyn Heights, Maryland.

Please save our Tongans National Forest. Furture generations and our planets health are at stake.

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, Merrill weinrich

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: David
Last name: Weinstein
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC682

Dear Secretary Perdue,

I love the lands and waters of Alaska. I do NOT want Alaska and the Tongass exempt from the Roadless Rule because

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/18/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Diane
Last name: Weinstein
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Alaska Roadless DEIS Comments

Dear Secretary Perdue,

I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule. I strongly object to your plans to reduce and remove protections from roadless areas on the Tongass National Forest. The Tongass contains some of the last remaining old-growth temperate rainforest in the world, and its value in providing clean water and fish and wildlife habitat 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.

Adopted in 2001, the National Forest Roadless Area Conservation Rule is one of our nation's bedrock conservation protections intended to safeguard more than 58 million acres of national forests. From 1999 to 2001, the Forest Service held over 600 public meetings nationwide, including 28 throughout Washington State. In what was one of the most extensive public participation efforts in the history of federal rulemaking, more than 1.6 million people commented during the rulemaking process, with 95% supporting strong roadless area protection.

The Roadless Rule is one of the most balanced and most popular land management policies the Federal Government has ever adopted. It protects our remaining ancient forests, pristine and unroaded watershed, core wildlife habitat and world class recreational opportunities, while leaving more than half of the national forest system available for sustainable logging and other development.

Sincerely,

Sincerely,

Diane Weinstein

Issaquah, WA 98029

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: elyette
Last name: weinstein
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is elyette weinstein and I live in Olympia, Washington.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, elyette weinstein

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Helaine
Last name: Weinstein
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, Helaine Weinstein

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 1/1/0001 12:00:00 AM
First name: Jay
Last name: Weinstein
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC3597

U.S. Forest Service Alaska Roadless Rule
Comment Period:

Comment Period Alaska Roadless Rule:

I am writing in support of the 'no action' alternative to leave the Roadless Rule unchanged in Alaska. I am concerned that changes to the rule would lead to greatly expand clear-cut logging of old growth timber and costly road building in undeveloped, wild areas of both the Tongass and Chugach Forests. These activities increase sedimentation, hurt water quality, often block salmon migration, and add to an already large backlog of needed road maintenance and restoration.
Our fisheries and wild forests are critical to the economy of Alaska. To grow these sectors of our economy, we need intact habitat. Please leave the Alaska Roadless Rule in place.

Sincerely,
jay Weinstein
Beaverton, OR 97008

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Jay
Last name: Weinstein
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
3597

U.S. Forest Service Alaska Roadless Rule

Comment Period:

Comment Period Alaska Roadless Rule:

I am writing in support of the 'no action' alternative to leave the Roadless Rule unchanged in Alaska. I am concerned that changes to the rule would lead to greatly expand clear-cut logging of old growth timber and costly road building in undeveloped, wild areas of both the Tongass and Chugach Forests. These activities increase sedimentation, hurt water quality, often block salmon migration, and add to an already large backlog of needed road maintenance and restoration.

Our fisheries and wild forests are critical to the economy of Alaska. To grow these sectors of our economy, we need intact habitat. Please leave the Alaska Roadless Rule in place.

Sincerely,

jay Weinstein

Beaverton, OR 97008

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/21/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Joseph
Last name: Weinstein
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Tongass and Chugach Natl Forests should keep 'Roadless Rule' Protections

Dear U.S. Forest Service,

I strongly oppose the Forest Service's plan to eliminate "Roadless Rule" protections for the Tongass and Chugach National Forests. I urge you to select the "no action" alternative instead.

Proposals to enable massive clearcut and bulldozing in currently roadless areas of these forests are a needless and bad idea. Roadless lands are critical for protecting pure water, secure wildlife habitat and remote recreation. It's especially important to protect remaining roadless forests because so much of our national forests have been massively logged and fragmented - thereby harming both wildlife and waters.

In particular the Tongass is America's wildest remaining national forest, with more than 9 million acres of roadless areas. It's home to a uniquely massive and wide range of wildlife, including Alexander Archipelago wolves, grizzly bears and salmon. The Tongass belongs to all Americans and shouldn't be sacrificed to the timber industry, which provides a small fraction of the jobs and income in Southeast Alaska compared to tourism and fishing - both of which rely on intact forests to thrive.

These forests also store a vast amount of carbon which logging would quickly release into the atmosphere - with immediate and long-term adverse impact on climate. Theoretical eventual recapture of carbon by new trees will take far too long and will occur too late to undo the here-and-now damage to climate.

Please - think of future generations by selecting the "no action" alternative to maintain "Roadless Rule" protections for the Tongass and Chugach.

Sincerely,

Joseph Weinstein

Long Beach, CA 90807

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Patricia
Last name: Weinstein
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Patricia Weinstein and I live in Antioch, Illinois.

Please stop decimating the earth's natural wonders. In doing so we are hastening mankind's extinction!

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, Patricia Weinstein

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Betty
Last name: Weinstock
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Betty Weinstock and I live in Elyria, Ohio.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Betty Weinstock

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: David
Last name: Weinstock
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is David Weinstock and I live in Davie, Florida.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, David Weinstock

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Stuart
Last name: Weinstock
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Stuart Weinstock and I live in West Orange, New Jersey.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Stuart Weinstock

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Dana
Last name: Weintraub
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, Dana Weintraub

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Paul
Last name: Weintraub
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.

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Regards, Paul Weintraub

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/19/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Joyce
Last name: Weir
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Protect the Tongass and Chugach national forests

Dear Secretary Perdue,

Please stop the rollback of the important 2001 national Roadless Rule in Alaska and protect the Tongass and Chugach national forests!

Sincerely,

Joyce Weir

Newport, Washington

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Eric
Last name: Weis
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Please leave the Tongass National Forest protected and intact under the 2001 Roadless Rule.

This country, and this planet, cannot afford to lose such a valuable carbon sink given the severity of the climate crisis.

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Jennifer
Last name: Weis
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC4042

U.S. Forest Service Alaska Roadless Rule Committee:

The economy of Southeast Alaska is growing based on tourism, fishing and recreation, not logging. For this economic prosperity to continue, we need the forest to be healthy. This means keeping the Roadless Rule intact, especially in Tongass 77 areas.

The Roadless Rule has been instrumental in conserving the Tongass National Forest and in supporting its 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. 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.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Weis

Anchorage, AK 99517

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 1/1/0001 12:00:00 AM
First name: Jennifer
Last name: Weis
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
4042

U.S. Forest Service Alaska Roadless Rule Committee:

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Sincerely,
Jennifer Weis
Anchorage, AK 99517

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Joe
Last name: Weis
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Joe Weis and I live in Reedley, 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, Joe Weis

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Karen
Last name: Weis
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Karen Weis and I live in Bellingham, Washington.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Karen Weis

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Marie
Last name: Weis
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Marie Weis and I live in Fox Island, Washington.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Marie Weis

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Ransome
Last name: Weis
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, Ransome Weis

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/14/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Tony
Last name: Weis
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Tony Weis and I live in Sitka, AK. I am writing a comment on the Alaska Roadless Rule DEIS because I am concerned with how the Rule and the proposed full exemption will affect the Tongass National Forest and the Chugach National Forest.

Commercial fisherman and subsistence harvester who survives on salmon. They need to be protected for more than my sake. I'm damn sick of people risking the planet and the livelihoods of so many.

I urge the Forest Service to select Alternative 1, the no action alternative, for the final decision on the Alaska Roadless Rule. This alternative protects the inventoried roadless areas in Alaska that are full of pristine wilderness and provide important fish and wildlife habitat, and already allows for important community and economic development projects. As an American citizen, I value the Tongass National Forest and the Chugach National Forest for its status as America's best natural solution to climate change and its sequestering of millions of metric tons of carbon and mitigating climate change, its wild salmon populations and the world-class fishing opportunities, its huge swaths of intact ecosystems and all the biodiversity it contains, its status as the largest intact temperate rainforest in the world, the recreational opportunities it provides, the high density of incredible wildlife it contains, to keep public lands wild for future generations, its status as a national and global treasure, the lifestyles of the indigenous communities that the forest supports. A full exemption does not protect these priorities, nor does it effectively balance economic development with the countless other benefits provided by roadless areas. I would like the Forest Service to manage roadless areas for low-impact recreation (camping, hiking, hunting, foraging, etc), medium-impact recreation (FS cabins, trails, mooring buoys, 3-sided shelters), passive/active watershed restoration (stream and habitat) to improve/maintain roadless characteristics (culvert removal/replacement, improve fish passage, wildlife thinning, etc). It is important to me that high-value intact habitat including the T77 watersheds and the TNC conservation priority areas retain their roadless protections in any alternative selected.

The Forest Service is wasting taxpayers' valuable time and money by trying to prop up a failing timber industry in Southeast Alaska. The nonpartisan, independent taxpayer watchdog Taxpayers for Common Sense reported that the Tongass timber program has losses of over $600 million of taxpayers money in the past 20 years. I would rather see my taxpayer dollars used to restore salmon habitat that was hurt by past logging practices, perform restorative actions that support wildlife populations on previously degraded landscapes that support wildlife populations, develop more recreational opportunities, like trails and cabins, establish the economic value of the carbon stored in the Tongass. We need to stop subsidizing the clearcutting of old growth on the Tongass through taxpayer funded roadbuilding. If a full exemption were chosen, it would not create opportunities and would instead prioritize the special interests of one industry over the interests of the entire American public.

The Tongass is Americas homegrown natural solution to climate change. The forest sequesters 8% of the carbon stored in forests throughout the contiguous US states, some 3 billion metric tons of it. We must take action to mitigate and adapt to climate change, and maintaining the Tongass in a roadless state is critical for a sustainable future.

I urge the Forest Service to listen to the voices of the American people and prioritize them over corporate interests. The Forest Service should strengthen public involvement in developing land management policy and

focus on broadly supported work rather than allowing special corporate interests to guide policy changes. Attempting to exempt inventoried roadless areas on the Chugach National Forest from the Alaska Roadless Rule adds further insult to injury, and this proposal has not received any sufficient environmental impact analysis or public input. Choosing a full exemption will not create a long lasting, durable solution for roadless areas in Alaska it will only increase the legal challenges, uncertainty for businesses, and conflict over these forests going forward.

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Edmund
Last name: Weisberg
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Edmund Weisberg and I live in Baltimore, Maryland.

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, Edmund Weisberg

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Mike
Last name: Weisberg
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, Mike Weisberg

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/17/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Sarah
Last name: Weisberg
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Sarah Weisberg and I live in Grand Junction, Colorado.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Sarah Weisberg

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Stefi
Last name: Weisburd
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, Stefi Weisburd

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Jan
Last name: Weisel
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Jan Weisel and I live in Woodinville, Washington.

Dont open up this pristine area to companies that will destroy this area.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Jan Weisel

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/5/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Theron
Last name: Weisenburger
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): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Lauren
Last name: Weisenfeld
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, Lauren Weisenfeld

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Dana
Last name: Weiser
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.

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Regards, Dana Weiser

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Cortney
Last name: Weisert
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.

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Regards, Cortney Weisert

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Marsha
Last name: Weisfeld
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Marsha Weisfeld and I live in Mahwah, New Jersey.

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, Marsha Weisfeld

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Sherry
Last name: Weisgarber
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, Sherry Weisgarber

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/30/2019 4:00:00 PM
First name: Joe
Last name: Weishaar
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): 12/16/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Amy
Last name: Weishahn
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC866

Dear Secretary Perdue,

I am a visitor to the lands and waters of Southeast Alaska. The Tongass National Forest is a large part of why I am here. Visitors like me come to witness the vast, beautiful stands of old-growth trees that can't be found on such a scale anywhere else in the United States. We come to crew on commercial fishing boats. We come to hunt, fish and hike in America's largest National Forest. That is why it is important to me that the 2001 Roadless Rule remain in place on the Tongass National Forest. A no-action alternative is the best option for Alaskans and Americans.

I support the Tongass Transition and I would like the Forest Service to continue phasing out old growth clearcutting. This forest is a salmon forest, and the Forest Service should focus on restoring degraded watersheds and fish streams. Please prioritize conservation of the T77 and TNC conservation priority areas in any new Alaska Roadless Rule. Tourism and commercial fishing are at the heart of Southeast's economy, not the antiquated timber industry. [Signature]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/10/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Tyler
Last name: Weishahn
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): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Lynne
Last name: Weiske
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Lynne Weiske and I live in Los Angeles, 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, Lynne Weiske

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: LAM
Last name: WEISMAN
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is LAM WEISMAN and I live in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.
CORPORATE PROFITS MUST N-E-V-E-R TAKE PRESIDENCE OVER PUBLIC INTERESTS,
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 STRONGLY URGE YOU N-O-T TO ABANDON THE' ROADLESS RULE' IN ALASKA and instead to PUT THE PUBLIC INTERESTS ABOVE CORPORATE PROFITS by choosing to KEEP THE RULE IN PLACE UNCHANGED.
Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, LAM WEISMAN

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/3/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: naomi
Last name: weisman
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is naomi weisman and I live in Bethesda, Maryland.

fight back -- keep protections in place

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, naomi weisman

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 1/1/0001 12:00:00 AM
First name: Steven
Last name: Weisman
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
3213

U.S. Forest Service Alaska Roadless Rule
Comment Period

Comment Period Alaska Roadless Rule:

The Roadless Rule has been instrumental in conserving the Tongass National Forest and in supporting its 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. 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,
Steven Weisman
King Cove, AK 99612

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Steven
Last name: Weisman
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC3213

U.S. Forest Service Alaska Roadless Rule

Comment Period

Comment Period Alaska Roadless Rule:

The Roadless Rule has been instrumental in conserving the Tongass National Forest and in supporting its 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. 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,

Steven Weisman

King Cove, AK 99612

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: barry
Last name: weiss
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is barry weiss and I live in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

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, barry weiss

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Charlotte
Last name: Weiss
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Charlotte Weiss and I live in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

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.

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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, Charlotte Weiss

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Dean
Last name: Weiss
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Dean Weiss and I live in Los Angeles, 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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Dean Weiss

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Dorothy
Last name: Weiss
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Dorothy Weiss and I live in Vancouver, Washington.

When all the trees are gone, the animals have died off or been killed and the water all tainted, there will also be no human life left to put money in your pockets.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.

Regards, Dorothy Weiss

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/11/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Karen
Last name: Weiss
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is [karen] [weiss] and I live in milwaukee], wi.
53208]
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.
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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Karen Weiss

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Kay
Last name: Weiss
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, Kay Weiss

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Liz
Last name: Weiss
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.

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Regards, Liz Weiss

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: martin
Last name: weiss
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is martin weiss and I live in Mexico, Missouri.

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.

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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, martin weiss

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Pamela
Last name: Weiss
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, Pamela Weiss

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Pamela
Last name: Weiss
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Pamela Weiss and I live in Jackson, Wyoming.

Now more than ever we need to preserve what is left.

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, Pamela Weiss

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Rebecca
Last name: Weiss
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, Rebecca Weiss

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Rebecca
Last name: Weiss
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Rebecca Weiss and I live in Aspen, Colorado.

Protect and preserve our nation's true wealth - the wild lands and their native ecosystems, such as the Tongass National Forest. The Tongass must not be opened up for resource extraction. It would be a tragic loss if clear-cutting or other such impactful activities were to be allowed there. The forests and the wildlife that live within them have the right to exist and thrive without suffering due to short-sighted economic gain. It is not an intelligent tradeoff. Please protect the Tongass. Thank you.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.

Regards, Rebecca Weiss

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Richard
Last name: Weiss
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Richard Weiss and I live in Seattle WA.
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.
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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Richard Weiss

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Robert
Last name: Weiss
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
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Regards, Robert Weiss

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Robert
Last name: Weiss
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Robert Weiss and I live in Tucson, Arizona.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Robert Weiss

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/22/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Ron
Last name: Weiss
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Ron Weiss and I live in West Orange, New Jersey.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Ron Weiss

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: S
Last name: Weiss
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
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Regards, S Weiss

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/10/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Sarah
Last name: Weiss
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Sarah Weiss and I live in Queens, New York.

We need our national parks, not more fossil fuels.

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, Sarah Weiss

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Steve
Last name: Weiss
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Steve Weiss and I live in Portland, Oregon.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Steve Weiss

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Stuart
Last name: Weiss
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Stuart Weiss and I live in Denver, Colorado.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Stuart Weiss

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Todd
Last name: Weiss
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
No. Absolutely NO. This is one of the most ridiulous and destructive proposals against our environment that I've ever heard about.JUST say NO to this absurd idea.Leave the protected forests alone and allow them to continue to be protected.Stop the insanity!Thank you,Todd R. Weiss

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Tom
Last name: Weiss
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Tom Weiss and I live in Knoxville, Tennessee.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Tom Weiss

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Valerie
Last name: Weiss
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Valerie Weiss and I live in Kapaa, Hawaii.

It is no longer a question of how to curb pollution. Industry has the tools for that. It's a question of how important it is our health over industry saving pennies on the dollar.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.

Regards, Valerie Weiss

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/22/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Vicki
Last name: Weiss
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Vicki Weiss and I live in Sarasota, Florida.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Vicki Weiss

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Marshall
Last name: Weissberger
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.

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Regards, Marshall Weissberger

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Melinda
Last name: Weisser-Lee
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Melinda Weisser-Lee and I live in Thatcher, Arizona.

Public lands should be managed with the public in mind. This means that the benefits of forests for the public need to be considered, including recreation, clean water and air and habitat for wildlife. These benefits are much more important than making money for logging companies.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.

Regards, Melinda Weisser-Lee

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Theodore
Last name: Weissgerber
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Theodore Weissgerber and I live in Dravosburg, Pennsylvania.

At the request of corporate interests, the Trump administration is seeking to remove protections for Alaskas Tongass National Forest and open it up to clearcutting of countless century-old trees. We need your help to stop this from happening!

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.

Regards, Theodore Weissgerber

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Roberta
Last name: Weissglass
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Roberta Weissglass and I live in Santa Barbara, 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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Roberta Weissglass

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Sue
Last name: Weissinger
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Sue Weissinger and I live in Wilmington, Delaware.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Sue Weissinger

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Lisa
Last name: Weissler
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC5513

Dear U.S. Forest Service,

CC: Alaska Congressional Delegation and Federal Administration

I support the no-action alternative to leave the 2001 Roadless Rule in place on the Tongass National Forest. We must continue to phase out old-growth clear-cut logging and instead prioritize restoring degraded watersheds and fish streams that contribute to the growing fisheries and tourism-based economies of Southeast. To that end, please conserve the Tongass 77 and TNC priority areas in the final Roadless Rule.

Sincerely,

Lisa Weissler

Juneau, AK 99801

Comments: *(Eg: list locations you recreate, or why you value Tongass fish & wildlife)* [Text italicized for emphasis]

[Box unchecked] I would like to get more involved in the campaign!

*By taking this action, you are consenting to receive future communications via phone, text message, email, or mail from Sitka Conservation Society and its partners working to protect the Tongass. * [Text italicized for emphasis]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Glen
Last name: Weissman
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Glen Weissman and I live in Fort Mohave, Arizona.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Glen Weissman

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Ira
Last name: Weissman
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.

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Regards, Ira Weissman

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: IRA
Last name: WEISSMAN
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is IRA WEISSMAN and I live in Brewster, New York.

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, IRA WEISSMAN

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Stephen
Last name: Weissman
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Stephen Weissman and I live in Asheville, North Carolina.

Bears Ears National Monument should not be exploited in the ways BLM proposes. It should instead be preserved intact and undisturbed by off-road vehicles and logging.

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, Stephen Weissman

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/10/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Warren
Last name: Weissman
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Warren Weissman and I live in Seattle, Washington.

Why are we going in the wrong direction?

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, Warren Weissman

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Karen
Last name: Weissmann
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, Karen Weissmann

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Russell
Last name: Weisz
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Russell Weisz and I live in Santa Cruz, 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, Russell Weisz

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Jennifer
Last name: Weitenberner
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
To whom it may concern,

If we stand any chance of surviving as a species on Earth, we have to reduce our numbers, reduce our use, and protect the nature that remains. The Tongass National Forest is a treasure. It is everything that is good remaining on this planet. Please, do not allow roads or logging in this wonderful place. Protect it as if the lives of our children depend on it. Thank you.

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Jill
Last name: Weitz
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I have lived in Juneau, Alaska - part of the Tongass National Forest - for nearly 15 years. I fully support keeping the Alaska Roadless Rule on the Tongass.First, I/we must acknowledge that the Tongass National Forest is home to the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian native peoples - who have cared for this land for thousands of years.Second, I grew up in Minnesota - and came to Juneau to complete a term of National Service with Americorps - to facilitate experiential and environmental education throughout remote communities across Southeast Alaska. My "job" was to celebrate the Tongass with kids! And it was awesome. Needless to say, I quickly fell in love with the way this place - the Tongass - connected the communities of this region - and the productive ecosystems - that - still to this day - seem to work like magic to me. Flash forward - in my time as an Enforcement Officer with the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation - I was able to travel throughout the State - but predominantly within Southeast Alaska - to work with communities and industry who wanted to ensure the Tongass remained in-tact - and productive. We can throw out numbers - like how much revenue the Tongass brings in from the tourism and fishing industries - and those numbers, of course, are impressive. And they are - because those people - the visitors - come to see wild places. Wild places that do not have roads - and do not look like Washington or Oregon or even BC.We can throw out numbers - like those that come from jobs. A friend of mine, who use to work on Tongass issues, would bring folks from DC to visit the region - and they would ask "where are all the lumberjacks?" And he would say, "yeah, see, that's not really a thing around here. And it hasn't been for some time."I recreate in the Tongass every single day that I live here. Just this weekend, my friends and I left the South Douglas boat launch, in search of Sitka blacktail deer on Admiralty Island, along with at least 6 other boats at the same time. Later that evening, we gathered with other groups of friends who went out hunting that day, while sharing fresh backstrap, and talking about how fortunate we are to live here. The next morning, I woke up and met up with 4 other friends to "bag a peak" - the trailhead for which was just out my back door. We live here because this place is the way it is. The Roadless Rule has kept it this way, and I can assure you that those of us who are fortunate enough to call Southeast Alaska home will not stop fighting to protect what we love. Certainly, what value will Alaska hold - when it no longer has that "magic" - when it no longer means anything - but is just like the rest of Cascadia that has wiped out productive salmon and wildlife habitat? Keep the Roadless Rule for the Tongass. We need it now more than ever.

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/23/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Stephen
Last name: Weitz
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Stephen Weitz and I live in Oakland, California.

Please save our old growth forrests for future generations of people and animals.

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, Stephen Weitz

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Kaitlyn
Last name: Weitzeil
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
The forest service still has a huge list of salmon habitat restoration projects needing funding from the previous era of Industrial clear cut logging in SE Alaska.

As an Alaskan resident who utilizes salmon as a resource, I am increasingly dependent on coho salmon reared around the state and in the watersheds of SE Alaska. Coho live at least a year in fresh water and need the habitat provided by old growth forests. We need to fix the damage done before and learn from our mistakes. Do not log in the Tongass National Forest!

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Margaret
Last name: Weitzel
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, Margaret Weitzel

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Joey
Last name: Weixel
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Do not jeopardize our forests for unsustainable and damaging logging and industry. Protect the forests.

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: William
Last name: Wekselman
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is William Wekselman and I live in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

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, William Wekselman

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: George
Last name: Welage
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC5372

U.S. Forest Service Alaska Roadless Rule Committee:

I lived in Alaska for two years, including one summer in Seward and one summer in Skagway. Both of these towns are surrounded by National Forest that supports a unique, temperate rainforest ecosystem. These towns survive on tourism based on the beauty of the surrounding landscape and the plants and animals that live in it. I believe logging has its place, but it must be done so responsibly and thoughtfully.

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 more than 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,

George Welage

Greenfield, IN 46140

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: lindsay
Last name: welbers
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
No building or logging in the Tongass National Forest

I support Alternative One. I do not support any new logging or roadbuilding operations in the Tongass National Forest or any other public land.

Lindsay Welbers

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Ben
Last name: Welborn
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Ben Welborn and I live in Hanalei, Hawaii.

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, Ben Welborn

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Ben
Last name: Welborn
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC3280

U.S. Forest Service Alaska Roadless Rule

Comment Period

Comment Period Alaska Roadless Rule:

The Roadless Rule has been instrumental in conserving the Tongass National Forest and in supporting its 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. 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,

Ben Welborn

Hanalei, HI 96714

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Abigail
Last name: Welbourn
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
We do not have a Planet B. Please do not exempt the Tongass from the Roadless Rule. If the Department Agriculture moves to exempt the Tongass from the Roadless Rule, the forest-and the ecosystem it supports-may pay the biggest price of all. Alaska and the Tongass play a crucial role in being a carbon sink for all our human made emissions, not to mention the ecotourism Alaska offers globally to tourists could pay a price that could never be regained. Opening the Tongass to logging and road building is a short sighted action for human benefit, rather than the longer term health and human benefits that are harder to quantify. Please, please do not exempt the Tongass from the Roadless Rule.

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Annemarie
Last name: Welch
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, Annemarie Welch

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/10/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Barbara
Last name: Welch
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Barbara Welch and I live in El Paso, Texas.

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, Barbara Welch

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Camille
Last name: Welch
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, Camille Welch

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Cassie
Last name: Welch
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I oppose the Alaska Roadless proposal. The Forrest should remain protected as it is currently.

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/5/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Dalton
Last name: Welch
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): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Dave
Last name: Welch
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Dave Welch and I live in Golden, Colorado.

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.

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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, Dave Welch

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/23/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Jeff
Last name: Welch
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I have visited Alaska many times and am always in awe of the pristine nature of its environment. And I come from Montana--a place that would be a model for the rest of the lower 48. We have cut, mined, fenced, developed everywhere, including here in my home state. Can we leave some places alone so that we remember what we had? Is it worth a few years of profits to cut 800 year old trees? Keep the Tongass roadless. Future generations will thank you.

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Jerry
Last name: Welch
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC4970

Dear U.S. Forest Service,

CC: Alaska Congressional Delegation and Federal Administration

I support the no-action alternative to leave the 2001 Roadless Rule in place on the Tongass National Forest. We must continue to phase out old-growth clear-cut logging and instead prioritize restoring degraded watersheds and fish streams that contribute to the growing fisheries and tourism-based economies of Southeast. To that end, please conserve the Tongass 77 and TNC priority areas in the final Roadless Rule.

Sincerely,

Comments: *(Eg: list locations you recreate, or why you value Tongass fish & wildlife)* [Text italicized for emphasis]

[Box unchecked] I would like to get more involved in the campaign!

*By taking this action, you are consenting to receive future communications via phone, text message, email, or mail from Sitka Conservation Society and its partners working to protect the Tongass. * [Text italicized for emphasis]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/7/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Joseph
Last name: Welch
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): 12/17/2019 5:30:22 PM
First name: Mackenzie
Last name: Welch
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Mackenzie Welch and I live in San Clemente, CA. I am writing a comment on the Alaska Roadless Rule DEIS because I am concerned with how the Rule and the proposed full exemption will affect the Tongass National Forest and the Chugach National Forest.

Because Im just becoming aware of this issue and this is not good! Not good at all.

I urge the Forest Service to select Alternative 1, the no action alternative, for the final decision on the Alaska Roadless Rule. This alternative protects the inventoried roadless areas in Alaska that are full of pristine wilderness and provide important fish and wildlife habitat, and already allows for important community and economic development projects. As an American citizen, I value the Tongass National Forest and the Chugach National Forest for its wild salmon populations and the world-class fishing opportunities, its status as the largest intact temperate rainforest in the world, its huge swaths of intact ecosystems and all the biodiversity it contains, the recreational opportunities it provides, the high density of incredible wildlife it contains, to keep public lands wild for future generations, the lifestyles of the indigenous communities that the forest supports. A full exemption does not protect these priorities, nor does it effectively balance economic development with the countless other benefits provided by roadless areas. I would like the Forest Service to manage roadless areas for passive/active watershed restoration (stream and habitat) to improve/maintain roadless characteristics (culvert removal/replacement, improve fish passage, wildlife thinning, etc), low-impact recreation (camping, hiking, hunting, foraging, etc). It is important to me that high-value intact habitat including the T77 watersheds and the TNC conservation priority areas retain their roadless protections in any alternative selected.

The Forest Service is wasting taxpayers' valuable time and money by trying to prop up a failing timber industry in Southeast Alaska. The nonpartisan, independent taxpayer watchdog Taxpayers for Common Sense reported that the Tongass timber program has losses of over $600 million of taxpayers money in the past 20 years. I would rather see my taxpayer dollars used to develop more recreational opportunities, like trails and cabins, establish the economic value of the carbon stored in the Tongass, perform restorative actions that support wildlife populations on previously degraded landscapes that support wildlife populations. We need to stop subsidizing the clearcutting of old growth on the Tongass through taxpayer funded roadbuilding. If a full exemption were chosen, it would not create opportunities and would instead prioritize the special interests of one industry over the interests of the entire American public.

The Tongass is Americas homegrown natural solution to climate change. The forest sequesters 8% of the carbon stored in forests throughout the contiguous US states, some 3 billion metric tons of it. We must take action to mitigate and adapt to climate change, and maintaining the Tongass in a roadless state is critical for a sustainable future.

I urge the Forest Service to listen to the voices of the American people and prioritize them over corporate interests. The Forest Service should strengthen public involvement in developing land management policy and focus on broadly supported work rather than allowing special corporate interests to guide policy changes. Attempting to exempt inventoried roadless areas on the Chugach National Forest from the Alaska Roadless Rule adds further insult to injury, and this proposal has not received any sufficient environmental impact analysis or public input. Choosing a full exemption will not create a long lasting, durable solution for roadless areas in Alaska it will only increase the legal challenges, uncertainty for businesses, and conflict over these forests going forward.

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Mary
Last name: Welch
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, Mary Welch

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Randall
Last name: Welch
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, Randall Welch

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Rebecca
Last name: Welch
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Rebecca Welch and I live in Oakland, California.

This is long overdue. We need transparency in our exposure to toxic chemicals.

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, Rebecca Welch

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Staci
Last name: Welch
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Staci Welch and I live in Holdenville, Oklahoma.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Staci Welch

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Susan
Last name: Welch
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Susan Welch and I live in Marion, Illinois.

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.

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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, Susan Welch

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: liz
Last name: welchman
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
please stop.

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/10/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Logan
Last name: Welde
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Logan Welde and I live in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

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, Logan Welde

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/5/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: James
Last name: Welden
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): 11/8/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Tracy
Last name: Weldon
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Tracy Weldon and I live in Midlothian, Virginia.

The forest is priceless, and can't be replaced. We need the habitat to be protected. Cutting down trees in this forest is senseless and very shortsighted.

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, Tracy Weldon

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Wendy
Last name: Weldon
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Wendy Weldon and I live in Delray Beach, Florida.

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, Wendy Weldon

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/23/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Cassandra
Last name: Weldon-Faulkner
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Cassandra Weldon-Faulkner and I live in Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

There is a Native American proverb that states, We do not inherit the earth from our ancestors; we borrow it from our children. Never has this been more true than today when the current administration is abolishing nearly all the protections in place for the environment, wildlife and its habitat, and the earth in general.

I will also add this quote from Victor Hugo, Les Misrables: "You ask me what forces me to speak? A strange thing; my conscience. Something the Trump administration is lacking!!

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.

Regards, Cassandra Weldon-Faulkner

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/10/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Robert
Last name: Welker
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Robert Welker and I live in Ypsilanti, Michigan.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Robert Welker

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: William
Last name: Welkowitz
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is William Welkowitz and I live in Arlington, Virginia.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, William Welkowitz

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/5/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Ben
Last name: Wellens
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): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Celeste
Last name: Weller
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC6413

My letter to the Roadless Rule Team, using the online tool

My name is Celeste Weller and I live in Pelican, AK. Since moving to Pelican, in Southeast Alaska, I have strongly adopted a subsistence lifestyle. In the fall and winter I wander through the old growth forests of Chichagof and Yakobi island looking for Sitka Blacktail deer to eat for the rest of the year. I set a subsistence line for halibut. I jig for rockfish. I set pots for shrimp and crab out of of Lisianski Inlet and Stag Bay. And in the summertime, I troll commercially for silver, pink, and king salmon in Cross Sound, Lisianski Inlet, Lisianski Straits, and all of the surrounding waterways. I fill my freezer. The salmon runs in SE are protected by the forests. The salmon I catch allow me to finance my troller, so that I can maintain my subsistence lifestyle in the wilderness, and the subsistence I catch feed myself, and my family. We save money by not ordering food from other cities, and eat healthier. I enjoy the solemnness of the wild and can't imagine seeing it torn down. It would be a travesty to our National Forest. I am a wildlife photographer and would have a hard time finding deer, bear, squirrel, and many bird varieties, if their environments were ruined. In the spring I forage for devils club for salves, in the summer I pick a variety of berries for jams, syrups, and sweets. I find fiddle-head fern in the woods, and spruce tips to throw in salads.

I am writing a comment on the Alaska Roadless Rule DEIS because I am concerned with how the Rule and the proposed full exemption will impact my fishing, hunting, subsistence harvesting, foraging for wild foods, the peace and solitude I find in nature, recreating, the status of the Tongass as a national and global treasure, the forest's ability to sequester carbon and mitigate climate change impacts, the conservation of resources for future generations.

Out of the alternatives described in the AKRR DEIS I support alternative 1: no action. It protects important fish and wildlife habitat from clearcutting and roadbuilding. I depend on roadless areas in the Tongass National Forest for economic livelihood, healthy fish habitat, deer habitat and subsistence hunting, foraging and gathering wild foods, recreating and enjoying nature, carbon sequestration and local climate change mitigation, viewing wildlife, keeping public lands wild for future generations, fiscal responsibility and saving taxpayer dollars. A full exemption does not protect these values, nor does it effectively balance economic development and conservation of roadless area characteristics. A full exemption from the Roadless Rule and increased logging and roadbuilding will negatively impact the Tongass and what I and many others use and depend on the forest to provide for us.

The Roadless areas on the Tongass that are especially important to me are most importantly those on or around Chichagof Island, but also all of the inventoried roadless areas on the Tongass. I want the roadless areas in these locations to stay in roadless status in any alternative selected by the Forest Service, and be managed to provide for the uses and activities I listed above. It is important to me that the T77 and the TNC conservation priority areas retain their roadless protections. I've seen the devestation logging can cause in Hoonah, AK. And I've seen the deadlands left by over-forestation in Canada caused by greed and unsustainable practices.

I do not support the Forest Service's preferred alternative of a full exemption. A full exemption is not in the interests of Southeast Alaskans who live in and use the Tongass National Forest, because it will destroy our way of life and this precious wilderness area. The State of Alaska says that a full exemption is needed for rural economic development opportunities. However, a full exemption would not help create more rural economic development opportunities, it would instead harm our existing rural economies that are based on the visitor industry and commercial fishing industry.

It would further harm rural economic opportunities because pursuing the same outdated economic model of old growth clearcut harvesting for export stifles innovation and possibility in other sectors, such as mariculture, sustainable young growth harvest, and rural agriculture. *If the Forest Service wants to support rural economic

development, they should transition to second growth logging and improve and streamline existing permitting processes for important community projects rather than rehashing old conflicts.* [Text underlined for emphasis]

Don't play into the hands of greedy logging companies who refuse to adapt to more sustainable ways such as second growth logging. The Tongass is the LARGEST NATIONAL FOREST in America. And some of the largest sections of OLD GROWTH forest that is left.

I urge the Forest Service to prioritize the voices of Southeast Alaskans over those of our political representation and corporate interests. Choosing a full exemption will not create a long lasting, durable solution for roadless areas on the Tongass. It will only increase the legal challenges, uncertainty for businesses, and conflict in our beautiful Tongass going forward.

I am writing a comment on the Alaska Roadless Rule DEIS because I am concerned with how the Rule and the proposed full exemption will impact my fishing, hunting, subsistence harvesting, foraging for wild foods, the peace and solitude I find in nature, recreating, the status of the Tongass as a national and global treasure, the forest's ability to sequester carbon and mitigate climate change impacts, the conservation of resources for future generations.

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I urge the Forest Service to prioritize the voices of Southeast Alaskans over those of our political representation and corporate interests. Choosing a full exemption will not create a long lasting, durable solution for roadless areas on the Tongass. It will only increase the legal challenges, uncertainty for businesses, and conflict in our beautiful Tongass going forward.

[Signature] Pelican City [illegible]

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/13/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Celeste
Last name: Weller
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Celeste Weller and I live in Pelican, AK. Since moving to Pelican, in Southeast Alaska, I have strongly adopted a subsistence lifestyle. In the fall and winter I wander through the old growth forests of Chichagof and Yakobi island looking for Sitka Blacktail deer to eat for the rest of the year. I set a subsistence line for halibut. I jig for rockfish. I set pots for shrimp and crab out of Lisianski Inlet and Stag Bay. And in the summertime, I troll commercially for silver, pink, and king salmon in Cross Sound, Lisianski Inlet, Lisianski Straits, and all of the surrounding waterways. I fill my freezer. The salmon runs in SE are protected by the forests. The salmon I catch allow me to finance my troller, so that I can maintain my subsistence lifestyle in the wilderness, and the subsistence I catch feed myself, and my family. We save money by not ordering food from other cities, and eat healthier. I enjoy the solemnness of the wild and can't imagine seeing it torn down. It would be a travesty to our National Forest. I am a wildlife photographer and would have a hard time finding deer, bear, squirrel, and many bird varieties, if their environments were ruined. In the spring I forage for devils club for salves, in the summer I pick a variety of berries for jams, syrups, and sweets. I find fiddle-head fern in the woods, and spruce tips to throw in salads.

I am writing a comment on the Alaska Roadless Rule DEIS because I am concerned with how the Rule and the proposed full exemption will impact my fishing, hunting, subsistence harvesting, foraging for wild foods, the peace and solitude I find in nature, recreating, the status of the Tongass as a national and global treasure, the forest's ability to sequester carbon and mitigate climate change impacts, the conservation of resources for future generations .

Out of the alternatives described in the AKRR DEIS I support alternative 1: no action. It protects important fish and wildlife habitat from clearcutting and roadbuilding. I depend on roadless areas in the Tongass National Forest for economic livelihood, healthy fish habitat, deer habitat and subsistence hunting, foraging and gathering wild foods, recreating and enjoying nature, carbon sequestration and local climate change mitigation, viewing wildlife, keeping public lands wild for future generations, fiscal responsibility and saving taxpayer dollars . A full exemption does not protect these values, nor does it effectively balance economic development and conservation of roadless area characteristics. A full exemption from the Roadless Rule and increased logging and roadbuilding will negatively impact the Tongass and what I and many others use and depend on the forest to provide for us.

The Roadless areas on the Tongass that are especially important to me are most importantly those on or around Chichagof Island, but also all of the inventoried roadless areas on the Tongass. I want the roadless areas in these locations to stay in roadless status in any alternative selected by the Forest Service, and be managed to provide for the uses and activities I listed above. It is important to me that the T77 and the TNC conservation priority areas retain their roadless protections. I've seen the devestation logging can cause in Hoonah, AK. And I've seen the deadlands left by over-forestation in Canada caused by greed and unsustainable practices.

I do not support the Forest Services preferred alternative of a full exemption. A full exemption is not in the interests of Southeast Alaskans who live in and use the Tongass National Forest, because It will destroy our way of life and this precious wilderness area.. The State of Alaska says that a full exemption is needed for rural economic development opportunities. However, a full exemption would not help create more rural economic development opportunities, it would instead harm our existing rural economies that are based on the visitor industry and commercial fishing industry.

It would further harm rural economic opportunities because pursuing the same outdated economic model of old growth clearcut harvesting for export stifles innovation and possibility in other sectors, such as mariculture, sustainable young growth harvest, and rural agriculture. If the Forest Service wants to support rural economic development, they should transition to second growth logging and improve and streamline existing permitting processes for important community projects rather than rehashing old conflicts.

Don't play into the hands of greedy logging companies who refuse to adapt to more sustainable ways such as second growth logging. The Tongass is the LARGEST NATIONAL FOREST in America. And some of the largest sections of OLD GROWTH forest that is left.

I urge the Forest Service to prioritize the voices of Southeast Alaskans over those of our political representation and corporate interests. Choosing a full exemption will not create a long lasting, durable solution for roadless areas on the Tongass. It will only increase the legal challenges, uncertainty for businesses, and conflict in our beautiful Tongass going forward.

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/18/2019 5:07:36 PM
First name: Monica
Last name: Weller
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Comments to oppose modification to the Roadless Rule

Dear U.S. Forest Service,

The Roadless Rule helps protect old-growth habitat for birds like the Prince of Wales Spruce Grouse and Northern Goshawk, as well as for mammals like wolves and deer. Opening roadless areas to more logging and roads will fragment the forest and eliminate more of the big old trees that these animals rely on.

Yet, all of the action alternatives in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement allow more roadbuilding and logging across the Tongass National Forest. Logging roads and timber operations cost tens of millions of taxpayer dollars every year, with zero return on investment. Meanwhile, these destructive activities degrade the naturally sustainable wealth of salmon, wildlife watching, and tourism opportunities.

It is time to stop opening more and more acres to the timber industry and instead bolster protections to the old-growth forests and wild areas on the Tongass. I urge you to select the "No Action" Alternative (Alternative 1) and allow the Roadless Rule to remain intact on the Tongass National Forest.

Sincerely,
Monica Weller
Boynton Beach, FL 33426

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Monica
Last name: Weller
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Monica Weller and I live in Boynton Beach, Florida.

It is imperative that we put protections in place for the Artic and all that live there, and we need to hold those that do not honor those protections accountable to honoring those protections.

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, Monica Weller

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/18/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Walt
Last name: Weller
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC6503

11-18-2019

David Schmid

Regional Forester

USFS Alaska Region

Dear Mr. Schmid,

The City of Pelican would like to formally request a public meeting and subsistence hearing on the Alaska Roadless Rule Process from the Forest Service during the during the comment period on the Alaska Roadless Rule Draft Environmental Impact Statement, which ends on December 17th Pelican has been left out of this rulemaking process and was not visited during the scoping period. The City of Pelican is working hard to draft a resolution stating our position on the Roadless Rule process, although we are at a timely disadvantage as the Forest Service did not reach out and contact Pelican regarding a public meeting. We believe that the Forest Service is being negligent by excluding Pelican from the public information meetings and subsistence hearings, as our community members depend on intact roadless areas in Southeast Alaska for our subsistence harvesting, economic livelihoods, and way of life.

Pelican is concerned with the selection of a full exemption from the 2001 Roadless Rule as the preferred alternative in the Alaska Roadless Rulemaking process. The foundation of the economy in Pelican is dependent upon commercial fishing, which is heavily supported by the intact watersheds still left on the Tongass. These watersheds and intact roadless areas also help mitigate and contribute towards local adaptation efforts towards climate change, which is also affecting the viability of the fish stocks that we depend on. Pelican residents deserve to hear from the Forest Service about how the proposed exemption from the Roadless Rule could affect the areas that we depend on for our economic livelihood and subsistence harvest.

Pelican is located on Chichagof Island, separated from the West Chichagof-Yakobi Island Wilderness area by Lisianski inlet and bordered by LUD II management areas on the eastern side. We therefore suspect that you may deny our request by stating that a full exemption would not affect Pelican. We would like to put to rest any such ill-advised determination before it takes place. The commercial fishermen of Pelican depend on fish stocks that are supported by watersheds throughout Tongass. When fish habitat is degraded in one area of the Tongass, such as Prince of Wales, the effects are felt throughout the entire fishing fleet in Southeast Alaska. Our fishermen are nomadic and go wherever the fish are biting. Therefore, even if the LUD II and wilderness areas around Pelican retain their protections, the loss of roadless protections on Eastern Chichagof Island and the rest of the Tongass will have impacts for the economic livelihoods of our fishermen and guides. Furthermore, our burgeoning tourism industry would be harmed by a full exemption as conflict on the Tongass between developers, fishermen, environmentalists, and loggers would drive away tourism. Finally, and most importantly, our local food security would be impacted by a full exemption in several ways. Increased timber harvest resulting from a full exemption would negatively impact deer populations, which means more hunters vying for less of the resource. Pelican residents use the entire Chichagof Island territory for subsistence harvesting and areas outside of the LUD II management zones and the Wilderness area would have subsistence resources impacted by a full exemption.

We request a public meeting form the Forest Service so that our citizens have a chance to formulate an educated opinion on the Alaska Roadless Rulemaking process, and submit their subsistence concerns for the record. We look forward to scheduling this meeting at your earliest convenience, but we stress that it must occur while the comment period is still open (i.e. before December 17th) or the Forest Service may be liable for violation of the National Environmental Policy Act by deliberately excluding the voices of this rural Southeast Alaska community form the rulemaking process. We look forward to your prompt response.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Walt Weller

City of Pelican Mayor

*CITY OF PELICAN RESOLUTION 2019-7

A RESOLUTION BY THE PELICAN CITY COUNCIL COMMENTING ON THE PROPOSED ALASKA ROADLESS RULE*[text bolded for emphasis]

WHEREAS, the City of Pelican is a unique community that prospers by and through the protection of its natural resources; and,

WHEREAS, the sustainability of the future of Pelican's economy and the lifestyles of our citizens depend on nurturing and sustaining the natural resources supported by our forests, rivers, and ocean, both locally and regionally in Southeast Alaska; and

WHEREAS, many Pelican residents obtain their livelihoods from economic activities including commercial fishing and tourism, which are highly dependent on a pristine and productive natural setting; and,

WHEREAS, salmon populations are facing increased challenges from changing ocean conditions, climate change, ocean acidification, rising water temperatures in streams, and ocean warming events in the Pacific Ocean, and freshwater habitat development in the contiguous United States; and,

WHEREAS, Southeast Alaska is the most visited region in Alaska, with two thirds of all visitors to the State coming to this region and therefore acting as a significant contribution; and

WHEREAS, the Roadless Rule was first adopted in 2001 to protect 58 million acres of our nation's most essential and intact roadless areas in the National Forest system; and,

WHEREAS, the State of Alaska has been against the inclusion of the Tongass in the Roadless Rule since it was promulgated in 2001, despite support for the rule from a wide variety of constituents living in Southeast Alaska; and,

WHEREAS, during the scoping process for an Alaska Specific Roadless Rule in 2018, communities throughout Southeast Alaska support of the 2001 Roadless Rule, as well as the heavy majority of the official scoping comments received strongly support maintaining the 2001 Roadless Rule on the Tongass; and,

WHEREAS, the State of Alaska invested time, staff, and money to convene a stakeholder-led Citizen Advisory Committee in 2018 that provided recommendations and perspectives from different interest groups in Southeast Alaska on what a workable compromise for an Alaska Roadless Rule could look like; and,

WHEREAS, the pursuit of a full exemption from the 2001 Roadless Rule is highly divisive among local populations and stakeholders and increased conflict on the Tongass will tarnish the reputation of the region nationwide, with negative impacts for the tourism industry; and

WHEREAS, roadless areas on the Tongass are essential to Southeast Alaska's way of life and represent some of the most spectacular and unique roadless areas anywhere in the National Forest System and support hunting, fishing, customary and traditional uses, subsistence, outdoor recreation opportunities, and opportunities for businesses; and

WHEREAS, the amount of carbon stored in the intact old growth forests and soils of the Tongass National Forest represent one of the highest carbon stores in the world, and the conservation of intact roadless areas

and old growth forests on the Thongass are essential for maintaining local and national climate resilience and slowing down climate change throughout the world; and,

WHEREAS, the Tongass provides a wide range of ecosystem services beyond carbon sequestration to residents and visitors alike on a 24/7 basis naturally and at no cost to the taxpayer, and;

WHEREAS, increased logging of old growth forests in the existing roadless areas of the Tongass seriously impact the ability of othe forest to provide these vital ecosystem services, such as clean water, clean air, stream temperature regulation, and healthy salmon and wildlife habitat; and,

WHEREAS, increased logging of old growth forests in existing roadless areas would incur a significant cost to taxpayers, as new reports estimate that the subsidization of industrial-scale logging on the Tongass has cost tax payers over $600 million over the past twenty years; and, RESOLUTION 2019 -7- PAGE 3

WHEREAS, according to the State of Alaska's own economic experts and commissioned reports, Tongass timber is uncompetitive due to fundamental permanent changes that have occurred in global markets, high labor costs, distance from markets, and the availability of less-expensive substitutes; and,

WHEREAS, the commercial fishing industry and visitor industries that provide the economic backbone of Southeast Alaska depend on pristine, scenic vistas and healthy, productive watersheds; and,

RESOLUTION 2019 -7- PAGE 3

WHEREAS, opening up roadless areas for future development industrial-scale logging will actively work against the Tongass Transition and the 2016 Tongass Land Management Plan Amendment, which was created after years of collaborative work between diverse groups of stakeholders;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that given long-lasting, fiscally irresponsible, and environmentally damaging impacts of any reduction in current Roadless Rule protections on the Tongass, the City of Pelican strongly supports lasting protection for all inventoried roadless areas on the Tongass National Forest as provided for in the 2001 Roadless Rule. There should be no exemption from the Roadless Rule for Alaska and there should be no Alaska-specific roadless rule; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the economic livelihoods of City of Pelican residents would be irreparably harmed by the effects of a full exemption from the Roadless Rule on the Tongass, which would lead to increased climate change, increased threats to fish habitat, and development occurring in pristine natural areas that showcase the tourism potential and natural beauty of the Tongass National Forest; and,

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the City of Pelican encourages the USFS to invest in programs, workforce development, and employment opportunities for Southeast Alaskan residents to restore the health and productivity of the Tongass National Forest's degraded watersheds and streams, as a means of supporting vital ecosystem services such as carbon sequestration, small-scale timber production, fish and wildlife populations, natural vistas, visitor amenities, subsistence, hydrological resources, and more.

Passed and Approved by the Pelican City Council this 18th day of November 2019.

[Signature]

Walt Weller, Mayor

[Signature]

Lattieca Stewart, City Clerk

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/18/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Walt
Last name: Weller
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC3058

11-18-2019

David Schmid

Regional Forester

USFS Alaska Region

Dear Mr. Schmid,

The City of Pelican would like to formally request a public meeting and subsistence hearing on the Alaska Roadless Rule Process from the Forest Service during the comment period on the Alaska Roadless Rule Draft Environmental Impact Statement, which ends on December 17th Pelican has been left out of this rulemaking process and was not visited during the scoping period. The City of Pelican is working hard to draft a resolution stating our position on the Roadless Rule process, although we are at a timely disadvantage as the Forest Service did not reach out and contact Pelican regarding a public meeting. We believe that the Forest Service is being negligent by excluding Pelican from the public information meetings and subsistence hearings, as our community members depend on intact roadless areas in Southeast Alaska for our subsistence harvesting, economic livelihoods, and way of life.

Pelican is concern with the selection of a full exemption from the 2001 Roadless Rule as the preferred alternative in the Alaska Roadless Rulemaking process. The foundation of the economy in Pelican is depdent upon commercial fishing, which is heavily supported by the intact watersheds still left on the Tongass. These watersheds and intact roadless areas also help mitigate and contribute towards local adaptation efforts towards climate change, which is also affecting the viability of the fish stocks that we depend on. Pelican residents deserve to hear form the Forest Service about how the proposed exemption from the Roadless Rule could affect the areas that we depend on for our economic livelihood and subsistence harvest.

Pelican is located on Chichagof Island, separated from the West Chichagof-Yakobi Island Wilderness area by Lisianski inlet and bordered by LUD II management areas on the eastern side. We therefore suspect that you may deny our request by stating that a full exemption would not affect Pelican. We would like to put to rest any such ill-advised determination before it takes place. The commercial fishermen of Pelican depend on fish stocks that are supported by watersheds throughout Tongass. When fish habitat is degraded in one area of the Tongass, such as Prince of Wales, the effects are felt throughout the entire fishing fleet in Southeast Alaska. Our fishermen are nomadic and go wherever the fish are biting. Therefore, even if the LUD II and wilderness areas around Pelican retain their protections, the loss of roadless protections on Eastern Chichagof Island and the rest of the Tongass will have impacts for the economic livelihoods of our fishermen and guides. Furthermore, our burgeoning tourism industry would be harmed by a full exemption as conflict on the Tongass between developers, fishermen, environmentalists, and loggers would drive away tourism. Finally, and most importantly, our local food security would be impacted by a full exemption in several ways. Increased timber harvest resulting from a full exemption would negatively impact deer populations, which means more hunters vying for less of the resource. Pelican residents use the entire Chichagof Island territory for subsistence harvesting and areas outside of the LUD II management zones and the Wilderness area would have subsistence resources impacted by a full exemption.

We request a public meeting form the Forest Service so that our citizens have a change to formulate an educated opinion on the Alaska Roadless Rulemaking process, and submit their subsistence concerns for the record. We look forward to scheduling this meeting at your earliest convenience, but we stress that it must occur while the comment period is still open (i.e. before December 17th) or the Forest Service may be liable for violation of the National Environmental Policy Act by deliberately excluding the voices of this rural Southeast Alaska community form the rulemaking process. We look forward to your prompt response.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Walt Weller

City of Pelican Mayor

*CITY OF PELICAN RESOLUTION 2019-7

A RESOLUTION BY THE PELICAN CITY COUNCIL COMMENTING ON THE PROPOSED ALASKA ROADLESS RULE*[text bolded for emphasis]

WHEREAS, the City of Pelican is a unique community that prospers by and through the protection of its natural resources; and,

WHEREAS, the sustainability of the future of Pelican's economy and the lifestyles of our citizens depend on nurturing and sustaining the natural resources supported by our forests, rivers, and ocean, both locally and regionally in Southeast Alaska; and

WHEREAS, many Pelican residents obtain their livelihoods from economic activities including commercial fishing and tourism, which are highly dependent on a pristine and productive natural setting; and,

WHEREAS, salmon populations are facing increased challenges from changing ocean conditions, climate change, ocean acidification, rising water temperatures in streams, and ocean warming events in the Pacific Ocean, and freshwater habitat development in the contiguous United States; and,

WHEREAS, Southeast Alaska is the most visited region in Alaska, with two thirds of all visitors to the State coming to this region and therefore acting as a significant contribution; and

WHEREAS, the Roadless Rule was first adopted in 2001 to protect 58 million acres of our nation's most essential and intact roadless areas in the National Forest system; and,

WHEREAS, the State of Alaska has been against the inclusion of the Tongass in the Roadless Rule since it was promulgated in 2001, despite support for the rule from a wide variety of constituents living in Southeast Alaska; and,

WHEREAS, during the scoping process for an Alaska Specific Roadless Rule in 2018, communities throughout Southeast Alaska support of the 2001 Roadless Rule, as well as the heavy majority of the official scoping comments received strongly support maintaining the 2001 Roadless Rule on the Tongass; and,

WHEREAS, the State of Alaska invested time, staff, and money to convene a stakeholder-led Citizen Advisory Committee in 2018 that provided recommendations and perspectives from different interest groups in Southeast Alaska on what a workable compromise for an Alaska Roadless Rule could look like; and,

WHEREAS, the pursuit of a full exemption from the 2001 Roadless Rule is highly divisive among local populations and stakeholders and increased conflict on the Tongass will tarnish the reputation of the region nationwide, with negative impacts for the tourism industry; and

WHEREAS, roadless areas on the Tongass are essential to Southeast Alaska's way of life and represent some of the most spectacular and unique roadless areas anywhere in the National Forest System and support hunting, fishing, customary and traditional uses, subsistence, outdoor recreation opportunities, and opportunities for businesses; and

WHEREAS, the amount of carbon stored in the intact old growth forests and soils of the Tongass National Forest represent one of the highest carbon stores in the world, and the conservation of intact roadless areas

and old growth forests on the Thongass are essential for maintaining local and national climate resilience and slowing down climate change throughout the world; and,

WHEREAS, the Tongass provides a wide range of ecosystem services beyond carbon sequestration to residents and visitors alike on a 24/7 basis naturally and at no cost to the taxpayer, and;

WHEREAS, increased logging of old growth forests in the existing roadless areas of the Tongass seriously impact the ability of othe forest to provide these vital ecosystem services, such as clean water, clean air, stream temperature regulation, and healthy salmon and wildlife habitat; and,

WHEREAS, increased logging of old growth forests in existing roadless areas would incur a significant cost to taxpayers, as new reports estimate that the subsidization of industrial-scale logging on the Tongass has cost tax payers over $600 million over the past twenty years; and, RESOLUTION 2019 -7- PAGE 3

WHEREAS, according to the State of Alaska's own economic experts and commissioned reports, Tongass timber is uncompetitive due to fundamental permanent changes that have occurred in global markets, high labor costs, distance from markets, and the availability of less-expensive substitutes; and,

WHEREAS, the commercial fishing industry and visitor industries that provide the economic backbone of Southeast Alaska depend on pristine, scenic vistas and healthy, productive watersheds; and,

RESOLUTION 2019 -7- PAGE 3

WHEREAS, opening up roadless areas for future development industrial-scale logging will actively work against the Tongass Transition and the 2016 Tongass Land Management Plan Amendment, which was created after years of collaborative work between diverse groups of stakeholders;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that given long-lasting, fiscally irresponsible, and environmentally damaging impacts of any reduction in current Roadless Rule protections on the Tongass, the City of Pelican strongly supports lasting protection for all inventoried roadless areas on the Tongass National Forest as provided for in the 2001 Roadless Rule. There should be no exemption from the Roadless Rule for Alaska and there should be no Alaska-specific roadless rule; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the economic livelihoods of City of Pelican residents would be irreparably harmed by the effects of a full exemption from the Roadless Rule on the Tongass, which would lead to increased climate change, increased threats to fish habitat, and development occurring in pristine natural areas that showcase the tourism potential and natural beauty of the Tongass National Forest; and,

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the City of Pelican encourages the USFS to invest in programs, workforce development, and employment opportunities for Southeast Alaskan residents to restore the health and productivity of the Tongass National Forest's degraded watersheds and streams, as a means of supporting vital ecosystem services such as carbon sequestration, small-scale timber production, fish and wildlife populations, natural vistas, visitor amenities, subsistence, hydrological resources, and more.

Passed and Approved by the Pelican City Council this 18th day of November 2019.

[Signature]

Walt Weller, Mayor

[Signature]

Lattieca Stewart, City Clerk

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Kasey
Last name: Welles
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC3170

U.S. Forest Service Alaska Roadless Rule

Comment Period

Comment Period Alaska Roadless Rule:

The Roadless Rule has been instrumental in conserving the Tongass National Forest and in supporting its 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. 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,

Kasey Welles

Bozeman, MT 59715

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Kasey
Last name: Welles
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC5201

U.S. Forest Service Alaska Roadless Rule Committee:

Too few places exist where our impact hasn't been felt. This sad truth makes the Tongass that much more valuable in it's current condition. At some point we must recognize the value of wild places above the monetary value of the resources we can extract from them. Let's let the Tongass remain one of those places.

The Roadless Rule has been instrumental in conserving the Tongass National Forest and in supporting its fish and wildlife-based industries for more than 20 years. Please uphold the Rule's protections for important fish and wildlife areas, including the Tongass 77. 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,

Kasey Welles

Bozeman, MT 59715

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Paul
Last name: Wellin
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, Paul Wellin

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/27/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Paul
Last name: Wellin
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Alaska Roadless Rulemaking #54511

Roadless Rulemaking,

RE: Alaska Roadless DEIS Comment

Dear Secretary Perdue:

Tongass is a 500-mile coastal temperate rain forest that retains more carbon than any forest in the United States. Its thousand-year-old-growth trees provide habitat for iconic wild creatures, including bald eagles and everything from humpback and orca whales to bears, otters, and beavers. Local indigenous people, including the Tlingit and Haida, have also lived in this region for centuries and rely on the forest's healthy natural resources for survival. We can't let Trump destroy it.

Under Trump's proposal, old-growth trees that help us to mitigate climate change by storing vast amounts of carbon would be especially targeted. In addition, this rule could potentially undermine protection of the 5.4 million acres of roadless lands in Alaska's Chugach National Forest.

An IPCC expert whose report was cited by the Trump regime says, flat out: "Nothing in that report supports what they're claiming." From Ukrainean politics to border walls to climate change, nothing said or done by this administration can be trusted. It's up to us citizens to speak the truth.

In addition, I strongly object to your plans to reduce and remove protections from our national forest's 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.

Paul Wellin

San Diego, California 92131

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Marilyn
Last name: Wellinghoff
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, Marilyn Wellinghoff

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Mary
Last name: Wellington
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Mary Wellington and I live in Tucson, Arizona.

Trump's destruction MUST STOP right now!

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, Mary Wellington

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Gay
Last name: Wellman
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Gay Wellman and I live in Copper Center, Alaska.

Leave the Tongass National Forest alone. It plays an important role in helping decrease the effects of climate change that we see all around us here in Alaska. No matter what the cause, we need to do all we know works to protect our planet.

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, Gay Wellman

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Gwen
Last name: wellman
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Gwen wellman and I live in Troy, Michigan.

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, Gwen wellman

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Jan
Last name: Wellman
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Jan Wellman and I live in Cottage Grove, Oregon.

Please stop destroying the last pristine and culturally significant places left on earth in the name of short term profit.

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, Jan Wellman

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Joyce
Last name: Wellon
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC4966

Dear U.S. Forest Service,

CC: Alaska Congressional Delegation and Federal Administration

I support the no-action alternative to leave the 2001 Roadless Rule in place on the Tongass National Forest. We must continue to phase out old-growth clear-cut logging and instead prioritize restoring degraded watersheds and fish streams that contribute to the growing fisheries and tourism-based economies of Southeast. To that end, please conserve the Tongass 77 and TNC priority areas in the final Roadless Rule.

Sincerely,

Comments: *(Eg: list locations you recreate, or why you value Tongass fish & wildlife)* [Text italicized for emphasis]

[Box unchecked] I would like to get more involved in the campaign!

*By taking this action, you are consenting to receive future communications via phone, text message, email, or mail from Sitka Conservation Society and its partners working to protect the Tongass. * [Text italicized for emphasis]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/11/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Alejandro
Last name: Wells
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): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Alexa
Last name: Wells
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC1291

Dear Chief Christiansen,

I live and work on the lands and waters of the Tongass National Forest. The health of the Tongass National Forest is critical to sustaining my way of life in this rugged region. From hunting and fishing, to hiking and camping, to our tourism and commercial fishing-based economies, we rely on the intact habitat that the roadless areas of the Tongass contain. That is why it is important to me that the 2001 Roadless Rule remain in place on the Tongass National Forest. A no-action alternative is the best option for Southeast Alaska.

Prioritizing one antiquated industry over private sectors is bad business, and bad for Southeast Alaska. I support the Tongass Transition and I would like the Forest Service to continue phasing out old growth clearcutting. Please prioritize conservation of the T77 and TNC conservation priority areas in any new Alaska Roadless Rule. This forest is a salmon forest, and the Forest Service should focus on restoring degraded watersheds and fish streams.

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 1/1/0001 12:00:00 AM
First name: Alexa
Last name: Wells
Organization:
Title:
Comments:

Dear Chief Christiansen,

I live and work on the lands and waters of the Tongass National Forest. The health of the Tongass National Forest is critical to sustaining my way of life in this rugged region. From hunting and fishing, to hiking and camping, to our tourism and commercial fishing-based economies, we rely on the intact habitat that the roadless areas of the Tongass contain. That is why it is important to me that the 2001 Roadless Rule remain in place on the Tongass National Forest. A no-action alternative is the best option for Southeast Alaska.

Prioritizing one antiquated industry over private sectors is bad business, and bad for Southeast Alaska. I support the Tongass Transition and I would like the Forest Service to continue phasing out old growth clearcutting. Please prioritize conservation of the T77 and TNC conservation priority areas in any new Alaska Roadless Rule. This forest is a salmon forest, and the Forest Service should focus on restoring degraded watersheds and fish streams.

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 1/1/0001 12:00:00 AM
First name: Alexa
Last name: Wells
Organization:
Title:
Comments:

Dear Chief Christiansen,

I live and work on the lands and waters of the Tongass National Forest. The health of the Tongass National Forest is critical to sustaining my way of life in this rugged region. From hunting and fishing, to hiking and camping, to our tourism and commercial fishing-based economies, we rely on the intact habitat that the roadless areas of the Tongass contain. That is why it is important to me that the 2001 Roadless Rule remain in place on the Tongass National Forest. A no-action alternative is the best option for Southeast Alaska.

Prioritizing one antiquated industry over private sectors is bad business, and bad for Southeast Alaska. I support the Tongass Transition and I would like the Forest Service to continue phasing out old growth clearcutting. Please prioritize conservation of the T77 and TNC conservation priority areas in any new Alaska Roadless Rule. This forest is a salmon forest, and the Forest Service should focus on restoring degraded watersheds and fish streams.

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 1/1/0001 12:00:00 AM
First name: Alexa
Last name: Wells
Organization:
Title:
Comments:

Dear Chief Christiansen,

I live and work on the lands and waters of the Tongass National Forest. The health of the Tongass National Forest is critical to sustaining my way of life in this rugged region. From hunting and fishing, to hiking and camping, to our tourism and commercial fishing-based economies, we rely on the intact habitat that the roadless areas of the Tongass contain. That is why it is important to me that the 2001 Roadless Rule remain in place on the Tongass National Forest. A no-action alternative is the best option for Southeast Alaska.

Prioritizing one antiquated industry over private sectors is bad business, and bad for Southeast Alaska. I support the Tongass Transition and I would like the Forest Service to continue phasing out old growth clearcutting. Please prioritize conservation of the T77 and TNC conservation priority areas in any new Alaska Roadless Rule. This forest is a salmon forest, and the Forest Service should focus on restoring degraded watersheds and fish streams.

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 1/1/0001 12:00:00 AM
First name: Alexa
Last name: Wells
Organization:
Title:
Comments:

Dear Chief Christiansen,

I live and work on the lands and waters of the Tongass National Forest. The health of the Tongass National Forest is critical to sustaining my way of life in this rugged region. From hunting and fishing, to hiking and camping, to our tourism and commercial fishing-based economies, we rely on the intact habitat that the roadless areas of the Tongass contain. That is why it is important to me that the 2001 Roadless Rule remain in place on the Tongass National Forest. A no-action alternative is the best option for Southeast Alaska.

Prioritizing one antiquated industry over private sectors is bad business, and bad for Southeast Alaska. I support the Tongass Transition and I would like the Forest Service to continue phasing out old growth clearcutting. Please prioritize conservation of the T77 and TNC conservation priority areas in any new Alaska Roadless Rule. This forest is a salmon forest, and the Forest Service should focus on restoring degraded watersheds and fish streams.

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Alexa
Last name: Wells
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC943

Dear Chief Christiansen,

I am a visitor to the lands and waters of Southeast Alaska. The Tongass National Forest is a large part of why I am here. Visitors like me come to witness the vast, beautiful stands of old-growth trees that can't be found on such a scale anywhere else in the United States. We come to crew on commercial fishing boats. We come to hunt, fish and hike in America's largest National Forest. That is why it is important to me that the 2001 Roadless Rule remain in place on the Tongass National Forest. A no-action alternative is the best option for Alaskans and Americans.

I support the Tongass Transition and I would like the Forest Service to continue phasing out old growth clearcutting. This forest is a salmon forest, and the Forest Service should focus on restoring degraded watersheds and fish streams. Please prioritize conservation of the T77 and TNC conservation priority areas in any new Alaska Roadless Rule. Tourism and commercial fishing are at the heart of Southeast's economy, not the antiquated timber industry.

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Barbara
Last name: Wells
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Barbara Wells and I live in Kissimmee, Florida.

Forests are our best hope for mitigating climate change by sequestering carbon from the atmosphere. Along with regenerative agriculture we can give our children a bright future.Please protect this precious resource.

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, Barbara Wells

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Dea
Last name: Wells
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, Dea Wells

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Dea
Last name: Wells
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Dea Wells and I live in Mentor, Ohio.

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, Dea Wells

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: deborah
Last name: wells
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is deborah wells and I live in Spring Hill, Florida.

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, deborah wells

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/22/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Diane
Last name: Wells
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Please do not cut down these trees. They are good for the ecology in nature. Many animals will lose their homes.

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/11/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Genevera
Last name: Wells
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Genevera Wells and I live in Novato, California.

Hi my name is Genevera Wells and I live in Novato California and I'm writing in support of SB 54 and AB 1080 by Senator Ben Allen and Assemblywoman Lorena Gonzalez legislation that would reduce plastic pollution in our oceans, waterways, and communities and help to protect marine life.Please support and pass this bill for the health and well being of all. Best Regards,Genevera Wells RN

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, Genevera Wells

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/23/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Gloria
Last name: Wells
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Alternative 1, which leaves the Tongass National Forest intact as is, is the best alternative. It provides the maximum protection for keeping salmon and other resources intact, which is very important for Alaska's tourism (hunting and fishing, and cruise ships seeing unspoiled wilderness). Besides tourism, there are many people who rely on salmon fishing, and to do the other alternatives would potentially put this at risk.

With future rising sea levels and climate change, wild places are critically needed. Logging the Tongass would only add to carbon emissions, rather than sequester carbon as it is doing right now.

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Haylei
Last name: Wells
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC6490

11/4/2019

To Whom It May Concern,

I believe that the Tongass National Forest is a valuable to the reduction of Carbon Dioxide in the atmosphere and should be protected. No roads or logging should be allowed. The destruation to this national forest, the largest one; will only lead to the destruction of more forests. We need our forests. Not only do we need them, the life that lives in these forests need them.

Sincerely,

Haylei Wells

Oakhurst, CA 93644

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/10/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: james
Last name: wells
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is james wells and I live in Jackson, Tennessee.

I make my living in the Tongass national rainforest as a tour guide, the visitors are arriving to port via cruise ship. The draw is the forest, a valuable economic resource for the local communities. Please protect this forest from logging.

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, james wells

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Janette
Last name: Wells
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Janette Wells and I live in Bend, Oregon.

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, Janette Wells

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Jessica
Last name: Wells
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC858

Dear Secretary Perdue,

I am a visitor to the lands and waters of Southeast Alaska. The Tongass National Forest is a large part of why I am here. Visitors like me come to witness the vast, beautiful stands of old-growth trees that can't be found on such a scale anywhere else in the United States. We come to crew on commercial fishing boats. We come to hunt, fish and hike in America's largest National Forest. That is why it is important to me that the 2001 Roadless Rule remain in place on the Tongass National Forest. A no-action alternative is the best option for Alaskans and Americans.

I support the Tongass Transition and I would like the Forest Service to continue phasing out old growth clearcutting. This forest is a salmon forest, and the Forest Service should focus on restoring degraded watersheds and fish streams. Please prioritize conservation of the T77 and TNC conservation priority areas in any new Alaska Roadless Rule. Tourism and commercial fishing are at the heart of Southeast's economy, not the antiquated timber industry.

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/12/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: John
Last name: Wells
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): 12/16/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Kenneth
Last name: Wells
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
[Attached postcard received 12/31/2019. Redacted to protect personally identifiable information. Original is in the project record.]

Text:

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 to 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,

Name:

Address:

City: Zip:

Email:

Phone:

[Position]

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 to 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,

Name: Kenneth Wells

Address: [redacted]

City: [redacted]

Email: [redacted]

Phone: [redacted]

SEATTLE WA 980

FOREVER USA

Dec. 31, 2019

Ken Tu
ID Team Leader
Alaska Roadless Rule
USDA Forest Service
P.O. Box 2168
Juneau, Alaska 99802-1628

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Lasha
Last name: Wells
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Lasha Wells and I live in St. Petersburg, Florida.

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, Lasha Wells

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/14/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Lauren
Last name: Wells
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Lauren Wells and I live in Sitka, AK. I am writing a comment on the Alaska Roadless Rule DEIS because I am concerned with how the Rule and the proposed full exemption will affect the Tongass National Forest and the Chugach National Forest.

Southeast Alaska has a culture like none other that I have seen so far in my travels. Its kind and caring people, people who help other people in their community. A culture where your word is your bond and gives still a wholesome feel of connection with your neighbors. Especially here in Sitka, AK I have felt it most. But all throughout Alaska you can find things this state is different for from the lower 48. In my opinion one of the biggest is the connection to nature and the responsibility to it being taught to the younger generations through their elders. The Tongass is apart of the way of life in Alaska. The roadless rule protects that way of life. Whether its fishing, hunting, gathering, or extra curricular- the Tongass plays a key role. Salmon and Tongass go hand in hand, without one the other will suffer. And by extension so will the great communities that have been born, grown, and evolved around that balance. Already, the drought the Tongass has experienced thus far has shown affects on the wildlife that depends on it, and there by effects the communities. The idea of clear cutting (Commercial harvesting in anyway) even just a little bit of this fragile ecosystem that is already at an unbalance; how can one entity justify that it will do good? Good for who or what? Money, sure. But will that money go straight to the mouths of the communities you just starved for winter because of salmon habitats being altered and no longer viable? What about the communities that survive on the Tongass alone? No market, no barge, no sea planes with supplies, no Amazon, barely a US postage route. What good is money going to do for those communities? This is assuming that a sum of the profits made will go to local communities devastated by once again taking out natural resources and only seeing a monetary value. Rather than something to be protected and cultivated for years to come to help communities, wildlife, ecosystems, and grander scale events that are aligned with the Tongass, not only survive but thrive. The carbon sequestration and its play in the water cycle alone should be reason enough to leave the roadless rule intact. There are better ways to make money off the Tongass that are sustainable and that raise awareness to protect rather than destroy biospheres alike. This Protest to lift the roadless rule simply comes off as a lazy way to make money in mass quantities fast without thought to consequences. I stand for the Tongass and the roadless rule.

I urge the Forest Service to select Alternative 1, the no action alternative, for the final decision on the Alaska Roadless Rule. This alternative protects the inventoried roadless areas in Alaska that are full of pristine wilderness and provide important fish and wildlife habitat, and already allows for important community and economic development projects. As an American citizen, I value the Tongass National Forest and the Chugach National Forest for its status as America's best natural solution to climate change and its sequestering of millions of metric tons of carbon and mitigating climate change, its wild salmon populations and the world-class fishing opportunities, its huge swaths of intact ecosystems and all the biodiversity it contains, its status as the largest intact temperate rainforest in the world, the recreational opportunities it provides, the high density of incredible wildlife it contains, to keep public lands wild for future generations, its status as a national and global treasure, the lifestyles of the indigenous communities that the forest supports. A full exemption does not protect these priorities, nor does it effectively balance economic development with the countless other benefits provided by roadless areas. I would like the Forest Service to manage roadless areas for low-impact recreation (camping, hiking, hunting, foraging, etc), passive/active watershed restoration (stream and habitat) to improve/maintain roadless characteristics (culvert removal/replacement, improve fish passage, wildlife thinning, etc), medium-impact recreation (FS cabins, trails, mooring buoys, 3-sided shelters), hydroelectric development. It is important to me that high-value intact habitat including the T77 watersheds and the TNC conservation priority areas retain their roadless protections in any alternative selected.

The Forest Service is wasting taxpayers' valuable time and money by trying to prop up a failing timber industry in Southeast Alaska. The nonpartisan, independent taxpayer watchdog Taxpayers for Common Sense reported that the Tongass timber program has losses of over $600 million of taxpayers money in the past 20 years. I would rather see my taxpayer dollars used to restore salmon habitat that was hurt by past logging practices, perform restorative actions that support wildlife populations on previously degraded landscapes that support wildlife populations, develop more recreational opportunities, like trails and cabins, support small-scale, sustainable logging, establish the economic value of the carbon stored in the Tongass. We need to stop subsidizing the clearcutting of old growth on the Tongass through taxpayer funded roadbuilding. If a full exemption were chosen, it would not create opportunities and would instead prioritize the special interests of one industry over the interests of the entire American public.

The Tongass is Americas homegrown natural solution to climate change. The forest sequesters 8% of the carbon stored in forests throughout the contiguous US states, some 3 billion metric tons of it. We must take action to mitigate and adapt to climate change, and maintaining the Tongass in a roadless state is critical for a sustainable future.

I urge the Forest Service to listen to the voices of the American people and prioritize them over corporate interests. The Forest Service should strengthen public involvement in developing land management policy and focus on broadly supported work rather than allowing special corporate interests to guide policy changes. Attempting to exempt inventoried roadless areas on the Chugach National Forest from the Alaska Roadless Rule adds further insult to injury, and this proposal has not received any sufficient environmental impact analysis or public input. Choosing a full exemption will not create a long lasting, durable solution for roadless areas in Alaska it will only increase the legal challenges, uncertainty for businesses, and conflict over these forests going forward.

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Lauren
Last name: Wells
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC808

Dear Secretary Perdue,

I live and work on the lands and waters of the Tongass National Forest. The health of the Tongass National Forest is critical to sustaining my way of life in this rugged region - from hunting and fishing, to hiking and camping, to our tourism and commercial fishing-based economies, we rely on the intact habitat that the roadless areas of the Tongass contain. That is why it is important to me that the 2001 Roadless Rule remain in place on the Tongass National Forest. A no-action alternative is the best option for Southeast Alaska.

I support the Tongass Transition and I would like the Forest Service to continue phasing out old growth clearcutting. This forest is a salmon forest, and the Forest Service should focus on restoring degraded watersheds and fish streams. Please prioritize conservation of the T77 and TNC conservation priority areas in any new Alaska Roadless Rule. Prioritizing one antiquated industry over other private sectors is bad business, and bad for Southeast Alaska.

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/13/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Lauren
Last name: Wells
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC602

Dear Secretary Perdue and Senator Murkowski,

I am currently on a boat cruise off the coast of the West Chichagof-Yakobi Wilderness. The West Chichagof-Yakobi Wilderness was the first citizen-initiated Wilderness area in Alaska; in 1967, Sitkans who recognized the value of this area came together to protect it. This Wilderness area is rich in biodiversity and supports an incredibly productive ecosystem. Salmon are sustained by the vast freshwater stream systems that empty into fjords and inlets. Brown bears feast upon these salmon as they swim upstream, distributing their carcasses throughout the forest. These carcasses fertilize the soil and feed the Sitka spruce, mountain hemlock, and yellow cedar trees that tower over the land. Underneath this old growth canopy, Sitka Black-tail deer browse on abundant berries and shrubs.

However, the West Chichagof-Yakobi Wilderness is not the only place in Southeast Alaska with such incredible beauty and biodiversity. The flora and fauna we find in this wilderness area also thrive in inventoried roadless areas throughout the Tongass. Intact roadless areas provide our communities with important hunting, fishing, foraging, and recreating opportunities. We depend on the entirety of the Tongass for our subsistence and our livelihoods including our commercial fishing and tourism industries. I am grateful for the Wilderness designation that the West Chichagof-Yacobi area received, and would like to see such protections extended to areas such as Ushk Bay and Poison Cove.

Outside of Wilderness areas like West Chichagof, the roadless areas we depend on are threatened by politicians and special interests pushing for short term profits that have long term ecological and economic consequences. Wilderness areas, roadless areas, and the intact habitat they support are an investment in the long term sustainability of our region. Please keep the National Roadless Rule in place on the Tongass. T77 areas are particularly important to me; these watersheds are critical to maintaining the salmon runs we depend on for jobs and food. Please do not remove protections for these areas, or anywhere else on the Tongass.

Personal Comments: I am interested in learning more!

Places like this need to be protected not only for ecosystems save but also the surrounding human populations as well.

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Marsha
Last name: Wells
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, Marsha Wells

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Marsha
Last name: Wells
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, Marsha Wells

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/11/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Mary
Last name: Wells
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Mary Wells and I live in Los Angeles, California.

Once an eco-system--like a forest--is dead,it can never be restored!

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, Mary Wells

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Patrice
Last name: Wells
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, Patrice Wells

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: R
Last name: Wells
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is R Wells and I live in Los Angeles, California.

Please do the right thing !

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, R Wells

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/11/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Rachel
Last name: Wells
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Rachel Wells and I live in Portland, Oregon.

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, Rachel Wells

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/12/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Rachel
Last name: Wells
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Rachel Wells and I live in Portland, Oregon.

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, Rachel Wells

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Rob
Last name: Wells
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): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Tammy
Last name: Wells
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, Tammy Wells

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Thomas
Last name: Wells
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, Thomas Wells

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Traci
Last name: Wells
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Traci Wells and I live in Mason, Texas.

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, Traci Wells

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Bob
Last name: Wellsted
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Bob Wellsted and I live in Concord, 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.

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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, Bob Wellsted

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Laura
Last name: Welp
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Laura Welp and I live in Mccleary, Washington.

I grew up in Juneau in the midst of the Tongass National Forest. Now, as an adult, I treasure the memories of hikes and camping adventures I had there. I now appreciate the rarity of a temperate rainforest, especially as the climate changes and the Tongass may well serve as a refugia for species moving north to escape inhospitable conditions. This forest should remain roadless and protected for future generations of both people and the natural world of which we are a part.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.

Regards, Laura Welp

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Susan
Last name: Welsford
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Susan Welsford and I live in Norton Shores, Michigan.

We will NOT allow the destruction of America's landmarks.

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.

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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, Susan Welsford

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Emily
Last name: Welsh
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Alternative one please

Alternative one please.

Please help save our resources which are dwindling,

For the sake of all people and animals.

Thank you

From children, adults, seniors,

And on behalf of

And trees and wildlife that don't have a voice

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: florence
Last name: welsh
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Florence Welsh and I live in Sitka, AK. 44 year resident.

Family of 7.

Heat with wood.

Subsistence harvester of greens, seafoods, deer, seaweed, mushrooms, berries and more.

Garden annually: vegetables and fruits.

See my blog: https://sitkavores.blogspot.com/ I am writing a comment on the Alaska Roadless Rule DEIS because I am concerned with how the Rule and the proposed full exemption will impact my fishing, hunting, subsistence harvesting, foraging for wild foods, the peace and solitude I find in nature, recreating, practicing my culture, the status of the Tongass as a national and global treasure, the forest's ability to sequester carbon and mitigate climate change impacts, the conservation of resources for future generations .

Out of the alternatives described in the AKRR DEIS I support alternative 1: no action. It protects important fish and wildlife habitat from clearcutting and roadbuilding. I depend on roadless areas in the Tongass National Forest for healthy fish habitat, deer habitat and subsistence hunting, foraging and gathering wild foods, practicing my culture, recreating and enjoying nature, keeping public lands wild for future generations. A full exemption does not protect these values, nor does it effectively balance economic development and conservation of roadless area characteristics. A full exemption from the Roadless Rule and increased logging and roadbuilding will negatively impact the Tongass and what I and many others use and depend on the forest to provide for us.

The Roadless areas on the Tongass that are especially important to me are those on or around Baranof Island, Chichagof Island, Admiralty Island. I want the roadless areas in these locations to stay in roadless status in any alternative selected by the Forest Service, and be managed to provide for the uses and activities I listed above. It is important to me that the T77 and the TNC conservation priority areas retain their roadless protections.

I do not support the Forest Services preferred alternative of a full exemption. A full exemption is not in the interests of Southeast Alaskans who live in and use the Tongass National Forest, because I have lived here a long time and don't personally know any one who feels differently from me about this. And I know a lot of people.. The State of Alaska says that a full exemption is needed for rural economic development opportunities. However, a full exemption would not help create more rural economic development opportunities, it would instead harm our existing rural economies that are based on the visitor industry and commercial fishing industry.

It would further harm rural economic opportunities because pursuing the same outdated economic model of old growth clearcut harvesting for export stifles innovation and possibility in other sectors, such as mariculture, sustainable young growth harvest, and rural agriculture. If the Forest Service wants to support rural economic development, they should devote resources to support our fishing and visitor industries invest in creating and maintaining recreation infrastructure.

Please practice caution.

Please listen to the people.

Please think of future generations.

Please be considerate of mother nature.

People have already done too much damage around here. And it truly does appear as if ocean acidification and climate change are beginning to cause damage.

I urge the Forest Service to prioritize the voices of Southeast Alaskans over those of our political representation and corporate interests. Choosing a full exemption will not create a long lasting, durable solution for roadless areas on the Tongass. It will only increase the legal challenges, uncertainty for businesses, and conflict on the Tongass going forward.

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Mary
Last name: Welsh
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, Mary Welsh

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Jeremy
Last name: Welsh-Loveman
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.

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Regards, Jeremy Welsh-Loveman

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/21/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Alexandra
Last name: Welsko
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Alexandra Welsko and I live in Richmond Heights, Missouri.

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, Alexandra Welsko

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Heidi
Last name: Welte
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Heidi Welte and I live in Beaverton, Oregon.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Heidi Welte

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Josh
Last name: Weltz
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): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Kathleen
Last name: Weltzei
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC5060

To Whom It May Concern:

Please keep the Roadless Rule on the Tongass. Things on earth are changing so rapidlly. I think it is important to keep a status quo on something that the cannot replace. I think we owe same decisions to the next generation.

[Signature]

[Address]

Auke Bay, Alaska 99821

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Littlepaige
Last name: Wemple
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, Littlepaige Wemple

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/7/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Mary
Last name: Wemple
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.
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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): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Linda
Last name: Wendeborn
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC5687

Dear U.S. Forest Service,

CC: Alaska Congressional Delegation and Federal Administration

I support the no-action alternative to leave the 2001 Roadless Rule in place on the Tongass National Forest. We must continue to phase out old-growth clear-cut logging and instead prioritize restoring degraded watersheds and fish streams that contribute to the growing fisheries and tourism-based economies of Southeast. To that end, please conserve the Tongass 77 and TNC priority areas in the final Roadless Rule.

Sincerely,

Comments: *(Eg: list locations you recreate, or why you value Tongass fish & wildlife)* [Text italicized for emphasis]

[Box unchecked] I would like to get more involved in the campaign!

*By taking this action, you are consenting to receive future communications via phone, text message, email, or mail from Sitka Conservation Society and its partners working to protect the Tongass. * [Text italicized for emphasis]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Heidi
Last name: Wendel
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Heidi Wendel and I live in Cold Spring, New York.

Please stop cutting down these incredible national treasures for very temporary financial gain. These beautiful trees are absolutely irreplaceable! Please!!!

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, Heidi Wendel

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/10/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Theodore
Last name: Wendel
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.
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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): 11/10/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: John
Last name: Wendell
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is John Wendell and I live in Santa Rosa, 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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, John Wendell

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Niklas
Last name: Wendl
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I find the reverting the 2001 decision to be foolish. Destroying so many acres of old growth trees in an age of climate change will have no net good. I am not in support of this. Please change nothing and don't destroy all these trees. We need to be taking action that positively impacts the climate and ecosystems not the opposite.

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: David
Last name: Wendt
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is David Wendt and I live in Walnut Creek, 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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, David Wendt

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: David
Last name: Wendt
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, David Wendt

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Deborah
Last name: Wendt
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Deborah Wendt and I live in Redgranite, Wisconsin.

save our forests, water and air!!!

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Deborah Wendt

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Debra
Last name: Wendt
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Debra Wendt and I live in Tiskilwa, Illinois.

Please, do the right thing!

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Debra Wendt

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/25/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Ingrid
Last name: Wendt
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Comments to oppose modification to the Roadless Rule

Dear U.S. Forest Service,

Rules are Rules. The Roadless Rule was put in place for good reasons.

There is NO good reason to ignore it, except to satisfy the hunger of Americans for softer toilet paper and other products they can get elsewhere. (There are lots of brands that use Tongass trees: for shame!)

Please do the right thing. and keep the Roadless Rule intact in the Ttongass National Forest.

Coming generations will thank you.

Sincerely,

Ingrid Wendt

Eugene, OR 97405

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: marilyn
Last name: wendt
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is marilyn wendt and I live in Raleigh, North Carolina.

Please, help us to be able to drink clean water and eat healthy food. Let's get these chemicals out of our food and water!

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.

Regards, marilyn wendt

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Steve
Last name: Wendt
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Steve Wendt and I live in Chico, 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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Steve Wendt

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/19/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Anon
Last name: Wendy
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
re Roadless Rule 2001

To the USDA Forest Service:

From my perspective, it's simple-if an area (any area, any size) has been designated as 'protected,' there must be no exceptions to the rule.

And it's not that we're saving a bunch of trees "for future generations" to marvel at how nice the world once was. We're protecting giant forests and ecosystems that play critical roles in the well-being of the planet. And we need to see it not as 'saving this land for future generations,' but 'protecting the re-generation of this land so it can save us.'

When business, people, or communities start lobbying for their own interests, THAT'S EXACTLY WHEN A RULE NEEDS TO STAND STRONG. This rule was ENACTED to protect these priceless, irreplaceable forests from outside interests. And the State of Alaska KNEW back in 2001 (and way, way before that) that the land and the law would inevitably be threatened.

Now is when we have to say, "Sorry, but no. These lands may not be made more accessible to humans and industry, may not be parceled out, or even-as is now being posed-help poor rural folks improve their standard of living." There will always be reasons to disturb or destroy the environment, but the PURPOSE of this law is to NOT ALLOW it here."

"We don't want to protect it anymore, we changed our minds," is a weird message from the State, and would be even weirder if the Federal Government got on board. "We don't care as much as we used to," is a tragic reason to downgrade legislation, hard-won by the majority as the right thing to do.

Also, if our elected officials spend their time and our money undoing the work of their recent predecessors, we get nowhere and everything becomes partisan politics instead of stewarding what sustains us and finding viable solutions and alternatives.

Beware, too: the breaking of one rule opens a dangerous door to the debasing of other rules. Then nothing is sacred and it's all a big game.

Very sincerely,

Wendy Raebeck

P.S. When the people who've been designated to comment on a study or issue are all 'appointed' by the governor, that's not a valid or authentic study, and shouldn't hold sway in decision-making about said issue. I'm surprised it was referred to at all in the documentation of this issue.

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Ruth
Last name: Wene
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.

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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, Ruth Wene

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Carlin
Last name: Wenger
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.

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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, Carlin Wenger

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Marlene
Last name: Wenger
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Marlene Wenger and I live in Kapaa, Hawaii.

I am planning to visit Alaska next summer to see your beautiful state before it is destroyed any further.

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, Marlene Wenger

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Mim
Last name: Wenger
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Mim Wenger and I live in Waynesboro, Virginia.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Mim Wenger

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/12/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Ian
Last name: Wengerd
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): 11/10/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Monika
Last name: Wengler
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Monika Wengler and I live in Asheville, North Carolina.

With the climate in crisis, we need old growth trees more than ever. New plantings can not replace old tree communities.

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, Monika Wengler

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Audrey
Last name: Wenhold
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, Audrey Wenhold

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Jay
Last name: Wennemer
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Jay Wennemer and I live in Plymouth, Massachusetts.

National Forests should be for the benefit of the American citizen, NOT for the profit of the rich and powerful.

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.

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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, Jay Wennemer

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Jordan
Last name: Wenning
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Jordan Wenning and I live in Schwenksville, Pennsylvania.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Jordan Wenning

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Beverly
Last name: Wenrich
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Beverly Wenrich and I live in Geigertown, Pennsylvania.

We must stop killing our environment and our future with these thoughtless actions that benefit money-oriented interests.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.

Regards, Beverly Wenrich

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Tanya
Last name: Wenrich
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Tanya Wenrich and I live in Selinsgrove, Pennsylvania.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Tanya Wenrich

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Christy
Last name: Wente
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, Christy Wente

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Elaine
Last name: Wentland
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, Elaine Wentland

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/18/2019 3:27:53 PM
First name: Katherine
Last name: Wentworth
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Comments to oppose modification to the Roadless Rule

Dear U.S. Forest Service,

The Roadless Rule helps protect old-growth habitat for birds like the Prince of Wales Spruce Grouse and Northern Goshawk, as well as for mammals like wolves and deer. Opening roadless areas to more logging and roads will fragment the forest and eliminate more of the big old trees that these animals rely on.

Yet, all of the action alternatives in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement allow more roadbuilding and logging across the Tongass National Forest. Logging roads and timber operations cost tens of millions of taxpayer dollars every year, with zero return on investment. Meanwhile, these destructive activities degrade the naturally sustainable wealth of salmon, wildlife watching, and tourism opportunities.

It is time to stop opening more and more acres to the timber industry and instead bolster protections to the old-growth forests and wild areas on the Tongass. I urge you to select the "No Action" Alternative (Alternative 1) and allow the Roadless Rule to remain intact on the Tongass National Forest.

Sincerely,
Katherine Wentworth
Newberg, OR 97132

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Sheila
Last name: Wentzel
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Sheila Wentzel and I live in Washington, Michigan.

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, Sheila Wentzel

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Sheila
Last name: Wentzel
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Sheila Wentzel and I live in Washington, Michigan.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Sheila Wentzel

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/18/2019 4:35:49 PM
First name: Christopher
Last name: Wenzel
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Comments to oppose modification to the Roadless Rule

Dear U.S. Forest Service,

The Roadless Rule helps protect old-growth habitat for birds like the Prince of Wales Spruce Grouse and Northern Goshawk, as well as for mammals like wolves and deer. Opening roadless areas to more logging and roads will fragment the forest and eliminate more of the big old trees that these animals rely on.

Yet, all of the action alternatives in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement allow more roadbuilding and logging across the Tongass National Forest. Logging roads and timber operations cost tens of millions of taxpayer dollars every year, with zero return on investment. Meanwhile, these destructive activities degrade the naturally sustainable wealth of salmon, wildlife watching, and tourism opportunities.

It is time to stop opening more and more acres to the timber industry and instead bolster protections to the old-growth forests and wild areas on the Tongass. I urge you to select the "No Action" Alternative (Alternative 1) and allow the Roadless Rule to remain intact on the Tongass National Forest.

Sincerely,
Christopher Wenzel
Morrill, NE 82240

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Christopher
Last name: Wenzel
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Christopher Wenzel and I live in Morrill, Nebraska.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Christopher Wenzel

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Quentin
Last name: Wenzel
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Quentin Wenzel and I live in Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania.

We need trees to breathe. Protect them.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Quentin Wenzel

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/11/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: William
Last name: Wenzel
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is William Wenzel and I live in Queens, New York.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, William Wenzel

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Minivere
Last name: Wenzer
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, Minivere Wenzer

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Minivere
Last name: Wenzer
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Minivere Wenzer and I live in Takoma Park, Maryland.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Minivere Wenzer

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/14/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Minivere
Last name: Wenzer
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Minivere Wenzer and I live in Takoma Park, Maryland.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Minivere Wenzer

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/18/2019 6:27:33 PM
First name: Carla
Last name: Wenzlaff
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Comments to oppose modification to the Roadless Rule

Dear U.S. Forest Service,

The Roadless Rule helps protect old-growth habitat for birds like the Prince of Wales Spruce Grouse and Northern Goshawk, as well as for mammals like wolves and deer. Opening roadless areas to more logging and roads will fragment the forest and eliminate more of the big old trees that these animals rely on.

Yet, all of the action alternatives in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement allow more roadbuilding and logging across the Tongass National Forest. Logging roads and timber operations cost tens of millions of taxpayer dollars every year, with zero return on investment. Meanwhile, these destructive activities degrade the naturally sustainable wealth of salmon, wildlife watching, and tourism opportunities.

It is time to stop opening more and more acres to the timber industry and instead bolster protections to the old-growth forests and wild areas on the Tongass. I urge you to select the "No Action" Alternative (Alternative 1) and allow the Roadless Rule to remain intact on the Tongass National Forest.

Sincerely,
Carla Wenzlaff
Eugene, OR 97405

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Carla
Last name: Wenzlaff
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Carla Wenzlaff and I live in Eugene, Oregon.

We must continue our stewardship of wild places. Please protect this forestland.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Carla Wenzlaff

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/5/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Scott
Last name: Wenzlaff
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): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: John
Last name: Wenzlick
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC3515

U.S. Forest Service Alaska Roadless Rule

Comment Period

Comment Period Alaska Roadless Rule:

The Roadless Rule has been instrumental in conserving the Tongass National Forest and in supporting its 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. 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,

John Wenzlick

Jefferson City, MO 65109

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Philippe
Last name: WERA
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Philippe WERA and I live in Lovell, Maine.

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, Philippe WERA

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Eleanor
Last name: Werbe
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am very opposed to opening up the Tongass for development. This is a national treasure and irreplaceable habitat. It is very short sighted to think that this habitat once destroyed will be able to be restored to its former state. The Tongass is not just a stand of trees but an interconnected habitat that has not only provided a wealth of resources for the people of the region but a gift to all that should not be lost. .

Sincerely,Eleanor Werbe

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/5/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Anon
Last name: wereoutthere@msn.com
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Please maintain protections for the Tongass and Chugach National Forests

Secretary Perdue,

I strongly object to your plans to reduce and remove protections from our national forest roadless areas.

I am asking you to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1.

The Tongass National Forest contains some of the largest intact old-growth temperate rainforest in the world, It is a world heritage natural ecosystem.

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.

Selling off our Nation's' natural resources for logging leases is State Sanctioned Corporate Welfare for robber barons, and undermines our children's future.

Maintaining its integrity is a matter of critical importance in providing clean water, and resilient wildlife habitat essential to the economic and ecological health of Southeast Alaska.

I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for The Tongass National Forest.

Signed,

David Osinga

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/14/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Chase
Last name: Werings
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Chase Werings and I live in Wasilla, AK. I am writing a comment on the Alaska Roadless Rule DEIS because I am concerned with how the Rule and the proposed full exemption will affect the Tongass National Forest and the Chugach National Forest.

Forests are some of the most important things on Earth. They house many types of animals and are significant to our survival as a species. As someone who has lived in and around forests my whole life, I couldnt imagine one being destroyed, as it would break my heart.

I urge the Forest Service to select Alternative 1, the no action alternative, for the final decision on the Alaska Roadless Rule. This alternative protects the inventoried roadless areas in Alaska that are full of pristine wilderness and provide important fish and wildlife habitat, and already allows for important community and economic development projects. As an American citizen, I value the Tongass National Forest and the Chugach National Forest for its status as America's best natural solution to climate change and its sequestering of millions of metric tons of carbon and mitigating climate change, its wild salmon populations and the world-class fishing opportunities, its huge swaths of intact ecosystems and all the biodiversity it contains, its status as the largest intact temperate rainforest in the world, the recreational opportunities it provides, the high density of incredible wildlife it contains, its status as a national and global treasure, to keep public lands wild for future generations, the lifestyles of the indigenous communities that the forest supports. A full exemption does not protect these priorities, nor does it effectively balance economic development with the countless other benefits provided by roadless areas. I would like the Forest Service to manage roadless areas for low-impact recreation (camping, hiking, hunting, foraging, etc), passive/active watershed restoration (stream and habitat) to improve/maintain roadless characteristics (culvert removal/replacement, improve fish passage, wildlife thinning, etc), hydroelectric development. It is important to me that high-value intact habitat including the T77 watersheds and the TNC conservation priority areas retain their roadless protections in any alternative selected.

The Forest Service is wasting taxpayers' valuable time and money by trying to prop up a failing timber industry in Southeast Alaska. The nonpartisan, independent taxpayer watchdog Taxpayers for Common Sense reported that the Tongass timber program has losses of over $600 million of taxpayers money in the past 20 years. I would rather see my taxpayer dollars used to restore salmon habitat that was hurt by past logging practices, support small-scale, sustainable logging, establish the economic value of the carbon stored in the Tongass. We need to stop subsidizing the clearcutting of old growth on the Tongass through taxpayer funded roadbuilding. If a full exemption were chosen, it would not create opportunities and would instead prioritize the special interests of one industry over the interests of the entire American public.

The Tongass is Americas homegrown natural solution to climate change. The forest sequesters 8% of the carbon stored in forests throughout the contiguous US states, some 3 billion metric tons of it. We must take action to mitigate and adapt to climate change, and maintaining the Tongass in a roadless state is critical for a sustainable future.

I urge the Forest Service to listen to the voices of the American people and prioritize them over corporate interests. The Forest Service should strengthen public involvement in developing land management policy and focus on broadly supported work rather than allowing special corporate interests to guide policy changes.

Attempting to exempt inventoried roadless areas on the Chugach National Forest from the Alaska Roadless Rule adds further insult to injury, and this proposal has not received any sufficient environmental impact analysis or public input. Choosing a full exemption will not create a long lasting, durable solution for roadless areas in Alaska it will only increase the legal challenges, uncertainty for businesses, and conflict over these forests going forward.

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/7/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Dennis
Last name: Werlau Jr
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): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: WILLIAM
Last name: WERLE
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is [WILLIAM] [WERLE] and I live in [SAN FRANCISCO], [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, WILLIAM WERLE

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/10/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Cynthia
Last name: Werner
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Cynthia Werner and I live in Long Beach, 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, Cynthia Werner

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Samuel
Last name: Werner
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Alaskans and Americans overwhelming support preserving the roadless rule and the complete ban on logging in the Tongass. It is a major carbon sink and it's destruction will result in the permanent loss of this resource as well as furthering damage from climate change to the sensitive local areas of Alaska. Shame on the forest service for considering abandoning the protection of this Alaskan resource. This is a public resource, not to be destroyed for the profits of the forest service and some foreign logging companies.

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/25/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Sandra
Last name: Werner
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Sandra Werner and I live in Bosler, Wyoming.

We have too many roads now. Wildlife has no chance to experience the peacefulness needed to eat, mate, sleep in safety and calm. Everything is for human animals, nothing for non-human animals. They have as much right to be here as do we, and they have rights, too. We are raping the planet. Please stop now.

I am writing to express complete opposition to efforts to roll back the Roadless Area Conservation Rule (Roadless Rule) in Alaska or elsewhere. These are NATIONAL forests and REFUGES. They were designated for nature and every creature and plant that includes. They are MINE, I am a CITIZEN in this dying country and I have a say, per the United States Government. These designations include land, air and water. Stop killing everything beautiful and rare.

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, Sandra Werner

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Sharon
Last name: Werner
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, Sharon Werner

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Sharon
Last name: Werner
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, Sharon Werner

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Wynn
Last name: Werner
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
ABSOLUTELY NO LOGGING IN THE TONGASS NATIONAL FOREST.
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, Wynn Werner

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/23/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Robert
Last name: Wernert
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Comments to oppose modification to the Roadless Rule

Dear U.S. Forest Service,

The federal Roadless Rule currently protects more than half of the nearly 17-million-acre Tongass National Forest in Alaska. Part of the largest remaining temperate rainforest on Earth, the Tongass provides habitat for mammals and birds that rely on old-growth forests to survive. Old-growth forests also supports a naturally sustainable salmon population.

The action alternatives in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement allow more roadbuilding and logging across the Tongass National Forest. Logging roads and timber operations cost tens of millions of taxpayer dollars every year, with zero return on investment. Meanwhile, these destructive activities degrade the forest and the wildlife that depend on it.

It is time to stop opening more and more acres to the timber industry and instead bolster protections to the old-growth forests and wild areas on the Tongass. I urge you to select the "No Action" Alternative (Alternative 1) and allow the Roadless Rule to remain intact on the Tongass National Forest.

Over the years, I've watched a number of wildlife species make a comeback. I would hate to think I might now be watching the decline of a number of species. When kids ask why so many species are disappearing, what will I tell them?

Sincerely,

Robert Wernert

Saint Louis, MO 63139

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/26/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Connie
Last name: Wersal-LaVelle
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Proposed Alternative 1-YES!

Looking at the proposed alternatives set forth by the NEPA regarding course of actions related to roadless management in Alaska specifically regarding the Tongass National Forest under the management of the USDA Forest service, I fully and completely support "Alternative 1-takes no action and would leave all of Alaska under 2001 Roadless rule, including Tongass National Forest."

It seems inconceivable to even consider changing this policy given our climate crisis in our nation and the world! As the rainforests of the Amazon burns, tiber clear cutting and it's know determent to our Earth makes cutting old-growth trees and young-growth trees an act of brutality to our Earth. All trees provide much needed CO2 absorption and oxygen production on Earth where human behaviors have clearly shown we are killing our Planet and all living things on it.

THINK OF OUR EARTH AND OUR VERY EXISTENCE NOT A FEW PEOPLE BECOMING EVEN MORE WEALTHY OVER THE DEGRADATION OF OUR LANDS! There is not even ONE word in this plan about replanting the forest. SHAME on the government for even proposing such a policy!

Connie Wersal-LaVelle

Minnesota

Sent from my iPad

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/28/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Jeff
Last name: Wersal-LaVelle
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Opening the Tongass Forest

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to let you know that I am TOTALLY opposed to opening up the Tongass National Forest in ANY way beyond what now exists. I believe this highly important environment and its existing watershed, which benefits millions of Americans and Canadians, should be left untouched and as pristine as it presently is. Altering this area, especially by the Trump administration which has exhibited continual disregard for aspects of the environment in order to benefit business interests, should not be permitted. I have yet to sense ANY interest in this administration in trying to find suitable balance points between the environment and business interests. Hence, I have zero trust that altering the rules will provide safeguards for the environment. Consequently, I support Alternative 1.

Sincerely,

Jeff Wersal-LaVelle

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Sara
Last name: Wersinger
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, Sara Wersinger

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/12/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Sara
Last name: Wersinger
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Sara Wersinger and I live in Buda, Texas.

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, Sara Wersinger

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/7/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Kirsten
Last name: Wert
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): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Kirsten
Last name: Wert
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Kirsten Wert and I live in Junction City, Oregon.

These industries already make plenty of money at everyone else's expense.

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, Kirsten Wert

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Norman
Last name: Werth
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, Norman Werth

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/10/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: ellen
Last name: wertheim
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is ellen wertheim and I live in Queens, New York.

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, ellen wertheim

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Ellen
Last name: Wertheim
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.

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Regards, Ellen Wertheim

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Ellen
Last name: Wertheim
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Ellen Wertheim and I live in Queens, New York.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Ellen Wertheim

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Ellen
Last name: Wertheim
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
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Regards, Ellen Wertheim

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/2/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Alex
Last name: Wertheimer
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I urge the US Forest Service to choose the "No Action" alternative for the Alaska Roadless Rulemaking proposal. The 2001 roadless rule has been essential in maintaining the diverse and plentiful values of remaining old growth stands in the Tongass National Forest: tourism, fisheries, subsistence, carbon sequestering. The current rules have the necessary exemptions to allow for access and development projects for such uses as hydropower and mining, and the USFS has been able to expedite approval for such projects. The roadless rule is working effectively at sustaining the forest as valued by residents of Southeast Alaska and by citizens throughout the United States, as will be shown by the overwhelming number of comments supporting the No Action alternative. Please listen to the people.

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Shirin
Last name: Wertime
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Shirin Wertime and I live in Arlington, Virginia.

The Tongass National Forest is a national treasure and must be protected in perpetuity not sold off to the highest bidder.

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, Shirin Wertime

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: John
Last name: Wertin
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is John Wertin and I live in Payson, Arizona.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, John Wertin

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: David
Last name: Wertlieb
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.

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Regards, David Wertlieb

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: David
Last name: Wertlieb
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.

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Regards, David Wertlieb

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Barry
Last name: Wertz
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC6502

November 18, 2019

Dear Sirs:

I strongly oppose your plan to roll back the landmark 2001 Roadless Rule and allow logging companies to destroy pristine roadless areas of the Tongass National forest. Alternative 6 of the draft environmental impact statement is not an acceptable option for safeguarding this National Forest.

The Tongass is America's largest national forest and the heart of the largest intact temperate rainforest left in the world. It is home to old-growth trees and important wildlife including brown bears, black bears, bald eagles, timber wolves, and all 5 speciies of pacific salmon.

The Tongass is also the country's most important national forest for carbon sequestration and climate change mitigation. With parts of Alaska warming twice as fast as the rest of the planet, maintaining this critical ecosystem helps us tackle the urgent climate change crisis.

It is your responsibility to do everything you can to ensure this pristine national treasure is safeguarded for generations to come. Once it is gone, it is gone forever.

I urge you to reverse course and protect the Tongass National forest from destructive roadbuilding and logging.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Barry W. Wertz

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Deborah
Last name: Wertz
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Deborah Wertz and I live in Lafayette, Indiana.

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, Deborah Wertz

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Kenneth
Last name: Wertz
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Kenneth Wertz and I live in Pine Grove, California.

Do not let the psychopaths determine the state of the planet.... Otherwise it is just more of the destruction we have already seen. Stop the insanity. Protect what is of value. Do not open the Tongas to exploitation and profiteering.

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.

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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, Kenneth Wertz

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Kimberlee
Last name: Wertz
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Do NOT exempt Tongass from the Roadless Area Conservation Rule

Since 2001 the Roadless Area Conservation Rule has protected our 9.5 million acres of the Tongass, from road construction, mining and logging.

Do NOT exempt Tongass from the Roadless Area Conservation Rule. Our Alaskan heritage and preserving the Tongass for future generations is more important than the short term gain of extra profits or a few extra jobs.

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/20/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Sara
Last name: Wescott
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): 10/18/2019 4:18:25 PM
First name: Phoebe
Last name: Weseley
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Comments to oppose modification to the Roadless Rule

Dear U.S. Forest Service,

The Roadless Rule helps protect old-growth habitat for birds like the Prince of Wales Spruce Grouse and Northern Goshawk, as well as for mammals like wolves and deer. Opening roadless areas to more logging and roads will fragment the forest and eliminate more of the big old trees that these animals rely on.

Yet, all of the action alternatives in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement allow more roadbuilding and logging across the Tongass National Forest. Logging roads and timber operations cost tens of millions of taxpayer dollars every year, with zero return on investment. Meanwhile, these destructive activities degrade the naturally sustainable wealth of salmon, wildlife watching, and tourism opportunities.

It is time to stop opening more and more acres to the timber industry and instead bolster protections to the old-growth forests and wild areas on the Tongass. I urge you to select the "No Action" Alternative (Alternative 1) and allow the Roadless Rule to remain intact on the Tongass National Forest.

Sincerely,
Phoebe Weseley
Bedminster, NJ 07921

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Delana
Last name: Weser
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC6264

Dear U.S. Forest Service:

The Roadless Rule has been instrumental in conserving the Tongass National Forest and in supporting its fish and wildlife-based industries for more than 20 years. *Please uphold the Rule's protections for important fish and wildlife areas, including the Tongass 77.* [Text bolded for emphasis] 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 are protection for habitat that our irreplaceable fish and wildlife populations need to survive.* [Text bolded for emphasis]

Customize your comment by listing reasons the Tongass is important to you or why you value Alaska Roadless areas: (ex: specific locations you recreate, activities you do, or why you value fish & wildlife) [Text italicized]

Sincerely,

Would you like to volunteer with TU Alaska to Help America's Salmon Forest?

Yes *No*[Text circled]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/12/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Gwenna
Last name: Weshinskey
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Gwenna Weshinskey and I live in Murphysboro, Illinois.

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, Gwenna Weshinskey

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/26/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: James
Last name: Wesley
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Dear USFS,

With regard to the Tongass N.F. and your latest Road less Rule Proposal, I request that you choose Alternative #1, No Action. To undermine the existing 2001 Road less Rule is a grave mistake for a whole host of reasons, all of which have been voiced to you prior to this latest proposal and remain as overwhelming valid public input in your decision to even consider an abrogation of that landmark 2001 decision.

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Jane
Last name: Wesley
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Jane Wesley and I live in Huntsville, Alabama.

Please dont destroy this beautiful forest. It will be gone FOREVER.

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.

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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, Jane Wesley

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/5/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Jed
Last name: Wesley
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.
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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): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Robert
Last name: Wesley
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, Robert Wesley

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Robert
Last name: Wesley
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
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Regards, Robert Wesley

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Roger
Last name: Wess
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Roger Wess and I live in Chadron, Nebraska.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Roger Wess

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Margaret
Last name: Wessels
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Margaret Wessels and I live in Aptos, California.

Why can't you do the right thing for people?

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, Margaret Wessels

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/11/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Jim
Last name: Wessely
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Jim Wessely and I live in Denver, Colorado.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Jim Wessely

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Eric
Last name: Wessman
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Eric Wessman and I live in Village Of Pelham, New York.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Eric Wessman

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/18/2019 4:00:33 PM
First name: Alice
Last name: West
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Comments to oppose modification to the Roadless Rule

Dear U.S. Forest Service,

The Roadless Rule helps protect old-growth habitat for birds like the Prince of Wales Spruce Grouse and Northern Goshawk, as well as for mammals like wolves and deer. Opening roadless areas to more logging and roads will fragment the forest and eliminate more of the big old trees that these animals rely on.

Yet, all of the action alternatives in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement allow more roadbuilding and logging across the Tongass National Forest. Logging roads and timber operations cost tens of millions of taxpayer dollars every year, with zero return on investment. Meanwhile, these destructive activities degrade the naturally sustainable wealth of salmon, wildlife watching, and tourism opportunities.

It is time to stop opening more and more acres to the timber industry and instead bolster protections to the old-growth forests and wild areas on the Tongass. I urge you to select the "No Action" Alternative (Alternative 1) and allow the Roadless Rule to remain intact on the Tongass National Forest.

Sincerely,
Alice West
Grand Marais, MN 55604

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Alice
Last name: West
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Alice West and I live in Grand Marais, Minnesota.

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, Alice West

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/15/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Brendan
Last name: West
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Support Alternative 1

I support Alternative 1, to not change the 2001 Roadless Rule, and keep the Tongass National Forest protections in place.

Brendan West

Scranton, PA

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: carrie
Last name: west
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, carrie west

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/11/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: carrie
Last name: west
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is carrie west and I live in Muncie, Indiana.

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.

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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, carrie west

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Carrie
Last name: West
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Carrie West and I live in Worcester, Massachusetts.

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.

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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, Carrie West

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/20/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Christine
Last name: West
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Please do not open Tongass National Forest to logging.

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/10/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Debra
Last name: West
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Debra West and I live in Durham, North Carolina.

Please protect this critical habitat!

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Debra West

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/4/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Derek
Last name: West
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am an avid deer hunter and conservationist I oppose opening up the Tongas forest to roads and development. I have an 8 month old daughter who I look forward to taking on many outdoors adventures in the years to come and it is important to me to keep wild places wild and intact

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Derek
Last name: West
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Derek West and I live in Mentor-on-the-lake, Ohio.

I am very concerned about opening the areas w Americans have designated as wild or wilderness for the sake of the timber industry. They have scorched our land for too many years and by using farmed land they can survive without raping us further.

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.

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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, Derek West

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Diana
Last name: West
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, Diana West

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Elizabeth
Last name: West
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to strongly support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. Thank you for considering this message.
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.
Again, thank you for sincerely considering this message.
Regards, Elizabeth West

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Eric
Last name: West
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Eric West and I live in Port Orange, Florida.

Surely, the fires in California make it certain that we need alternative energy on rooftops, not on high voltage power lines.

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, Eric West

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/7/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Gary
Last name: West
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): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Gertrude
Last name: West
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Gertrude West and I live in Allegan, Michigan.

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.

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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, Gertrude West

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Hunter
Last name: West
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Logging

Hello,

I am reaching out to advocate for alternative number one. This pristine natural space should be preserved from destructive logging techniques that will do nothing but push us further towards climate catastrophe. Please save this environment for our generation and those who'll follow.

Thank you,

Hunter West

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/10/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Jack
Last name: West
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Jack West and I live in Milwaukie, Oregon.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Jack West

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Jacquelyn
Last name: West
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Jacquelyn West and I live in Thonotosassa, Florida.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Jacquelyn West

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Jane
Last name: West
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Jane West and I live in Tucson, Arizona.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Jane West

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Josef
Last name: West
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Josef West and I live in Covington, Ohio.

Save the planet from future disasters.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Josef West

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Julia
Last name: west
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Julia west and I live in Gulfport, Florida.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Julia west

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/5/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Kait
Last name: West
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): 12/12/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Kathryn
Last name: West
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): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Kathryn
Last name: West
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.
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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): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Larry
Last name: West
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Alaska Roadless Rule

To the Secretary of Agriculture and all at the US Department of Agriculture and the US Forest Service who are involved in decisions pertaining to the Roadless Rule as applied to Alaska, please enter into the record my opposition to the Trump administration's stated preference for Alternative 6, and my preference for Alternative 1.

I have listened carefully to the explanations, statements, and answers to questions provided by Forest Service officials (e.g., at a public meeting in Juneau, Alaska on Monday, November 4, 2019 and as stated on the USFS website and reported elsewhere). As an employee of the tourism industry in Alaska since 1990, and as a resident of Southeast Alaska employed within the region for 23 of the past 25 years, my personal interests and my professional focus have kept me well informed about the region's natural, human, and economic history. I therefore find the US Forest Service's statements in defense of Alternative 6 to be transparent, deceptive, shallow, false, and contrary to anything that makes sense-environmentally, demographically, logistically, and financially.

Many of my friends, acquaintances, and others I've never met in my 30 years of experience in Alaska have written far more eloquently and persuasively than I regarding this matter: see for example the written and oral testimony of Bart Koehler, John Schoen and Matt Kirchoff, Kim Heacox, Jim Mackovjak, Larry Edwards, Paul Olson, Larry Jackson, Buck Lindekugel, and Eric Jorgensen, among many others. Indeed, at the November 4th meeting that I attended in Juneau, one Forest Service official stated that more than 90% of nearly 150,000 comments to date were opposed to Alternative 6 and in favor of Alternative 1! How then can the federal government-a government by the people, of the people, for the people-justify flying in the face of such overwhelming opposition for what is clearly intended primarily, if not exclusively, to benefit the smallest percentage of constituents, the corporate powers that line pockets to get people elected for the corporations' own benefit?

Alternative 6 makes no sense! Alternative 1 is best for Southeast Alaska's economy, best for the environment of the Tongass National Forest, best by far for the great majority of the people of the region.

I refer you in particular to the comments of Kim Heacox, whose testimony was published today in Yale Environment 360, and I thank you for considering my plea on behalf of Alternative 1.

Larry West

Naturalist and Guide

Larry West

Juneau AK 99801

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Laura
Last name: West
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Laura West and I live in Pensacola, Florida.

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, Laura West

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Lorraine
Last name: West
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Lorraine West and I live in Pine Bush, New York.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Lorraine West

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Marla
Last name: West
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Marla West and I live in Woodfin, North Carolina.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Marla West

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Mary
Last name: West
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Mary West and I live in St. Augustine, Florida.

Please protect the earths ability to thrive

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Mary West

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Myrna
Last name: West
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Myrna West and I live in Bogart, Georgia.

Please stop environmental destruction!

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Myrna West

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Paul
Last name: West
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Paul West and I live in Fort Collins, Colorado.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Paul West

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Paul
Last name: West
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Paul West and I live in Fort Collins, Colorado.

Future generations will never forgive us if we allow these forests to be cut down to make toilet paper.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Paul West

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/24/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Paul
Last name: West
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Comments to oppose modification to the Roadless Rule

Dear U.S. Forest Service,

I am writing to express my support for the "No Action" Alternative (Alternative 1) and allow the Roadless Rule to remain intact on the Tongass National Forest.

The Roadless Rule helps protect old-growth habitat for wildlife, water quality and wilderness experience opportunities.

Opening more roadless areas to logging and roads will further fragment the forest and eliminate more of the ancient trees. Intact, ancient forests, such as the Tongass, function as strongholds of climate resilience.

Sincerely,

Paul West

Wahpeton, ND 58075

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: R.A.L.
Last name: West
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is R.A.L. West and I live in Taos, New Mexico.

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.

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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, R.A.L. West

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Rob
Last name: West
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Rob West and I live in Los Angeles, California.

My children deserve an opportunity to breath air that will NOT hasten their time on the planet.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Rob West

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Rusty
Last name: West
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, Rusty West

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Rusty
Last name: West
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Rusty West and I live in Shoreline, Washington.

We need our old growth forests to remain as is, for the promotion of climate recovery

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Rusty West

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: sara
Last name: west
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is sara west and I live in San Luis Obispo, 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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, sara west

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/5/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Scott
Last name: West
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.
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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): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Sean
Last name: West
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, Sean West

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Angela
Last name: West-Piotrowski
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Angela West-Piotrowski and I live in San Diego, 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, Angela West-Piotrowski

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Patricia
Last name: Westbrook
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC6019

Dear U.S. Forest Service:

The Roadless Rule has been instrumental in conserving the Tongass National Forest and in supporting its fish and wildlife-based industries for more than 20 years. *Please uphold the Rule's protections for important fish and wildlife areas, including the Tongass 77.* [Text bolded for emphasis] 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 are protection for habitat that our irreplaceable fish and wildlife populations need to survive.* [Text bolded for emphasis]

Customize your comment by listing reasons the Tongass is important to you or why you value Alaska Roadless areas: (ex: specific locations you recreate, activities you do, or why you value fish & wildlife) [Text italicized]

Please protect one of the most beautiful places on the planet.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Would you like to volunteer with TU Alaska to Help America's Salmon Forest?

Yes No

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Rickey
Last name: Westbrooks
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Rickey Westbrooks and I live in Hohenwald, Tennessee.

STOP THE FOOLISHNESS NOW!!! ENVIRONMENT ABOVE ALL ELSE, ALWAYS!!!

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Rickey Westbrooks

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/11/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Carrie
Last name: Westcott
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Carrie Westcott and I live in Nederland, Colorado.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Carrie Westcott

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Mark
Last name: Westcott
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, Mark Westcott

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/10/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Victoria
Last name: Weste
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Victoria Weste and I live in San Francisco, California.

Life on this planet is an inter-connected web. As goes the Tongass National Forest, so goes the human species . . .

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, Victoria Weste

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Mitch
Last name: Wester
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Mitch Wester and I live in Black River Falls, Wisconsin.

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.

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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, Mitch Wester

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Cherry
Last name: Westerman
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Cherry Westerman and I live in Ann Arbor, Michigan.

WE need the trees! WE need the old growth! WE need to always consider the positive carbon sequestering ability of these trees. They should NOT be cut down.

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, Cherry Westerman

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/1/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Susan
Last name: Westervelt
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Keep the Tongass roadless

The Trump administration must not lift protections on 9.2 million acres of the pristine Tongass National Forest and allow roads and destructive commercial logging within this pristine wilderness area.

Please select the "No Action" alternative on the Alaska-specific Roadless Rule. Do not accept destructive changes this administration is promoting that would remove the Tongass National Forest from roadless protections.

The Tongass National Forest is one of the last intact temperate rainforests on Earth. The old growth forests in its roadless lands are crucial to the survival of salmon, wolves, bear, deer, and birds of prey such as the Northern Goshawk. It is the largest and wildest national forest in America, and plays a vital role in absorbing greenhouse gas emissions. It also contains sacred sites of great importance to Native people of Alaska.

The proposed rule would open 165,000 acres to logging and strips Roadless Rule protections from all 9.2 million acres of inventoried roadless areas in the Tongass. There is no justification or documented support for such a move.

The course chosen by the administration ignores the public and threatens the most valuable roadless wilderness remaining in the National Forest System. I strongly urge the Forest Service to select Alternative 1, the "no-action" alternative.

Thank you,

Susan Westervelt

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/3/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: James
Last name: Westfall Jr
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): 12/17/2019 7:35:09 PM
First name: Kelly
Last name: Westhelle
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Kelly Westhelle and I live in Seattle, WA. I am writing a comment on the Alaska Roadless Rule DEIS because I am concerned with how the Rule and the proposed full exemption will affect the Tongass National Forest and the Chugach National Forest.

Keep the wilderness we have left wild. Enough with the greed. Our planet is already in peril.

I urge the Forest Service to select Alternative 1, the no action alternative, for the final decision on the Alaska Roadless Rule. This alternative protects the inventoried roadless areas in Alaska that are full of pristine wilderness and provide important fish and wildlife habitat, and already allows for important community and economic development projects. As an American citizen, I value the Tongass National Forest and the Chugach National Forest for its status as America's best natural solution to climate change and its sequestering of millions of metric tons of carbon and mitigating climate change, its wild salmon populations and the world-class fishing opportunities, its huge swaths of intact ecosystems and all the biodiversity it contains, its status as the largest intact temperate rainforest in the world, the recreational opportunities it provides, the high density of incredible wildlife it contains, to keep public lands wild for future generations, its status as a national and global treasure, the lifestyles of the indigenous communities that the forest supports. A full exemption does not protect these priorities, nor does it effectively balance economic development with the countless other benefits provided by roadless areas. I would like the Forest Service to manage roadless areas for passive/active watershed restoration (stream and habitat) to improve/maintain roadless characteristics (culvert removal/replacement, improve fish passage, wildlife thinning, etc), low-impact recreation (camping, hiking, hunting, foraging, etc). It is important to me that high-value intact habitat including the T77 watersheds and the TNC conservation priority areas retain their roadless protections in any alternative selected.

The Forest Service is wasting taxpayers' valuable time and money by trying to prop up a failing timber industry in Southeast Alaska. The nonpartisan, independent taxpayer watchdog Taxpayers for Common Sense reported that the Tongass timber program has losses of over $600 million of taxpayers money in the past 20 years. I would rather see my taxpayer dollars used to restore salmon habitat that was hurt by past logging practices, perform restorative actions that support wildlife populations on previously degraded landscapes that support wildlife populations, establish the economic value of the carbon stored in the Tongass. We need to stop subsidizing the clearcutting of old growth on the Tongass through taxpayer funded roadbuilding. If a full exemption were chosen, it would not create opportunities and would instead prioritize the special interests of one industry over the interests of the entire American public.

The Tongass is Americas homegrown natural solution to climate change. The forest sequesters 8% of the carbon stored in forests throughout the contiguous US states, some 3 billion metric tons of it. We must take action to mitigate and adapt to climate change, and maintaining the Tongass in a roadless state is critical for a sustainable future.

I urge the Forest Service to listen to the voices of the American people and prioritize them over corporate interests. The Forest Service should strengthen public involvement in developing land management policy and focus on broadly supported work rather than allowing special corporate interests to guide policy changes. Attempting to exempt inventoried roadless areas on the Chugach National Forest from the Alaska Roadless Rule adds further insult to injury, and this proposal has not received any sufficient environmental impact analysis or public input. Choosing a full exemption will not create a long lasting, durable solution for roadless areas in Alaska it will only increase the legal challenges, uncertainty for businesses, and conflict over these forests going forward.

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Kim
Last name: Westlake
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Kim Westlake and I live in Denver, Colorado.

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, Kim Westlake

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Rebecca
Last name: Westlake
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Rebecca Westlake and I live in Bellingham, Washington.

The Tongass National Forest needs to be preserved for the value it provides to being a life-support system for clean air and water. The Tongass has more economic value as an intact forest. Thank you for using wisdom and intelligence over short term greed and corruption as the basis for decision making.

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, Rebecca Westlake

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Marc
Last name: Westler
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, Marc Westler

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Claire
Last name: Westlund
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, Claire Westlund

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Claire
Last name: Westlund
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, Claire Westlund

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Blake
Last name: Westman
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): 11/11/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Debra
Last name: Westman
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Debra Westman and I live in Rockledge, Florida.

We have to act now. No more procrastination! If you don't care about yourself, do it for your children or grandchildren. Unless you don't care about them either.

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, Debra Westman

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Jacky
Last name: Westoby
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Jacky Westoby and I live in Schenectady, New York.

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, Jacky Westoby

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/16/2019 7:06:57 PM
First name: Bradley
Last name: Westock
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Bradley Westock and I live in Sitka, Alaska. I am a three year junior at Mt. Edgecumbe High School and I am from Emmonak, Alaska. Iv'e been here in Sitka for about three years now and I love it here in southeast, Alaska. It is like my second home. I depend on the forest because we native people do substance hunting and gathering. And by cutting down the trees, will harm the animals we hunt and gather. I do not see a point in having more roads when it is unnecessary. #SAVETHETREES!!! I am writing a comment on the Alaska Roadless Rule DEIS because I am concerned with how the Rule and the proposed full exemption will impact my fishing, hunting, subsistence harvesting, foraging for wild foods, the peace and solitude I find in nature, recreating, practicing my culture, the status of the Tongass as a national and global treasure, the forest's ability to sequester carbon and mitigate climate change impacts, the conservation of resources for future generations .

Out of the alternatives described in the AKRR DEIS I support alternative 1: no action. It protects important fish and wildlife habitat from clearcutting and roadbuilding. I depend on roadless areas in the Tongass National Forest for deer habitat and subsistence hunting, healthy fish habitat, practicing my culture, viewing wildlife, recreating and enjoying nature, foraging and gathering wild foods. A full exemption does not protect these values, nor does it effectively balance economic development and conservation of roadless area characteristics. A full exemption from the Roadless Rule and increased logging and roadbuilding will negatively impact the Tongass and what I and many others use and depend on the forest to provide for us.

The Roadless areas on the Tongass that are especially important to me are those on or around Baranof Island, Chichagof Island, Admiralty Island, all of the inventoried roadless areas on the Tongass Yakutat forelands, Revillagigedo Island (near Ketchikan), Prince of Wales Island, Wrangell and Etolin Islands, Kuiu Island, Kupreanof Island, the southern mainland from Bradfield Canal to Dixon Entrance the central mainland from Hobart Bay to Stikine River, the northern mainland above Port Snettisham (around Juneau). I want the roadless areas in these locations to stay in roadless status in any alternative selected by the Forest Service, and be managed to provide for the uses and activities I listed above. It is important to me that the T77 and the TNC conservation priority areas retain their roadless protections.

I do not support the Forest Services preferred alternative of a full exemption. A full exemption is not in the interests of Southeast Alaskans who live in and use the Tongass National Forest, because gyuiho. The State of Alaska says that a full exemption is needed for rural economic development opportunities. However, a full exemption would not help create more rural economic development opportunities, it would instead harm our existing rural economies that are based on the visitor industry and commercial fishing industry.

It would further harm rural economic opportunities because pursuing the same outdated economic model of old growth clearcut harvesting for export stifles innovation and possibility in other sectors, such as mariculture, sustainable young growth harvest, and rural agriculture. If the Forest Service wants to support rural economic development, they should devote resources to support our fishing and visitor industries transition to second growth logging.

I urge the Forest Service to prioritize the voices of Southeast Alaskans over those of our political representation and corporate interests. Choosing a full exemption will not create a long lasting, durable solution for roadless areas on the Tongass. It will only increase the legal challenges, uncertainty for businesses, and conflict on the Tongass going forward.

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/16/2019 7:54:09 PM
First name: Bradley
Last name: Westock
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Bradley Westock and I live in Sitka, Alaska. Well I'm an artist who tries he's best to make people smile I am writing a comment on the Alaska Roadless Rule DEIS because I am concerned with how the Rule and the proposed full exemption will impact my hunting, fishing, foraging for wild foods, recreating, practicing my culture, the forest's ability to sequester carbon and mitigate climate change impacts.

Out of the alternatives described in the AKRR DEIS I support alternative 1: no action. It protects important fish and wildlife habitat from clearcutting and roadbuilding. I depend on roadless areas in the Tongass National Forest for economic livelihood, healthy fish habitat, deer habitat and subsistence hunting, foraging and gathering wild foods, practicing my culture, viewing wildlife, fiscal responsibility and saving taxpayer dollars . A full exemption does not protect these values, nor does it effectively balance economic development and conservation of roadless area characteristics. A full exemption from the Roadless Rule and increased logging and roadbuilding will negatively impact the Tongass and what I and many others use and depend on the forest to provide for us.

The Roadless areas on the Tongass that are especially important to me are those on or around all of the inventoried roadless areas on the Tongass the central mainland from Hobart Bay to Stikine River, the northern mainland above Port Snettisham (around Juneau). I want the roadless areas in these locations to stay in roadless status in any alternative selected by the Forest Service, and be managed to provide for the uses and activities I listed above. It is important to me that the T77 and the TNC conservation priority areas retain their roadless protections.

I do not support the Forest Services preferred alternative of a full exemption. A full exemption is not in the interests of Southeast Alaskans who live in and use the Tongass National Forest, because well if we don't do anything right now we won't have anything later. The State of Alaska says that a full exemption is needed for rural economic development opportunities. However, a full exemption would not help create more rural economic development opportunities, it would instead harm our existing rural economies that are based on the visitor industry and commercial fishing industry.

It would further harm rural economic opportunities because pursuing the same outdated economic model of old growth clearcut harvesting for export stifles innovation and possibility in other sectors, such as mariculture, sustainable young growth harvest, and rural agriculture. If the Forest Service wants to support rural economic development, they should transition to second growth logging.

I urge the Forest Service to prioritize the voices of Southeast Alaskans over those of our political representation and corporate interests. Choosing a full exemption will not create a long lasting, durable solution for roadless areas on the Tongass. It will only increase the legal challenges, uncertainty for businesses, and conflict on the Tongass going forward.

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Brandi
Last name: Weston
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, Brandi Weston

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Christopher
Last name: Weston
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, Christopher Weston

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Elaine
Last name: Weston
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Elaine Weston and I live in Deerfield Beach, Florida.

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, Elaine Weston

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: John
Last name: Weston
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is John Weston and I live in Racine, Wisconsin.

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, John Weston

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Nicholas
Last name: Weston
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, Nicholas Weston

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Scott
Last name: Weston
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.

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Regards, Scott Weston

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Scott
Last name: Weston
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Scott Weston and I live in Post Falls, Idaho.

WHY do we HAVE to keep reminding you that you work for the people not the corporations?????

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, Scott Weston

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/21/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Wendy
Last name: Weston
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Keep 'Roadless Rule' Protections for the Tongass National Forest

Dear U.S. Forest Service,

I am completely against the Forest Service's plan to eliminate "Roadless Rule" protections for the Tongass National Forest. I hopefully encourage you to take the "no action" alternative instead.

This is our wildest remaining national forest, with diverse wildlife, which will release a vast amount of carbon into the atmosphere if it's logged.

Your proposal to allow clearcutting and bulldozing is irresponsible and dangerous, frankly speaking, as our generation and future ones will be left to live in the world you ruined, parts of which will become uninhabitable. This is a gimme good deed, it's so easy to oppose--just don't do what already isn't being done! Don't do short-sighted actions.

Sincerely,

Wendy Weston

Rome, OH 44085

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/8/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: NEIL
Last name: WESTOVER
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Roadless Rule for Tongass NF

I support "no action" on this proposal.

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/11/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Jennifer
Last name: Westra
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Jennifer Westra and I live in Spokane, Washington.

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, Jennifer Westra

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Rachel
Last name: Westra
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, Rachel Westra

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/10/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: malia
Last name: wetcher
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Tongass National Forest

I support the "No Action" alternative, continuing to safeguard the Tongass National Forest and all its inhabitants by preserving the Roadless Rule.

Sincerely,

Malia Wetcher

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/6/2019 9:32:15 AM
First name: Frances
Last name: Wetherall
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Senator Perdue,

Please do not forsake generations to come by accelerating climate disaster through the destruction of the Tongass National forest. Now more than ever, we must be decisive about our protection of nature and ourselves. As a young person who will see the crippling effects of climate disaster in her lifetime, I assure you, my ife depends on it.

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, which exists within the traditional territories of the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples. The Tongass is the world's largest intact temperate rainforest and has been called "America's Climate Forest" as it is the single most important national forest for carbon sequestration and climate change mitigation in the United States.

Globally, deforestation (8-15%) and forest degradation (6-13%) contribute more greenhouse gas pollution than the world's entire transportation network, which is why countries, including the U.S., must commit to reducing emissions and protecting forest carbon sinks, like the Tongass National Forest.

During the original rulemaking process, more than 1.5 million Americans voiced support for the Roadless Rule, which followed decades of clear-cutting that had a destructive and lasting impact on the Tongass. The rule continues to receive overwhelming support, with a 2019 poll finding three-fourths of the general public in support of the Roadless Rule.

If Alaska is exempt from the Roadless Rule, it will open up the forest to further industrial scale logging. Deforestation of the Tongass will threaten the health of Alaskan salmon by polluting rivers and streams, harm cultural and sacred sites of great importance to Indigenous communities, jeopardize local economies based on tourism and fisheries, and continue to cost taxpayers money. New budget data revealed that the US Forest Service could end up losing more than $180 million in the Tongass over the next four years.

Additionally, many Indigenous communities have stated they are not interested in exempting the Tongass from the Roadless Rule. In October, The Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, which represents 57 tribal governments, passed a resolution in support of the Roadless Rule in Alaska. If the Tongass is made exempt from the Roadless Rule, it will not only destroy the forest and our global climate but the exemption will actively contribute to the ongoing genocide of Indigenous Peoples whose identities, cultures, and livelihoods are integral to the forest.

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/11/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Terry
Last name: Wetherby
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Terry Wetherby and I live in Louisville, Kentucky.

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.

This is also an ultra significant forest that helps slow down out plante's warming trend. Please check the science and care about the future of humanity.

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, Terry Wetherby

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Thomas
Last name: Wethington
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, Thomas Wethington

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Thomas
Last name: Wethington
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
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Regards, Thomas Wethington

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Signe
Last name: Wetteland
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Signe Wetteland and I live in West Sacramento, California.

Make California really green - lets lead the nation by example!!

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, Signe Wetteland

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Chris
Last name: Wettersten
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.

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Regards, Chris Wettersten

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Chris
Last name: Wettersten
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.

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Regards, Chris Wettersten

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/11/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Ben
Last name: Wetzel
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): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Diane
Last name: Wetzel
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Diane Wetzel and I live in Cranston, Rhode Island.

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, Diane Wetzel

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Glen
Last name: Wetzel
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Glen Wetzel and I live in Surprise, Arizona.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Glen Wetzel

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Cheryl
Last name: Wey
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Cheryl Wey and I live in Pumpkin Center, 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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Cheryl Wey

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Sydney
Last name: Weydemeyer
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Alternative 1 for Tongass National Forest

To whom it may concern,

I strongly urge you to support Alternative 1 for the Tongass National Forest and all of Alaska to maintain the current roadless rule. I support a healthy AK economy that takes advantage of the realistic economic opportunities that will be available in the coming years, such as increased recreational opportunities. As a Montanan whose family has been logging for generations, I understand the importance logging can play in a rural economy. However, I do not support spending tax dollars on expensive roads and timber subsidies for the Tongass when logging only represents 1% of Southeast AK economy, whereas the recreational industry represents 25%. This area is also critical wild Pacific salmon habitat and should be protected for the salmon's commercial, cultural, and ecological values.

Thank you for reading this comment and I hope you support Alternative 1 to leave all of Alaska under the 2001 Roadless Rule.

Sydney Weydemeyer

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Joe
Last name: Weydt
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, Joe Weydt

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Lance
Last name: Weyeneth
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, Lance Weyeneth

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/7/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: RICHARD
Last name: WEYER
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): 12/11/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: William
Last name: Weygint
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.
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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): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Sarah
Last name: Weynand
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Sarah Weynand and I live in San Antonio, Texas.

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, Sarah Weynand

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Claire
Last name: Whalen
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, Claire Whalen

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: patricia
Last name: whalen
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is patricia whalen and I live in [@advCity], New York.

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, patricia whalen

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Shirley
Last name: Whalen
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.

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Regards, Shirley Whalen

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: George
Last name: Whaley
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is George Whaley and I live in La Grange, Illinois.

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, George Whaley

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/12/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Jack
Last name: Whaley
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): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Richard
Last name: Whaley
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Richard Whaley and I live in Eureka, 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, Richard Whaley

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Richard
Last name: Whaley
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, Richard Whaley

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/11/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Gregory
Last name: Whalin
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.
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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): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Candace
Last name: Whan
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC730

Dear Alaska Roadless Rule Planning Committee,

I live and work on the lands and waters of the Tongass National Forest. From hunting and fishing, to hiking and camping, to our tourism and commercial fishing-based economies, Southeast Alaskans rely on the intact habitat that the roadless areas of the Tongass National Forest contain. *That is why I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule.* [text bolded for emphasis]

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 strongly oppose any efforts to weaken protections for Roadless areas in the Tongass National Forest and the Chugach National Forest.

The Forest Service needs to continue phasing out old-growth clearcutting. Please prioritize conservation of the T77 and TNC conservation priority areas in any new Alaska Roadless Rule. The Forest Service should focus on restoring degraded watershed and fish streams and carbon sequestration.

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Leslie
Last name: Wharton
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, Leslie Wharton

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Janice
Last name: Wheadon
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Janice Wheadon and I live in Napa, 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, Janice Wheadon

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Jessie
Last name: Wheat
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Jessie Wheat and I live in Aubrey, Texas.

Save the forests!

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, Jessie Wheat

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Mary
Last name: Wheat
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Mary Wheat and I live in Queens, New York.

It is essential to maintain this forest, which preserves so much carbon in its trees. Further, it provides a vital habitat for bears, wolves, salmon and eagles--frequently endangered--and promotes tourism. This vital resources must be maintained!

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.

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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, Mary Wheat

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Kathleen
Last name: Wheatley
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am opposed to this proposed action by the Forest Service. Stop pretending that this is a good idea & leave these precious natural resources alone. We should be preserving these trees & the natural environment surrounding them.

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/14/2019 7:11:08 PM
First name: Kathryn
Last name: Wheatley
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Kathryn Wheatley and I live in Bellingham, WA. I live in the Pacific Northwest and have many, many friends who live and work in all areas of Alaska. I am writing a comment on the Alaska Roadless Rule DEIS because I am concerned with how the Rule and the proposed full exemption will impact fishing, the peace and solitude in nature, recreating, the status of the Tongass as a national and global treasure, the forest's ability to sequester carbon and mitigate climate change impacts, the conservation of resources for future generations .

Out of the alternatives described in the AKRR DEIS I support alternative 1: no action. It protects important fish and wildlife habitat from clearcutting and roadbuilding. I depend on roadless areas in the Tongass National Forest for healthy fish habitat, keeping public lands wild for future generations, fiscal responsibility and saving taxpayer dollars . A full exemption does not protect these values, nor does it effectively balance economic development and conservation of roadless area characteristics. A full exemption from the Roadless Rule and increased logging and roadbuilding will negatively impact the Tongass and what I and many others use and depend on the forest to provide for us.

The Roadless areas on the Tongass that are especially important to me are those on or around all of the inventoried roadless areas on the Tongass. I want the roadless areas in these locations to stay in roadless status in any alternative selected by the Forest Service, and be managed to provide for the uses and activities I listed above. It is important to me that the T77 and the TNC conservation priority areas retain their roadless protections.

I do not support the Forest Services preferred alternative of a full exemption. A full exemption is not in the interests of Southeast Alaskans who live in and use the Tongass National Forest, because We need to preserve as much natural habitat as we can with the current threat of drastic climate change.. The State of Alaska says that a full exemption is needed for rural economic development opportunities. However, a full exemption would not help create more rural economic development opportunities, it would instead harm our existing rural economies that are based on the visitor industry and commercial fishing industry.

It would further harm rural economic opportunities because pursuing the same outdated economic model of old growth clearcut harvesting for export stifles innovation and possibility in other sectors, such as mariculture, sustainable young growth harvest, and rural agriculture. If the Forest Service wants to support rural economic development, they should devote resources to support our fishing and visitor industries.

Please keep the current Roadless Rule as is.

I urge the Forest Service to prioritize the voices of Southeast Alaskans over those of our political representation and corporate interests. Choosing a full exemption will not create a long lasting, durable solution for roadless areas on the Tongass. It will only increase the legal challenges, uncertainty for businesses, and conflict on the Tongass going forward.

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Sarah
Last name: Wheatley
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC3096

Dear Secretary Perdue,

I am writing to support the *No-Action Alternative*[text bolded for emphasis] 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 temperature 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,

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 1/1/0001 12:00:00 AM
First name: Sarah
Last name: Wheatley
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
3096

Dear Secretary Perdue,
I am writing to support the *No-Action Alternative*[text bolded for emphasis] 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 temperature 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): 12/14/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Sarah
Last name: Wheatley
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Sarah Wheatley and I live in Anacortes, WA. I am writing a comment on the Alaska Roadless Rule DEIS because I am concerned with how the Rule and the proposed full exemption will affect the Tongass National Forest and the Chugach National Forest.

I'm a strong advocate for wild lands in general because of their intrinsic value for carbon sequestration, wildlife habitat, and the many other ecosystem services that keep our planet in balance. We do not place a monetary value on these thingscurrently, but if we did we would have a clear answer: wild lands earn their worth a thousand times over. The Tongass specifically is important because not only is it one of our last great wildernesses, it provides thousands of jobs in the fishing industry which, if managed well, will be available for generations to come. Don't sell out Alaskan communities an their future for short term gain for a few people. We've done that too much in my home in Washington, and we are now sorry. The damage, once done, is irreversible. Thanks for considering my voice.

I urge the Forest Service to select Alternative 1, the no action alternative, for the final decision on the Alaska Roadless Rule. This alternative protects the inventoried roadless areas in Alaska that are full of pristine wilderness and provide important fish and wildlife habitat, and already allows for important community and economic development projects. As an American citizen, I value the Tongass National Forest and the Chugach National Forest for its status as America's best natural solution to climate change and its sequestering of millions of metric tons of carbon and mitigating climate change, its wild salmon populations and the world-class fishing opportunities, its huge swaths of intact ecosystems and all the biodiversity it contains, its status as the largest intact temperate rainforest in the world, the recreational opportunities it provides, the high density of incredible wildlife it contains, to keep public lands wild for future generations, its status as a national and global treasure, the lifestyles of the indigenous communities that the forest supports. A full exemption does not protect these priorities, nor does it effectively balance economic development with the countless other benefits provided by roadless areas. I would like the Forest Service to manage roadless areas for low-impact recreation (camping, hiking, hunting, foraging, etc), passive/active watershed restoration (stream and habitat) to improve/maintain roadless characteristics (culvert removal/replacement, improve fish passage, wildlife thinning, etc). It is important to me that high-value intact habitat including the T77 watersheds and the TNC conservation priority areas retain their roadless protections in any alternative selected.

The Forest Service is wasting taxpayers' valuable time and money by trying to prop up a failing timber industry in Southeast Alaska. The nonpartisan, independent taxpayer watchdog Taxpayers for Common Sense reported that the Tongass timber program has losses of over $600 million of taxpayers money in the past 20 years. I would rather see my taxpayer dollars used to restore salmon habitat that was hurt by past logging practices, support small-scale, sustainable logging, establish the economic value of the carbon stored in the Tongass. We need to stop subsidizing the clearcutting of old growth on the Tongass through taxpayer funded roadbuilding. If a full exemption were chosen, it would not create opportunities and would instead prioritize the special interests of one industry over the interests of the entire American public.

The Tongass is Americas homegrown natural solution to climate change. The forest sequesters 8% of the carbon stored in forests throughout the contiguous US states, some 3 billion metric tons of it. We must take action to mitigate and adapt to climate change, and maintaining the Tongass in a roadless state is critical for a sustainable future.

I urge the Forest Service to listen to the voices of the American people and prioritize them over corporate interests. The Forest Service should strengthen public involvement in developing land management policy and focus on broadly supported work rather than allowing special corporate interests to guide policy changes. Attempting to exempt inventoried roadless areas on the Chugach National Forest from the Alaska Roadless Rule adds further insult to injury, and this proposal has not received any sufficient environmental impact analysis or public input. Choosing a full exemption will not create a long lasting, durable solution for roadless areas in Alaska it will only increase the legal challenges, uncertainty for businesses, and conflict over these forests going forward.

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/25/2019 4:41:20 PM
First name: Cherl
Last name: Wheaton
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Comments to oppose modification to the Roadless Rule

Dear U.S. Forest Service,

The Roadless Rule helps protect old-growth habitat for birds like the Prince of Wales Spruce Grouse and Northern Goshawk, as well as for mammals like wolves and deer. DO NOT open roadless areas to more logging. That would fragment the forest and eliminate more of the big old trees that these animals rely on. Furthermore, intact, ancient forests are strongholds of climate resilience, and the Tongass is one of world's largest.

Why do all of the action alternatives in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement allow more roadbuilding and logging across the Tongass National Forest? Logging roads and timber operations cost tens of millions of taxpayer dollars every year, with zero return on investment. Meanwhile, these destructive activities degrade the naturally sustainable wealth of salmon, wildlife watching, and tourism opportunities. This is an incredibly bad bargain for all Americans.

It is time to stop opening more and more acres to the timber industry. Instead we need to bolster protections to the old-growth forests and wild areas on the Tongass. I urge you to select the "No Action" Alternative (Alternative 1) and allow the Roadless Rule to remain intact on the Tongass National Forest.

Sincerely,
Cherl Wheaton
Saint Louis, MO 63123

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: pat
Last name: whebbe
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, pat whebbe

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: pat
Last name: whebbe
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, pat whebbe

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Abbigale
Last name: Wheeler
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC1473

Dear Chief Christiansen,

I live and work on the lands and waters of the Tongass National Forest. The health of the Tongass National Forest is critical to sustaining my way of life in this rugged region. From hunting and fishing, to hiking and camping, to our tourism and commercial fishing-based economies, we rely on the intact habitat that the roadless areas of the Tongass contain. That is why it is important to me that the 2001 Roadless Rule remain in place on the Tongass National Forest. A no-action alternative is the best option for Southeast Alaska.

Prioritizing one antiquated industry over private sectors is bad business, and bad for Southeast Alaska. I support the Tongass Transition and I would like the Forest Service to continue phasing out old growth clearcutting. Please prioritize conservation of the T77 and TNC conservation priority areas in any new Alaska Roadless Rule. This forest is a salmon forest, and the Forest Service should focus on restoring degraded watersheds and fish streams.

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Amiah
Last name: Wheeler
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC3079

Dear Secretary Perdue,

I am writing to support the *No-Action Alternative*[text bolded for emphasis] 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 temperature 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): 12/16/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Ava
Last name: Wheeler
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC690

Dear Secretary Perdue,

I am writing to support the *No-Action Alternative* [text bolded for emphasis] for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed changes to the Alaska Roadless Rule. I strongly object to your plans to 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,

Ava Wheeler

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Barbara
Last name: Wheeler
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, Barbara Wheeler

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/17/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Brenda
Last name: Wheeler
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Brenda Wheeler and I live in Seal Rock, Oregon.

LEAVE OUR PARKS BE!!!!!

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, Brenda Wheeler

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/13/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Celia
Last name: Wheeler
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC545

Dear Secretary Perdue and Senator Murkowski,

I am currently on a boat cruise off the coast of Kruzof Island, near Baranof Island. On this cruise, I am exploring and learning about the natural habitat of this area that is so special to residents of Sitka like me.

Only 10 miles west of Sitka, Kruzof is widely used as a place for locals to fish, hunt, forage and recreate. From Sea Lion Bay to Shelikof, North Beach to Shoals Point, the Forest Service manages extensive recreation infrastructure such as cabins, trails, and the existing road system for our enjoyment. Sitka black-tailed deer are plentiful, as are chum and pink salmon that run through the numerous stream systems on the island. This island contains productive, intact fish habitat, with three Tongass 77 and four TNC 'conservation priority areas' identified on the island. Mt. Edgecumbe volcano is an incredible day hike, and only a piece of the island's fascinating geologic activity.

Kruzof is prolific and peaceful. We are incredibly lucky to have such a place to work and play so close to town, and many of us visit Kruzof often. I value Kruzof island because:

I recently hiked Mt. Edgecumbe and the beautiful scenery made the [illegible] so much better. Don't ruin it with roads and cut down trees please. Thank

Currently, Kruzof Island is protected from old-growth clearcutting and road building under the 2001 Roadless Rule. As it stands, the 2001 Roadless Rule safeguards our recreation and subsistence activities on Kruzof. *It is important to me that the 2001 Roadless Rule remains in place on Kruzof Island, and throughout the Tongass National Forest.* [text bolded for emphasis] Opening up this area to more clearcutting and roadbuilding will jeopardize my way of life, and will sacrifice the spirit of Sitka that brings so many people to this special place. I do not want to see the 2001 Roadless Rule repealed on Kruzof, or anywhere else in the Tongass. Please protect this land for future generations to enjoy in perpetuity.

Sincerely, Celia Wheeler

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/22/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: David
Last name: Wheeler
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Do not remove/cut down those trees. It might provide a short-medium term solution. The long term value of this operation, however, is not clear.

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/18/2019 3:45:05 PM
First name: Debi
Last name: Wheeler
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Comments to oppose modification to the Roadless Rule

Dear U.S. Forest Service,

The Roadless Rule helps protect old-growth habitat for birds like the Prince of Wales Spruce Grouse and Northern Goshawk, as well as for mammals like wolves and deer. Opening roadless areas to more logging and roads will fragment the forest and eliminate more of the big old trees that these animals rely on.

Yet, all of the action alternatives in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement allow more roadbuilding and logging across the Tongass National Forest. Logging roads and timber operations cost tens of millions of taxpayer dollars every year, with zero return on investment. Meanwhile, these destructive activities degrade the naturally sustainable wealth of salmon, wildlife watching, and tourism opportunities.

It is time to stop opening more and more acres to the timber industry and instead bolster protections to the old-growth forests and wild areas on the Tongass. I urge you to select the "No Action" Alternative (Alternative 1) and allow the Roadless Rule to remain intact on the Tongass National Forest.

Sincerely,
Debi Wheeler
East Hartford, CT 06118

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Donna
Last name: Wheeler
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, Donna Wheeler

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Dorothy
Last name: Wheeler
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Dorothy Wheeler and I live in Tucson, Arizona.

Protect not destroy

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, Dorothy Wheeler

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Emily
Last name: Wheeler
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Emily Wheeler and I live in Oakland, California.

A strong ACT rule is a commonsense step in maintaining the livability of our planet. We need a powerful regulatory push toward more electric trucks!

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, Emily Wheeler

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Eric
Last name: Wheeler
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Eric Wheeler and I live in Bellefonte, Pennsylvania.

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, Eric Wheeler

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/10/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Gene
Last name: Wheeler
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Gene Wheeler and I live in Darrington, Washington.

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, Gene Wheeler

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/21/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Gregory
Last name: Wheeler
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
As one of your Massachusetts constituents, I am directing you not to exempt the Tongass National Forest from the Roadless Rule (alternative six). Instead, I am directing you to either enact alternative one (take no action) or to enact either alternative two or alternative three (both of which provide regulatory protection for the majority of the area currently protected by the Roadless Rule while designating other areas as suitable timber land).

To elaborate on my position, I regard the argument that the Tongass National Forest should be exempt from the Roadless Rule because it is already afforded significant protection by Alaska state law as flawed; state-level protections for areas designated as protected wilderness do not preclude their being protected under federal law as well.

The argument that the timber industry in Alaska is suffering and would benefit from the proposed exemption, however, has merit; that is why I earlier allowed for some areas of the Tongass National Forest to be exempt from the Roadless Rule. If the timber industry can responsibly harvest timber in the Tongass National Forest, let them demonstrate this ability in the areas most suitable for it; additional areas can then be designated for timber harvesting as appropriate.

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Janet
Last name: Wheeler
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Janet Wheeler and I live in Murrieta, California.

The fact that we have not prevented plastic pollution from destroying our environment is unforgiveable. There is absolutely no reason for animals and marine life dying and our landscape and waterways being trashed because of human incompetence. We must get a handle on this now before CA reaches the point of no return.

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, Janet Wheeler

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Jeanne
Last name: Wheeler
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, Jeanne Wheeler

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Laura
Last name: Wheeler
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Laura Wheeler and I live in Prineville, Oregon.

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, Laura Wheeler

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Mariko
Last name: wheeler
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Mariko wheeler and I live in Flagstaff, Arizona.

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, Mariko wheeler

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Martha
Last name: Wheeler
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.

Tongass NATIONAL Forest belongs to THE PEOPLE. It is not for sale, rent or abusing. With climate change threatening our ability to live on Earth, keeping a NATIONAL Forest is MOST important. Especially after the devastating fires in the Amazon and California. Loggers need to buy land, plant their own fucking trees and keep their plans to ROB Americans of their National Parks, Forests and Landmarks bottled up. Only a "everyone votes" decision can be made on the use of Tongass National Forest. EVERY stakeholder needs the right to decide. Selling out America to corrupt and greedy entities is WRONG. It's NOT dumpy's to decide. He's just an idiot that cheats the system. He is NOT needed, wanted, taken seriously, smart, intelligent. Anyone that thinks differently needs to get an education in REALITY.

Regards, Martha Wheeler

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Mary
Last name: Wheeler
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, Mary Wheeler

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/7/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Maureen
Last name: Wheeler
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): 11/4/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Richard
Last name: Wheeler
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.
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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): 11/23/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: S
Last name: Wheeler
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is S Wheeler and I live in San Francisco, 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, S Wheeler

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Scott
Last name: Wheeler
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, Scott Wheeler

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Stephen
Last name: Wheeler
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Stephen Wheeler and I live in Canon City, Colorado.

Our National Monuments need to be saved for both the present and future generations. Cultural sites need to be viewed. Habitat sites need to be saved for wildlife.

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.

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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, Stephen Wheeler

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/14/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Sussn
Last name: Wheeler
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Sussn Wheeler and I live in Lawrence, Kansas.

As a society we must protect our sacred places from destruction. Please do not destroy this pristine land.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Sussn Wheeler

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/10/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Theresa
Last name: Wheeler
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Theresa Wheeler and I live in New York, New York.

I know that my New York lawmakers will do all they can to protect the Tongass National Forest from the money-grabber, trump, and his flunkies who wish to ravage it.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.

Regards, Theresa Wheeler

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Wes
Last name: Wheeler
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, Wes Wheeler

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Anne
Last name: Whelan
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.

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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, Anne Whelan

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/21/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: GARY
Last name: WHELAN
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Leave the Alaska Roadless Rule in place

Dear Comment Period Alaska Roadless Rule,

I am writing in strong support of the 'no action' alternative to leave the Roadless Rule unchanged in Alaska.

I am extremely concerned that changes to the rule would lead to greatly expand clear-cut logging of old growth timber and costly road building in undeveloped, wild areas of both the Tongass and Chugach Forests. These activities increase sedimentation, hurt water quality, often block salmon migration, and add to an already large backlog of needed road maintenance and restoration.

Our fisheries and wild forests are critical to the economy of Alaska and to our country. These sustainable fisheries are critical to our food safety as a country. To grow these sectors of our economy, we need intact habitat. Please leave the Alaska Roadless Rule in place as it is America's last great place.

Sincerely,

GARY WHELAN

SHAFTSBURG, MI 48882

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Patricia
Last name: Whelehan
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Patricia Whelehan and I live in San Francisco, 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, Patricia Whelehan

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: bill
Last name: whelpley
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Tongass National Forest

Alternative One, giant, ancient trees are important for the planet in terms of carbon storage, that the roads would damage the salmon fishery and that the 1000 year old trees can't be replaced once gone.

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Linda
Last name: Whetstine
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Linda Whetstine and I live in Poway, 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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Linda Whetstine

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Nicholas
Last name: Whicker
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Responsible project official,

I write to you in support of ALTERNATIVE 1 for the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule. I write as a lifelong Southeast Alaskan, commercial fisherman/deckhand, subsistence user of Sitka blacktail, salmon, groundfish, berries, etc., and a graduate of the University of Alaska Southeast - Juneau Campus with a B.S. in Marine Biology. As someone who truly tries to draw on all aspects of an issue to form my opinion, and though not entirely opposed to sustainable, well-managed logging, I can't imagine a scenario where I fully support any other alternative other than Alternative 1. The beauty of the lush, relatively untouched Tongass National Rainforest, where old growth stands can be clearly seen from a maritime (on-the-water) perspective, is unmatched. I find myself gazing for hours at the sheer abundance and denseness of Southeast Alaska's (SEAK) forest ecosystems; I catch myself pondering the complex, interconnected blends of terrestrial and marine ecologies within SEAK, how marine-derived nutrients and isotopes from salmon can be found within surrounding old-growth trees, mammals, and insects; and more recently, I ask myself why the State of Alaska would ever want to jeopardize these numerous, potentially infinite, natural resources. Sure, trees can grow back and perhaps reach old-growth status again, but the ecological repercussions of removing old-growth stands will never return to normal. Where will juvenile salmon rear when there are no fallen old-growth trees to create eddies and pools? How will black and brown bears survive the winter with less and less fat-rich salmon to gorge themselves? Where will Sitka blacktail deer take refuge in the winter when their historical denning area has been clear-cut? How many other Alaskans contemplate these ecological perspectives? Does the State contemplate these perspectives? Does the State recognize the concept of OneHealth, or is it asininely believed individual 'resources' can be managed independently of one another? If old-growth forests are removed from the Tongass so too will the ethical barriers put in place with the original 2001 Roadless Rule, not to mention numerous other species' habitats and resources (i.e. services provided to species as a direct result of old-growth stands being present). It is expressed through the personal perspectives given within this letter for support of Alternative 1 of the new Alaska Roadless Rule proposed by the State. To conclude with the effectively prevalent phrase used by thousands of Alaskans: "NO ACTION IS THE BEST ACTION".

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Michael
Last name: Whill
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC4910

Dear U.S. Forest Service,

CC: Alaska Congressional Delegation and Federal Administration

I support the no-action alternative to leave the 2001 Roadless Rule in place on the Tongass National Forest. We must continue to phase out old-growth clear-cut logging and instead prioritize restoring degraded watersheds and fish streams that contribute to the growing fisheries and tourism-based economies of Southeast. To that end, please conserve the Tongass 77 and TNC priority areas in the final Roadless Rule.

Sincerely,

Comments: *(Eg: list locations you recreate, or why you value Tongass fish & wildlife)* [Text italicized for emphasis]

[Box unchecked] I would like to get more involved in the campaign!

*By taking this action, you are consenting to receive future communications via phone, text message, email, or mail from Sitka Conservation Society and its partners working to protect the Tongass. * [Text italicized for emphasis]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/5/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Kerry
Last name: Whipp
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): 11/5/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: David
Last name: Whipple
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.
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Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/14/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Kris
Last name: Whipple
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Comments to oppose modification to the Roadless Rule

Dear U.S. Forest Service,

As a conservation professional and mother who cares about the future health of our country and planet, I urge you to select the "No Action" Alternative (Alternative 1) and allow the Roadless Rule to remain intact on the Tongass National Forest. The Roadless Rule helps protect old-growth habitat for birds like the Prince of Wales Spruce Grouse and Northern Goshawk, as well as for mammals like wolves and deer. Opening roadless areas to more logging and roads will fragment the forest and eliminate more of the big old trees that these animals rely on, threatening their future survival. Furthermore, intact, ancient forests are strongholds of climate resilience, and the Tongass is one of world's largest. As a Florida resident, already impacted by climate change and rising seas this threat is real and of great concern.

Despite these threats, all of the action alternatives in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement allow more roadbuilding and logging across the Tongass National Forest. Logging roads and timber operations cost tens of millions of taxpayer dollars every year, with zero return on investment. Meanwhile, these destructive activities degrade the naturally sustainable wealth of salmon, wildlife watching, and tourism opportunities. As a taxpayer this is outrageous and completely unacceptable. Public lands belong to the taxpayers-NOT to companies profiting from logging, mining and other types of extraction

It is time to stop opening more and more acres to the timber industry and instead bolster protections to the old-growth forests and wild areas on the Tongass for the benefit of future generations. Once these forests are gone, they are gone forever. For these reasons, I urge you to select the "No Action" Alternative (Alternative 1) and allow the Roadless Rule to remain intact on the Tongass National Forest.

Sincerely,

Kris Whipple

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Lisa
Last name: Whipple
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Lisa Whipple and I live in Hartland, Michigan.

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, Lisa Whipple

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/17/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Debra
Last name: Whirley
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Debra Whirley and I live in Lincoln Park, Michigan.

Protect these forrests.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Debra Whirley

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Gretchen
Last name: Whisenand
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Gretchen Whisenand and I live in Santa Rosa, California.

The last thing our struggling planet needs is less carbon storage!

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, Gretchen Whisenand

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Rodney
Last name: Whisenhunt
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Rodney Whisenhunt and I live in Roseburg, Oregon.

I write to express my opposition to efforts to roll back the Roadless Area Conservation Rule (Roadless Rule) in Alaska or elsewhere. The Roadless Rule was implemented with strong 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 the overwhelming public support and harm Alaskans, including Alaska Natives, and the 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.
A choice other than 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'm asking you not to abandon the Roadless Rule in Alaska and instead to put the public long term interest above corporate short-term profits by choosing to keep the rule in place unchanged.
Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Rodney Whisenhunt

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: john
Last name: Whisler
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
No logging in the Tongass.

Thank you

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Sarah
Last name: Whistler
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Sarah Whistler and I live in Los Angeles, California.

Please stop this. Now.

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, Sarah Whistler

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Bill
Last name: Whitacre
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, Bill Whitacre

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Gail
Last name: Whitacre
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Gail Whitacre and I live in Los Angeles, California.

Please act to make your great-grandchildren's future livable and decent.

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, Gail Whitacre

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Julie
Last name: Whitacre
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Julie Whitacre and I live in Bellingham, Washington.

We must stop cutting trees and preserve all roadless areas for carbon storage and habitat preservation

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, Julie Whitacre

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Betty
Last name: Whitaker
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Tongass National Forest

Protect the Tongass National Forest.Do not allow logging or mining. Save this land for all of us. Do not drill fossil fuel, we don't need to.

Thank you

Betty Whitaker

Seattle, Was 98103

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Cari
Last name: Whitaker
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Cari Whitaker and I live in Berwick, Maine.

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, Cari Whitaker

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/16/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Frank
Last name: Whitaker
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
We cannot allow the profiteering of our current administration and their lobbyists to destroy this area for personal gain. This is a travesty ! This is only for the personal profit and does nothing for the embetterment of the land or use that will benefit anyone but the rich.

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/21/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Gene
Last name: Whitaker
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Keep 'Roadless Rule' Protections for the Tongass National Forest

Dear U.S. Forest Service,

Please do not eliminate "Roadless Rule" protections for the Tongass National Forest.

Please - think of future generations by selecting the "no action" alternative to maintain "Roadless Rule" protections for the Tongass and Chugach.

Sincerely,

Gene Whitaker

Orange, VA 22960

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Howard
Last name: Whitaker
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Howard Whitaker and I live in Gold River, 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, Howard Whitaker

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Michael
Last name: Whitaker
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Michael Whitaker and I live in Richmond, Virginia.

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, Michael Whitaker

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/7/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Nathan
Last name: Whitaker
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): 12/17/2019 5:48:39 PM
First name: Nathan
Last name: Whitaker
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I support Alternative 1 takes no action and would leave all of Alaska under the 2001 Roadless Rule, including the Tongass National Forest

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Nile
Last name: Whitaker
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, Nile Whitaker

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 7:10:47 PM
First name: Samantha
Last name: Whitcher
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Samantha Whitcher and I live in Philadelphia, PA. I dont live in and have never been to Alaska. However, destroying the forest is one of the biggest threats to our planet. Forests are our lungs, destroying it for short term profits will be devastating. I am writing a comment on the Alaska Roadless Rule DEIS because I am concerned with how the Rule and the proposed full exemption will impact my the peace and solitude I find in nature, the status of the Tongass as a national and global treasure, the forest's ability to sequester carbon and mitigate climate change impacts, the conservation of resources for future generations subsistence harvesting, foraging for wild foods.

Out of the alternatives described in the AKRR DEIS I support alternative 1: no action. It shows the Forest Service is responding to the needs and voices of Southeast Alaskan communities. I depend on roadless areas in the Tongass National Forest for keeping public lands wild for future generations. A full exemption does not protect these values, nor does it effectively balance economic development and conservation of roadless area characteristics. A full exemption from the Roadless Rule and increased logging and roadbuilding will negatively impact the Tongass and what I and many others use and depend on the forest to provide for us.

The Roadless areas on the Tongass that are especially important to me are those on or around all of the inventoried roadless areas on the Tongass. I want the roadless areas in these locations to stay in roadless status in any alternative selected by the Forest Service, and be managed to provide for the uses and activities I listed above. It is important to me that the T77 and the TNC conservation priority areas retain their roadless protections.

I do not support the Forest Services preferred alternative of a full exemption. A full exemption is not in the interests of Southeast Alaskans who live in and use the Tongass National Forest, because It is not in the interest of our natural world to continue to be destroyed. Residents have expressed their concerns and are being disregarded for economic gains.. The State of Alaska says that a full exemption is needed for rural economic development opportunities. However, a full exemption would not help create more rural economic development opportunities, it would instead harm our existing rural economies that are based on the visitor industry and commercial fishing industry.

It would further harm rural economic opportunities because pursuing the same outdated economic model of old growth clearcut harvesting for export stifles innovation and possibility in other sectors, such as mariculture, sustainable young growth harvest, and rural agriculture. If the Forest Service wants to support rural economic development, they should devote resources to support our fishing and visitor industries.

I support the people of Alaska and the remaining natural world. Opening up this forest to clear cutting would be detrimental to the health and future of this planet.

I urge the Forest Service to prioritize the voices of Southeast Alaskans over those of our political representation and corporate interests. Choosing a full exemption will not create a long lasting, durable solution for roadless areas on the Tongass. It will only increase the legal challenges, uncertainty for businesses, and conflict on the Tongass going forward.

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: D.E.
Last name: Whitcomb
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is D.E. Whitcomb and I live in Tucson, Arizona.

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, D.E. Whitcomb

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Jane
Last name: Whitcomb
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Jane Whitcomb and I live in Pasadena, California.

Here in Pasadena, we are routinely enveloped in choking diesel fumes that greatly degrade our quality of life and endanger our long-term health. This rule must be strong enough to substantially reduce the toxic and climate-threatening emissions currently being spewed by trucks, and it must be implemented as quickly as possible.

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, Jane Whitcomb

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/10/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Alexander
Last name: White
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): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Ann
Last name: White
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, Ann White

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/12/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Anna
Last name: White
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Anna White and I live in Terre Haute, Indiana.

Please stop attacking our planet! Your are destroying it for future generations.

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, Anna White

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/11/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Anne
Last name: White
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am extremely opposed to this foolhardy plan, which is based on discredited, cherry-pick disinfo. Public lands belong to the American PUBLIC - they are not for industries to destroy for private profits. Once pristine wilderness areas are gone, they're GONE. As are the speciies they support!

Loggers want to raze trees more than 1,000 years old. This is appalling and unacceptable, and extremely UNSOUND environmentally.

Here's what I've read about your disastrous plan: Trumps plan, pushed by Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue, would slash protections for more than 9 million acres of the Tongass National Forest, an area larger than Yellowstone, Glacier and Grand Canyon national parks combined. Building roads in the Tongass is prohibited under a rule published in the last days of President Bill Clintons administration.

The Tongass stores more carbon removed from the atmosphere than any other national forest in the country in its old-growth Sitka spruce, hemlock and cedar trees. It helps protect Alaska, which is warming more than twice as fast from climate change as our planet overall. The forest holds about 650 million tons of carbon or about half of U.S. carbon dioxide emissions in 2017.

The Forest Service says guidelines from the United Nations climate authority would be followed. Two scientists whose research was cited in the U.N. study says the Forest Service is espousing junk science.

Nothing in that report supports what theyre claiming, says Dominick DellaSala, a former president of the Society for Conservation Biology.

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 1/1/0001 12:00:00 AM
First name: Bob
Last name: White
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
3714

U.S. Forest Service Alaska Roadless Rule
Comment Period:

Comment Period Alaska Roadless Rule:

I am writing in support of the 'no action' alternative to leave the Roadless Rule unchanged in Alaska. I am concerned that changes to the rule would lead to greatly expand clear-cut logging of old growth timber and costly road building in undeveloped, wild areas of both the Tongass and Chugach Forests. These activities increase sedimentation, hurt water quality, often block salmon migration, and add to an already large backlog of needed road maintenance and restoration.
Our fisheries and wild forests are critical to the economy of Alaska. To grow these sectors of our economy, we need intact habitat. Please leave the Alaska Roadless Rule in place.

Sincerely,
Bob White
Tuscaloosa, AL 35406

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Bob
Last name: White
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC3714

U.S. Forest Service Alaska Roadless Rule

Comment Period:

Comment Period Alaska Roadless Rule:

I am writing in support of the 'no action' alternative to leave the Roadless Rule unchanged in Alaska. I am concerned that changes to the rule would lead to greatly expand clear-cut logging of old growth timber and costly road building in undeveloped, wild areas of both the Tongass and Chugach Forests. These activities increase sedimentation, hurt water quality, often block salmon migration, and add to an already large backlog of needed road maintenance and restoration.

Our fisheries and wild forests are critical to the economy of Alaska. To grow these sectors of our economy, we need intact habitat. Please leave the Alaska Roadless Rule in place.

Sincerely,

Bob White

Tuscaloosa, AL 35406

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Bruce
Last name: White
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Bruce White and I live in Sitka, Alaska.

The Tongass National Forest is a treasure. Do the intelligent thing and leave it alone.

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, Bruce White

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Bruce
Last name: White
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Bruce White and I live in Scotts Valley, California.

No clear cutting only allow selective thinning for forest health. it should only be allow in certain areas & overseen by a private individual & not a biased corporate rep

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Bruce White

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/23/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Bruce
Last name: White
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I support no change to the current Alaska Roadless Rule for the Tongass National Forest. The forest belongs to the public. The Tongass National Forest does not belong to minority logging and mining interests who want to clear-cut and mine the forest for private profit. Keep the Roadless Rule intact.

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Callie
Last name: White
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Callie White and I live in Fort Denaud, Florida.

Show some responsibly for earth.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Callie White

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Carol
Last name: White
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Carol White and I live in Scottsboro, Alabama.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Carol White

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Cassidy
Last name: White
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Cassidy White and I live in Missoula, MT. I am writing a comment on the Alaska Roadless Rule DEIS because I am concerned with how the Rule and the proposed full exemption will affect the Tongass National Forest and the Chugach National Forest.

When I was in undergrad, I did an internship at the Sitka Conservation Society (SCS) in Sitka, Alaska. While there, I had the privilege to experience the Tongass National Forest that SE Alaskans call home. I spent my days working with SCS on climate change initiatives. Climate change is a very real threat to our planet and to Alaska in particular. Alaska is warming at a faster rate than the rest of the United States yet the Tongass acts as a carbon sink and helps to mitigate the effects of climate change. In addition, the Tongass provides the headwaters where salmon spawn, and the salmon ecosystem and fishing industry are crucial to both the local Alaskans economy and tourism industry.

While in Sitka, I was able to witness the huge role of tourism on the local economy. If parts of the Tongass were clearcut, tourists would not be as interested in visiting SE AK - they come to see the lush forests and beautiful mountains, not empty, logged acreage.

As a temporary resident of Sitka, I spent much of my free time hiking in the Tongass National Forest, enjoying the public lands reserved for all people to experience. Now, back home in Montana, I continue to spend much of my free time camping, hiking, and trail running on public lands. I am a firm believer that public lands should stay in public hands. These lands we're reserved for all people to enjoy now and in the future and we should not take that right away from future generations for the profit of the logging industry. The logging industry brings no benefits to Sitka whereas the preservation of a diverse ecosystem, wildlife, carbon sink, and tourist destination has immense financial, personal, aesthetic, economic, recreational and other benefits for locals, the country, and the planet.

I urge the Forest Service to select Alternative 1, the no action alternative, for the final decision on the Alaska Roadless Rule. This alternative protects the inventoried roadless areas in Alaska that are full of pristine wilderness and provide important fish and wildlife habitat, and already allows for important community and economic development projects. As an American citizen, I value the Tongass National Forest and the Chugach National Forest for its status as America's best natural solution to climate change and its sequestering of millions of metric tons of carbon and mitigating climate change, its wild salmon populations and the world-class fishing opportunities, its huge swaths of intact ecosystems and all the biodiversity it contains, its status as the largest intact temperate rainforest in the world, the recreational opportunities it provides, the high density of incredible wildlife it contains, to keep public lands wild for future generations, its status as a national and global treasure, the lifestyles of the indigenous communities that the forest supports. A full exemption does not protect these priorities, nor does it effectively balance economic development with the countless other benefits provided by roadless areas. I would like the Forest Service to manage roadless areas for low-impact recreation (camping, hiking, hunting, foraging, etc), passive/active watershed restoration (stream and habitat) to improve/maintain roadless characteristics (culvert removal/replacement, improve fish passage, wildlife thinning, etc). It is important to me that high-value intact habitat including the T77 watersheds and the TNC conservation priority areas retain their roadless protections in any alternative selected.

The Forest Service is wasting taxpayers' valuable time and money by trying to prop up a failing timber industry in Southeast Alaska. The nonpartisan, independent taxpayer watchdog Taxpayers for Common Sense reported that the Tongass timber program has losses of over $600 million of taxpayers money in the past 20 years. I would rather see my taxpayer dollars used to restore salmon habitat that was hurt by past logging practices, develop more recreational opportunities, like trails and cabins, support small-scale, sustainable logging, establish the economic value of the carbon stored in the Tongass, perform restorative actions that support wildlife populations on previously degraded landscapes that support wildlife populations. We need to stop subsidizing the clearcutting of old growth on the Tongass through taxpayer funded roadbuilding. If a full exemption were chosen, it would not create opportunities and would instead prioritize the special interests of one industry over the interests of the entire American public.

The Tongass is Americas homegrown natural solution to climate change. The forest sequesters 8% of the carbon stored in forests throughout the contiguous US states, some 3 billion metric tons of it. We must take action to mitigate and adapt to climate change, and maintaining the Tongass in a roadless state is critical for a sustainable future.

I urge the Forest Service to listen to the voices of the American people and prioritize them over corporate interests. The Forest Service should strengthen public involvement in developing land management policy and focus on broadly supported work rather than allowing special corporate interests to guide policy changes. Attempting to exempt inventoried roadless areas on the Chugach National Forest from the Alaska Roadless Rule adds further insult to injury, and this proposal has not received any sufficient environmental impact analysis or public input. Choosing a full exemption will not create a long lasting, durable solution for roadless areas in Alaska it will only increase the legal challenges, uncertainty for businesses, and conflict over these forests going forward.

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Cathy
Last name: White
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Cathy White and I live in Hager City, Wisconsin.

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, Cathy White

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/10/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Cay
Last name: White
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Cay White and I live in Thornton, Colorado.

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.

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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, Cay White

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Constance
Last name: White
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC1052

Dear Secretary Perdue,

I live and work on the lands and waters of the Tongass National Forest. The health of the Tongass National Forest is critical to sustaining my way of life in this rugged region. From hunting and fishing, to hiking and camping, to our tourism and commercial fishing-based economies, we rely on the intact habitat that the roadless areas of the Tongass contain. That is why it is important to me that the 2001 Roadless Rule remain in place on the Tongass National Forest. A no-action alternative is the best option for Southeast Alaska.

Prioritizing one antiquated industry over private sectors is bad business, and bad for Southeast Alaska. I support the Tongass Transition and I would like the Forest Service to continue phasing out old growth clearcutting. Please prioritize conservation of the T77 and TNC conservation priority areas in any new Alaska Roadless Rule. This forest is a salmon forest, and the Forest Service should focus on restoring degraded watersheds and fish streams.

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Corinne
Last name: White
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, Corinne White

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Cynthia
Last name: White
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
The following text was copy/pasted from an attached letter. The system cannot display the formatting, graphics, or tables from the attached original.

I am writing to voice my opposition to any modification to the Roadless Rule in Alaska. The proposed changes would undermine safeguards, and facilitate increased old-growth logging in the Tongass and the Chugach National Forests. Logging prohibitions contained within the Roadless Rule are a key component of the long-awaited transition away from old-growth clearcutting on the Tongass. The Roadless Rule protects over 2.5 million acres of productive old-growth (which constitutes half of the old-growth forests remaining on the Tongass) and prevents the fragmentation of large unbroken landscape. Rolling back the Roadless Rule in Alaska would ignore overwhelming public support, put wildlife and critical habitat at risk, and threaten access to safe drinking water. The rule change would be a step away from sustainable

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Cynthia
Last name: White
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
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Regards, Cynthia White

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Cynthia
Last name: White
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
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Regards, Cynthia White

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Cynthia
Last name: White
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
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Regards, Cynthia White

... 100% 11:12 AM

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Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/7/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Dakota
Last name: White
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): 11/5/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Dale
Last name: White
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
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Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: David
Last name: White
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC3778

U.S. Forest Service Alaska Roadless Rule

Comment Period:

Comment Period Alaska Roadless Rule:

I am writing in support of the 'no action' alternative to leave the Roadless Rule unchanged in Alaska. I am concerned that changes to the rule would lead to greatly expand clear-cut logging of old growth timber and costly road building in undeveloped, wild areas of both the Tongass and Chugach Forests. These activities increase sedimentation, hurt water quality, often block salmon migration, and add to an already large backlog of needed road maintenance and restoration.

Our fisheries and wild forests are critical to the economy of Alaska. To grow these sectors of our economy, we need intact habitat. Please leave the Alaska Roadless Rule in place.

Sincerely,

David White

Raleigh, NC 27606

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: David
Last name: White
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is David White and I live in Sandwich, New Hampshire.

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, David White

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: David
Last name: White
Organization: The Appalachian and Atlantic Defense Council
Title:
Comments:
Will we not be satisfied until every tree is cut down, every fish is pulled from the rivers and seas and every wild animal shot or trapped or poisoned.

The lies necessary to justify this unjustifiable action, specifically the statement that, Removing the regulatory designation of roadless areas on the Tongass National Forest would not authorize any ground disturbing activities, quite plainly demonstrates the lengths to which our government will go to further economic interests.

Of course, a change in regulatory language in of itself will not cut a single tree or bulldoze any roads, but the intent to frustrate the protections of the Tongass is clear.

This improved flexibility could, in turn, improve the Forest Services ability to offer economic timber sales that better meet the needs of the timber industry and contribute to rural economies.

Shameful, embarrassing and sad, but hardly unexpected.

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 1/1/0001 12:00:00 AM
First name: David
Last name: White
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
3778

U.S. Forest Service Alaska Roadless Rule
Comment Period:

Comment Period Alaska Roadless Rule:

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Our fisheries and wild forests are critical to the economy of Alaska. To grow these sectors of our economy, we need intact habitat. Please leave the Alaska Roadless Rule in place.

Sincerely,
David White
Raleigh, NC 27606

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/30/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Debra
Last name: White
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am a concerned citizen. I support roadless rules and conservation. Why do we want to disturb pristine land for development? It will impact wildlife, the forests, and I see no need to upend roadless rules.

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Diane
Last name: White
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Diane White and I live in Athens, Georgia.

Nothing but greed. The rich want everything. Makes me angry. VOTE!

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.

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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, Diane White

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/25/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Dinsmoor
Last name: White
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Dinsmoor White and I live in Annapolis, MD. I am writing a comment on the Alaska Roadless Rule DEIS because I am concerned with how the Rule and the proposed full exemption will affect the Tongass National Forest and the Chugach National Forest.

I visited Tongas by boat in 2015, and learned about how important this resource to animals, fish, people and the environment we share with them. It had been a lifelong aim to come to SE Alaska, achieved in my 76th year! It was only a week, but it was spent in deep immersion on conservation issues and effects of climate change! I am a strong and lifelong supporter of natural are conservation!

I urge the Forest Service to select Alternative 1, the no action alternative, for the final decision on the Alaska Roadless Rule. This alternative protects the inventoried roadless areas in Alaska that are full of pristine wilderness and provide important fish and wildlife habitat, and already allows for important community and economic development projects. As an American citizen, I value the Tongass National Forest and the Chugach National Forest for its wild salmon populations and the world-class fishing opportunities, its status as America's best natural solution to climate change and its sequestering of millions of metric tons of carbon and mitigating climate change, its status as the largest intact temperate rainforest in the world, the recreational opportunities it provides, the high density of incredible wildlife it contains, to keep public lands wild for future generations, its status as a national and global treasure, the lifestyles of the indigenous communities that the forest supports. A full exemption does not protect these priorities, nor does it effectively balance economic development with the countless other benefits provided by roadless areas. I would like the Forest Service to manage roadless areas for low-impact recreation (camping, hiking, hunting, foraging, etc). It is important to me that high-value intact habitat including the T77 watersheds and the TNC conservation priority areas retain their roadless protections in any alternative selected.

The Forest Service is wasting taxpayers' valuable time and money by trying to prop up a failing timber industry in Southeast Alaska. The nonpartisan, independent taxpayer watchdog Taxpayers for Common Sense reported that the Tongass timber program has losses of over $600 million of taxpayers money in the past 20 years. I would rather see my taxpayer dollars used to perform restorative actions that support wildlife populations on previously degraded landscapes that support wildlife populations, restore salmon habitat that was hurt by past logging practices, develop more recreational opportunities, like trails and cabins. We need to stop subsidizing the clearcutting of old growth on the Tongass through taxpayer funded roadbuilding. If a full exemption were chosen, it would not create opportunities and would instead prioritize the special interests of one industry over the interests of the entire American public.

The Tongass is Americas homegrown natural solution to climate change. The forest sequesters 8% of the carbon stored in forests throughout the contiguous US states, some 3 billion metric tons of it. We must take action to mitigate and adapt to climate change, and maintaining the Tongass in a roadless state is critical for a sustainable future.

I urge the Forest Service to listen to the voices of the American people and prioritize them over corporate interests. The Forest Service should strengthen public involvement in developing land management policy and focus on broadly supported work rather than allowing special corporate interests to guide policy changes. Attempting to exempt inventoried roadless areas on the Chugach National Forest from the Alaska Roadless

Rule adds further insult to injury, and this proposal has not received any sufficient environmental impact analysis or public input. Choosing a full exemption will not create a long lasting, durable solution for roadless areas in Alaska it will only increase the legal challenges, uncertainty for businesses, and conflict over these forests going forward.

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Donna
Last name: White
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
You need to leave this forest alone except for thinning needed to manage wildfires. Cutting down old growth trees would be a travesty. This forest is important for wildlife and for oxygen production. Not everything should be about money. Please do not open up this forest for logging. My father was a logger, I know the damage that can do to a forest.

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Dora
Last name: White
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, Dora White

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Dr.
Last name: White
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, Dr. White

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Edwina
Last name: White
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Edwina White and I live in Sacramento, California.
Our forests and water are our life blood.
I am strongly opposed 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, Edwina White

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/14/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Ellen
Last name: White
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Ellen White and I live in San Rafael, Ca.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, Ellen White

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/23/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Emily
Last name: White
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Emily White and I live in Rockledge, Florida.

Trees are the lungs of planet earth. Please stop the suffocation of our planet!

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, Emily White

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Florence
Last name: White
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is florence white and I live in Portland, Maine.
Stop killing our planet!
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, Florence White

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Garland
Last name: White
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Garland White and I live in Norfolk, Virginia.

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, Garland White

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/18/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Garry
Last name: White
Organization: Sitka Economic Development Association
Title: SEDA Executive Director
Comments:
Alaska Roadless Rulemaking #54511

Comments from Sitka Economic Development Association supporting a full Tongass National Forest exemption from the 2001 Roadless Area Conservation Rule.

Dear USDA Forest Service Rule Makers,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed exemption of the Tongass National Forest from the 2001 Roadless Area Conservation Rule. Sitka Economic Development Association (SEDA) is a non-profit organization with a mission to foster a business climate that is receptive and conducive to existing and new business, promote the creation of family wage jobs, and enhance the quality of life for Sitkans.

SEDA supports a full Tongass National Forest exemption from the Roadless Rule. SEDA believes having reasonable access within the Tongass National Forest will help strengthen the economy of Sitka and Southeast Alaska.

We believe that by returning decision-making to a local forestry level instead of a widespread ban within the Tongass National Forest our economy and community would benefit. SEDA urges you to support a full exemption of the Tongass from the 2001 Roadless Area Conservation Rule. Thanks for your attention to this issue.

Sincerely,

Garry White, SEDA Executive Director

[POSITION]

[POSITION]

SEDA
SITKA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION
329 Harbor Drive, Suite 212 ★ Sitka, Alaska 99835 ★ (907) 747-2660 ★ fax (907) 747-7688 ★ www.sitka.net

December 17th, 2019

USDA Forest Service
Ecosystem Planning and Budgeting Staff
Attn: Alaska Roadless Rule
P.O. Box 21628
Juneau, AK 99802

Alaska Roadless Rulemaking #54511

Comments from Sitka Economic Development Association supporting a full Tongass National Forest exemption from the 2001 Roadless Area Conservation Rule.

Dear USDA Forest Service Rule Makers,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed exemption of the Tongass National Forest from the 2001 Roadless Area Conservation Rule. Sitka Economic Development Association (SEDA) is a non-profit organization with a mission to foster a business climate that is receptive and conducive to existing and new business, promote the creation of family wage jobs, and enhance the quality of life for Sitkans.

SEDA supports a full Tongass National Forest exemption from the Roadless Rule. SEDA believes having reasonable access within the Tongass National Forest will help strengthen the economy of Sitka and Southeast Alaska.

We believe that by returning decision-making to a local forestry level instead of a widespread ban within the Tongass National Forest our economy and community would benefit. SEDA urges you to support a full exemption of the Tongass from the 2001 Roadless Area Conservation Rule. Thanks for your attention to this issue.

Sincerely,

Garry White, SEDA Executive Director

Sitka Economic Development Assn.
329 Harbor Drive #202
Sitka, AK 99835

RECEIVED
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SITKA AK
PM
DEC 18
2019
99835

USDA Forest Service
Attn: Alaska Roadless Rule
PO Box 21628
Juneau, AK
99802

99802162 8 B021

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: George
Last name: White
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, George White

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: George
Last name: White
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, George White

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 1/1/0001 12:00:00 AM
First name: Harry
Last name: White
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC5160

U.S. Forest Service Alaska Roadless Rule Committee:

As a fisherman I know the importance of maintaining clean headwaters, streams and rivers. Removing the Roadless Rule is a big step backwards and will have a negative impact on fish and wildlife.

The Roadless Rule has been instrumental in conserving the Tongass National Forest and in supporting its 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. 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,
Harry White
Roseville, CA 95747

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Harry
Last name: White
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC4023

U.S. Forest Service Alaska Roadless Rule Committee:

As a fisherman and outdoorsman, it is very important to me that the Roadless Rule per kept, to preserve wildlife habitat.

The Roadless Rule has been instrumental in conserving the Tongass National Forest and in supporting its 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. 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,

Harry White

Roseville, CA 95747

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/7/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Harry
Last name: White
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): 11/10/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Harry
Last name: White
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Harry White and I live in Sunnyvale, California.

The country doesn't need another oil and gas facility that leak toxins into the environment.

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, Harry White

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Heather
Last name: white
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Heather white and I live in Royal Oak, Michigan.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Heather white

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/13/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: JAMES
Last name: WHITE
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Jim White and I live in Bay Shore New York.
To whom it may concern:
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.
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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, JAMES WHITE

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: James
Last name: White
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC5524

Dear U.S. Forest Service,

CC: Alaska Congressional Delegation and Federal Administration

I support the no-action alternative to leave the 2001 Roadless Rule in place on the Tongass National Forest. We must continue to phase out old-growth clear-cut logging and instead prioritize restoring degraded watersheds and fish streams that contribute to the growing fisheries and tourism-based economies of Southeast. To that end, please conserve the Tongass 77 and TNC priority areas in the final Roadless Rule.

Sincerely,

James White

Ketchikan, AK 99901

Comments: *(Eg: list locations you recreate, or why you value Tongass fish & wildlife)* [Text italicized for emphasis]

We have experienced previous damage from bad logging practices and don't wish more logging in Tongass.

[Box unchecked] I would like to get more involved in the campaign!

*By taking this action, you are consenting to receive future communications via phone, text message, email, or mail from Sitka Conservation Society and its partners working to protect the Tongass. * [Text italicized for emphasis]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Jane
Last name: White
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Jane White and I live in Melbourne, Florida.

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.

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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, Jane White

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Jane
Last name: White
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Jane White and I live in Bristol, New Hampshire.

Please stop all these acts of damaging our environment in favor of big business. Money for big business now creates years of negative environmental harm and years of recovery. Planet Earth is here for all living things, not just a few. Thank you.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.

Regards, Jane White

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Jean
Last name: White
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Jean White and I live in King Of Prussia, Pennsylvania.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Jean White

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/5/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Jeffrey
Last name: White
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): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Jeffrey
Last name: White
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Jeffrey White and I live in Forest Grove, Oregon.

Why do republicans always destroy things and always make problems worse?

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, Jeffrey White

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/11/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Jenny
Last name: White
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Do something right, please: continue to protect the Tongass National Forest, the largest intact temperate rainforest in the world. This forest is home to large and varied populations of wildlife and because of its cool wet forest floor stores more carbon per acre than any other forest on earth! At a time when we are threatened by global warming and the extinction of many species this is the last forest that should be made exempt from the Roadless Rule.
Thank you.

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: John
Last name: White
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC5059

Dear Paul Robbins,

I am opposed to the *Proposed Rollback* of the Tongass Roadless Rule [text underlined for emphasis]. I am a 45 year Alaska resident, 33 of with have been here in the S.E. panhandle. Plenty roads already--lets use the already existing roads--manage our resources by slow rotation ect...Thanks

Sincerely,

John White

[Phone]

[Address]

Haines, AK 99827

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/7/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: John
Last name: White
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.
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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): 11/12/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: John
Last name: White
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.
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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): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: John
Last name: White
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, John White

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Joseph
Last name: White
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Joseph White and I live in Cool, California.

These lands need to be managed by National Park standards. These proposed management plans are like the "lands of multiple abuse" BLM standard.

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, Joseph White

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Joslyn
Last name: White
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, Joslyn White

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Joyce
Last name: White
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.

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Regards, Joyce White

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/19/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Judy
Last name: White
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Judy White and I live in Clarksville, Indiana.

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, Judy White

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/19/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Judy
Last name: White
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Judy White and I live in Clarksville, Indiana.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Judy White

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/11/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Karina
Last name: White
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Karina White and I live in Sierra Madre, California.

As an Angeleno, I've seen first-hand the improvements to our air quality over the last few decades. The last thing we need is to rollback methane pollution standards. I'm honestly outraged by this administration's tireless efforts to dirty our environment and greater risk our public health.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.

Regards, Karina White

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Katherine
Last name: White
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, Katherine White

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/10/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Katherine
Last name: White
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Katherine White and I live in Derwood, Maryland.

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, Katherine White

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Kathleen
Last name: White
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, Kathleen White

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/10/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Katrina
Last name: White
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Katrina White and I live in Angel Fire, New Mexico.

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.

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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, Katrina White

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Kenneth
Last name: White
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, Kenneth White

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Kenneth
Last name: White
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.

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Regards, Kenneth White

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Kim
Last name: White
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Kim White and I live in Oakland, 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, Kim White

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Kimberly
Last name: White
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Please adopt option 1 and leave the forest alone. There is. NO need to deforest or develop this land.

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Kirsten
Last name: White
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Kirsten White and I live in Albany, New York.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Kirsten White

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Kirsten
Last name: White
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Kirsten White and I live in Albany, New York.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Kirsten White

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Lael
Last name: White
Organization: WA State Democrats Environment and Climate Caucus, member
Title:
Comments:
Stop logging old growth trees. Trees sequester carbon. We must preserve our forests and national parks, our salmon and other natural habitat, and our livable climate. Help tree farmers transition to other industries quickly. Fund Green New Deal projects.

https://insideclimatenews.org/news/16102019/tongass-national-forest-trump-roadless-rule-logging-climate-change

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Lee
Last name: White
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Lee White and I live in Ocala, Florida.

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, Lee White

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Lois
Last name: White
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Lois White and I live in Grants Pass, Oregon.

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, Lois White

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/14/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Lois
Last name: White
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Lois White and I live in Grants Pass, Oregon.

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, Lois White

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Margery
Last name: White
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Margery White and I live in Redmond, Oregon.

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, Margery White

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Maria
Last name: White
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, Maria White

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Marilea
Last name: White
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Marilea White and I live in Normal, Illinois.

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, Marilea White

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Marjorie
Last name: White
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, Marjorie White

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Mary
Last name: White
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, Mary White

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Mary
Last name: White
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, Mary White

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Mary
Last name: White
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, Mary White

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Mary
Last name: White
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, Mary White

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Mary
Last name: White
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC5716

Dear U.S. Forest Service,

CC: Alaska Congressional Delegation and Federal Administration

I support the no-action alternative to leave the 2001 Roadless Rule in place on the Tongass National Forest. We must continue to phase out old-growth clear-cut logging and instead prioritize restoring degraded watersheds and fish streams that contribute to the growing fisheries and tourism-based economies of Southeast. To that end, please conserve the Tongass 77 and TNC priority areas in the final Roadless Rule.

Sincerely,

Comments: *(Eg: list locations you recreate, or why you value Tongass fish & wildlife)* [Text italicized for emphasis]

Do not remove roadless rule. Essential for salmon habitat and *not*[text underlined for emphasis] needed.

[Box unchecked] I would like to get more involved in the campaign!

*By taking this action, you are consenting to receive future communications via phone, text message, email, or mail from Sitka Conservation Society and its partners working to protect the Tongass. * [Text italicized for emphasis]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Mary
Last name: White
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Mary White and I live in Ann Arbor, Michigan.

We need our trees in steadily worsening climate change!

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, Mary White

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Michael
Last name: White
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Michael P. White

Regards, Michael White

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Michele
Last name: White
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, Michele White

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Michelle
Last name: White
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC6182

Dear U.S. Forest Service:

The Roadless Rule has been instrumental in conserving the Tongass National Forest and in supporting its fish and wildlife-based industries for more than 20 years. *Please uphold the Rule's protections for important fish and wildlife areas, including the Tongass 77.* [Text bolded for emphasis] 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 are protection for habitat that our irreplaceable fish and wildlife populations need to survive.* [Text bolded for emphasis]

Customize your comment by listing reasons the Tongass is important to you or why you value Alaska Roadless areas: (ex: specific locations you recreate, activities you do, or why you value fish & wildlife) [Text italicized]

I fish the Sitak river area, and would not whant this area affected by the Tongass 77. Please call or write/wmail for any other comments.

Sincerely,

Would you like to volunteer with TU Alaska to Help America's Salmon Forest?

Yes No

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: mike
Last name: white
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is mike white and I live in Portland, Oregon.

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, mike white

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/10/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Mindi
Last name: White
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Mindi White and I live in Los Angeles, 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, Mindi White

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Mollie
Last name: White
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
32 native communities rely on the wildlife in the forest to survive. We need to preserve this forest!!

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Nancy
Last name: White
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Nancy White and I live in Spokane Valley, Washington.

Canyonlands and Bears Ears are much loved old camping territory for me. This is sacred land. Please protect it!

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, Nancy White

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/18/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Nancy
Last name: White
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Alaska Roadless DEIS Comments

Dear Secretary Perdue,

I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule. I strongly object to your plans to reduce and remove protections from roadless areas on the Tongass National Forest. The Tongass contains some of the last remaining old-growth temperate rainforest in the world, and its value in providing clean water and fish and wildlife habitat 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.

Adopted in 2001, the National Forest Roadless Area Conservation Rule is one of our nation's bedrock conservation protections intended to safeguard more than 58 million acres of national forests. From 1999 to 2001, the Forest Service held over 600 public meetings nationwide, including 28 throughout Washington State. In what was one of the most extensive public participation efforts in the history of federal rulemaking, more than 1.6 million people commented during the rulemaking process, with 95% supporting strong roadless area protection.

The Roadless Rule is one of the most balanced and most popular land management policies the Federal Government has ever adopted. It protects our remaining ancient forests, pristine and unroaded watershed, core wildlife habitat and world class recreational opportunities, while leaving more than half of the national forest system available for sustainable logging and other development.

Sincerely,

Sincerely,

Nancy White

Spokane Valley, WA 99216

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Patricia
Last name: White
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Patricia White and I live in Bend, Oregon.

These magnificent lands must be preserved for current & future generations.

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, Patricia White

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/7/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Patrick
Last name: White
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): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Peggy
Last name: White
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Peggy White and I live in Owensboro, Kentucky.

Stop destroying our national parks.

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, Peggy White

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/5/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Phillip
Last name: White
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am 25 years old, born in Juneau Alaska, attended college in Fairbanks Alaska, married a woman from Anchorage Alaska, and we now currently live, work, and will raise our family in Juneau Alaska. My wife and I want MORE ROADS IN JUNEAU and Alaska in general. I don't want to see every forest tree cut down and pavement poured on top, however, some simple dirt roads would be so nice to bicycle on and take hikes with my family. Making more of the Juneau area's accessible to people would be so awesome. I can't even imagine what a new road like that would be like because the terrible roadless rule in Alaska that Clintons threw into law just before he left office, around the time I was born. People not from Alaska should have ZERO say in having a few dirt or paved roads/trails built for us. Don't let a bunch of Californians and New Yorkers persuade you otherwise. Listen to real Alaskans, and if you do you'll find the vast majority of us want more access to see and enjoy our beautiful state.

Thanks

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Phyllis
Last name: White
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Phyllis White and I live in Yorktown, Virginia.

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, Phyllis White

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Rebecca
Last name: White
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): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Rev.
Last name: White
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Rev. White and I live in West Henrietta, New York.

Do you really believe that God created these lands so that you can destroy them. I suggest you think again and put our planet and its people first. Or do you really not care?

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, Rev. White

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Robbie
Last name: White
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Robbie White and I live in Silver Spring, Maryland.

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, Robbie White

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Robert
Last name: White
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, Robert White

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/24/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Roberta
Last name: White
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Roberta White and I live in Austin, Texas.

Trees provide us with oxygen and provide habitat for all kinds of wildlife, all of which need to be protected from this destruction.

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, Roberta White

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/23/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Robin
Last name: White
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Comments to oppose modification to the Roadless Rule

Dear U.S. Forest Service,

The Roadless Rule helps protect old-growth habitat for birds like the Prince of Wales Spruce Grouse and Northern Goshawk, as well as for mammals like wolves and deer. Opening roadless areas to more logging and roads will fragment the forest and eliminate more of the big old trees that these animals rely on. Furthermore, intact, ancient forests are strongholds of climate resilience, and the Tongass is one of world's largest.

Yet, all of the action alternatives in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement allow more roadbuilding and logging across the Tongass National Forest. Logging roads and timber operations cost tens of millions of taxpayer dollars every year, with zero return on investment. Meanwhile, these destructive activities degrade the naturally sustainable wealth of salmon, wildlife watching, and tourism opportunities.

It is time to stop opening more and more acres to the timber industry and instead bolster protections to the old-growth forests and wild areas on the Tongass. I urge you to select the "No Action" Alternative (Alternative 1) and allow the Roadless Rule to remain intact on the Tongass National Forest.

Mr President and Congress,

I beg you to stop logging! It is devastating the beauty of our country. It is destroying many species of birds, animals, and even the littlest insects. They have a right to their tree of choice. They have a right to know their species is safe. How can we justify cutting down trees when we have so many sustainable tree farms? Isn't that the entire reason we began tree farms? Plant two trees for every tree taken? When they're hundreds of thousands planted yearly, over many decades, we should never need to deforest our natural resources. If it's not working, those in charge are doing something very wrong. That needs to be investigated! Have paying jobs and education for out of work loggers. In my own point of view, I would never be able to sleep at night had I known I had just stolen the homes of hundreds of living creatures! I'd be crying myself into a new profession!

I beg you to stop America from becoming a flat barren land without beauty. Imagine going to your favorite spot for hiking, camping, boating, or lying on the beach with silence. No birds chirping by day, no owls hooting by night, no crickets chirping. The National Forest Service is in the business of protecting.

Why are people so greedy with homes? What's the purpose of a seven bedroom home when the kids are grown? Buying bigger, better, prettier to keep up with the Joneses... it's wrong! I realize they also have a right to that home. Simply quadruple the price of wood and people will begin to see that 3 bedrooms are enough no matter who you are. If they choose to have 20 people come to stay, they are welcome to rent out a floor of any hotel!!

Stop this madness. Every country is doing their part, or beginning to except us! Why? Why does the Federal Government want to strip away millions of acres of our most pristine beauty? Can't you all see what you're doing here?!!!

Please stop! You're the only ones with the power to fix this man made disaster.

Sincerely,

Robin White

La Salle, IL 61301

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/7/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Russell
Last name: White
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): 12/1/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Scott
Last name: White
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Scott White and I live in Southington, Ohio.

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, Scott White

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Su
Last name: White
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Keep the Tongas wild and untouchedOur planet needs the wilderness toSupport the restoration of the climate disaster

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Sue
Last name: White
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, Sue White

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Summer
Last name: White
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Summer White and I live in Flagstaff, AZ. I am writing a comment on the Alaska Roadless Rule DEIS because I am concerned with how the Rule and the proposed full exemption will affect the Tongass National Forest and the Chugach National Forest.

Recently the narratives of those that depend on and live among the Tongass has helped to shed light on how this landscape is irreplaceable. The Tongass is one of few remaining old growth forests in North America and should be valued as something other than a place for extraction. This landscape holds immeasurable value during this time of rampant anthropocentric climate change with potential for carbon storage, recovery of wild fish populations, as well as a strong hub for sense of place among folks.

I urge the Forest Service to select Alternative 1, the no action alternative, for the final decision on the Alaska Roadless Rule. This alternative protects the inventoried roadless areas in Alaska that are full of pristine wilderness and provide important fish and wildlife habitat, and already allows for important community and economic development projects. As an American citizen, I value the Tongass National Forest and the Chugach National Forest for its status as America's best natural solution to climate change and its sequestering of millions of metric tons of carbon and mitigating climate change, its wild salmon populations and the world-class fishing opportunities, its huge swaths of intact ecosystems and all the biodiversity it contains, its status as the largest intact temperate rainforest in the world, the high density of incredible wildlife it contains, to keep public lands wild for future generations, its status as a national and global treasure, the lifestyles of the indigenous communities that the forest supports. A full exemption does not protect these priorities, nor does it effectively balance economic development with the countless other benefits provided by roadless areas. I would like the Forest Service to manage roadless areas for passive/active watershed restoration (stream and habitat) to improve/maintain roadless characteristics (culvert removal/replacement, improve fish passage, wildlife thinning, etc), low-impact recreation (camping, hiking, hunting, foraging, etc). It is important to me that high-value intact habitat including the T77 watersheds and the TNC conservation priority areas retain their roadless protections in any alternative selected.

The Forest Service is wasting taxpayers' valuable time and money by trying to prop up a failing timber industry in Southeast Alaska. The nonpartisan, independent taxpayer watchdog Taxpayers for Common Sense reported that the Tongass timber program has losses of over $600 million of taxpayers money in the past 20 years. I would rather see my taxpayer dollars used to restore salmon habitat that was hurt by past logging practices, perform restorative actions that support wildlife populations on previously degraded landscapes that support wildlife populations, establish the economic value of the carbon stored in the Tongass. We need to stop subsidizing the clearcutting of old growth on the Tongass through taxpayer funded roadbuilding. If a full exemption were chosen, it would not create opportunities and would instead prioritize the special interests of one industry over the interests of the entire American public.

The Tongass is Americas homegrown natural solution to climate change. The forest sequesters 8% of the carbon stored in forests throughout the contiguous US states, some 3 billion metric tons of it. We must take action to mitigate and adapt to climate change, and maintaining the Tongass in a roadless state is critical for a sustainable future.

I urge the Forest Service to listen to the voices of the American people and prioritize them over corporate interests. The Forest Service should strengthen public involvement in developing land management policy and focus on broadly supported work rather than allowing special corporate interests to guide policy changes. Attempting to exempt inventoried roadless areas on the Chugach National Forest from the Alaska Roadless Rule adds further insult to injury, and this proposal has not received any sufficient environmental impact analysis or public input. Choosing a full exemption will not create a long lasting, durable solution for roadless areas in Alaska it will only increase the legal challenges, uncertainty for businesses, and conflict over these forests going forward.

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Susan
Last name: White
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I oppose logging in the Tongass for a number of reasons: rarity of the ancient trees, detrimental effect on the salmon population, and negative effect on native human populations and wildlife. There are so few protected forests.

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Susan
Last name: White
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Susan White and I live in New York, New York.

Please leave the old trees!!!

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, Susan White

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 1/1/0001 12:00:00 AM
First name: Taylor
Last name: White
Organization:
Title:
Comments:

Dear Secretary Perdue,

I live and work on the lands and waters of the Tongass National Forest. The health of the Tongass National Forest is critical to sustaining my way of life in this rugged region. From hunting and fishing, to hiking and camping, to our tourism and commercial fishing-based economies, we rely on the intact habitat that the roadless areas of the Tongass contain. That is why it is important to me that the 2001 Roadless Rule remain in place on the Tongass National Forest. A no-action alternative is the best option for Southeast Alaska.

Prioritizing one antiquated industry over private sectors is bad business, and bad for Southeast Alaska. I support the Tongass Transition and I would like the Forest Service to continue phasing out old growth clearcutting. Please prioritize conservation of the T77 and TNC conservation priority areas in any new Alaska Roadless Rule. This forest is a salmon forest, and the Forest Service should focus on restoring degraded watersheds and fish streams.

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 1/1/0001 12:00:00 AM
First name: Taylor
Last name: White
Organization:
Title:
Comments:

Dear Secretary Perdue,

I live and work on the lands and waters of the Tongass National Forest. The health of the Tongass National Forest is critical to sustaining my way of life in this rugged region. From hunting and fishing, to hiking and camping, to our tourism and commercial fishing-based economies, we rely on the intact habitat that the roadless areas of the Tongass contain. That is why it is important to me that the 2001 Roadless Rule remain in place on the Tongass National Forest. A no-action alternative is the best option for Southeast Alaska.

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Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 1/1/0001 12:00:00 AM
First name: Taylor
Last name: White
Organization:
Title:
Comments:

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Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 1/1/0001 12:00:00 AM
First name: Taylor
Last name: White
Organization:
Title:
Comments:

Dear Secretary Perdue,

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Prioritizing one antiquated industry over private sectors is bad business, and bad for Southeast Alaska. I support the Tongass Transition and I would like the Forest Service to continue phasing out old growth clearcutting. Please prioritize conservation of the T77 and TNC conservation priority areas in any new Alaska Roadless Rule. This forest is a salmon forest, and the Forest Service should focus on restoring degraded watersheds and fish streams.

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Taylor
Last name: White
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC1191

Dear Secretary Perdue,

I live and work on the lands and waters of the Tongass National Forest. The health of the Tongass National Forest is critical to sustaining my way of life in this rugged region. From hunting and fishing, to hiking and camping, to our tourism and commercial fishing-based economies, we rely on the intact habitat that the roadless areas of the Tongass contain. That is why it is important to me that the 2001 Roadless Rule remain in place on the Tongass National Forest. A no-action alternative is the best option for Southeast Alaska.

Prioritizing one antiquated industry over private sectors is bad business, and bad for Southeast Alaska. I support the Tongass Transition and I would like the Forest Service to continue phasing out old growth clearcutting. Please prioritize conservation of the T77 and TNC conservation priority areas in any new Alaska Roadless Rule. This forest is a salmon forest, and the Forest Service should focus on restoring degraded watersheds and fish streams.

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Thomas
Last name: White
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC6459

Dear Secretary Perdue,

I am writing to support the *No-Action Alternative*[text bolded for emphasis] 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 temperature 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): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Tony
Last name: White
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Tony White and I live in Santa Rosa, California.

Any attempts to reduce Bears Ears is public theft from all Americans and our heritage.

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, Tony White

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Trina
Last name: White
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Trina White and I live in Live Oak, Florida.

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.

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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, Trina White

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Valerie
Last name: White
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Valerie White and I live in Bend, Oregon.

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, Valerie White

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Veda
Last name: White
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Veda White and I live in Littleton, Colorado.

Why would we weaken any EPA protections? We should restore those that have been weakened over the last 2 1/2 years.

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, Veda White

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/7/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Veronica
Last name: White
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): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Westley
Last name: White
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC3877

U.S. Forest Service Alaska Roadless Rule

Comment Period:

Comment Period Alaska Roadless Rule:

I am writing in support of the 'no action' alternative to leave the Roadless Rule unchanged in Alaska. I am concerned that changes to the rule would lead to greatly expand clear-cut logging of old growth timber and costly road building in undeveloped, wild areas of both the Tongass and Chugach Forests. These activities increase sedimentation, hurt water quality, often block salmon migration, and add to an already large backlog of needed road maintenance and restoration.

Our fisheries and wild forests are critical to the economy of Alaska. To grow these sectors of our economy, we need intact habitat. Please leave the Alaska Roadless Rule in place.

Sincerely,

Westley White

Burien, WA 98166

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 5:16:54 AM
First name: William
Last name: White
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is William White and I live in Annapolis, MD. I am writing a comment on the Alaska Roadless Rule DEIS because I am concerned with how the Rule and the proposed full exemption will affect the Tongass National Forest and the Chugach National Forest.

Went on a small ship cruise in 2015 from Juneau to Sitka, and learned about this beautiful natural area from locals and shipboard experts

I urge the Forest Service to select Alternative 1, the no action alternative, for the final decision on the Alaska Roadless Rule. This alternative protects the inventoried roadless areas in Alaska that are full of pristine wilderness and provide important fish and wildlife habitat, and already allows for important community and economic development projects. As an American citizen, I value the Tongass National Forest and the Chugach National Forest for its status as America's best natural solution to climate change and its sequestering of millions of metric tons of carbon and mitigating climate change, its wild salmon populations and the world-class fishing opportunities, its huge swaths of intact ecosystems and all the biodiversity it contains, its status as the largest intact temperate rainforest in the world, the high density of incredible wildlife it contains, to keep public lands wild for future generations, its status as a national and global treasure, the lifestyles of the indigenous communities that the forest supports. A full exemption does not protect these priorities, nor does it effectively balance economic development with the countless other benefits provided by roadless areas. I would like the Forest Service to manage roadless areas for low-impact recreation (camping, hiking, hunting, foraging, etc), passive/active watershed restoration (stream and habitat) to improve/maintain roadless characteristics (culvert removal/replacement, improve fish passage, wildlife thinning, etc). It is important to me that high-value intact habitat including the T77 watersheds and the TNC conservation priority areas retain their roadless protections in any alternative selected.

The Forest Service is wasting taxpayers' valuable time and money by trying to prop up a failing timber industry in Southeast Alaska. The nonpartisan, independent taxpayer watchdog Taxpayers for Common Sense reported that the Tongass timber program has losses of over $600 million of taxpayers money in the past 20 years. I would rather see my taxpayer dollars used to restore salmon habitat that was hurt by past logging practices, perform restorative actions that support wildlife populations on previously degraded landscapes that support wildlife populations, establish the economic value of the carbon stored in the Tongass. We need to stop subsidizing the clearcutting of old growth on the Tongass through taxpayer funded roadbuilding. If a full exemption were chosen, it would not create opportunities and would instead prioritize the special interests of one industry over the interests of the entire American public.

The Tongass is Americas homegrown natural solution to climate change. The forest sequesters 8% of the carbon stored in forests throughout the contiguous US states, some 3 billion metric tons of it. We must take action to mitigate and adapt to climate change, and maintaining the Tongass in a roadless state is critical for a sustainable future.

I urge the Forest Service to listen to the voices of the American people and prioritize them over corporate interests. The Forest Service should strengthen public involvement in developing land management policy and focus on broadly supported work rather than allowing special corporate interests to guide policy changes. Attempting to exempt inventoried roadless areas on the Chugach National Forest from the Alaska Roadless Rule adds further insult to injury, and this proposal has not received any sufficient environmental impact analysis or public input. Choosing a full exemption will not create a long lasting, durable solution for roadless areas in Alaska it will only increase the legal challenges, uncertainty for businesses, and conflict over these forests going forward.

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: William
Last name: White
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, William White

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Yvonne
Last name: White
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Yvonne White and I live in Kinmundy, Illinois.

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, Yvonne White

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Kenneth
Last name: White-Spunner
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, Kenneth White-Spunner

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/26/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Karen
Last name: WhiteEagle
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Karen WhiteEagle and I live in Crandon, Wisconsin.

Stop attacking our wild country for big fossil fuel we don't want nor need.

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, Karen WhiteEagle

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Barbara
Last name: Whitehair
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Barbara Whitehair and I live in Haverhill, Massachusetts.

This is vital for the health of our communities. Thank you.

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, Barbara Whitehair

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Constance
Last name: Whitehead
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Leave it alone.

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/28/2019 4:00:00 PM
First name: Justin
Last name: Whitehead
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): 12/15/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Kurt
Last name: Whitehead
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My wife and I own and operate a hunting and fishing lodge in Klawock, AK on Prince of Wales Island and are fully vested and concerned about our island, our community and our neighbors. Specifically, we want healthy watersheds and forests that can support the maximum carrying capacity for our fish and wildlife resources.

As full time residents of POW, we see how important the fish and wildlife is to our community and it's members. Subsistence users and guides both depend on healthy, robust populations of fish and wildlife. POW is unique in that it is the ONLY game management unit in the entire state that has ONE ungulate(good eating red meat animal). There are only 3 big game animals on POW; deer, black bear and wolves, so the health of our deer herd is vital to all of us local people. The past few years, there are many of us on the island that have not been able to meet our subsistence needs for deer meat, me included. My wife and I have cancelled/suspended all of our deer hunts after the 2018 season due to lack of deer and a dramatic increase in wolves. This year my wife and I didn't even hunt deer for our subsistence needs because we want the few remaining deer to remain and repopulate.

2019 is the first year I haven't guided a deer hunt in 20 years. The mismanagement of wolves in years past on POW is criminal. Along with the increased wolf numbers is the lack of quality winter habitat for our deer herd. The deer need old growth forests for good winter habitat.

Many of us locals can't believe the Forests Service has proposed to roll back the 2001 Roadless Rule that many stakeholders spent years collaborating on.

My wife and I are staunchly opposed to this proposed rollback and fully support alternative 1 which is to leave the Roadless Rule intact and protect what little remaining old growth forests we have on POW and protect our valuable wilderness areas, LUD II areas and protect our watersheds and forests from anymore clearcuts and roads.

POW has over 2500 miles of logging roads. We have stem exclusion on vast tracts of timber stands that creates habitat for slugs and mushrooms and that's about it.

It's so thick in these stem excluded, old clearcuts that deer, wolves, bears and humans can't possibly move around in them much less get a bite to eat because no sunlight can reach the ground.

We've got hundreds of miles of old roads that crisscross the island and continue to dump sediment into our streams choking the salmon eggs.

We've got hundreds of miles of watersheds that have no trees blocking the sun from the creeks in the clearcuts so the water temperature increases and the fish die off in mass quantities from low oxygen in the fall.

We've got clearcuts and roads that are so ugly to look at that the few tourists who do come don't come back. If they do, it's not because of the stunning vistas.

We've got landslides in every clearcut because there are no more trees to hold the soil in place.

Clearcuts benefit the big game for about 20 years with the increased in food but after that they become so thick that it's virtually a dead zone for decades and take even more decades to heal.

When will it stop?

No More Roads! No More Clearcuts! Please leave the Roadless Rule intact!

Respectfully,

Kurt Whitehead and Trina Nation

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Kurt
Last name: Whitehead
Organization: East Prince of Wales Fish & Game Advisory Committee
Title: Secretary
Comments:
Attached is the official resolution from the East Prince of Wales Fish & Game Advisory Committee.

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/5/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Shana
Last name: Whitehead
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): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Lisa
Last name: Whiteheart
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, Lisa Whiteheart

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Barry
Last name: Whitehill
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
USFS Docket ID: FS-2019-0023 Alaska Roadless Rule #54511

Barry Whitehill

December 16, 2019

Subject: USFS Docket ID: FS-2019-0023 Alaska Roadless Rule #54511

Dear Secretary Perdue and Ms. Christiansen:

I am an Alaskan resident who relies on public lands in Alaska for hunting the meat for my family's dinners and dip netting salmon for the majority of the fish we eat. The Tongass National Forest not only contributes to providing food for my table, it is also a huge contributor to fellow Alaskans who rely on subsistence activities, commercial fishing, the outdoor recreation industry, and for personal recreational pursuits.

To exempt the Tongass, is a huge leap backward and risks undoing the progress made through hard work and compromise on the part of many. This decision goes against years of collaboration between the U.S. Forest Service, Southeastern Alaskan tribes, outdoor recreation and fishing interests and local communities.

Roadless areas on the Tongass include some of the most productive fish and wildlife habitat on the forest. These roadless areas offer the best combinations of stunning scenery, wild landscapes, fish and wildlife, and access for Alaska's tourism and recreation industry. Allowing large-scale logging is not only a bad idea for tourism and recreation, but for the environment and climate crisis as well.

Abandon this foolish leap backwards. Instead, maintain protections for the Tongass roadless areas by selecting the Alternative 1, "No Action" alternative.

Sincerely,

Barry Whitehill

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/12/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Kai
Last name: Whitehill
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): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Joseph
Last name: Whitehorn
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, Joseph Whitehorn

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Jesse
Last name: Whitehouse
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC5752

Dear U.S. Forest Service,

CC: Alaska Congressional Delegation and Federal Administration

I support the no-action alternative to leave the 2001 Roadless Rule in place on the Tongass National Forest. We must continue to phase out old-growth clear-cut logging and instead prioritize restoring degraded watersheds and fish streams that contribute to the growing fisheries and tourism-based economies of Southeast. To that end, please conserve the Tongass 77 and TNC priority areas in the final Roadless Rule.

Sincerely,

Comments: *(Eg: list locations you recreate, or why you value Tongass fish & wildlife)* [Text italicized for emphasis]

I'm a seiner + nature lover! Salmon is the heart of Southeast! More important than $ from deforestation!

[Box unchecked] I would like to get more involved in the campaign!

*By taking this action, you are consenting to receive future communications via phone, text message, email, or mail from Sitka Conservation Society and its partners working to protect the Tongass. * [Text italicized for emphasis]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Carol
Last name: Whitehurst
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Carol Whitehurst and I live in Tacoma, Washington.

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, Carol Whitehurst

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Cheryl
Last name: Whitehurst
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Cheryl Whitehurst and I live in Lake Worth, Florida.

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, Cheryl Whitehurst

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/2/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Shawn
Last name: Whitehurst
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Don't exempt the Tongass from the Roadless Rule

U.S. Forest Service

RE: Don't exempt the Tongass from the Roadless Rule

null

Docket Number: FS-2019-0023

Secretary Perdue:

I sincerely urge you to keep the Roadless Area Conservation Rule intact for the Tongass National Forest.

National Forests are one of America's great ideas. The Tongass is particularly important. It serves as a habitat for hundreds of species of wildlife, including wolves, grizzly bears and so many others. More than 300 species of birds make their homes in its trees, and its streams and waterways provide habitat for spawning salmon and trout.

To open this pristine wild space up for destructive development by removing its Roadless Rule protections would be an ecological tragedy. Keep the Roadless Rule -- and the Tongass National Forest -- intact.

Sincerely,

Shawn Whitehurst

Sincerely,

Shawn Whitehurst

Albuquerque, NM 87106

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: James
Last name: Whitelock
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is James Whitelock and I live in Miami, Florida.

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.

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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, James Whitelock

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/13/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Andrew
Last name: Whitely
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC424

Dear Roadless Rule Planning Team,

The health of the Tongass National Forest is important to me. I depend on the Tongass which is a unique and global treasure.

The freshwater streams where salmon and old growth forest of the Tongass provide spawning habitat for these fish, which in turn feed a matrix of bears, birds, insects, and other wildlife that Alaska is so famous for. The health of our economy, which is heavily dependent on the fishing and tourism industries, also depends on the salmon, wildlife and presence of old growth forests. A sustainable future for Southeast Alaska requires protecting expansive areas of intact habitat - in short, it requires keeping our Roadless areas roadless! I urge the Forest Service and the Secretary to protect important salmon spawning habitat, maintain old growth forests for winter deer habitat, and keep the places I like to recreate free of clearcuts and roadbuilding.

WHO I AM: [text bolded for emphasis] Include your name, where you live, and any relevant biographical information. Do you live or work on the Tongass National Forest? What is your relationship to the Tongass?

Andrew Whitley, fish biologist, Missala, Montana visit for fishing

PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE: [text bolded for emphasis] The Forest Service will choose how to proceed from a number of different alternatives. If you want the Roadless Rule to remain on the Tongass, write "No Action."

No Action

WHY I PREFER THIS ALTERNATIVE: [text bolded for emphasis] How would this alternative affect you and Southeast Alaskans?

We need to keep areas roadless to protect habitat - spawin + rearing

AREAS: [text bolded for emphasis] Are there specific islands, watersheds, or mountains that you depend on? Name the most important areas that the Roadless Rule to protect. Examples include the Tenakee Inlet, Nakwasina Sound, Fish Bay, Ushk Bay, Northern Prince of Wales, T77 salmon watershed areas, Audobon TNC ecological priority areas, etc.

Tenakee Inlet, Fish Bay, Northern PoW

USE: [text bolded for emphasis] What activities do you use the Tongass National Forest for? Hunting, fishing, recreation, subsistence, business, tourism, etc.

Fishing, recreation

SUGGESTION: [text bolded for emphasis] How should the Forest Service manage the Tongass National Forest, rather than old-growth clearcut logging? More sustainable alternatives to timber harvest include salmon watershed restoration, visitor industry infrastructure, deer habitat enhancement, young growth thinning, and maintenance of recreation infrastructure such as trails and cabins.

Salmon watershed restoration, conservation

Additional comments for the Forest Service:

Sincerely,

Andrew Whitely

I do not want to receive a copy of the Draft Environmental Statement

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Kimberly
Last name: Whiteman
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Logging and timber harvesting aren't inherently bad by themselves, and the industry is necessary, but there's not much old growth left in the US or anywhere in the world. Alaska is really the last old growth stronghold. It would be a shame to put profit over any of our public lands, which have been preserved specifically because they have more value over other industries. Going around the rule violates the spirit of public land preservation, and once you do it once, what's to stop you from doing it again?

Additionally, Tongass is vital to over two dozen native communities whose needs cannot be ignored. Our country has a foul record on treatment of native people and their lands, and we are supposed to be getting better, not continuing old trends.

Alternative one is the only fully responsible decision, treating Tongass like we do every other national land.

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: roger
Last name: whiteman
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, roger whiteman

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: roger
Last name: whiteman
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.

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Regards, roger whiteman

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Jane
Last name: Whiteside
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.
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Regards, Jane Whiteside

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: REe
Last name: whitford
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is REe whitford and I live in Los Angeles, California.

Please let save the forests!

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, REe whitford

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/10/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Carolyn
Last name: Whiting
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Carolyn Whiting and I live in Reading, Massachusetts.

I urge you to protect our wild forests in Alaska.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Carolyn Whiting

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Charles
Last name: Whiting
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, Charles Whiting

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: gm
Last name: whiting
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is gm whiting and I live in Joseph, Oregon.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, gm whiting

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: gm
Last name: whiting
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.

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Regards, gm whiting

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Elizabeth
Last name: Whitlam
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Elizabeth Whitlam and I live in P C Beach, Florida.

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.

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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, Elizabeth Whitlam

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Joshua
Last name: Whitley
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC968

Dear Chief Christiansen,

I am a visitor to the lands and waters of Southeast Alaska. The Tongass National Forest is a large part of why I am here. Visitors like me come to witness the vast, beautiful stands of old-growth trees that can't be found on such a scale anywhere else in the United States. We come to crew on commercial fishing boats. We come to hunt, fish and hike in America's largest National Forest. That is why it is important to me that the 2001 Roadless Rule remain in place on the Tongass National Forest. A no-action alternative is the best option for Alaskans and Americans.

I support the Tongass Transition and I would like the Forest Service to continue phasing out old growth clearcutting. This forest is a salmon forest, and the Forest Service should focus on restoring degraded watersheds and fish streams. Please prioritize conservation of the T77 and TNC conservation priority areas in any new Alaska Roadless Rule. Tourism and commercial fishing are at the heart of Southeast's economy, not the antiquated timber industry.

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Justin
Last name: Whitley
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC5435

U.S. Forest Service Alaska Roadless Rule Committee:

I am not an Alaskan resident but my son attends college in Juneau and plans to live his life there. I am writing on his behalf. I am in support of the 'no action' alternative to leave the Roadless Rule unchanged in Alaska.

I am concerned that changes to the rule would lead to greatly expand clear-cut logging of old growth timber and costly road building in undeveloped, wild areas of both the Tongass and Chugach Forests. These activities increase sedimentation, hurt water quality, often block salmon migration, and add to an already large backlog of needed road maintenance and restoration.

Our fisheries and wild forests are critical to the economy of Alaska. To grow these sectors of our economy, we need intact habitat. Please leave the Alaska Roadless Rule in place.

I am writing in support of the 'no action' alternative to leave the Roadless Rule unchanged in Alaska. I am concerned that changes to the rule would lead to greatly expand clear-cut logging of old growth timber and costly road building in undeveloped, wild areas of both the Tongass and Chugach Forests. These activities increase sedimentation, hurt water quality, often block salmon migration, and add to an already large backlog of needed road maintenance and restoration.

Our fisheries and wild forests are critical to the economy of Alaska. To grow these sectors of our economy, we need intact habitat. Please leave the Alaska Roadless Rule in place.

Sincerely,

Justin Whitley

Sugar Land, TX 77479

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/10/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Rita
Last name: Whitley
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Rita Whitley and I live in Sugarcrk Township, Ohio.

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, Rita Whitley

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Sandy
Last name: Whitley
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Sandy Whitley and I live in Mesa, Arizona.

Why would the government want to allow more harmful and disease causing pollutants in the air? That idea is counterintuitive to good reasoning and judgement, allowing more disease causing toxins into peoples' lungs.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.

Regards, Sandy Whitley

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Ellen
Last name: Whitlock
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
To whom it may concern,

I would like to state my concerns for the proposed exemption to the Alaska Roadless Rules. I would like to express my support for the first option, which allows for not change and for the national forest to remain protected and roadless. Our national forests are a part of our American identity and natural resources. At a time when the protection of the environment is so important, I cannot over emphasize my disapproval for any measure that would change the protections in place for the Alaskan wilderness.

Sincerely,

Ellen Whitlock

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Ragan
Last name: Whitlock
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Comments to oppose modification to the Roadless Rule

Dear U.S. Forest Service,

While I agree with the stock comments from organizations like the Audubon society, I think it is important for each submission to have its own personal touch.

Many people will attack this rule change/exemption from a political viewpoint, but I do not find this helpful. What I think is a better argument is to simply do an interest balancing approach.

I completely understand the economic incentives of opening roadways through the Tongass National Forest. I do not wish to devalue or demonize them. I think it's important to remember the irreversible nature

decision, however.

Tongass is undoubtedly a critical forest, both as a carbon sink and as a bastion of untouched wilderness. Regardless of what is happening in the Amazon, which may or may not increase the international need for preservation of such forests, this rule change simply does not adequately consider the future ramifications.

Economic incentives are always worthy of consideration, but they simply do not warrant a possibility catastrophic decision like this.

Sincerely,

Ragan Whitlock

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: E.
Last name: Whitlow
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is E. Whitlow] and I live in Austin TX..
Our only home, Planet Earth, must have forests, for many reasons. We MUST protect them!
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.
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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, E. Whitlow

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/12/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Josh
Last name: Whitlow
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): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Nesbitt
Last name: Whitlow
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Nesbitt Whitlow and I live in Orlando, Florida.

As a Veteran, 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.
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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, Nesbitt Whitlow

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Beatriz
Last name: Whitman
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Beatriz Whitman and I live in Lincoln, 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, Beatriz Whitman

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Fanny
Last name: Whitman
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Fanny Whitman and I live in Westport, Massachusetts.

Stop destroying our childrens planet

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Fanny Whitman

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: George
Last name: Whitman
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is George Whitman and I live in Cathedral City, 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.

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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, George Whitman

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/13/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Grace
Last name: Whitman
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Grace Whitman and I live in Dickerson, Maryland.

To slow climate change, each person in the US needs to be planting 1000 trees per year. Cutting trees in fragile environments is particularly ill judged.

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, Grace Whitman

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/5/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Gunnar
Last name: Whitman
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): 10/18/2019 5:20:07 PM
First name: Rick
Last name: Whitman
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Comments to oppose modification to the Roadless Rule

Dear U.S. Forest Service,

The Roadless Rule helps protect old-growth habitat for birds like the Prince of Wales Spruce Grouse and Northern Goshawk, as well as for mammals like wolves and deer. Opening roadless areas to more logging and roads will fragment the forest and eliminate more of the big old trees that these animals rely on.

Yet, all of the action alternatives in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement allow more roadbuilding and logging across the Tongass National Forest. Logging roads and timber operations cost tens of millions of taxpayer dollars every year, with zero return on investment. Meanwhile, these destructive activities degrade the naturally sustainable wealth of salmon, wildlife watching, and tourism opportunities.

It is time to stop opening more and more acres to the timber industry and instead bolster protections to the old-growth forests and wild areas on the Tongass. I urge you to select the "No Action" Alternative (Alternative 1) and allow the Roadless Rule to remain intact on the Tongass National Forest.

Sincerely,
Rick Whitman
Livingston, MT 59047

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Rick
Last name: whitman
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Rick whitman and I live in Livingston, Montana.

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, Rick whitman

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Tarah
Last name: Whitman
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC3823

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,

Tarah Whitman

Lebanon, OR 97355

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 1/1/0001 12:00:00 AM
First name: Tarah
Last name: Whitman
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
3823

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,
Tarah Whitman
Lebanon, OR 97355

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/7/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: John
Last name: Whitmer
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): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: William
Last name: Whitmire
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.
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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): 11/12/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Cora
Last name: Whitmore
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Cora Whitmore and I live in Hermon, Maine.

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, Cora Whitmore

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Jeremy
Last name: Whitmore
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing today to voice my opinion on opening the Tongass National Forest to logging.I believe that the ban should stay in effect and no logging should be done. We havelogged/lost most of the old growth forests that are needed for not only animals and ushumans, it is also needed for the health of the world!

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Amy
Last name: Whitney
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, Amy Whitney

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/12/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Ben
Last name: Whitney
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): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Calista
Last name: Whitney
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, Calista Whitney

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/11/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Cheryl
Last name: whitney
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Cheryl whitney and I live in Long Beach, 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, Cheryl whitney

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Clark
Last name: Whitney
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC6112

Dear U.S. Forest Service:

The Roadless Rule has been instrumental in conserving the Tongass National Forest and in supporting its fish and wildlife-based industries for more than 20 years. *Please uphold the Rule's protections for important fish and wildlife areas, including the Tongass 77.* [Text bolded for emphasis] 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 are protection for habitat that our irreplaceable fish and wildlife populations need to survive.* [Text bolded for emphasis]

Customize your comment by listing reasons the Tongass is important to you or why you value Alaska Roadless areas: (ex: specific locations you recreate, activities you do, or why you value fish & wildlife) [Text italicized]

Sincerely,

Would you like to volunteer with TU Alaska to Help America's Salmon Forest?

Yes No

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Denise
Last name: Whitney
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Denise Whitney and I live in Erie, Pennsylvania.

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.

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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, Denise Whitney

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Franklin
Last name: Whitney
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, Franklin Whitney

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Franklin
Last name: Whitney
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
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Regards, Franklin Whitney

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Gretchen
Last name: Whitney
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC3075

Dear Secretary Perdue,

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 intact for the Tongass National Forest. Old-growth forests like the Tongass are powerful tools for fighting climate change - they store carbon, protect wildlife, and support local communities that rely on tourism and recreation. 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.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/7/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Jack
Last name: Whitney
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): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Jack
Last name: Whitney
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, Jack Whitney

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Jim
Last name: Whitney
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.

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Regards, Jim Whitney

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Jim
Last name: Whitney
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.

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Regards, Jim Whitney

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Jim
Last name: Whitney
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
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Regards, Jim Whitney

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Jim
Last name: Whitney
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
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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, Jim Whitney

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/13/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Kayla
Last name: Whitney
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Kayla Whitney and I live in Shelby Charter Township, Michigan.

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, Kayla Whitney

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/11/2019 10:37:54 AM
First name: Kendall
Last name: Whitney
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Kendall Whitney and I live in Bellingham, Alaska. I work with a fishermen-owned co-op in Sitka, Alaska. I'm concerned about the health of salmon spawning streams in southeast Alaska. Also, the image of a pure, wild Alaska is what draws many of our customers to our brand. I am writing a comment on the Alaska Roadless Rule DEIS because I am concerned with how the Rule and the proposed full exemption will impact my fishing, foraging for wild foods, the peace and solitude I find in nature, recreating, the status of the Tongass as a national and global treasure, the forest's ability to sequester carbon and mitigate climate change impacts, the conservation of resources for future generations .

Out of the alternatives described in the AKRR DEIS I support alternative 2: watershed priority. It protects important fish and wildlife habitat from clearcutting and roadbuilding. I depend on roadless areas in the Tongass National Forest for economic livelihood, healthy fish habitat, recreating and enjoying nature, carbon sequestration and local climate change mitigation, viewing wildlife, keeping public lands wild for future generations, fiscal responsibility and saving taxpayer dollars . A full exemption does not protect these values, nor does it effectively balance economic development and conservation of roadless area characteristics. A full exemption from the Roadless Rule and increased logging and roadbuilding will negatively impact the Tongass and what I and many others use and depend on the forest to provide for us.

The Roadless areas on the Tongass that are especially important to me are those on or around Baranof Island, Chichagof Island, Kuiu Island, Prince of Wales Island. I want the roadless areas in these locations to stay in roadless status in any alternative selected by the Forest Service, and be managed to provide for low-impact recreation such as camping, hiking, hunting, and fishing medium-impact recreation development,such as Forest Service cabins, trails, mooring buoys, and 3-sided shelters, passive or active watershed restoration of salmon streams and wildlife habitat, connections from communities. It is important to me that the T77 and the TNC conservation priority areas retain their roadless protections.

I do not support the Forest Services preferred alternative of a full exemption. A full exemption is not in the interests of Southeast Alaskans who live in and use the Tongass National Forest, because It will harm our existing economic drivers.. The State of Alaska says that a full exemption is needed for rural economic development opportunities. However, a full exemption would not help create more rural economic development opportunities, it would instead harm our existing rural economies that are based on the visitor industry and commercial fishing industry.

It would further harm rural economic opportunities because pursuing the same outdated economic model of old growth clearcut harvesting for export stifles innovation and possibility in other sectors, such as mariculture, sustainable young growth harvest, and rural agriculture. If the Forest Service wants to support rural economic development, they should devote resources to support our fishing and visitor industries invest in creating and maintaining recreation infrastructure improve and streamline existing permitting processes for important community projects rather than rehashing old conflicts.

I urge the Forest Service to prioritize the voices of Southeast Alaskans over those of our political representation and corporate interests. Choosing a full exemption will not create a long lasting, durable solution for roadless areas on the Tongass. It will only increase the legal challenges, uncertainty for businesses, and conflict on the Tongass going forward.

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/26/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Mackenzie
Last name: Whitney
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC179

Dear Forest Service,

The Tongass National Forest is a beautiful forest that should be left alone. Tourism and fishing industries provide 25% of jobs in SE Alaska, while the logging here provides less than 10%. The Tongass Forest is one of the largest remaining portion of the Pacific temperate rainforest. Let's Keep it intact!

-Mackenzie

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/7/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Michael
Last name: Whitney
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): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Nicole
Last name: Whitney
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, Nicole Whitney

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Shirley
Last name: Whitney
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Shirley Whitney and I live in New York, New York.

The climate is changing rapidly. Losing the full protection of forests like this will cause irredeemable harm. It's inexcusable to even consider cutting it, and clearcutting would be an horrific thing to do.

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, Shirley Whitney

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Steve
Last name: Whitney
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC5623

Dear U.S. Forest Service,

CC: Alaska Congressional Delegation and Federal Administration

I support the no-action alternative to leave the 2001 Roadless Rule in place on the Tongass National Forest. We must continue to phase out old-growth clear-cut logging and instead prioritize restoring degraded watersheds and fish streams that contribute to the growing fisheries and tourism-based economies of Southeast. To that end, please conserve the Tongass 77 and TNC priority areas in the final Roadless Rule.

Sincerely,

Comments: *(Eg: list locations you recreate, or why you value Tongass fish & wildlife)* [Text italicized for emphasis]

[Box unchecked] I would like to get more involved in the campaign!

*By taking this action, you are consenting to receive future communications via phone, text message, email, or mail from Sitka Conservation Society and its partners working to protect the Tongass. * [Text italicized for emphasis]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/24/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Serena
Last name: Whitridge
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Tongass

Keep the Tongass roadless.

The health of our bodies and humankind relies upon the health of the earth. With most places being impacted by humans and man-made infrastructure, the last thing we need is for the Tongass to have roads. You can look at this argument scientifically, trees sequester Carbon and rising planetary temperatures require more Carbon sequestering means (aka not cutting down trees, but rather fostering old-growth stands to enable more of this). The Tongass is said to sequester 8% of the USA's carbon emissions. Studies have also shown that the soil in old-growth forests is some of the richest and most biodiverse. The soils have proven that they too can sequester carbon. Indeed, old-growth forests are rich in biodiverse wildlife too. These species need non-disturbed areas and corridors to live, the more the better. These are scientific reasons why the Tongass should be kept roadless.

Health can be seen in this physical and biodiversity, but it can also be looked at through the lens of humans connecting with the earth, something we used to innately do and be in a symbiotic relationship with during primordial times. It is 'woo' to say that nature communicates with us, but I believe this to be true. Indigenous historically were called savages, but they are the most sophisticated peoples who worked within the realm of sensory awareness. The forest and the natural world engages us in ways that have not and perhaps will not ever be measured scientifically. The indigenous know how to live in unison and reciprocity with the land by not disturbing it, but treating 'it' as a sensuous being. Perhaps these are reasons why the US government should consider giving land back to the people who originally lived reciprocally with it. We (white people) need to be taught the ways of the land, the ways of interspecies communication, and reciprocity. One way to start is to let this land be.

The older the forest, the more time has passed through it. This imbues a spirit that is old and wise, multigenerational and all-knowing. Spiritual health in our nation and across the globe is declining. Connection to spirit can be seen as organized religion, but really it is bigger than that. Our spirits need this forest. If you are reading this and think that is silly, it's ok. But ancient and indigenous cultures and medical practices demonstrate that connection to mind, body, emotion, and spirit leads to health. Whether it is science, spirit, or the pleasure of being in the woods, please continue to allow the Tongass to be roadless.

The forest is more than you can see. An old-growth forest is able to communicate via mycelium, share resources (interspecies), and connect. We need the forest as an example of what humans too are capable of. Nourish your roots and your ancestors, honor the indigenous and allow nature to create rich soil. Save the trees and animals from disturbance and destruction. Allow the Tongass to be an example of health by NOT creating roads for generations to come. Thank you.

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/11/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Dane
Last name: Whitsett
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): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Andrea
Last name: Whitson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Andrea Whitson and I live in San Jose, 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, Andrea Whitson

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/12/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Hayley
Last name: Whitson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Hayley Whitson and I live in Madison, WI. I am writing a comment on the Alaska Roadless Rule DEIS because I am concerned with how the Rule and the proposed full exemption will affect the Tongass National Forest and the Chugach National Forest.

Originally from Sitka, and a current PhD student, I know that the complexities of the ecosystem there are hanging in the balance here. There has been studies showing that nutrients from the ocean can be found 200 mi upstream. How do these minerals get there? Salmon runs. And salmon runs won't be able to make it upstream without the shade from the forest. Our communities rely on subsistence fishing as well as commerical. We NEED it to stay sustainable in order to continue living in this area. Don't destroy this circle of life!

I urge the Forest Service to select Alternative 1, the no action alternative, for the final decision on the Alaska Roadless Rule. This alternative protects the inventoried roadless areas in Alaska that are full of pristine wilderness and provide important fish and wildlife habitat, and already allows for important community and economic development projects. As an American citizen, I value the Tongass National Forest and the Chugach National Forest for its status as America's best natural solution to climate change and its sequestering of millions of metric tons of carbon and mitigating climate change, its wild salmon populations and the world-class fishing opportunities, its status as the largest intact temperate rainforest in the world, its huge swaths of intact ecosystems and all the biodiversity it contains, the recreational opportunities it provides, to keep public lands wild for future generations, its status as a national and global treasure, the lifestyles of the indigenous communities that the forest supports the high density of incredible wildlife it contains. A full exemption does not protect these priorities, nor does it effectively balance economic development with the countless other benefits provided by roadless areas. I would like the Forest Service to manage roadless areas for low-impact recreation (camping, hiking, hunting, foraging, etc), medium-impact recreation (FS cabins, trails, mooring buoys, 3-sided shelters). It is important to me that high-value intact habitat including the T77 watersheds and the TNC conservation priority areas retain their roadless protections in any alternative selected.

The Forest Service is wasting taxpayers' valuable time and money by trying to prop up a failing timber industry in Southeast Alaska. The nonpartisan, independent taxpayer watchdog Taxpayers for Common Sense reported that the Tongass timber program has losses of over $600 million of taxpayers money in the past 20 years. I would rather see my taxpayer dollars used to establish the economic value of the carbon stored in the Tongass, perform restorative actions that support wildlife populations on previously degraded landscapes that support wildlife populations, restore salmon habitat that was hurt by past logging practices. We need to stop subsidizing the clearcutting of old growth on the Tongass through taxpayer funded roadbuilding. If a full exemption were chosen, it would not create opportunities and would instead prioritize the special interests of one industry over the interests of the entire American public.

The Tongass is Americas homegrown natural solution to climate change. The forest sequesters 8% of the carbon stored in forests throughout the contiguous US states, some 3 billion metric tons of it. We must take action to mitigate and adapt to climate change, and maintaining the Tongass in a roadless state is critical for a sustainable future.

I urge the Forest Service to listen to the voices of the American people and prioritize them over corporate interests. The Forest Service should strengthen public involvement in developing land management policy and focus on broadly supported work rather than allowing special corporate interests to guide policy changes. Attempting to exempt inventoried roadless areas on the Chugach National Forest from the Alaska Roadless Rule adds further insult to injury, and this proposal has not received any sufficient environmental impact analysis or public input. Choosing a full exemption will not create a long lasting, durable solution for roadless areas in Alaska it will only increase the legal challenges, uncertainty for businesses, and conflict over these forests going forward.

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/21/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Leesa
Last name: Whitson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I do not want logging in Preserves, Parks, or Wildlife areas. This is unnecessary and comes at a time when the Eart cannot afford to lose trees. Can't spend money if you are dead and killing our envirinment will hasten death for ua all. Just stop already

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Paul
Last name: Whitson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Paul Whitson and I live in Marina, California.

These trees belong to our great, great grandchildren.

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, Paul Whitson

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/15/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Riley
Last name: WHitson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Riley Whitson and I live in Sitka, Alaska. I was born in Sitka, Alaska to a commercial fishing family. My life has revolved around the natural resources found in this unique place for food, employment, and recreation for my entire life. There are very few places in this world that offer a consistent source for all three of those. There is no way to place a value on one's homeplace. I am writing a comment on the Alaska Roadless Rule DEIS because I am concerned with how the Rule and the proposed full exemption will impact my subsistence harvesting, hunting, fishing, the peace and solitude I find in nature, recreating, practicing my culture, the status of the Tongass as a national and global treasure, the conservation of resources for future generations .

Out of the alternatives described in the AKRR DEIS I support alternative 3: open up roaded roadless and build logical extensions. It is a workable compromise that allows for economic development and the protection of roadless characteristics. I depend on roadless areas in the Tongass National Forest for economic livelihood, healthy fish habitat, deer habitat and subsistence hunting, practicing my culture, recreating and enjoying nature, viewing wildlife, keeping public lands wild for future generations, fiscal responsibility and saving taxpayer dollars . A full exemption does not protect these values, nor does it effectively balance economic development and conservation of roadless area characteristics. A full exemption from the Roadless Rule and increased logging and roadbuilding will negatively impact the Tongass and what I and many others use and depend on the forest to provide for us.

The Roadless areas on the Tongass that are especially important to me are those on or around Baranof Island, Chichagof Island, Admiralty Island, the northern mainland above Port Snettisham (around Juneau), the central mainland from Hobart Bay to Stikine River, the southern mainland from Bradfield Canal to Dixon Entrance Kupreanof Island. I want the roadless areas in these locations to stay in roadless status in any alternative selected by the Forest Service, and be managed to provide for the uses and activities I listed above. It is important to me that the T77 and the TNC conservation priority areas retain their roadless protections.

I do not support the Forest Services preferred alternative of a full exemption. A full exemption is not in the interests of Southeast Alaskans who live in and use the Tongass National Forest, because The amount of irresponsible actions that a complete exemption would allow on the Tongass is astronomical. I believe the only way to responsibly develop a wild area is to take gradual steps in that direction in order to realize the proper balance of nature and development for the growing resource that is humanity. If we allow a complete lapse in oversight in development things will not go well. I know that no matter what choice is made by the government they will attempt to control the development in a way that makes sense to them, but it is likely that a full exemption would give opportunities to those who would willingly take advantage of natural resources to do so. I hope there is a compromise that can be reached.. The State of Alaska says that a full exemption is needed for rural economic development opportunities. However, a full exemption would not help create more rural economic development opportunities, it would instead harm our existing rural economies that are based on the visitor industry and commercial fishing industry.

It would further harm rural economic opportunities because pursuing the same outdated economic model of old growth clearcut harvesting for export stifles innovation and possibility in other sectors, such as mariculture, sustainable young growth harvest, and rural agriculture. If the Forest Service wants to support rural economic development, they should devote resources to support our fishing and visitor industries invest in creating and maintaining recreation infrastructure.

I urge the Forest Service to prioritize the voices of Southeast Alaskans over those of our political representation and corporate interests. Choosing a full exemption will not create a long lasting, durable solution for roadless areas on the Tongass. It will only increase the legal challenges, uncertainty for businesses, and conflict on the Tongass going forward.

[Position]

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/10/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Cynthia
Last name: Whitson-White
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Cynthia Whitson-White and I live in Auburn, California.

Please consider much stronger safeguards that will leave my grandchildren and their children able to breathe healthy air in California. We should continue to be leaders in this area, not backing down to naysayers.

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, Cynthia Whitson-White

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/14/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Katie
Last name: Whittaker
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Katie Whittaker and I live in Stowe, Vermont.

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, Katie Whittaker

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Katie
Last name: Whittaker
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Katie Whittaker and I live in Stowe, Vermont.

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, Katie Whittaker

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/1/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Mary
Last name: Whittaker
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Comments to oppose modification to the Roadless Rule

Dear U.S. Forest Service,

With the Amazon rain forest burning due to careless clearing for agriculture, it is even more important that we protect our rain forests, in order to do our part to combat a warming planet and protect biodiversity. These should be our priorities, as jobs and profits will be meaningless if we our children inherit a world of ecological disasters.

Sincerely,

Mary Beth Whittaker

Salt Lake City, UT 84124

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Hannah
Last name: Whitted
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Hannah Whitted and I live in Aptos, 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, Hannah Whitted

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Robin
Last name: Whitten
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Robin Whitten and I live in Greenbrier, Arkansas.

Please protect our children. I have a granddaughter who needs your help!

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, Robin Whitten

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/22/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Marlis
Last name: Whittier
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Marlis Whittier and I live in Auburn, Maine.

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, Marlis Whittier

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Judy
Last name: Whittington
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Judy Whittington and I live in Wabasha, Minnesota.

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, Judy Whittington

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Alexander
Last name: Whittle
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, Alexander Whittle

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Alexander
Last name: Whittle
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Alexander Whittle and I live in Nashville, Tennessee.

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, Alexander Whittle

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 8:25:36 AM
First name: Jackie
Last name: Whittle
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Jackie Whittle and I live in Juneau, AK. I've been in SE Alaska for 6 years. I value the Tongass for the salmon streams, the bears who depend on the salmon for sustenance, and the wildlife and trails in the Tongass. I am writing a comment on the Alaska Roadless Rule DEIS because I am concerned with how the Rule and the proposed full exemption will impact my the peace and solitude I find in nature, recreating, foraging for wild foods, the status of the Tongass as a national and global treasure, the forest's ability to sequester carbon and mitigate climate change impacts, the conservation of resources for future generations .

Out of the alternatives described in the AKRR DEIS I support alternative 1: no action. It protects important fish and wildlife habitat from clearcutting and roadbuilding. I depend on roadless areas in the Tongass National Forest for healthy fish habitat, foraging and gathering wild foods, recreating and enjoying nature, carbon sequestration and local climate change mitigation, viewing wildlife, keeping public lands wild for future generations, fiscal responsibility and saving taxpayer dollars . A full exemption does not protect these values, nor does it effectively balance economic development and conservation of roadless area characteristics. A full exemption from the Roadless Rule and increased logging and roadbuilding will negatively impact the Tongass and what I and many others use and depend on the forest to provide for us.

The Roadless areas on the Tongass that are especially important to me are those on or around all of the inventoried roadless areas on the Tongass. I want the roadless areas in these locations to stay in roadless status in any alternative selected by the Forest Service, and be managed to provide for the uses and activities I listed above. It is important to me that the T77 and the TNC conservation priority areas retain their roadless protections.

I do not support the Forest Services preferred alternative of a full exemption. A full exemption is not in the interests of Southeast Alaskans who live in and use the Tongass National Forest, because It discounts the voices of many Southeast Alaskans that spoke out in support of a no action alternative, and it will change the forest and all that depends on it in ways that are not sustainable, and that cannot be recovered from.. The State of Alaska says that a full exemption is needed for rural economic development opportunities. However, a full exemption would not help create more rural economic development opportunities, it would instead harm our existing rural economies that are based on the visitor industry and commercial fishing industry.

It would further harm rural economic opportunities because pursuing the same outdated economic model of old growth clearcut harvesting for export stifles innovation and possibility in other sectors, such as mariculture, sustainable young growth harvest, and rural agriculture. If the Forest Service wants to support rural economic development, they should devote resources to support our fishing and visitor industries invest in creating and maintaining recreation infrastructure improve and streamline existing permitting processes for important community projects rather than rehashing old conflicts.

Protect our forest!

I urge the Forest Service to prioritize the voices of Southeast Alaskans over those of our political representation and corporate interests. Choosing a full exemption will not create a long lasting, durable solution for roadless areas on the Tongass. It will only increase the legal challenges, uncertainty for businesses, and conflict on the Tongass going forward.

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Elissa
Last name: Whittleton
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Dear USFS and those associated with changing the current roadless protections in effect for the Tongass National Rainforest... Please do not remove the roadless rule regarding the Tongass. Please maintain those protections currently in place. Not only is it a unique and ecological jewel, it's presence in our world helps to combat the co2 problem we are now faced with. At a time when rainforests are suffering all over the world, and humanity, in turn, are suffering connected to those effects, please hold the line and keep these travesties from expanding. I have visited the Tongass numberous times, there is nothing like it to take it's place. Someday those who strove to protect it will be thanked by future generations. Again I state, please take no action and maintain the protections currently in place. Thank you.

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Amy
Last name: Whitworth
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Amy Whitworth and I live in Portland, Oregon.

If we don't have clean air, no amount of financial wealth will support us. It's crucial to life and weakening current protections is foolhardy and dangerous. Be responsible and protect our air at all costs.

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, Amy Whitworth

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Maria
Last name: Whitworth
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, Maria Whitworth

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Maria
Last name: Whitworth
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, Maria Whitworth

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Robert
Last name: Whitworth
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
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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, Robert Whitworth

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 1/1/0001 12:00:00 AM
First name: Max
Last name: Wholey
Organization:
Title:
Comments:

Dear Secretary Perdue,

I live and work on the lands and waters of the Tongass National Forest. The health of the Tongass National Forest is critical to sustaining my way of life in this rugged region. From hunting and fishing, to hiking and camping, to our tourism and commercial fishing-based economies, we rely on the intact habitat that the roadless areas of the Tongass contain. That is why it is important to me that the 2001 Roadless Rule remain in place on the Tongass National Forest. A no-action alternative is the best option for Southeast Alaska.

Prioritizing one antiquated industry over private sectors is bad business, and bad for Southeast Alaska. I support the Tongass Transition and I would like the Forest Service to continue phasing out old growth clearcutting. Please prioritize conservation of the T77 and TNC conservation priority areas in any new Alaska Roadless Rule. This forest is a salmon forest, and the Forest Service should focus on restoring degraded watersheds and fish streams.

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Max
Last name: Wholey
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC1147

Dear Secretary Perdue,

I live and work on the lands and waters of the Tongass National Forest. The health of the Tongass National Forest is critical to sustaining my way of life in this rugged region. From hunting and fishing, to hiking and camping, to our tourism and commercial fishing-based economies, we rely on the intact habitat that the roadless areas of the Tongass contain. That is why it is important to me that the 2001 Roadless Rule remain in place on the Tongass National Forest. A no-action alternative is the best option for Southeast Alaska.

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Last name: Wholey
Organization:
Title:
Comments:

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First name: Max
Last name: Wholey
Organization:
Title:
Comments:

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Last name: Wholey
Organization:
Title:
Comments:

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Prioritizing one antiquated industry over private sectors is bad business, and bad for Southeast Alaska. I support the Tongass Transition and I would like the Forest Service to continue phasing out old growth clearcutting. Please prioritize conservation of the T77 and TNC conservation priority areas in any new Alaska Roadless Rule. This forest is a salmon forest, and the Forest Service should focus on restoring degraded watersheds and fish streams.

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: adrian
Last name: whorton
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is adrian whorton and I live in Seattle, Washington.

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, adrian whorton

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Barbara
Last name: Whyman
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Barbara Whyman and I live in Ventura, 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, Barbara Whyman

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: gregory
Last name: whynott
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is gregory whynott and I live in Rochester, New Hampshire.

This destruction will cost Trump the election!

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.

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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, gregory whynott

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/6/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Kristen
Last name: Whyte
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Kristen Whyte and I live in Washington, DC. I am writing a comment on the Alaska Roadless Rule DEIS because I am concerned with how the Rule and the proposed full exemption will affect the Tongass National Forest and the Chugach National Forest.

Uninterrupted natural land is becoming more and more scarce by the day, and it is all due to human destruction. I understand the monetary value behind building roads and logging trees in the Tongass National Forest, however we can't breathe money. We can't eat money. We need the natural landscape to create the oxygen we breathe, to take away the toxic gases we create, and to harbor the food we eat. Continuing destruction of natural land will take away the precious resources we have until we kill ourselves.

I urge the Forest Service to select Alternative 1, the no action alternative, for the final decision on the Alaska Roadless Rule. This alternative protects the inventoried roadless areas in Alaska that are full of pristine wilderness and provide important fish and wildlife habitat, and already allows for important community and economic development projects. As an American citizen, I value the Tongass National Forest and the Chugach National Forest for its status as America's best natural solution to climate change and its sequestering of millions of metric tons of carbon and mitigating climate change, its wild salmon populations and the world-class fishing opportunities, its huge swaths of intact ecosystems and all the biodiversity it contains, its status as the largest intact temperate rainforest in the world, the recreational opportunities it provides, the high density of incredible wildlife it contains, to keep public lands wild for future generations, its status as a national and global treasure, the lifestyles of the indigenous communities that the forest supports. A full exemption does not protect these priorities, nor does it effectively balance economic development with the countless other benefits provided by roadless areas. I would like the Forest Service to manage roadless areas for low-impact recreation (camping, hiking, hunting, foraging, etc), passive/active watershed restoration (stream and habitat) to improve/maintain roadless characteristics (culvert removal/replacement, improve fish passage, wildlife thinning, etc). It is important to me that high-value intact habitat including the T77 watersheds and the TNC conservation priority areas retain their roadless protections in any alternative selected.

The Forest Service is wasting taxpayers' valuable time and money by trying to prop up a failing timber industry in Southeast Alaska. The nonpartisan, independent taxpayer watchdog Taxpayers for Common Sense reported that the Tongass timber program has losses of over $600 million of taxpayers money in the past 20 years. I would rather see my taxpayer dollars used to restore salmon habitat that was hurt by past logging practices, perform restorative actions that support wildlife populations on previously degraded landscapes that support wildlife populations, establish the economic value of the carbon stored in the Tongass. We need to stop subsidizing the clearcutting of old growth on the Tongass through taxpayer funded roadbuilding. If a full exemption were chosen, it would not create opportunities and would instead prioritize the special interests of one industry over the interests of the entire American public.

The Tongass is Americas homegrown natural solution to climate change. The forest sequesters 8% of the carbon stored in forests throughout the contiguous US states, some 3 billion metric tons of it. We must take action to mitigate and adapt to climate change, and maintaining the Tongass in a roadless state is critical for a sustainable future.

I urge the Forest Service to listen to the voices of the American people and prioritize them over corporate interests. The Forest Service should strengthen public involvement in developing land management policy and focus on broadly supported work rather than allowing special corporate interests to guide policy changes. Attempting to exempt inventoried roadless areas on the Chugach National Forest from the Alaska Roadless Rule adds further insult to injury, and this proposal has not received any sufficient environmental impact analysis or public input. Choosing a full exemption will not create a long lasting, durable solution for roadless areas in Alaska it will only increase the legal challenges, uncertainty for businesses, and conflict over these forests going forward.

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Den
Last name: Wichar
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I 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, Den Wichar

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Den
Last name: Wichar
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I support No-Action Alternative for Draft Environmental Impact Statement on proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for Tongass National Forest.

Trumps plan is yet another attack on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities. We simply cannot let it disappear.

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 economic and ecological health of Southeast Alaska. I urge you to keep 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 national forest roadless areas. Roadless Rule is one of the smartest and most popular land management policies 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. Value of Roadless Rule in preventing environmentally damaging and economically wasteful road-building and logging is particularly relevant in Tongass, where logging costs vastly exceed timber revenues and require unconscionable taxpayer subsidies.

Regards, Den Wichar

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/5/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Scott
Last name: Wichern
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): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Debi
Last name: Wichman
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, Debi Wichman

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Michael
Last name: Wichman
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Michael Wichman and I live in New Haven, Connecticut.

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, Michael Wichman

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/10/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Kim
Last name: Wick
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Kim Wick and I live in Buxton, Oregon.

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.

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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, Kim Wick

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Kristen
Last name: Wick
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Kristen Wick and I live in Pleasant Hill, California.

Climate change is a critical issue for me and protecting the Tongass National Forest in Alaska is, therefore, of great concern to me. Please listen to our concerns about the healthy future of our planet and all of us who share it.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.

Regards, Kristen Wick

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Rachel
Last name: Wickart
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, Rachel Wickart

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/18/2019 3:23:35 PM
First name: Blanche
Last name: Wicke
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Comments to oppose modification to the Roadless Rule

Dear U.S. Forest Service,

The Roadless Rule helps protect old-growth habitat for birds like the Prince of Wales Spruce Grouse and Northern Goshawk, as well as for mammals like wolves and deer. Opening roadless areas to more logging and roads will fragment the forest and eliminate more of the big old trees that these animals rely on.

Yet, all of the action alternatives in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement allow more roadbuilding and logging across the Tongass National Forest. Logging roads and timber operations cost tens of millions of taxpayer dollars every year, with zero return on investment. Meanwhile, these destructive activities degrade the naturally sustainable wealth of salmon, wildlife watching, and tourism opportunities.

It is time to stop opening more and more acres to the timber industry and instead bolster protections to the old-growth forests and wild areas on the Tongass. I urge you to select the "No Action" Alternative (Alternative 1) and allow the Roadless Rule to remain intact on the Tongass National Forest.

Sincerely,
Blanche Wicke
Bloomfield Hills, MI 48302

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/10/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: David
Last name: Wicker
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is David Wicker and I live in Jacksonville, Florida.

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, David Wicker

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Jennifer
Last name: Wicker
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Jennifer Wicker and I live in Roswell, Georgia.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Jennifer Wicker

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/22/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Veronica
Last name: Wicker
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Veronica Wicker and I live in Noel, Missouri.
The age of massive, unsustainable resource consumption needs to go extinct.
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.
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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Veronica Wicker

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Joan
Last name: Wickham
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Joan Wickham and I live in Pasadena, 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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Joan Wickham

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Elliot
Last name: Wicks
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, Elliot Wicks

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/10/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: James
Last name: Wicks
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): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Shelley
Last name: Wickstrom
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC6023

Dear U.S. Forest Service:

The Roadless Rule has been instrumental in conserving the Tongass National Forest and in supporting its fish and wildlife-based industries for more than 20 years. *Please uphold the Rule's protections for important fish and wildlife areas, including the Tongass 77.* [Text bolded for emphasis] 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 are protection for habitat that our irreplaceable fish and wildlife populations need to survive.* [Text bolded for emphasis]

Customize your comment by listing reasons the Tongass is important to you or why you value Alaska Roadless areas: (ex: specific locations you recreate, activities you do, or why you value fish & wildlife) [Text italicized]

Sincerely, [Signature]

Would you like to volunteer with TU Alaska to Help America's Salmon Forest?

Yes No

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Mary
Last name: Wickwire
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Mary Wickwire and I live in Seattle, Washington.

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, Mary Wickwire

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Jason
Last name: Widegren
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Jason Widegren and I live in Littleton, Colorado.

How can we ever convince Brazil and other South American countries to stop cutting down the Amazon when WE ARE BUSY CUTTING DOWN WHAT LITTLE RAINFOREST WE HAVE LEFT? For well being of our own children, we need to save the Tongass.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.

Regards, Jason Widegren

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/21/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Davin
Last name: Widgerow
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
The Tongass is a truly special and unique place, which should be off-limits to logging and other industrial activities. I am opposed to any efforts to repeal the Roadless Rule. The Forest is not only a pristine and dynamic ecosystem, but it is the cultural heritage of many of our countrys first peoples. Moreover, it remains one of the last temperate rain forests in the world, and one of Americas precious - and endangered - wilderness areas. I implore you to think of the future of our country, its varied ecosystems, the ethic of conservation, the legacy of our forebears, and the inheritance we owe our children. Keep the roadless rule intact.

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Morgan
Last name: Widhalm
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, Morgan Widhalm

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: John
Last name: Widman
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC5207

U.S. Forest Service Alaska Roadless Rule Committee:

I just returned from a trip to the Klamath River in Northern California. Once you have actually visited a wild and scenic river, you immediately appreciate why it is so important to safe guard these places. Once roads are introduced, it will be very difficult to unring the bell. Our environment is at a critical state, please save the areas that we have, the salmon and steelhead are a vital resource and an indicator for the health of many ecosystem.

The Roadless Rule has been instrumental in conserving the Chugach and Tongass National Forest and in supporting its fish and wildlife-based industries for more than 20 years. Please uphold the Rule's protections for important fish and wildlife areas, including the Tongass 77. 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,

John Widman

Arden, NC 28704

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/5/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Rich
Last name: Widman
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): 11/8/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Martha
Last name: Widmann
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Martha Widmann and I live in Three Rivers, California.

This is so wrong, this whole idea is in direct opposition to what the intent is for public land use. We need to preserve these lands for future generations.

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, Martha Widmann

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Paula
Last name: Widmer
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, Paula Widmer

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/10/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Allan
Last name: Widmeyer
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Allan Widmeyer and I live in Ashland, Oregon.

Lets leave a better environment for out children.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Allan Widmeyer

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Teri
Last name: Widmyer
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC1017

Dear Chief Christiansen,

I am a visitor to the lands and waters of Southeast Alaska. The Tongass National Forest is a large part of why I am here. Visitors like me come to witness the vast, beautiful stands of old-growth trees that can't be found on such a scale anywhere else in the United States. We come to crew on commercial fishing boats. We come to hunt, fish and hike in America's largest National Forest. That is why it is important to me that the 2001 Roadless Rule remain in place on the Tongass National Forest. A no-action alternative is the best option for Alaskans and Americans.

I support the Tongass Transition and I would like the Forest Service to continue phasing out old growth clearcutting. This forest is a salmon forest, and the Forest Service should focus on restoring degraded watersheds and fish streams. Please prioritize conservation of the T77 and TNC conservation priority areas in any new Alaska Roadless Rule. Tourism and commercial fishing are at the heart of Southeast's economy, not the antiquated timber industry.

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Jane
Last name: Widseth
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, Jane Widseth

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/11/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Kahler
Last name: Wiebe
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): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: SHARON
Last name: WIEBE
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is SHARON WIEBE and I live in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

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, SHARON WIEBE

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: T
Last name: Wiecezak
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is T Wiecezak and I live in New Hyde Park, New York.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, T Wiecezak

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Kathleen
Last name: Wiechman
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Kathleen Wiechman and I live in Lincoln, Nebraska.

The Tongass Forest, a RARE temperate rainforest, it stores carbon in it's CENTURY OLD GROWTH TREES.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Kathleen Wiechman

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Detlef
Last name: Wieck
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Detlef Wieck and I live in Friday Harbor, Washington.

Saving this forest is also saving the planet.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Detlef Wieck

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/11/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Jude
Last name: Wiedel
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.
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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): 12/12/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Luke
Last name: Wiedel
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.
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Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Sarah
Last name: Wiedel
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Sarah Wiedel and I live in Chicago, Illinois.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Sarah Wiedel

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/23/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Anna
Last name: Wieder
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Anna Wieder and I live in New York, New York.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Anna Wieder

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Randal
Last name: Wiedmaier
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Randal Wiedmaier and I live in Portland, Oregon.

Stop the Madness

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Randal Wiedmaier

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Jerilou
Last name: Wiedmeyer
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Jerilou Wiedmeyer and I live in West Bend, Wisconsin.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Jerilou Wiedmeyer

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Linda
Last name: Wiegand
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.

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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, Linda Wiegand

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First name: Linda
Last name: Wiegand
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
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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, Linda Wiegand

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Ella
Last name: Wiegers
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, Ella Wiegers

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: marie
Last name: wiegert
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is marie wiegert and I live in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

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, marie wiegert

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Reed
Last name: Wiegleb
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC1440

Dear Chief Christiansen,

I live and work on the lands and waters of the Tongass National Forest. The health of the Tongass National Forest is critical to sustaining my way of life in this rugged region. From hunting and fishing, to hiking and camping, to our tourism and commercial fishing-based economies, we rely on the intact habitat that the roadless areas of the Tongass contain. That is why it is important to me that the 2001 Roadless Rule remain in place on the Tongass National Forest. A no-action alternative is the best option for Southeast Alaska.

Prioritizing one antiquated industry over private sectors is bad business, and bad for Southeast Alaska. I support the Tongass Transition and I would like the Forest Service to continue phasing out old growth clearcutting. Please prioritize conservation of the T77 and TNC conservation priority areas in any new Alaska Roadless Rule. This forest is a salmon forest, and the Forest Service should focus on restoring degraded watersheds and fish streams.

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/5/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Reid
Last name: Wiegleb
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Reid Wiegleb and I live in Sitka, AK. I am writing a comment on the Alaska Roadless Rule DEIS because I am concerned with how the Rule and the proposed full exemption will affect the Tongass National Forest and the Chugach National Forest.

The Tongass, in many ways, is the same as it was eons ago. Inherently, that fact alone carries value. The effort that it takes to get to many of the places in the Tongass is part of what makes it special. Essentially what I am trying to say is that there are places that we as humans simply don't need to mess with. The Tongass is a place that we still have the ability to protect from undue infringement.

I urge the Forest Service to select Alternative 1, the no action alternative, for the final decision on the Alaska Roadless Rule. This alternative protects the inventoried roadless areas in Alaska that are full of pristine wilderness and provide important fish and wildlife habitat, and already allows for important community and economic development projects. As an American citizen, I value the Tongass National Forest and the Chugach National Forest for its status as America's best natural solution to climate change and its sequestering of millions of metric tons of carbon and mitigating climate change, its wild salmon populations and the world-class fishing opportunities, its huge swaths of intact ecosystems and all the biodiversity it contains, its status as the largest intact temperate rainforest in the world, the recreational opportunities it provides, the high density of incredible wildlife it contains, to keep public lands wild for future generations, the lifestyles of the indigenous communities that the forest supports. A full exemption does not protect these priorities, nor does it effectively balance economic development with the countless other benefits provided by roadless areas. I would like the Forest Service to manage roadless areas for low-impact recreation (camping, hiking, hunting, foraging, etc), medium-impact recreation (FS cabins, trails, mooring buoys, 3-sided shelters). It is important to me that high-value intact habitat including the T77 watersheds and the TNC conservation priority areas retain their roadless protections in any alternative selected.

The Forest Service is wasting taxpayers' valuable time and money by trying to prop up a failing timber industry in Southeast Alaska. The nonpartisan, independent taxpayer watchdog Taxpayers for Common Sense reported that the Tongass timber program has losses of over $600 million of taxpayers money in the past 20 years. I would rather see my taxpayer dollars used to restore salmon habitat that was hurt by past logging practices, perform restorative actions that support wildlife populations on previously degraded landscapes that support wildlife populations, develop more recreational opportunities, like trails and cabins, support small-scale, sustainable logging, establish the economic value of the carbon stored in the Tongass. We need to stop subsidizing the clearcutting of old growth on the Tongass through taxpayer funded roadbuilding. If a full exemption were chosen, it would not create opportunities and would instead prioritize the special interests of one industry over the interests of the entire American public.

The Tongass is Americas homegrown natural solution to climate change. The forest sequesters 8% of the carbon stored in forests throughout the contiguous US states, some 3 billion metric tons of it. We must take action to mitigate and adapt to climate change, and maintaining the Tongass in a roadless state is critical for a sustainable future.

I urge the Forest Service to listen to the voices of the American people and prioritize them over corporate interests. The Forest Service should strengthen public involvement in developing land management policy and

focus on broadly supported work rather than allowing special corporate interests to guide policy changes. Attempting to exempt inventoried roadless areas on the Chugach National Forest from the Alaska Roadless Rule adds further insult to injury, and this proposal has not received any sufficient environmental impact analysis or public input. Choosing a full exemption will not create a long lasting, durable solution for roadless areas in Alaska it will only increase the legal challenges, uncertainty for businesses, and conflict over these forests going forward.

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Rosemarie
Last name: Wiegman
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Rosemarie Wiegman and I live in Tacoma, Washington.

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, Rosemarie Wiegman

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/14/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Sherri
Last name: Wiegman
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Keep 'Roadless Rule' Protections for the Tongass National Forest

Dear U.S. Forest Service,

I am 65 years old. A retiree from a prosecutor's office.

Unfortunately, I know all too well the blarney that flows from governmental offices. Therefore I am going to get straight to the point.

I very strongly oppose the Forest Service's plan to eliminate "Roadless Rule" protections for the Tongass National Forest and implore you to select the "no action" alternative instead.

What the Forest Service is proposing is irresponsible, short-sighted and would be an environmental tragedy of monumental proportions. I do no need to tell you, if you know anything at all about what happens whens trees are cut down and rain washes the topsoil into the waterways, which then affects fish and other creatures that rely on the water supply being clean.

I cannot white wash or put perfume on the current proposal. It stinks and should not go forward. If I have to tell you about how destructive it would be to eliminate protections for the Tongass you do not deserve your job.

Your proposal to open the door to clearcutting and bulldozing is irresponsible and fundamentally threatens these values. The Tongass belongs to all Americans and should not be sacrificed to the timber industry.

What also belongs to all Americans is the Chugach National Forest. Opening up the Chugach would simply be a backdoor repeal of the 2001 Roadless Rule.

To sum it all up, select the "no action" alternative to maintain "Roadless Rule" protections for the Tongass and Chugach.

Sincerely,

Sherri Wiegman

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/14/2019 6:09:36 AM
First name: Sherri
Last name: Wiegman
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Keep 'Roadless Rule' Protections for the Tongass National Forest

Dear U.S. Forest Service,

I am 65 years old. A retiree from a prosecutor's office.
Unfortunately, I know all too well the blarney that flows from governmental offices. Therefore I am going to get straight to the point.

I very strongly oppose the Forest Service's plan to eliminate "Roadless Rule" protections for the Tongass National Forest and implore you to select the "no action" alternative instead.

What the Forest Service is proposing is irresponsible, short-sighted and would be an environmental tragedy of monumental proportions. I do no need to tell you, if you know anything at all about what happens whens trees are cut down and rain washes the topsoil into the waterways, which then affects fish and other creatures that rely on the water supply being clean.

I cannot white wash or put perfume on the current proposal. It stinks and should not go forward. If I have to tell you about how destructive it would be to eliminate protections for the Tongass you do not deserve your job.

Your proposal to open the door to clearcutting and bulldozing is irresponsible and fundamentally threatens these values. The Tongass belongs to all Americans and should not be sacrificed to the timber industry.

What also belongs to all Americans is the Chugach National Forest. Opening up the Chugach would simply be a backdoor repeal of the 2001 Roadless Rule.

To sum it all up, select the "no action" alternative to maintain "Roadless Rule" protections for the Tongass and Chugach.

Sincerely,
Sherri Wiegman
Cheboygan, MI 49721
stonewiegman@att.net

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/18/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Mira
Last name: Wiegmann
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
In the light of the current climate change crisis old growth forests have a critical role to play in carbon sequestering. Carbon sequestering replacement by logged and replanted forests does not match the performance of old growth forests. The process of road building and logging also puts carbon from fossil fuels into the environment. In addition, nearly all of America's old growth forests have already been harvested. We need to preserve the small remanent that remains as a precious heritage.

The Tongas National Forest is also home to endangered species that need continued protection. While the state of Alaska may desire the temporary benefit of logging and adding recreational facilities in this forest, the long term costs of such action for the future of the country and our planet far outweigh fleeting economic gains. Roadless Rule protection should be continued for Tongass. It is the best plan for long term environmental as well as economic benefits for Alaska and the American people who jointly own National Forest Land.

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/10/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Richard
Last name: Wiegmann
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Richard Wiegmann and I live in Portland, Oregon.

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, Richard Wiegmann

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Roseamae
Last name: Wiekman
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC4995

Dear U.S. Forest Service,

CC: Alaska Congressional Delegation and Federal Administration

I support the no-action alternative to leave the 2001 Roadless Rule in place on the Tongass National Forest. We must continue to phase out old-growth clear-cut logging and instead prioritize restoring degraded watersheds and fish streams that contribute to the growing fisheries and tourism-based economies of Southeast. To that end, please conserve the Tongass 77 and TNC priority areas in the final Roadless Rule.

Sincerely,

Comments: *(Eg: list locations you recreate, or why you value Tongass fish & wildlife)* [Text italicized for emphasis]

[Box unchecked] I would like to get more involved in the campaign!

*By taking this action, you are consenting to receive future communications via phone, text message, email, or mail from Sitka Conservation Society and its partners working to protect the Tongass. * [Text italicized for emphasis]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/5/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Andrew
Last name: Wieland
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): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Martin
Last name: Wieland
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Martin Wieland and I live in Sarasota, Florida.

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, Martin Wieland

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/13/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Jacob
Last name: Wieliczkiewicz
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC571

Dear Secretary Perdue and Senator Murkowski,

I am currently on a boat cruise off the coast of Kruzof Island, near Baranof Island. On this cruise, I am exploring and learning about the natural habitat of this area that is so special to residents of Sitka like me.

Only 10 miles west of Sitka, Kruzof is widely used as a place for locals to fish, hunt, forage and recreate. From Sea Lion Bay to Shelikof, North Beach to Shoals Point, the Forest Service manages extensive recreation infrastructure such as cabins, trails, and the existing road system for our enjoyment. Sitka black-tailed deer are plentiful, as are chum and pink salmon that run through the numerous stream systems on the island. This island contains productive, intact fish habitat, with three Tongass 77 and four TNC 'conservation priority areas' identified on the island. Mt. Edgecumbe volcano is an incredible day hike, and only a piece of the island's fascinating geologic activity.

Kruzof is prolific and peaceful. We are incredibly lucky to have such a place to work and play so close to town, and many of us visit Kruzof often. I value Kruzof island because:

a thing is right when it tends to preserve the beauty, integrity & stability of a biotic community. It is wrong when it tends otherwise - A. Leopold

Currently, Kruzof Island is protected from old-growth clearcutting and road building under the 2001 Roadless Rule. As it stands, the 2001 Roadless Rule safeguards our recreation and subsistence activities on Kruzof. *It is important to me that the 2001 Roadless Rule remains in place on Kruzof Island, and throughout the Tongass National Forest.* [text bolded for emphasis] Opening up this area to more clearcutting and roadbuilding will jeopardize my way of life, and will sacrifice the spirit of Sitka that brings so many people to this special place. I do not want to see the 2001 Roadless Rule repealed on Kruzof, or anywhere else in the Tongass. Please protect this land for future generations to enjoy in perpetuity.

Sincerely, Jacob Wieliczkiewicz

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Sally
Last name: Wieling
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is [Sally Jo Wieling and I live in Holland, Mi 49424
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, Sally Wieling

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/10/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Randy
Last name: Wielkie
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): 12/13/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: John
Last name: Wiener
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Alaska Roadless Rulemaking #54511

Roadless Rulemaking,

RE: Alaska Roadless DEIS Comment

Dear Secretary Perdue:

This endless attack on wilderness and roadless area was the first thing I worked on after law school. You are not the first, but you may be the worst, speaking as a student of sustainability for agriculture.

The Pebble nightmare, and continuing disregard for coastal villages are part of your legacy. Can you imagine that your grandchildren will not change their names?

I do want to thank the real staff that keeps some of the wheels turning, where they still exist. The destruction of the Economic Research Service makes the survivors even more important.

The No-Action alternative is the only sane action as the extremes of weather reflect climate change. You can believe that 2 and 2 make 3 but it is not true. Further, the roadless area protections are critical for many reasons, including the need for intact parts of the ecology, needed for adaptation and reserves of biota.

John Wiener

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Margaret
Last name: Wiener
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, Margaret Wiener

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Margaret
Last name: Wiener
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 as well as the planetary web of life. 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 and the planet as a whole. 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, Margaret Wiener

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Wendy
Last name: Wiener
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Wendy Wiener and I live in Apache Junction, Arizona.

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, Wendy Wiener

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/10/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Marilyn
Last name: Wienk
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Marilyn Wienk and I live in Rochester, New York.

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, Marilyn Wienk

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Rod
Last name: Wiens
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Rod Wiens and I live in Kuna, Idaho.

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, Rod Wiens

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Beth
Last name: Wier
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Beth Wier and I live in Boise, Idaho.

Please do not desiccate this pristine beauty of Alaska!!

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Beth Wier

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Carley
Last name: Wier
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC6020

Dear U.S. Forest Service:

The Roadless Rule has been instrumental in conserving the Tongass National Forest and in supporting its fish and wildlife-based industries for more than 20 years. *Please uphold the Rule's protections for important fish and wildlife areas, including the Tongass 77.* [Text bolded for emphasis] 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 are protection for habitat that our irreplaceable fish and wildlife populations need to survive.* [Text bolded for emphasis]

Customize your comment by listing reasons the Tongass is important to you or why you value Alaska Roadless areas: (ex: specific locations you recreate, activities you do, or why you value fish & wildlife) [Text italicized]

Sincerely,

Would you like to volunteer with TU Alaska to Help America's Salmon Forest?

Yes No

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/23/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Noel
Last name: Wier
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Because I work as a nurse helping women and children, I cannot stand by and allow heedless destruction of a vital ecosystem. An ecosystem that sustains and nurtures vast numbers of creatures by remaining mostly intact. As a tax payer of the United States I say NO!

No to changing the roadless rule in the Tongass

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: John
Last name: Wiercioch
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is John Wiercioch and I live in Roanoke, Virginia.

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.

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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, John Wiercioch

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/20/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Edward
Last name: Wiernicki
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
No to logging the Tongass National Forest.

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Jess
Last name: Wiersma
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Jess Wiersma and I live in Fergus Falls, Minnesota.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Jess Wiersma

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Henry
Last name: wierzbicki
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, Henry wierzbicki

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Judith
Last name: Wierzbowski
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Judith Wierzbowski and I live in Glen Burnie, Maryland.

We need to keep this forest intact to help offset climate change! Whether you admit it or continue to lie, climate change is here and now. If we continue to use fossil fuels and degrade the environment, it will get even worse! Wise up - don't you care about your children or their children's future?

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.

Regards, Judith Wierzbowski

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Robert
Last name: Wieschowski
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.

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Regards, Robert Wieschowski

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Christine
Last name: Wiese
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Christine Wiese and I live in Asheville, North Carolina.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Christine Wiese

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/10/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Katherine
Last name: Wiese
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Katherine Wiese and I live in Carmel Valley, 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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Katherine Wiese

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Carl
Last name: Wiesepape
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): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Joseph
Last name: Wiesner
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Joseph Wiesner and I live in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

"It is horrifying that we have to fight our own government to save the environment."-Ansel Adams

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Joseph Wiesner

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Jo
Last name: Wiest
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Jo Wiest and I live in Largo, Florida.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Jo Wiest

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Stefan
Last name: Wietek
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Stefan Wietek and I live in Boston, Massachusetts.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Stefan Wietek

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Lauren
Last name: Wiethop
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, Lauren Wiethop

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Alice
Last name: Wieting
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Alice Wieting and I live in Burlington, North Carolina.

Our health before your pockets.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Alice Wieting

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/7/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Christian
Last name: Wietsma
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): 12/12/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Christian
Last name: Wietsma
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.
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Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 1/1/0001 12:00:00 AM
First name: David
Last name: Wiezorek
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
3974

U.S. Forest Service Alaska Roadless Rule
Comment Period:

Comment Period Alaska Roadless Rule:

I am writing in support of the 'no action' alternative to leave the Roadless Rule unchanged in Alaska. I am concerned that changes to the rule would lead to greatly expand clear-cut logging of old growth timber and costly road building in undeveloped, wild areas of both the Tongass and Chugach Forests. These activities increase sedimentation, hurt water quality, often block salmon migration, and add to an already large backlog of needed road maintenance and restoration.
Our fisheries and wild forests are critical to the economy of Alaska. To grow these sectors of our economy, we need intact habitat. Please leave the Alaska Roadless Rule in place.

Sincerely,
David Wiezorek
Holt, MI 48842

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: David
Last name: Wiezorek
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC3974

U.S. Forest Service Alaska Roadless Rule

Comment Period:

Comment Period Alaska Roadless Rule:

I am writing in support of the 'no action' alternative to leave the Roadless Rule unchanged in Alaska. I am concerned that changes to the rule would lead to greatly expand clear-cut logging of old growth timber and costly road building in undeveloped, wild areas of both the Tongass and Chugach Forests. These activities increase sedimentation, hurt water quality, often block salmon migration, and add to an already large backlog of needed road maintenance and restoration.

Our fisheries and wild forests are critical to the economy of Alaska. To grow these sectors of our economy, we need intact habitat. Please leave the Alaska Roadless Rule in place.

Sincerely,

David Wiezorek

Holt, MI 48842

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Chaya
Last name: Wigder
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, Chaya Wigder

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Chaya
Last name: Wigder
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
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Regards, Chaya Wigder

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/10/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Jason
Last name: Wigen
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): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Suzanne
Last name: Wigen
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, Suzanne Wigen

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Deborah
Last name: Wiggin
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Deborah Wiggin and I live in Stratham, New Hampshire.

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, Deborah Wiggin

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/18/2019 7:41:59 PM
First name: James
Last name: Wiggins
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Comments to oppose modification to the Roadless Rule

Dear U.S. Forest Service,

The Roadless Rule helps protect old-growth habitat for birds like the Prince of Wales Spruce Grouse and Northern Goshawk, as well as for mammals like wolves and deer. Opening roadless areas to more logging and roads will fragment the forest and eliminate more of the big old trees that these animals rely on.

Yet, all of the action alternatives in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement allow more roadbuilding and logging across the Tongass National Forest. Logging roads and timber operations cost tens of millions of taxpayer dollars every year, with zero return on investment. Meanwhile, these destructive activities degrade the naturally sustainable wealth of salmon, wildlife watching, and tourism opportunities.

It is time to stop opening more and more acres to the timber industry and instead bolster protections to the old-growth forests and wild areas on the Tongass. I urge you to select the "No Action" Alternative (Alternative 1) and allow the Roadless Rule to remain intact on the Tongass National Forest.

Sincerely,
James Wiggins
Santa Barbara, CA 93110

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Jason
Last name: Wiggins
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Jason Wiggins and I live in West Orange, New Jersey.

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, Jason Wiggins

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Jennifer
Last name: Wiggs
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, Jennifer Wiggs

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Barbara
Last name: Wight
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Barbara Wight and I live in Edmonds, Washington.

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, Barbara Wight

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/16/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Christine
Last name: Wight
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Christine Wight and I live in Manchester-by-the-sea, Massachusetts.

No clear cutting for timber. Leave the lungs of the planet be. Relax. Constant growth is not intelligent. You're just scared. Calm down. Lots have had to change before you. It's time to change. No more clear cutting. Try becoming valuable by not doing that!

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, Christine Wight

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Kevin
Last name: Wightman
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Kevin Wightman and I live in Los Angeles, California.

FUCK TRUMP!!

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, Kevin Wightman

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/14/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Norma
Last name: WIghtman
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Comments to oppose modification to the Roadless Rule

Dear U.S. Forest Service,

I oppose opening roadless areas to more logging and roads. It will fragment the forest and eliminate more of the big old trees that birds like the Prince of Wales Spruce Grouse and Northern Goshawk need for nesting, as well as for mammals like wolves and deerthat rely onforests. Furthermore, intact, ancient forests are strongholds of climate resilience, and the Tongass is one of world's largest.

Yet, all of the action alternatives in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement allow more roadbuilding and logging across the Tongass National Forest. Logging roads and timber operations cost tens of millions of taxpayer dollars every year, with zero return on investment

It is time to stop opening more and more acres to the timber industry and instead bolster protections to the old-growth forests and wild areas on the Tongass. I urge you to select the "No Action" Alternative (Alternative 1) and allow the Roadless Rule to remain intact on the Tongass National Forest.

Sincerely,

Norma WIghtman

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Mary
Last name: Wiginton
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Mary Wiginton and I live in Kimberlin Hgt, Tennessee.
[@customField?4969
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, Mary Wiginton

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Eric
Last name: Wiig
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, Eric Wiig

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/10/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: David
Last name: Wiinikainen
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is David Wiinikainen and I live in Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida.

I believe that energy efficiency is crucial to improve the environment.

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, David Wiinikainen

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Sharon
Last name: Wikan
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am supporting alternative 6. I was born and raised in Petersburg. My family has lived here for over 100 years. We have all loved and taken care of our surroundings but we have supported a diversified economy. We can not continue to live in a prosperous community without work. In the 60's Petersburg was very diversified, before the logging industry was shut down. I personally don't want just fishing and tourism to run S.E. ALASKA. We need to diversify. We need access to hydropower, mining, alternative roads, etc. I am an environmentalist but I am not a Preservationist. I love my State but I truly believe we can protect our environment and utilize our land with good planning. I am very excited this has been moving forward after so many years. Thank you.

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/12/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Andrew
Last name: Wike
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): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Kevin
Last name: Wiker
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Kevin Wiker and I live in Phoenixville, Pennsylvania.

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, Kevin Wiker

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Vicki
Last name: Wiker
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Vicki Wiker and I live in San Clemente, 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, Vicki Wiker

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Danielle
Last name: Wikler
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Danielle Wikler and I live in Castro Valley, 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, Danielle Wikler

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/23/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Chantal
Last name: Wikstrom
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Do not change the Roadless Rule. Increased logging in the Tongass and it's watersheds will affect vital salmon runs that are important to Alaskans and the ecology of the area. If logging is allowed, it will decrease the biodiversity of the area, increase the potential for non-native invasive species, increase carbon emissions and affect water quality. Logging in this area is unsustainable, will cost millions of dollars and affect Alaskans as well as Canadians and further down the road, everyone else on the planet as well as it;s wildlife.

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Jennifer
Last name: Wilbanks
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC6084

Dear U.S. Forest Service:

The Roadless Rule has been instrumental in conserving the Tongass National Forest and in supporting its fish and wildlife-based industries for more than 20 years. *Please uphold the Rule's protections for important fish and wildlife areas, including the Tongass 77.* [Text bolded for emphasis] 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 are protection for habitat that our irreplaceable fish and wildlife populations need to survive.* [Text bolded for emphasis]

Customize your comment by listing reasons the Tongass is important to you or why you value Alaska Roadless areas: (ex: specific locations you recreate, activities you do, or why you value fish & wildlife) [Text italicized]

Sincerely,

Would you like to volunteer with TU Alaska to Help America's Salmon Forest?

Yes No

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Tom
Last name: Wilbanks
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Tom Wilbanks and I live in Dallas, Texas.

This forest is needed to help mitigate global warming.

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, Tom Wilbanks

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Charles
Last name: Wilber
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC5050

December 12, 2019

Charles E Wilber

[Phone number]

[email address]

Dear Forest Service Roadless Rule Planning Team,

I'm writing you to explain my strong support of the Roadless Rule as is! Please make no changes or alterations. Alertantive #1, No Action is the only option to maintain the ecological health of the forest and the economic health of the surrounding communities that depend on the Tongass for their livelihoods.

I'm a 40 year commercial fisherman residing in Sitka dependent on the Tongass to provide a healthy watershed to read juvenile salmon. The quality of habitat determines the health and quality of the resultant salmon run. Our family depends on healthy salmon runs for our economic liveihood. Nor only that, the Tongass also provides venison and outdoor recreation for our entire family.

For salmon habitat is everything! The majority of damage done to the Tongass by unsustainable road building and clear cutting during the period of industrial logging in the 60's and 70's has not yet been remediated. While hunting, I've observed first hand the damage done in numerous areas around Sitka. Starrigavan Valley, Nakwasina, St John the Baptist Bay, Fish Bay, Ushk Bay, Fick Cover, and Peril Staits are all examples of long term damage. Where logging has happened its still impossible to walk through the numerous clear cuts.

It baffles me why a lot of tax payer money would be spent trying to resurrect an archaic industry that gains short term profits by doing long term damage to the old growth forest!

I urge you to make no changes to the existing Roadless Rule. Don't endanger the forest and the existing economy of SE Alaska by trying to revive and industry that couldn't survive without massive taxpayer subsidies!

Thank you for your consideration,

[Signature]

Charles E Wilber

F/V Alexa K

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: heather
Last name: wilber
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is heather wilber and I live in Santa Cruz, California.

Public Health will suffer greatly if we continue to roll back anti-pollution legislation!!

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, heather wilber

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Lynn
Last name: Wilber
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC748

Dear Alaska Roadless Rule Planning Committee,

I live and work on the lands and waters of the Tongass National Forest. From hunting and fishing, to hiking and camping, to our tourism and commercial fishing-based economies, Southeast Alaskans rely on the intact habitat that the roadless areas of the Tongass National Forest contain. *That is why I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule.* [text bolded for emphasis]

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 strongly oppose any efforts to weaken protections for Roadless areas in the Tongass National Forest and the Chugach National Forest.

The Forest Service needs to continue phasing out old-growth clearcutting. Please prioritize conservation of the T77 and TNC conservation priority areas in any new Alaska Roadless Rule. The Forest Service should focus on restoring degraded watershed and fish streams and carbon sequestration.

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Michelle
Last name: Wilber
Organization: ACEP
Title:
Comments:
The Tongass NF should NOT be exempted from the roadless rule. Intact, unlogged forests are vital to protecting the valuable salmon and other subsistence resources of this area. They are also carbon sinks, provide a higher level of biodiversity, preserve habitat, stabilize slopes, and contain myriad other benefits on an already over-exploited planet. They are tourist attractions, and benefit Alaska and the US's economy in many ways, including providing valuable ecosystem services that are hard to account for in dollars (but please do try - including a evaluation of their worth as carbon sinks or forest carbon offset.)

Thanks.

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Stewart
Last name: Wilber
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Stewart Wilber and I live in San Francisco, California.
The national forests belong to We The People, not the rich. Do not allow them to pillage them with unsustainable logging. That rips me off!
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, Stewart Wilber

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/19/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Sue
Last name: Wilber
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
It is important that all peoples make every effort to protect and preserve our wilderness areas and bring more areas under protection to preserve our world.

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Anne
Last name: Wilbur
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
This is so important to me and to our climate! 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. Please reconsider this idea!
Regards, Anne Wilbur

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/24/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Lynn
Last name: Wilbur
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Lynn Wilbur and I live in Sitka, Alaska. I have been in SE Alaska nearly 30 years, I have lived overseas since moving to Alaska and have travelled numerous times to my home state in California. When I first moved to Alaska the timber industry was going broke, leaving in its wake vast swaths of clear cut areas that will take decades to recover. The 19th century preservationist John Muir warned of the consequences of unchecked resource extraction and development, and although many of his favorite places in California are forever lost to the development and destruction practices that occur to this day, the Tongass forest provides one of the last strongholds of nearly intact forested landscapes on the north American continent. That said, I rely on the Tongass forest for food, recreation, well being, and for my livelihood as a biologist and naturalist. I can guarantee that there are countless people all over the world that will and do pay to see this forest just for the fact that there are so few places like it left on Earth. We Alaskans have already spoken out in a great majority to save the Tongass as it is, with no action taken to the roadless rule, for generations to come. The position taken by our so-called "leaders" in the senate is purely a lie about jobs, and is based on the money that they receive from extractive industries. I value the forest mostly for its diversity and ecological economic value, whether it be dollars from tourism and healthy fisheries, to the fact that it provides us with clean air and clean watersheds, to the fact that it is our strongest ally in fighting climate change. I am writing a comment on the Alaska Roadless Rule DEIS because I am concerned with how the Rule and the proposed full exemption will impact my fishing, hunting, subsistence harvesting, foraging for wild foods, the peace and solitude I find in nature, recreating, practicing my culture, the status of the Tongass as a national and global treasure, the forest's ability to sequester carbon and mitigate climate change impacts, the conservation of resources for future generations .

Out of the alternatives described in the AKRR DEIS I support alternative 1: no action. The rule is working fine as it is by balancing the conservation of our fish and wildlife habitat with important development projects.. I depend on roadless areas in the Tongass National Forest for economic livelihood, healthy fish habitat, deer habitat and subsistence hunting, foraging and gathering wild foods, practicing my culture, recreating and enjoying nature, carbon sequestration and local climate change mitigation, viewing wildlife, keeping public lands wild for future generations, fiscal responsibility and saving taxpayer dollars . A full exemption does not protect these values, nor does it effectively balance economic development and conservation of roadless area characteristics. A full exemption from the Roadless Rule and increased logging and roadbuilding will negatively impact the Tongass and what I and many others use and depend on the forest to provide for us.

The Roadless areas on the Tongass that are especially important to me are those on or around Baranof Island, Chichagof Island, Admiralty Island, Kupreanof Island, Kuiu Island, Wrangell and Etolin Islands, all of the inventoried roadless areas on the Tongass. I want the roadless areas in these locations to stay in roadless status in any alternative selected by the Forest Service, and be managed to provide for the uses and activities I listed above. It is important to me that the T77 and the TNC conservation priority areas retain their roadless protections.

I do not support the Forest Services preferred alternative of a full exemption. A full exemption is not in the interests of Southeast Alaskans who live in and use the Tongass National Forest, due to the fact that a full exemption completely disregards the voices of the majority of Southeast Alaskans whom have already spoken out on this issue. The exemption is being rammed down our throats by a lawless president and an equally lawless governor, both of whom are facing removal from office, and by two cowardly and corrupt senators who see a chance to bestow a gift to the mining and extractive industries that fund their campaigns. The exemption is an outrageous and flagrant attempt to stifle the public's will at keeping the Tongass forest alive and healthy. We know that clear cutting damages our rivers and streams, which in turn damages our fisheries. We know that it costs far more to repair the damage from destructive resource extraction than to prevent it, and that there is

far more economic value in an intact healthy forest for the tourism industry and for the multitude of southeast Alaskans that rely on the forest for its intrinsic economic value. Why then would we want to waste thousands if not millions of dollars on an absolutely insane plan to clearcut, mine, and extract, with the likelihood that the products from the forest will be going overseas and will not, as it did not, benefit the local economy?. The State of Alaska says that a full exemption is needed for rural economic development opportunities. However, a full exemption would not help create more rural economic development opportunities, it would instead harm our existing rural economies that are based on the visitor industry and commercial fishing industry.

It would further harm rural economic opportunities because pursuing the same outdated economic model of old growth clearcut harvesting for export stifles innovation and possibility in other sectors, such as mariculture, sustainable young growth harvest, and rural agriculture. If the Forest Service wants to support rural economic development, they should devote resources to support our fishing and visitor industries.

I urge the Forest Service to prioritize the voices of Southeast Alaskans over those of our political representation and corporate interests. Choosing a full exemption will not create a long lasting, durable solution for roadless areas on the Tongass. It will only increase the legal challenges, uncertainty for businesses, and conflict on the Tongass going forward.

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/10/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Lynn
Last name: Wilbur
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Lynn Wilbur and I live in Sitka, Alaska.

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, Lynn Wilbur

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/11/2019 9:41:49 AM
First name: Lynn
Last name: Wilbur
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Lynn Wilbur and I live in Sitka, Alaska. 27 years, I live and work in the forest, my husband hunts fishes and I harvest from the forest. I value the forest for the ecosystem service it provides (soil quality, air quality) as well as the peace and serenity it provides. I am writing a comment on the Alaska Roadless Rule DEIS because I am concerned with how the Rule and the proposed full exemption will impact my foraging for wild foods, subsistence harvesting, hunting, fishing, the peace and solitude I find in nature, recreating, practicing my culture, the status of the Tongass as a national and global treasure, the forest's ability to sequester carbon and mitigate climate change impacts, the conservation of resources for future generations .

Out of the alternatives described in the AKRR DEIS I support alternative 1: no action. the rule is working fine as it is. I depend on roadless areas in the Tongass National Forest for healthy fish habitat, deer habitat and subsistence hunting, practicing my culture, foraging and gathering wild foods, economic livelihood, recreating and enjoying nature, carbon sequestration and local climate change mitigation, viewing wildlife, keeping public lands wild for future generations, fiscal responsibility and saving taxpayer dollars . A full exemption does not protect these values, nor does it effectively balance economic development and conservation of roadless area characteristics. A full exemption from the Roadless Rule and increased logging and roadbuilding will negatively impact the Tongass and what I and many others use and depend on the forest to provide for us.

The Roadless areas on the Tongass that are especially important to me are those on or around Chichagof Island, Admiralty Island, Baranof Island, Kuiu Island, all of the inventoried roadless areas on the Tongass. I want the roadless areas in these locations to stay in roadless status in any alternative selected by the Forest Service, and be managed to provide for low-impact recreation such as camping, hiking, hunting, and fishing medium-impact recreation development such as Forest Service cabins, trails, mooring buoys, and 3-sided shelters passive or active watershed restoration of salmon streams and wildlife habitat. It is important to me that the T77 and the TNC conservation priority areas retain their roadless protections.

I do not support the Forest Services preferred alternative of a full exemption. A full exemption is not in the interests of Southeast Alaskans who live in and use the Tongass National Forest, because This exemption is an effort by the dunleavy administration to extort the Tongass from the people who live and work here. We will not stand for dunleavy's hidden agenda and closed door meetings with tRump and his corporate buddies in the selling out of Alaska's natural heritage.. The State of Alaska says that a full exemption is needed for rural economic development opportunities. However, a full exemption would not help create more rural economic development opportunities, it would instead harm our existing rural economies that are based on the visitor industry and commercial fishing industry.

It would further harm rural economic opportunities because pursuing the same outdated economic model of old growth clearcut harvesting for export stifles innovation and possibility in other sectors, such as mariculture, sustainable young growth harvest, and rural agriculture. If the Forest Service wants to support rural economic development, they should devote resources to support our fishing and visitor industries invest in creating and maintaining recreation infrastructure improve and streamline existing permitting processes for important community projects rather than rehashing old conflicts.

I urge the Forest Service to prioritize the voices of Southeast Alaskans over those of our political representation and corporate interests. Choosing a full exemption will not create a long lasting, durable solution for roadless areas on the Tongass. It will only increase the legal challenges, uncertainty for businesses, and conflict on the Tongass going forward.

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Maren
Last name: Wilbur
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Maren Wilbur and I live in Cleveland Heights, Ohio.

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, Maren Wilbur

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Margaret
Last name: wilbur
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Margaret wilbur and I live in Harwich, Massachusetts.

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, Margaret wilbur

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Linda
Last name: Wilburn
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, Linda Wilburn

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Saul
Last name: Wilcher
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Saul Wilcher and I live in Trenton, New Jersey.

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, Saul Wilcher

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/24/2019 2:50:11 PM
First name: Lois
Last name: Wilcken
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Comments to oppose modification to the Roadless Rule

Dear U.S. Forest Service,

I am writing you about the Roadless Rule, a vital protection of old-growth habitat for invaluable birds like the Prince of Wales Spruce Grouse and Northern Goshawk, as well as for mammals like wolves and deer. Some areas must remain pristine for the sake of sustainability. Opening them to endless logging and roads will fragment the forest and eliminate more of the big old trees that these animals rely on. Furthermore, intact, ancient forests are strongholds of climate resilience, and the Tongass is one of world's largest.

Sadly, all of the action alternatives in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement allow more roadbuilding and logging across the Tongass National Forest. Logging roads and timber operations cost tens of millions of taxpayer dollars every year, with zero return on investment. Meanwhile, these destructive activities degrade the naturally sustainable wealth of salmon, wildlife watching, and tourism opportunities.

Together we must stop opening unlimited acreage to the timber industry. Let's instead bolster protections to the old-growth forests and wild areas on the Tongass. I urge you to select the "No Action" Alternative (Alternative 1) and allow the Roadless Rule to remain intact on the Tongass National Forest. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Lois Wilcken
Brooklyn, NY 11203

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Steven
Last name: Wilcott
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Steven Wilcott and I live in San Francisco, California.

Save our forests!

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, Steven Wilcott

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Ashley
Last name: Wilcox
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Ashley Wilcox and I live in Lahaina, Hawaii.

Please stop dumping treated sewage into our precious water for us and children!

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, Ashley Wilcox

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Barbara
Last name: Wilcox
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Barbara Wilcox and I live in Swartz Creek, Michigan.

Clear cutting will destroy this pristine area. Please DO NOT let clear cutting happen in this area!! Dont let corporations dictate what happens to OUR national forests. These areas MUST be protected for future generations to enjoy!!

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, Barbara Wilcox

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Carol
Last name: Wilcox
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, Carol Wilcox

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/11/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: David
Last name: Wilcox
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is David Wilcox and I live in Chicago, Illinois.

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, David Wilcox

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/10/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: David
Last name: Wilcox
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is David Wilcox and I live in Lombard, Illinois.

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, David Wilcox

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Duane
Last name: Wilcox
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Duane Wilcox and I live in Berkeley Heights, New Jersey.

We have to draw lines to preserve the earth as a place where humans, as well as all manner of life can survive. Protecting this forest should be one of those lines.

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, Duane Wilcox

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Fletcher
Last name: Wilcox
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC899

Dear Secretary Perdue,

I am a visitor to the lands and waters of Southeast Alaska. The Tongass National Forest is a large part of why I am here. Visitors like me come to witness the vast, beautiful stands of old-growth trees that can't be found on such a scale anywhere else in the United States. We come to crew on commercial fishing boats. We come to hunt, fish and hike in America's largest National Forest. That is why it is important to me that the 2001 Roadless Rule remain in place on the Tongass National Forest. A no-action alternative is the best option for Alaskans and Americans.

I support the Tongass Transition and I would like the Forest Service to continue phasing out old growth clearcutting. This forest is a salmon forest, and the Forest Service should focus on restoring degraded watersheds and fish streams. Please prioritize conservation of the T77 and TNC conservation priority areas in any new Alaska Roadless Rule. Tourism and commercial fishing are at the heart of Southeast's economy, not the antiquated timber industry.

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: James
Last name: Wilcox
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
As a trained and certified naturalist, 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, James Wilcox

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: James
Last name: Wilcox
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
As a trained and certified naturalist, 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, James Wilcox

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/24/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: James
Last name: Wilcox
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Please Protect the Tongass National Forest

Dear U.S. Forest Service,

I believe that the Forest Service's plan to eliminate "Roadless Rule" for the Tongass National Forest would result in great damage. Please select the "no action" alternative instead.

Eliminating the "Roadless Rule" would have a strongly negative effect on the diverse wildlife.

Logging its centuries-old trees would cause a huge release of carbon into the atmosphere. As a physicist with expertise in global warming, I know that this must be prevented.

Please serve our future generations by selecting the "no action" alternative to maintain "Roadless Rule" protections for the Tongass and Chugach.

Sincerely,

James Wilcox

Winchester, VA 22603

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Lura
Last name: Wilcox
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, Lura Wilcox

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Martin
Last name: Wilcox
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, Martin Wilcox

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/5/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Gary
Last name: Wilcox Jr
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): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Thomas
Last name: Wilczak
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, Thomas Wilczak

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: pat
Last name: wilczynski
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is pat wilczynski and I live in Concord, New Hampshire.

We need untouched wilderness now more than ever. Nothing can replace these ancient forests. We need to work on simplifying our lives, not being wasteful, so we consume fewer resources. The Tongass National Forest is a gift beyond measure and so worthy of our efforts to protect it. Now and forever.

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, pat wilczynski

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/10/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Deb
Last name: Wild
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Deb Wild and I live in Waterman, Illinois.

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, Deb Wild

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/12/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Dena
Last name: Wild
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I urge your agency not open up Tongrass National Forest to logging.

Especially in light of the climate conditions changing, this country more now than ever repositories for carbon. Tongrass National Forest serves that very purpose. The forest is a carbon storage reserve holding up to 8 percent of all carbon stored in U.S.

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/28/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: JIM
Last name: WILD
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I ENDORSE THE STATUS QUO CONCERNING THE ROADLESS RULE. RETAIN THE CURRENT MANAGEMENT PLAN. DOING SO PROTECTS MY SUBSISTENCE FOOD GATHERING RIGHTS.

NO MORE LOGGING IN THE TONGASS! FISH AND FOREST ANIMALS THRIVE IN AN UNCUT FOREST. CARBON SEQUESTRATION PROVIDED BY AN UNCUT TONGASS IS OF PARAMOUNT IMPORTANCE FOR THE FUTURE VIABILITY OF LIVING CREATURES.

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/27/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Jo Anne
Last name: Wild
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Please do not open the Tongass to logging and cutting roads. Much of that timber is softwood and not worth the toll it will take on the wildlife and ecology.

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/8/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Jo Anne
Last name: Wild
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I grew up in Juneau and still have family in SE Alaska. Please do not repeal the Roadless Rule. Our ecosystem and wildlife will suffer.

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/13/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Lauren
Last name: Wild
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC437

Dear Roadless Rule Planning Team,

The health of the Tongass National Forest is important to me. I depend on the Tongass which is a unique and global treasure.

The freshwater streams where salmon and old growth forest of the Tongass provide spawning habitat for these fish, which in turn feed a matrix of bears, birds, insects, and other wildlife that Alaska is so famous for. The health of our economy, which is heavily dependent on the fishing and tourism industries, also depends on the salmon, wildlife and presence of old growth forests. A sustainable future for Southeast Alaska requires protecting expansive areas of intact habitat - in short, it requires keeping our Roadless areas roadless! I urge the Forest Service and the Secretary to protect important salmon spawning habitat, maintain old growth forests for winter deer habitat, and keep the places I like to recreate free of clearcuts and roadbuilding.

WHO I AM: [text bolded for emphasis] Include your name, where you live, and any relevant biographical information. Do you live or work on the Tongass National Forest? What is your relationship to the Tongass?

My name is Lauren Wild, I was born & raised in Sitka, AK. I have spent my whole life exploring & recreating in the Tongass Ntl. Forest.

PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE: [text bolded for emphasis] The Forest Service will choose how to proceed from a number of different alternatives. If you want the Roadless Rule to remain on the Tongass, write "No Action."

No Action

WHY I PREFER THIS ALTERNATIVE: [text bolded for emphasis] How would this alternative affect you and Southeast Alaskans?

I prefer No Action because I am interested in preserving old-growth timber for hunting, fishing, and wilderness activities. It is importatnt to protect salmon habitat, wildlife, tourism and recreation opportunities, and pristine wilderness.

AREAS: [text bolded for emphasis] Are there specific islands, watersheds, or mountains that you depend on? Name the most important areas that the Roadless Rule to protect. Examples include the Tenakee Inlet, Nakwasina Sound, Fish Bay, Ushk Bay, Northern Prince of Wales, T77 salmon watershed areas, Audobon TNC ecological priority areas, etc.

Areas important to me include all areas of Baranof & Chichagof Islands, as well as andromous watersheds throughout Alaska.

USE: [text bolded for emphasis] What activities do you use the Tongass National Forest for? Hunting, fishing, recreation, subsistence, business, tourism, etc.

I hunt, fish, recreate, and use the Tongasss for subsistence activities.

SUGGESTION: [text bolded for emphasis] How should the Forest Service manage the Tongass National Forest, rather than old-growth clearcut logging? More sustainable alternatives to timber harvest include salmon watershed restoration, visitor industry infrastructure, deer habitat enhancement, young growth thinning, and maintenance of recreation infrastructure such as trails and cabins.

I am a proponent of watershed restoration, deer habitat enhancement, trail & cabin maintenance, and young growth thinning

Additional comments for the Forest Service:

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Lauren Wild

I want to receive a copy of the Draft Environmental Statement

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Lauren
Last name: Wild
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Lauren Wild and I live in Sitka, AK. I have lived in Southeast Alaska my entire life, and have used the Tongass National Forest as my playground, hunting, fishing, hiking, and exploring the land. I am writing a comment on the Alaska Roadless Rule DEIS because I am concerned with how the Rule and the proposed full exemption will impact my fishing, hunting, subsistence harvesting, foraging for wild foods, the peace and solitude I find in nature, recreating, practicing my culture, the status of the Tongass as a national and global treasure, the forest's ability to sequester carbon and mitigate climate change impacts, the conservation of resources for future generations .

Out of the alternatives described in the AKRR DEIS I support alternative 1: no action. The rule is working fine as it is by balancing the conservation of our fish and wildlife habitat with important development projects.. I depend on roadless areas in the Tongass National Forest for economic livelihood, healthy fish habitat, deer habitat and subsistence hunting, foraging and gathering wild foods, practicing my culture, recreating and enjoying nature, carbon sequestration and local climate change mitigation, viewing wildlife, keeping public lands wild for future generations, fiscal responsibility and saving taxpayer dollars . A full exemption does not protect these values, nor does it effectively balance economic development and conservation of roadless area characteristics. A full exemption from the Roadless Rule and increased logging and roadbuilding will negatively impact the Tongass and what I and many others use and depend on the forest to provide for us.

The Roadless areas on the Tongass that are especially important to me are those on or around Baranof Island, Chichagof Island, Admiralty Island, Kuiu Island, Yakutat forelands. I want the roadless areas in these locations to stay in roadless status in any alternative selected by the Forest Service, and be managed to provide for the uses and activities I listed above. It is important to me that the T77 and the TNC conservation priority areas retain their roadless protections.

I do not support the Forest Services preferred alternative of a full exemption. A full exemption is not in the interests of Southeast Alaskans who live in and use the Tongass National Forest, because The timber industry in Southeast Alaska is currently subsidized by American taxpayers, and there is no real value in opening up more timber sales in this region. It is too remote, hard to operate, and costly to effectively log old growth forest in this region anymore. Don Young, our Alaska Representative, was recently quoted saying this - he actually said that the timber industry is not viable and that exempting the Tongass from the Roadless Rule was NOT about increasing logging and timber sales here.

I believe the saying "if it ain't broke, don't fix it", and I think that applies very nicely to this situation. The Roadless Rule has been in effect for quite some time now, and I don't know of anyone missing it; it seems to be doing a pretty good job of sustaining the people and livelihoods of Southeast Alaska. I am against exempting the Tongass from the Roadless Rule and would prefer to see a No Action alternative.. The State of Alaska says that a full exemption is needed for rural economic development opportunities. However, a full exemption would not help create more rural economic development opportunities, it would instead harm our existing rural economies that are based on the visitor industry and commercial fishing industry.

It would further harm rural economic opportunities because pursuing the same outdated economic model of old growth clearcut harvesting for export stifles innovation and possibility in other sectors, such as mariculture, sustainable young growth harvest, and rural agriculture. If the Forest Service wants to support rural economic development, they should devote resources to support our fishing and visitor industries transition to second

growth logging invest in creating and maintaining recreation infrastructure improve and streamline existing permitting processes for important community projects rather than rehashing old conflicts.

Thank you for your time.

I urge the Forest Service to prioritize the voices of Southeast Alaskans over those of our political representation and corporate interests. Choosing a full exemption will not create a long lasting, durable solution for roadless areas on the Tongass. It will only increase the legal challenges, uncertainty for businesses, and conflict on the Tongass going forward.

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/12/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Lynn
Last name: Wild
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Dear Secretary Perdue and Chief Christensen,

I spent over 20 years working in the Texas State Government. That tenure developed within me a keen sense of responsibility to the citizens and taxpayers of this country.

The value of the intact old growth trees protected in The Tongass National Forest far exceeds the economic return on the logged timber that would only benefit the logging companies and manufacturers who take it. These irreplaceable trees in their undisturbed forest network moderate and absorb extreme rain events and prevent prolonged droughts in ways that no human technology can replace or replicate. This climate modulation vastly outweighs their value as logged timber. To get a very clear idea of what's at stake here, read The Golden Spruce by John Vaillant. It's a fascinating history that clarifies how we got to the climate mess we're in today.

In fact, these centuries' old trees and the work they do on this planet cannot be replaced by any reforestation efforts in our lifetime or even over the next 7 generations of human life. If the American taxpayer understood the real loss we would experience from putting roads in the Tongass and logging the Tongass there would be such a protest across this country, that the outcome of the 2020 election would be a huge loss for those who support this betrayal of the public trust.

Because the Tongass contains some of the last remaining intact old-growth temperate rainforests in the world, its value also resides in its providing the endless recreation opportunities, clean water, and fish and wildlife habitat that is essential to the economic, cultural, and ecological health of Southeast Alaska.

The Roadless Rule is among the smartest and most popular land management policies the Federal Government has ever adopted. Not only does it preserve that pristine 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 unsustainable taxpayer subsidies. An abominable betrayal of our taxpayer trust.

Please select the "no-action" alternative on the Alaska-specific Roadless Rule and protect all inventoried and roadless areas on the Tongass National Forest under the 2001 National Roadless Rule.

For these reasons I strongly urge you to stand up to short-sighted views about the worth of our protected lands. Select the "no-action" alternative on the Alaska-specific Roadless Rule and keep the 2001 National Roadless Rule on the Tongass.

Thank you,

Lynn A. Wild, MPH, CPH, RDNformerly from Texas, now Vermont;Wild Learning Resources

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/11/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Serena
Last name: Wild
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Serena Wild and I live in Sitka, Alaska. I have lived in SE Alaska for almost all of my life, 35 years. My childhood was spent playing in the forest and the Tongass has always been our "backyard". Major reason for not leaving SE AK is the Tongass and its untapped beauty. Where else in America can you go to experience real nature without the intrusion of motor vehicles and masses of people that come with the ease of access. I am writing a comment on the Alaska Roadless Rule DEIS because I am concerned with how the Rule and the proposed full exemption will impact my fishing, hunting, subsistence harvesting, foraging for wild foods, the peace and solitude I find in nature, recreating, the forest's ability to sequester carbon and mitigate climate change impacts, the conservation of resources for future generations the status of the Tongass as a national and global treasure.

Out of the alternatives described in the AKRR DEIS I support alternative 1: no action. It protects important fish and wildlife habitat from clearcutting and roadbuilding. I depend on roadless areas in the Tongass National Forest for healthy fish habitat, deer habitat and subsistence hunting, foraging and gathering wild foods, recreating and enjoying nature, carbon sequestration and local climate change mitigation, viewing wildlife, keeping public lands wild for future generations. A full exemption does not protect these values, nor does it effectively balance economic development and conservation of roadless area characteristics. A full exemption from the Roadless Rule and increased logging and roadbuilding will negatively impact the Tongass and what I and many others use and depend on the forest to provide for us.

The Roadless areas on the Tongass that are especially important to me are those on or around Baranof Island, Chichagof Island, Admiralty Island, Kupreanof Island, Kuiu Island, Wrangell and Etolin Islands, all of the inventoried roadless areas on the Tongass. I want the roadless areas in these locations to stay in roadless status in any alternative selected by the Forest Service, and be managed to provide for low-impact recreation such as camping, hiking, hunting, and fishing passive or active watershed restoration of salmon streams and wildlife habitat, medium-impact recreation development,such as Forest Service cabins, trails, mooring buoys, and 3-sided shelters. It is important to me that the T77 and the TNC conservation priority areas retain their roadless protections.

I do not support the Forest Services preferred alternative of a full exemption. A full exemption is not in the interests of Southeast Alaskans who live in and use the Tongass National Forest, because the law trying to be passed is only in the interest of timber industry people and corporations that don't give a fig about fish and wildlife habitat and who will come to AK and use our state for its resources and then leave, leaving us with an area unsuitable for animals and recreation for years. The State of Alaska says that a full exemption is needed for rural economic development opportunities. However, a full exemption would not help create more rural economic development opportunities, it would instead harm our existing rural economies that are based on the visitor industry and commercial fishing industry.

It would further harm rural economic opportunities because pursuing the same outdated economic model of old growth clearcut harvesting for export stifles innovation and possibility in other sectors, such as mariculture, sustainable young growth harvest, and rural agriculture. If the Forest Service wants to support rural economic development, they should invest in creating and maintaining recreation infrastructure improve and streamline existing permitting processes for important community projects rather than rehashing old conflicts.

I urge the Forest Service to prioritize the voices of Southeast Alaskans over those of our political representation and corporate interests. Choosing a full exemption will not create a long lasting, durable solution for roadless areas on the Tongass. It will only increase the legal challenges, uncertainty for businesses, and conflict on the Tongass going forward.

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Zoe
Last name: Wild
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Zoe Wild and I live in Sedona, AZ. I am writing a comment on the Alaska Roadless Rule DEIS because I am concerned with how the Rule and the proposed full exemption will affect the Tongass National Forest and the Chugach National Forest.

I am passionate about preserving this forest for the wildlife, the indigenous inhabitants, the CO2 storage, and for public lands to be in public hands. We need new energy solutions, not to destroy our last old growth forests which do so much for the environment for greeds sake.

I urge the Forest Service to select Alternative 1, the no action alternative, for the final decision on the Alaska Roadless Rule. This alternative protects the inventoried roadless areas in Alaska that are full of pristine wilderness and provide important fish and wildlife habitat, and already allows for important community and economic development projects. As an American citizen, I value the Tongass National Forest and the Chugach National Forest for its status as America's best natural solution to climate change and its sequestering of millions of metric tons of carbon and mitigating climate change, its wild salmon populations and the world-class fishing opportunities, its huge swaths of intact ecosystems and all the biodiversity it contains, its status as the largest intact temperate rainforest in the world, the recreational opportunities it provides, the high density of incredible wildlife it contains, to keep public lands wild for future generations, its status as a national and global treasure, the lifestyles of the indigenous communities that the forest supports. A full exemption does not protect these priorities, nor does it effectively balance economic development with the countless other benefits provided by roadless areas. I would like the Forest Service to manage roadless areas for passiveactive watershed restoration (stream and habitat) to improvemaintain roadless characteristics (culvert removalreplacement, improve fish passage, wildlife thinning, etc). It is important to me that high-value intact habitat including the T77 watersheds and the TNC conservation priority areas retain their roadless protections in any alternative selected.

The Forest Service is wasting taxpayers' valuable time and money by trying to prop up a failing timber industry in Southeast Alaska. The nonpartisan, independent taxpayer watchdog Taxpayers for Common Sense reported that the Tongass timber program has losses of over $600 million of taxpayers money in the past 20 years. I would rather see my taxpayer dollars used to restore salmon habitat that was hurt by past logging practices, perform restorative actions that support wildlife populations on previously degraded landscapes that support wildlife populations, establish the economic value of the carbon stored in the Tongass. We need to stop subsidizing the clearcutting of old growth on the Tongass through taxpayer funded roadbuilding. If a full exemption were chosen, it would not create opportunities and would instead prioritize the special interests of one industry over the interests of the entire American public.

The Tongass is Americas homegrown natural solution to climate change. The forest sequesters 8% of the carbon stored in forests throughout the contiguous US states, some 3 billion metric tons of it. We must take action to mitigate and adapt to climate change, and maintaining the Tongass in a roadless state is critical for a sustainable future.

I urge the Forest Service to listen to the voices of the American people and prioritize them over corporate interests. The Forest Service should strengthen public involvement in developing land management policy and focus on broadly supported work rather than allowing special corporate interests to guide policy changes.

Attempting to exempt inventoried roadless areas on the Chugach National Forest from the Alaska Roadless Rule adds further insult to injury, and this proposal has not received any sufficient environmental impact analysis or public input. Choosing a full exemption will not create a long lasting, durable solution for roadless areas in Alaska it will only increase the legal challenges, uncertainty for businesses, and conflict over these forests going forward.

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Penny
Last name: Wild-Perkowski
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, Penny Wild-Perkowski

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Ronda
Last name: Wilde
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Ronda Wilde and I live in Cincinnati, Ohio.

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, Ronda Wilde

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Tom
Last name: Wilde
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.

The Tongass contains some of the largest intact old-growth temperate rainforest in the world, is essential to the economic and ecological health of Southeast Alaska.

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

SOON there will be a new administration in charge, and we will HOLD RESPONSIBLE those who sold out the environment for their friends illegal, immoral short term gain. Cheep logging for toilet paper or cheaper 2 by 4's will not help the economy or any one.

Do the right thing for a change.

Regards, Tom Wilde

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Miriam
Last name: Wildeman
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Miriam Wildeman and I live in Charlottesville, Virginia.

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, Miriam Wildeman

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Miriam
Last name: Wildeman
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, Miriam Wildeman

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Otto
Last name: Wildensteiner
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.

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Regards, Otto Wildensteiner

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Otto
Last name: Wildensteiner
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
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Regards, Otto Wildensteiner

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/3/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Camlin
Last name: Wilder
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): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Denise
Last name: Wilder
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, Denise Wilder

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Jenny
Last name: Wilder
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Jenny Wilder and I live in Apple Valley, California.

Our forests need management, but that does not include clear cutting! The Tongass needs to be protected and one thing that will help is to keep it roadless.

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, Jenny Wilder

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Jesse
Last name: Wilder
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, Jesse Wilder

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Laura
Last name: Wilder
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Laura Wilder and I live in Garland, Texas.

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, Laura Wilder

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Megan
Last name: Wilder
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Megan Wilder and I live in Boulder, Colorado.

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, Megan Wilder

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/27/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Nathaniel
Last name: Wilder
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Nathaniel Wilder and I live in Anchorage, AK. I am writing a comment on the Alaska Roadless Rule DEIS because I am concerned with how the Rule and the proposed full exemption will affect the Tongass National Forest and the Chugach National Forest.

The Tongass is important to me because I deeply believe in the preservation of large swaths of wild places. I also believe it is incredibly important to keep forests like this intact to protect the carbon from being released into the atmosphere. This is a time where we most need to be cautious about a warming climate not moving forward full steam to contribute to it.

I urge the Forest Service to select Alternative 1, the no action alternative, for the final decision on the Alaska Roadless Rule. This alternative protects the inventoried roadless areas in Alaska that are full of pristine wilderness and provide important fish and wildlife habitat, and already allows for important community and economic development projects. As an American citizen, I value the Tongass National Forest and the Chugach National Forest for its status as America's best natural solution to climate change and its sequestering of millions of metric tons of carbon and mitigating climate change, its wild salmon populations and the world-class fishing opportunities, its huge swaths of intact ecosystems and all the biodiversity it contains, its status as the largest intact temperate rainforest in the world, the recreational opportunities it provides, the high density of incredible wildlife it contains, to keep public lands wild for future generations, its status as a national and global treasure, the lifestyles of the indigenous communities that the forest supports. A full exemption does not protect these priorities, nor does it effectively balance economic development with the countless other benefits provided by roadless areas. I would like the Forest Service to manage roadless areas for low-impact recreation (camping, hiking, hunting, foraging, etc), medium-impact recreation (FS cabins, trails, mooring buoys, 3-sided shelters), passive/active watershed restoration (stream and habitat) to improve/maintain roadless characteristics (culvert removal/replacement, improve fish passage, wildlife thinning, etc). It is important to me that high-value intact habitat including the T77 watersheds and the TNC conservation priority areas retain their roadless protections in any alternative selected.

The Forest Service is wasting taxpayers' valuable time and money by trying to prop up a failing timber industry in Southeast Alaska. The nonpartisan, independent taxpayer watchdog Taxpayers for Common Sense reported that the Tongass timber program has losses of over $600 million of taxpayers money in the past 20 years. I would rather see my taxpayer dollars used to establish the economic value of the carbon stored in the Tongass, develop more recreational opportunities, like trails and cabins, restore salmon habitat that was hurt by past logging practices. We need to stop subsidizing the clearcutting of old growth on the Tongass through taxpayer funded roadbuilding. If a full exemption were chosen, it would not create opportunities and would instead prioritize the special interests of one industry over the interests of the entire American public.

The Tongass is Americas homegrown natural solution to climate change. The forest sequesters 8% of the carbon stored in forests throughout the contiguous US states, some 3 billion metric tons of it. We must take action to mitigate and adapt to climate change, and maintaining the Tongass in a roadless state is critical for a sustainable future.

I urge the Forest Service to listen to the voices of the American people and prioritize them over corporate interests. The Forest Service should strengthen public involvement in developing land management policy and

focus on broadly supported work rather than allowing special corporate interests to guide policy changes. Attempting to exempt inventoried roadless areas on the Chugach National Forest from the Alaska Roadless Rule adds further insult to injury, and this proposal has not received any sufficient environmental impact analysis or public input. Choosing a full exemption will not create a long lasting, durable solution for roadless areas in Alaska it will only increase the legal challenges, uncertainty for businesses, and conflict over these forests going forward.

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Sanford
Last name: Wilder
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Sanford Wilder and I live in Grafton, Illinois.

This. Is. Vital.

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.

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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, Sanford Wilder

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/26/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Susan
Last name: Wilder
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC271

Dear Staff - Tongass National Forest,

Please protect the forests, rivers, wildlife, and the land of The Tongass National Forest! As a life long citizen of the Pacific Northwest, I am painfully aware of the future in store for lands logged in a remote regions of the PNW coasts. The age and species diversity of the trees and vegetation is gone. Rain washes away soil into the rivers and the coastline ocean water, damaging the habitat of wildlife - all wildlife is dependent on the forests and rivers.

I know everyone in your offices is aware of rainforest logging in remote islands and mountains. I am asking for you to care more about the trees, wildlife, the water and our air, and the forest, and a little less about some quick money or temporary jos, which would be gone long before we could ever repair the damage to Southeast Alaska's islands and forests.

It always has been such an emotional relief to sail into Southeast Alaskan waters from the overlogged B.C. coasts. I hope all of you can use the discipline required to fight for saving the rainforests of the Tongass. Please resist the temptation to sell our trees! Truly, I am begging you not to allow logging in the Tongass National Forest! Please.

Sincerely,

Susan Kelley Wilder

date

November 04 2019

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Beth
Last name: Wildermann
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, Beth Wildermann

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Margaret
Last name: Wildermann
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
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Regards, Margaret Wildermann

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/1/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Anon
Last name:
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
We say "NO" to more logging in the Tongass

A few weeks ago, we were on a catamaran cruising the Great Bear Rainforest in British Columbia. What a beautiful place, and how wise of the Canadians to protect it, preserving both the beauty and the important ecological function of these last temperate rainforests.

We have our own similar reserve, the Tongass, but it's under attack.

The Trump administration must not lift protections on 9.2 million acres of the pristine Tongass National Forest and allow roads and destructive commercial logging. This is wrong.

I strongly urge the Forest Service to select Alternative 1, the "no-action" alternative.

Thank you,

Pam Wilder

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Jordan
Last name: Wildish
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.

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Regards, Jordan Wildish

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/1/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Anon
Last name:
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Protect wildlife, keep the Tongass roadless

How many times do we have to protect this same native forest?!? Our last remaining temperate rainforest is a crucial sanctuary for so many species of wildlife. It must be protected.

I urge you to select the "No Action" alternative on the Alaska-specific Roadless Rule instead of the sweeping changes the administration is promoting that would completely remove the Tongass National Forest from roadless protections.

I strongly urge the Forest Service to select Alternative 1, the "no-action" alternative.

Respectfully,

Kathryn Wild

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Jason
Last name: wildman
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Jason wildman and I live in South Pasadena, 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, Jason wildman

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Carolyn
Last name: Wildrick
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.

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Regards, Carolyn Wildrick

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Shari
Last name: Wildschutte
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Shari Wildschutte and I live in Concord, California.

Environmental PROTECTION Agency!Protecting our air, water and lands is also protecting the health and wellbeing of American Families .

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, Shari Wildschutte

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: David
Last name: Wilen
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, David Wilen

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Alan
Last name: Wiley
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.

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Regards, Alan Wiley

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Ann
Last name: Wiley
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Ann Wiley and I live in Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

To Environmental PROTECTION Agency: Industry accountability must be stregnthened and enforced regarding the toxic waste produced by coal power plants.

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, Ann Wiley

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Arleen
Last name: Wiley
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Arleen Wiley and I live in Mena, Arkansas.

Not just the Tongass National Forest in Alaska, but ALL of our National Forests, are VITAL to the health of our Planet's environments and the continuation of ALL LIFE FORMS on it.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.

Regards, Arleen Wiley

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/20/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Benjamin
Last name: Wiley
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
No action! Please don't chop down these beautiful trees and ruin such an amazing forest.

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/17/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Carol
Last name: Wiley
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Carol Wiley and I live in Victorville, 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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Carol Wiley

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Carol
Last name: Wiley
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Carol Wiley and I live in Victorville, 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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Carol Wiley

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Carolyn
Last name: Wiley
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
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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, Carolyn Wiley

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Carolyn
Last name: Wiley
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
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Regards, Carolyn Wiley

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: David
Last name: Wiley
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is David Wiley and I live in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, David Wiley

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Fred
Last name: Wiley
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC4984

Dear U.S. Forest Service,

CC: Alaska Congressional Delegation and Federal Administration

I support the no-action alternative to leave the 2001 Roadless Rule in place on the Tongass National Forest. We must continue to phase out old-growth clear-cut logging and instead prioritize restoring degraded watersheds and fish streams that contribute to the growing fisheries and tourism-based economies of Southeast. To that end, please conserve the Tongass 77 and TNC priority areas in the final Roadless Rule.

Sincerely,

Comments: *(Eg: list locations you recreate, or why you value Tongass fish & wildlife)* [Text italicized for emphasis]

Every time you open a area the logs are exported to another country. No clear cut. You had your chances in the past.

[Box unchecked] I would like to get more involved in the campaign!

*By taking this action, you are consenting to receive future communications via phone, text message, email, or mail from Sitka Conservation Society and its partners working to protect the Tongass. * [Text italicized for emphasis]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Joseph
Last name: Wiley
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Joseph Wiley and I live in Cincinnati, Ohio.

We, as a specie, and as citizens of the nation with the foremost leadership role on earth are moving in the wrong and self-destructive direction re: bio-conservation, land & resources preservation and climate change. We need to stop threatening the lands we can control. Profits aren't worth self-destruction.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.

Regards, Joseph Wiley

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/17/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Kimberly
Last name: Wiley
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Kimberly Wiley and I live in Rochester, New York.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Kimberly Wiley

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Linda
Last name: Wiley
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, Linda Wiley

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/5/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Patrick
Last name: Wiley
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): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Janice
Last name: Wilfing
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Janice Wilfing and I live in Springfield, Ohio.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Janice Wilfing

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: lydia
Last name: wilfong
Organization: Ms.
Title:
Comments:
Our government, our National Forest Service, is supposed to PROTECT our country's environment. Opening our protected national forests, specifically the Tongrass National Forest, to logging is no protection but can only be described as uncaring greed. Please please do not pass this legislation. Do your job and protect our forests.

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Cascade
Last name: Wilhelm
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, Cascade Wilhelm

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/5/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Ryan
Last name: Wilhelm
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Ryan Wilhelm and I live in Kirkland, WA. I am writing a comment on the Alaska Roadless Rule DEIS because I am concerned with how the Rule and the proposed full exemption will affect the Tongass National Forest and the Chugach National Forest.

I had the chance to visit the Tongass National Forest and Southeast Alaska in the summer of 2019. It was a life changing experience to visit the mostly undisturbed wilderness. It was eye opening to hear about how logging had impacted the area in the past and how long it took to recover. We can't make the same mistake again, particularly during a point in time where it is critical for society to become more sustainable. We must maintain the roadless rule for the Tongass National Forest and protect it for wildlife and future generations.

I urge the Forest Service to select Alternative 1, the no action alternative, for the final decision on the Alaska Roadless Rule. This alternative protects the inventoried roadless areas in Alaska that are full of pristine wilderness and provide important fish and wildlife habitat, and already allows for important community and economic development projects. As an American citizen, I value the Tongass National Forest and the Chugach National Forest for its status as America's best natural solution to climate change and its sequestering of millions of metric tons of carbon and mitigating climate change, its wild salmon populations and the world-class fishing opportunities, its huge swaths of intact ecosystems and all the biodiversity it contains, its status as the largest intact temperate rainforest in the world, the recreational opportunities it provides, the high density of incredible wildlife it contains, to keep public lands wild for future generations, its status as a national and global treasure, the lifestyles of the indigenous communities that the forest supports. A full exemption does not protect these priorities, nor does it effectively balance economic development with the countless other benefits provided by roadless areas. I would like the Forest Service to manage roadless areas for low-impact recreation (camping, hiking, hunting, foraging, etc), passive/active watershed restoration (stream and habitat) to improve/maintain roadless characteristics (culvert removal/replacement, improve fish passage, wildlife thinning, etc). It is important to me that high-value intact habitat including the T77 watersheds and the TNC conservation priority areas retain their roadless protections in any alternative selected.

The Forest Service is wasting taxpayers' valuable time and money by trying to prop up a failing timber industry in Southeast Alaska. The nonpartisan, independent taxpayer watchdog Taxpayers for Common Sense reported that the Tongass timber program has losses of over $600 million of taxpayers money in the past 20 years. I would rather see my taxpayer dollars used to restore salmon habitat that was hurt by past logging practices, perform restorative actions that support wildlife populations on previously degraded landscapes that support wildlife populations, establish the economic value of the carbon stored in the Tongass. We need to stop subsidizing the clearcutting of old growth on the Tongass through taxpayer funded roadbuilding. If a full exemption were chosen, it would not create opportunities and would instead prioritize the special interests of one industry over the interests of the entire American public.

The Tongass is Americas homegrown natural solution to climate change. The forest sequesters 8% of the carbon stored in forests throughout the contiguous US states, some 3 billion metric tons of it. We must take action to mitigate and adapt to climate change, and maintaining the Tongass in a roadless state is critical for a sustainable future.

I urge the Forest Service to listen to the voices of the American people and prioritize them over corporate interests. The Forest Service should strengthen public involvement in developing land management policy and focus on broadly supported work rather than allowing special corporate interests to guide policy changes. Attempting to exempt inventoried roadless areas on the Chugach National Forest from the Alaska Roadless Rule adds further insult to injury, and this proposal has not received any sufficient environmental impact analysis or public input. Choosing a full exemption will not create a long lasting, durable solution for roadless areas in Alaska it will only increase the legal challenges, uncertainty for businesses, and conflict over these forests going forward.

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: John
Last name: Wilhelmsen
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is John Wilhelmsen and I live in Placitas, New Mexico.

Given all the evidence before everyone, how can you turn a blind eye? Increase the protections that will reduce methane pollution now!

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.

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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, John Wilhelmsen

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: L
Last name: Wilhelmy
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
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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, L Wilhelmy

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Debra
Last name: Wilhoit
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Debra Wilhoit and I live in Charlotte, North Carolina.

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, Debra Wilhoit

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: J
Last name: Wilk
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is J Wilk and I live in Bridgeport, Connecticut.

Clean air is LIFE . Children and are more susceptible to toxic air pollution . Please keep protection in place.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, J Wilk

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Samantha
Last name: Wilk
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Samantha Wilk and I live in Mount Vernon, Washington.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Samantha Wilk

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/21/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Shelli
Last name: Wilk
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Alternative 1

Do not touch one tree.

Do not disturb.

S Wilk

Lake Elmo MN

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Nicole
Last name: wilke
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Nicole wilke and I live in Miami, Florida.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Nicole wilke

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/7/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Thomas
Last name: Wilkens
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): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: deborah
Last name: wilker
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is deborah wilker and I live in Mentor, Ohio.

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, deborah wilker

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Becky
Last name: Wilkerson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Becky Wilkerson and I live in Clinton, Iowa.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Becky Wilkerson

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/13/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Dennis
Last name: Wilkerson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Dennis Wilkerson and I live in Durham, North Carolina.

Please do proper managed Forestry. Not just clear cut

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Dennis Wilkerson

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Susan
Last name: Wilkerson
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, Susan Wilkerson

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Eve-Anne
Last name: Wilkes
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Eve-Anne Wilkes and I live in Napa, 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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Eve-Anne Wilkes

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Mariela
Last name: Wilkes
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Mariela Wilkes and I live in Salem, Oregon.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Mariela Wilkes

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/26/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Triston
Last name: Wilkie
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Tongass NF

There are few enough old growth forests left in the world today. As would be a tragedy to remove another there are plenty of options for suitable Forest management.

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Sue
Last name: Wilkin
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Sue Wilkin and I live in Kingman, Arizona.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Sue Wilkin

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/29/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Candice
Last name: Wilkins
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
We must preserve our nations forests for future generations and the health of the ecosystem. I support Alternative 1: No Action, to keep our forests intact.

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Jaci
Last name: Wilkins
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Jaci Wilkins and I live in Tucson, Arizona.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Jaci Wilkins

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Keith
Last name: Wilkins
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Keith Wilkins and I live in Mount Laurel Township, New Jersey.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Keith Wilkins

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Mary
Last name: Wilkins
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Mary Wilkins and I live in Kennewick, Washington.

Enough!! The environment, especially our air, our waterways, our varied endangered species, our oceans and the creatures living within: all need protection from fossil fuel pollution!!! This is not negotiable!!!!

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.

Regards, Mary Wilkins

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/7/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Matthew
Last name: Wilkins
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): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Paul
Last name: Wilkins
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Paul Wilkins and I live in Pasadena, California.

Alaska is truly our last frontier. It needs to be protected, not exploited.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Paul Wilkins

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Rebecca
Last name: Wilkins
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Rebecca Wilkins and I live in Enterprise, Alabama.

I find it beyond tragic that the Trump administration is willing to decimate "America's Climate Forest" for the ever loving dollar!!! That's why Trump will go down in history as the most corrupt president we have ever had! Stop putting corporate profits above the public interest and to protect our national forests, our air, and our water for future generations!

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.

Regards, Rebecca Wilkins

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Richard
Last name: Wilkins
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Richard Wilkins and I live in Winter Park, Florida.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Richard Wilkins

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Aangela
Last name: Wilkinson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Aangela Wilkinson and I live in San Antonio, Texas.

Protect our forests & the animals living in it

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Aangela Wilkinson

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Connie
Last name: Wilkinson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Connie Wilkinson and I live in Pismo Beach, 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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Connie Wilkinson

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Daniel
Last name: Wilkinson
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, Daniel Wilkinson

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: david
Last name: wilkinson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is david wilkinson and I live in Deerfield Beach, Florida.

pigs destroy our earth for short term money

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, david wilkinson

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Diane
Last name: Wilkinson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Diane Wilkinson and I live in Plandome, New York.

Do we want future generations ?

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Diane Wilkinson

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Emily
Last name: Wilkinson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Emily Wilkinson and I live in Salt Lake City, Utah.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Emily Wilkinson

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Evan
Last name: Wilkinson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Cars do not belong in the woods. If they did God would have made that their natural environment. Please follow the will of our Lord and keep roads out of His forests.Protect the Tongass!

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: James
Last name: Wilkinson
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, James Wilkinson

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: James
Last name: Wilkinson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is James Wilkinson and I live in Boulder, Colorado.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, James Wilkinson

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Jim
Last name: Wilkinson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
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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.

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Regards, Jim Wilkinson

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: John
Last name: Wilkinson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Common sense dictates that the Tongass National Forest be protected. This unique ecosystem supports countless wildlife, and one of the last remaining significant runs of salmon in North America. Roadless areas should remain roadless. Old growth should be preserved for wildlife, a stable ecosystem, and future generations. In this time of climate destabilization it seems very shortsighted to even consider opening roadless areas and old growth to logging. The economics just don't work out.

I have visited Alaska's Tongass several times in the past. I hope my grandchildren have the chance to do the same in the future. Please protect the Tongass.

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/11/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Joselyn
Last name: Wilkinson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Joselyn Wilkinson and I live in Los Angeles, 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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Joselyn Wilkinson

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Kara
Last name: Wilkinson
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, Kara Wilkinson

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: L.
Last name: Wilkinson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is L. Wilkinson and I live in Taos, New Mexico.

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.

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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, L. Wilkinson

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Mary
Last name: Wilkinson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Mary Wilkinson and I live in Pacific Grove, California.

Our forests are part of a ecosystem that helps protect the quality of our air. We need the trees to survive. Corporations need them to line their pockets. Save the forests now.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.

Regards, Mary Wilkinson

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Rachel
Last name: Wilkinson
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, Rachel Wilkinson

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/10/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Rio
Last name: Wilkinson
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): 11/21/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Robert
Last name: Wilkinson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Robert Wilkinson and I live in Pompano Beach, Florida.

Roads aren't needed in forests. It is just a cost savings so timber companies can make more money

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.

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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, Robert Wilkinson

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Wayne
Last name: Wilkinson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Wayne Wilkinson and I live in St. Louis, Missouri.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Wayne Wilkinson

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Anthony
Last name: Wilks
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, Anthony Wilks

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/6/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Gregg
Last name: Wilks
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I lost my company when the roadless came in ... just a few more payments I will have most the bills paid off.... so many years.... :(
I urge you to fully exempt the Tongass National Forest from the Roadless Rule. We have enough land permanently set aside already and the National Forest Management Act planning regulations are the proper way to manage the remaining areas on the Tongass as a multiple-use forest.
Other points to consider: Exempting the Tongass from the Roadless Rule will not cause harm to the region's fisheries. Fish habitat is already fully protected on the national forest. Wildlife habitat is also fully protected on the national forest and wildlife is thriving in the young growth stands were timber harvesting has taken place over the last 65-years. Mining, energy development and community access are inhibited by the Roadless Rule. We need a larger timber supply in order to restore more year around jobs. Timber harvesting has not harmed the tourism industry. Most outdoor recreation on the forest takes place in or near the previously harvested areas because of the access provided by the logging roads.
Please restore the Roadless Exemption so that Southeast Alaska can have the same economic opportunities as communities in or near other national forests.

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Ariadne
Last name: Will
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Roadless Rule

To whom it may concern:

My name is Ariadne Will and I grew up in Sitka, Alaska. The Tongass is integral to the world that raised me, and an act to remove the Roadless Rule is an act against a place that defines an ecosystem, a culture, and a way of life.

Please protect the Roadless Rule, as it is legislation that works in the best interest of the Tongass, itself.

?Sincerely,

Ariadne Will

Sitka, AK 99835

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: David
Last name: Will
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is David Will and I live in Austin, Texas.

Tree farming on private lands puts money in private hands and not just corporations.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, David Will

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Donna
Last name: Will
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
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Regards, Donna Will

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/14/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Elizabeth
Last name: Will
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Elizabeth Will and I live in Sitka, AK. 34 years

recreation, community, spiritual connection and well-being I am writing a comment on the Alaska Roadless Rule DEIS because I am concerned with how the Rule and the proposed full exemption will impact my the peace and solitude I find in nature, recreating, the status of the Tongass as a national and global treasure, the forest's ability to sequester carbon and mitigate climate change impacts, fishing, the conservation of resources for future generations practicing my culture, foraging for wild foods, subsistence harvesting.

Out of the alternatives described in the AKRR DEIS I support alternative 1: no action. It protects important fish and wildlife habitat from clearcutting and roadbuilding. I depend on roadless areas in the Tongass National Forest for healthy fish habitat, foraging and gathering wild foods, practicing my culture, recreating and enjoying nature, viewing wildlife, keeping public lands wild for future generations, fiscal responsibility and saving taxpayer dollars deer habitat and subsistence hunting, carbon sequestration and local climate change mitigation. A full exemption does not protect these values, nor does it effectively balance economic development and conservation of roadless area characteristics. A full exemption from the Roadless Rule and increased logging and roadbuilding will negatively impact the Tongass and what I and many others use and depend on the forest to provide for us.

The Roadless areas on the Tongass that are especially important to me are those on or around Baranof Island, Chichagof Island, Admiralty Island, the northern mainland above Port Snettisham (around Juneau), the central mainland from Hobart Bay to Stikine River, the southern mainland from Bradfield Canal to Dixon Entrance Kupreanof Island, Kuiu Island, Wrangell and Etolin Islands, Prince of Wales Island, Revillagigedo Island (near Ketchikan), all of the inventoried roadless areas on the Tongass Yakutat forelands. I want the roadless areas in these locations to stay in roadless status in any alternative selected by the Forest Service, and be managed to provide for the uses and activities I listed above. It is important to me that the T77 and the TNC conservation priority areas retain their roadless protections.

I do not support the Forest Services preferred alternative of a full exemption. A full exemption is not in the interests of Southeast Alaskans who live in and use the Tongass National Forest, because Our communities depend on the Tongass as a roadless, wilderness area. Keeping this forest intact is critical for habitat, lifestyle and ecosystem health.. The State of Alaska says that a full exemption is needed for rural economic development opportunities. However, a full exemption would not help create more rural economic development opportunities, it would instead harm our existing rural economies that are based on the visitor industry and commercial fishing industry.

It would further harm rural economic opportunities because pursuing the same outdated economic model of old growth clearcut harvesting for export stifles innovation and possibility in other sectors, such as mariculture, sustainable young growth harvest, and rural agriculture. If the Forest Service wants to support rural economic development, they should invest in creating and maintaining recreation infrastructure improve and streamline existing permitting processes for important community projects rather than rehashing old conflicts.

Please listen to the voice of coastal communities. We are against the roadless exemption. We do not need development of the forest. Leave it be.

I urge the Forest Service to prioritize the voices of Southeast Alaskans over those of our political representation and corporate interests. Choosing a full exemption will not create a long lasting, durable solution for roadless areas on the Tongass. It will only increase the legal challenges, uncertainty for businesses, and conflict on the Tongass going forward.

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Jennifer
Last name: Will
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Jennifer Will and I live in Morgan Hill, 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.

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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, Jennifer Will

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: John
Last name: Will
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is John Will, and I live in Burleson, Texas.

During recent years I have taken my family to Alaska to enjoy on vacation there the beauty of the landscape. We were particularly impressed by the wide expanse of native forests. Would that these be available not only for my generation but for future ones as well.

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, John Will

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: John
Last name: Will
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, John Will

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/30/2019 1:57:43 AM
First name: Mollie
Last name: Will
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Mollie Will and I live in Southampton Township, Alaska. I have visited Southeast Alaska and it means a lot to me. The forest has so much wildlife and is a great tool for education and is useful to the Southeast Alaskan economy I am writing a comment on the Alaska Roadless Rule DEIS because I am concerned with how the Rule and the proposed full exemption will impact my fishing, subsistence harvesting, foraging for wild foods, the peace and solitude I find in nature, recreating, the status of the Tongass as a national and global treasure, the forest's ability to sequester carbon and mitigate climate change impacts, the conservation of resources for future generations .

Out of the alternatives described in the AKRR DEIS I support alternative 1: no action. It protects important fish and wildlife habitat from clearcutting and roadbuilding. I depend on roadless areas in the Tongass National Forest for economic livelihood, healthy fish habitat, foraging and gathering wild foods, recreating and enjoying nature, carbon sequestration and local climate change mitigation, viewing wildlife, keeping public lands wild for future generations, fiscal responsibility and saving taxpayer dollars . A full exemption does not protect these values, nor does it effectively balance economic development and conservation of roadless area characteristics. A full exemption from the Roadless Rule and increased logging and roadbuilding will negatively impact the Tongass and what I and many others use and depend on the forest to provide for us.

The Roadless areas on the Tongass that are especially important to me are those on or around Baranof Island, Chichagof Island, the northern mainland above Port Snettisham (around Juneau), Admiralty Island, the central mainland from Hobart Bay to Stikine River, the southern mainland from Bradfield Canal to Dixon Entrance Kupreanof Island, Wrangell and Etolin Islands, Kuiu Island, Prince of Wales Island, Revillagigedo Island (near Ketchikan), Yakutat forelands, all of the inventoried roadless areas on the Tongass. I want the roadless areas in these locations to stay in roadless status in any alternative selected by the Forest Service, and be managed to provide for the uses and activities I listed above. It is important to me that the T77 and the TNC conservation priority areas retain their roadless protections.

I do not support the Forest Services preferred alternative of a full exemption. A full exemption is not in the interests of Southeast Alaskans who live in and use the Tongass National Forest, because It will harm our existing economic drivers and it shows the Alaskan people that we do not care about their opinion and wisdom of the area.. The State of Alaska says that a full exemption is needed for rural economic development opportunities. However, a full exemption would not help create more rural economic development opportunities, it would instead harm our existing rural economies that are based on the visitor industry and commercial fishing industry.

It would further harm rural economic opportunities because pursuing the same outdated economic model of old growth clearcut harvesting for export stifles innovation and possibility in other sectors, such as mariculture, sustainable young growth harvest, and rural agriculture. If the Forest Service wants to support rural economic development, they should devote resources to support our fishing and visitor industries invest in creating and maintaining recreation infrastructure.

I urge the Forest Service to prioritize the voices of Southeast Alaskans over those of our political representation and corporate interests. Choosing a full exemption will not create a long lasting, durable solution for roadless areas on the Tongass. It will only increase the legal challenges, uncertainty for businesses, and conflict on the Tongass going forward.

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/15/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Faith
Last name: Willans
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Faith Willans and I live in Markleville, IN. I am writing a comment on the Alaska Roadless Rule DEIS because I am concerned with how the Rule and the proposed full exemption will affect the Tongass National Forest and the Chugach National Forest.

I visited southeast Alaska and walked in the rainforest. I would not like to see it exploited by logging and endangering the habitat of wildlife.

I urge the Forest Service to select Alternative 1, the no action alternative, for the final decision on the Alaska Roadless Rule. This alternative protects the inventoried roadless areas in Alaska that are full of pristine wilderness and provide important fish and wildlife habitat, and already allows for important community and economic development projects. As an American citizen, I value the Tongass National Forest and the Chugach National Forest for the lifestyles of the indigenous communities that the forest supports its status as a national and global treasure, to keep public lands wild for future generations, the high density of incredible wildlife it contains, the recreational opportunities it provides, its status as the largest intact temperate rainforest in the world, its huge swaths of intact ecosystems and all the biodiversity it contains, its wild salmon populations and the world-class fishing opportunities, its status as America's best natural solution to climate change and its sequestering of millions of metric tons of carbon and mitigating climate change. A full exemption does not protect these priorities, nor does it effectively balance economic development with the countless other benefits provided by roadless areas. I would like the Forest Service to manage roadless areas for passive/active watershed restoration (stream and habitat) to improve/maintain roadless characteristics (culvert removal/replacement, improve fish passage, wildlife thinning, etc), low-impact recreation (camping, hiking, hunting, foraging, etc). It is important to me that high-value intact habitat including the T77 watersheds and the TNC conservation priority areas retain their roadless protections in any alternative selected.

The Forest Service is wasting taxpayers' valuable time and money by trying to prop up a failing timber industry in Southeast Alaska. The nonpartisan, independent taxpayer watchdog Taxpayers for Common Sense reported that the Tongass timber program has losses of over $600 million of taxpayers money in the past 20 years. I would rather see my taxpayer dollars used to restore salmon habitat that was hurt by past logging practices, perform restorative actions that support wildlife populations on previously degraded landscapes that support wildlife populations, support small-scale, sustainable logging, establish the economic value of the carbon stored in the Tongass. We need to stop subsidizing the clearcutting of old growth on the Tongass through taxpayer funded roadbuilding. If a full exemption were chosen, it would not create opportunities and would instead prioritize the special interests of one industry over the interests of the entire American public.

The Tongass is Americas homegrown natural solution to climate change. The forest sequesters 8% of the carbon stored in forests throughout the contiguous US states, some 3 billion metric tons of it. We must take action to mitigate and adapt to climate change, and maintaining the Tongass in a roadless state is critical for a sustainable future.

I urge the Forest Service to listen to the voices of the American people and prioritize them over corporate interests. The Forest Service should strengthen public involvement in developing land management policy and focus on broadly supported work rather than allowing special corporate interests to guide policy changes. Attempting to exempt inventoried roadless areas on the Chugach National Forest from the Alaska Roadless

Rule adds further insult to injury, and this proposal has not received any sufficient environmental impact analysis or public input. Choosing a full exemption will not create a long lasting, durable solution for roadless areas in Alaska it will only increase the legal challenges, uncertainty for businesses, and conflict over these forests going forward.

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Ann
Last name: Willard
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Ann Willard and I live in Menlo Park, 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, Ann Willard

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Frank
Last name: Willard
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Frank Willard and I live in Gaithersburg, Maryland.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Frank Willard

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Garry
Last name: Willard
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, Garry Willard

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Monica
Last name: Willard
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.

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Regards, Monica Willard

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Susanne
Last name: Willard
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, Susanne Willard

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Stephen
Last name: Wille
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, Stephen Wille

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Paula
Last name: Willebrands
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.

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Regards, Paula Willebrands

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Paula
Last name: Willebrands
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Paula Willebrands and I live in Thousand Oaks, California.

Future generations depend on us saving the forest. It is about mire than just us.

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, Paula Willebrands

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/13/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Vince
Last name: Willeford
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
re: Proposed changes to the Alaska Roadless Rule

I strongly support Alternative 1 that takes no action and would leave all of Alaska under the 2001 Roadless Rule, including the Tongass National Forest.

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/10/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Jim
Last name: Willeke
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Taxpayers have already lost $600 million from timber sales in the Tongass National Forest over the last 20 years.

This means taxpayers have spent roughly $30 million per year "selling" timber harvested in the Tongass.

Exempting the forest from the Roadless Rule would only increase taxpayer losses in the future.

Please protect taxpayer interests and maintain the Roadless Rule in Alaska.

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Kay
Last name: Willens
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, Kay Willens

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Kay
Last name: Willens
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.

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Regards, Kay Willens

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Sheila
Last name: Willens
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.

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Regards, Sheila Willens

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/24/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Adam
Last name: Willess
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): 12/11/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Adam
Last name: Willess
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.
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Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Greg
Last name: Willett
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Greg Willett and I live in Wauna, Washington.

Forests once gone are gone forever

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, Greg Willett

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Greg
Last name: Willett
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Greg Willett and I live in Wauna, Washington.

Forests once gone are gone forever

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, Greg Willett

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Stephanie
Last name: Willett-Shaw
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Stephanie Willett-Shaw and I live in Longmont, Colorado.

The air belongs to everyone. Have you "regulators" all gone mad and forgotten about your families and descendants? Do the Right Thing. Stop the madness.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.

Regards, Stephanie Willett-Shaw

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/19/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Nan
Last name: Willetts
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Nan Willetts and I live in Ballwin, Missouri.

This rare temperate rainforest plays a critical role in fighting climate change by retaining vast stores of carbon in old-growth trees. Alaska Natives rely upon its lands for their livelihood and culture. It provides vital habitat for wildlife and salmon. Stop putting corporate profits above the public interest and to protect our national forests, our air, and our water for future generations!

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Thank you for considering my comments.

Regards, Nan Willetts

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/12/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Anthony
Last name: Willey
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
In regards to the proposed action of fully exempting the Tongass National Forest from the 2001 Roadless rule: Do not implement the exemption! The extremely short term gain, economically for a select few people, that would come from opening up Old and mature groves and forests in the Tongass Natl Forest to exploitation i.e logging road building- essentially mining the forest that was not planted, is extremely short sided and wrong. The timber industry nationwide has had to adapt to the real condition of our public forest having been over harvested and riddled with un- maintainable roads. Alaska should be no different. The option that provides maximum protection to existing roadless forests on Alaska public lands should be selected and enforced. This comment is from a united states citizen who owns, along with my fellow citizens, the National Forests. My name is Anthony Willey and I have seen these forests from the deck of a U S navy ship while serving my country. Do not disregard my and so many other's desire to have an environment that is as intact as possible.

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Candace
Last name: Willey
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Candace Willey and I live in Sorrento, Florida.

Please stop the corporations from ruining our world!!!

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Candace Willey

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Danielle
Last name: Willey
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
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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.

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Regards, Danielle Willey

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Hermine
Last name: Willey
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
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Regards, Hermine Willey

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Paula
Last name: Willey
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Paula Willey and I live in Mount Airy, Maryland.

Protect our wild forests in Alaska!

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Paula Willey

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Regards, Paula Willey

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Kerry
Last name: Willhoft
Organization:
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Regards, Kerry Willhoft

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Sean
Last name: Williama
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): 11/7/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Aaron
Last name: Williams
Organization:
Title:
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Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
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Organization:
Title:
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Regards, Adam Williams

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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, Adam Williams

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/25/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Alan
Last name: Williams
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I oppose any change in the current limitations on roads in the Tongass National Forest. This forest is a unique and invaluable resource that deserves strict protection from development. The only sound way to take care of this resource is to leave it alone.

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Alejandra
Last name: Williams
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, Alejandra Williams

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Alice
Last name: Williams
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Alice Williams and I live in Georgetown, South Carolina.

At a time when climate change is escalating, we need to protect our forest so that we don't become extinct. Thanks for thinking about future generations and putting them ahead of quick corporate profits.

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, Alice Williams

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Alicia
Last name: Williams
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Alicia Williams and I live in Medford, Oregon.

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, Alicia Williams

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Alicia
Last name: Williams
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, Alicia Williams

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Allan
Last name: Williams
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC3689

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,

Allan Williams

Rancho Cucamonga, CA 91701

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 1/1/0001 12:00:00 AM
First name: Allan
Last name: Williams
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
3689

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,
Allan Williams
Rancho Cucamonga, CA 91701

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Alyssa
Last name: Williams
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): 11/17/2019 1:30:38 PM
First name: Amaya
Last name: Williams
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Amaya Williams and I live in Sitka, Alaska. My name is Amaya Williams, I was born and raised in a town called Utqiagvik, Alaska. I recently moved down to Sitka, Alaska four months ago, i depend on subsistence hunting a lot, i value this a lot, because if the Forrest was not here than there would not be any animals to hunt, and us natives where I come from depend mostly on the native subsistence hunting, its a huge part of our culture. I am writing a comment on the Alaska Roadless Rule DEIS because I am concerned with how the Rule and the proposed full exemption will impact my fishing, hunting, subsistence harvesting, practicing my culture, the conservation of resources for future generations .

Out of the alternatives described in the AKRR DEIS I support alternative 1: no action. It protects important fish and wildlife habitat from clearcutting and roadbuilding. I depend on roadless areas in the Tongass National Forest for deer habitat and subsistence hunting, viewing wildlife, keeping public lands wild for future generations. A full exemption does not protect these values, nor does it effectively balance economic development and conservation of roadless area characteristics. A full exemption from the Roadless Rule and increased logging and roadbuilding will negatively impact the Tongass and what I and many others use and depend on the forest to provide for us.

The Roadless areas on the Tongass that are especially important to me are those on or around all of the inventoried roadless areas on the Tongass. I want the roadless areas in these locations to stay in roadless status in any alternative selected by the Forest Service, and be managed to provide for the uses and activities I listed above. It is important to me that the T77 and the TNC conservation priority areas retain their roadless protections.

I do not support the Forest Services preferred alternative of a full exemption. A full exemption is not in the interests of Southeast Alaskans who live in and use the Tongass National Forest, because i think they should leave the law the way it is.. The State of Alaska says that a full exemption is needed for rural economic development opportunities. However, a full exemption would not help create more rural economic development opportunities, it would instead harm our existing rural economies that are based on the visitor industry and commercial fishing industry.

It would further harm rural economic opportunities because pursuing the same outdated economic model of old growth clearcut harvesting for export stifles innovation and possibility in other sectors, such as mariculture, sustainable young growth harvest, and rural agriculture. If the Forest Service wants to support rural economic development, they should invest in creating and maintaining recreation infrastructure devote resources to support our fishing and visitor industries.

I urge the Forest Service to prioritize the voices of Southeast Alaskans over those of our political representation and corporate interests. Choosing a full exemption will not create a long lasting, durable solution for roadless areas on the Tongass. It will only increase the legal challenges, uncertainty for businesses, and conflict on the Tongass going forward.

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Amaya
Last name: Williams
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC777

Dear Alaska Roadless Rule Planning Committee,

I live and work on the lands and waters of the Tongass National Forest. From hunting and fishing, to hiking and camping, to our tourism and commercial fishing-based economies, Alaskans rely on the intact habitat that the roadless areas of the Tongass National Forest and the Chugach NF contain. That is why I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule.

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 strongly oppose any efforts to weaken protections for Roadless areas in the Tongass National Forest and the Chugach National Forest.

The Forest Service needs to continue phasing out old-growth clearcutting. Please prioritize conservation of the T77 and TNC conservation priority areas in any new Alaska Roadless Rule. The Forest Service should focus on restoring degraded watershed and fish streams and carbon sequestration.

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/17/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: ANGIE
Last name: WILLIAMS
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is ANGIE WILLIAMS and I live in Wishon, 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, ANGIE WILLIAMS

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Ann
Last name: Williams
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Ann Williams and I live in Phoenix, Arizona.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Ann Williams

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Ann
Last name: Williams
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.

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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, Ann Williams

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Anne
Last name: williams
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Anne williams and I live in Carmel-by-the-sea, California.

As we destroy the earth, we destroy ourselves.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Anne williams

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Austin
Last name: Williams
Organization: Trout Unlimited
Title:
Comments:
The following text was copy/pasted from an attached letter. The system cannot display the formatting, graphics, or tables from the attached original.

December 16, 2019

The Honorable Sonny Perdue
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave., S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20250

Ms. Vicki Christiansen
U.S. Forest Service
1400 Independence Ave., S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20250

Dear Secretary Perdue and Ms. Christiansen,

We are outfitters and guides, tour operators, gear manufacturers and retailers, sportsmen organizations, and conservation groups that value and depend on the Tongass National Forest. We employ hundreds of southeast Alaskans, have tens-of-thousands of Alaskan supporters, and cater to customers that travel to the Tongass for its world-class fish and wildlife, recreation values, subsistence resources, and for the economic opportunities roadless areas provide. The proposed Alaska Roadless Rule and decisions about how to manage the Tongass have a direct and profound impact on us, our customers, and our members.

1

The proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, which would fully exempt the Tongass, is a huge leap backward and risks undoing much of the progress gained through hard compromise and collaboration in recent years. It turns its back to the region[rsquo]s economic strengths, fishing, tourism and outdoor recreation, which now account for 26% of regional employment and $2 billion to the local economy, and short changes the values that make the Tongass so unique and valuable to local residents and visitors alike. Exempting the Tongass from the Roadless Rule unnecessarily courts conflict and empowers the most extreme voices while obstructing more productive and mutually beneficial pathways to the future. The Forest Service should abandon its proposed exemption and, instead, maintain protections for roadless areas within the Tongass.

Many of us work directly with the Forest Service, either through special use permits to operate on the Tongass, as project partners, or as visitors, hunters, anglers, and subsistence users. Our ability to fulfill our missions and meet the needs of our customers, and the Forest Service[rsquo]s ability to meet the needs of the public, are directly tied to one another. Either we succeed as stewards of our public lands together with the Forest Service, or we standby as turmoil over management decisions grows and forest values are degraded.

Many of the undersigned parties have long supported efforts by the Forest Service to transition the Tongass from unsustainable old-growth logging to management focused on fish and wildlife, tourism and recreation, and a sustainable young-growth forest products industry. We cheered the original transition announcement in 2010, worked tirelessly in support of the 2016 amendment to the Tongass Land Management Plan, and have supported its implementation since. Although compromise can be difficult, the need to move beyond the persistent conflict that has clouded the Tongass for decades is paramount.

Roadless areas on the Tongass are some of the best and most valuable lands on the forest. Many of the most important salmon streams are in roadless areas. Increasingly scarce winter deer range and prime bear habitat is often found in low elevation roadless areas. Roadless areas offer the right combination of beautiful scenery, wild landscapes, fish and wildlife, and access that our growing tourism and recreation industry demands. The

Roadless Rule[rsquo]s protections for these unique values give our businesses and organizations a level of certainty upon which we base our business investments and hiring decisions.

The Tongass is a paradise[mdash]not just for Alaskans, but for all Americans. Roadless areas in the Tongass contain much of the region[rsquo]s most productive wildlife habitat, quality salmon habitat and clean water, and recreation opportunity. Any durable and long-lasting solution to the persistent land-management challenges on the Tongass must be based on collaboration and care for the important fish, wildlife, recreation, subsistence and scenic values that make the Tongass unique among our public lands. The proposed Alaska Roadless Rule fails on this measure. We encourage the Forest Service to listen to the overwhelming weight of public comment, the needs of businesses and organizations like ours, and to not exempt the Tongass from the Roadless Rule.

Sincerely,

Above and Beyond Alaska

Becky Janes, Owner

Juneau, AK

Hatch Outdoors Inc

Andrew Dickinson, General Manager

Vista, CA

Lakeview Outfitters

TJ Dawson & Phil Hilbruner, Owners & Guides

Cooper Landing, AK

Lindblad Expeditions

Craig Moylan, Director of Expedition Development, North and South America Seattle, WA

Loon Outdoors

Brett Zundel, Owner / Director of Sales

Boise, ID

Maven Outdoor Equipment Company

Brendon Weaver, Co-owner/Design/Marketing Lander, WY

Mossy[rsquo]s Fly Shop
Mike Brown, Owner

Anchorage, AK

National Deer Alliance

Nick Pinizzotto, President and CEO

Indiana, PA

National Outdoor Leadership School Chris Brauneis, Alaska Branch Director Palmer, AK

Nautilus Reels

Kristen Mustad, Owner

Miami, FL

Orvis

Simon Perkins, COO

Sunderland, VT

Pioneer Studios

Ben Hamilton, Owner

San Antonio, Texas

Pybus Point Lodge

Scott Jorgenson, Owner
Pybus Bay, AK

Quality Deer Management Association Kip Adams, Director of Conservation Bogart, GA

3

C.F. Burkheimer Fly Rod Company Carl [ldquo]Kerry[rdquo] Burkheimer, President Washougal, WA

Chrome Chasers

Rick Matney, Owner
Wrangell, AK

Chugach Backcountry Fishing Corey Hetrick, Owner

Moose Pass, AK

Coastal Alaska Adventures
Keegan McCarthy, Owner
Douglas, AK

Coastal Alaska Safaris
Chad Poppe, Owner
Wrangell, AK

Custom Alaska Cruises
Keegan McCarthy, Owner
Douglas, AK

Chota Outdoor Gear

Mark Brown, General Manager

Knoxville, TN

Cooper Landing Fishing Guide, LLC

David Lisi, Owner & Guide

Cooper Landing, AK

The Drake

Tom Bie, Owner

Denver, CO

DRYFT

Nick Satushek, President

Bellingham, WA

Eva[rsquo]s Wild

Mark Titus, Owner

Seattle, WA

Expedition Broker

Greg Schlacter, Owner
Haines, AK

Raging River Sales
Eric Neufeld, Owner

North Bend, WA

Rajeff Sports / ECHO Flyfishing
James Lemon, Marketing

Vancouver, WA

Redington

Jay Beebe, Community Manager

Bainbridge Island, WA

Red[rsquo]s Fly Shop

Joe Rotter, Partner

Ellensburg, WA

RIO Products

Simon Gawesworth, Brand Manager

Idaho Falls, ID

Sage Fly Fishing

David Lantz, Marketing Manager

Bainbridge Island, WA

Sawyer Paddles and Oars

Derek Young, Northern US Territory Manager

Gold Hill, OR

Scientific Anglers

Brad Befus, President
Midland,MI

Scott Fly Rod Company
Jim Bartschi, President
Montrose, CO

Seek Outside

Angie Timm, Founder and Co-owner

Grand Junction, CO

Simms Fishing Products

K.C. Walsh, Executive Chairman

Casey Sheahan, CEO

Diane Bristol, Sr. Director of Community

Engagement

Bozeman, MT

El Capitan Lodge

Scott Van Valin, Owner

Craig, AK

Far Bank Enterprises

Tag Kleiner, VP of Marketing

Bainbridge Island, WA

First Lite

Ford Van Fossan, Conservation, Content and

Digital Merchandising Manager

Ketchum, ID

Fishpond, INC

Ben Kurtz, President

John Land Le Coq, Founder and CEO

Denver, CO

Fly Fishers International

Dave Peterson, Chair Conservation Committee

Livingston, MT

The Flyfish Journal

Jeff Galbraith, Publisher

Bellingham, WA

The Fly Fishing Show

Ben Furimsky, President/CEO

Somerset, PA

The Fly Shop

Pat Pendergast, Director of International Travel

Redding, CA

Fly Water Travel

Ken Morrish, Director of Travel Sales

Ashland, OR

Frontiers International Travel
Mike Fitzgerald, President
Wexford, PA

Gastineau Guiding

Sierra Gadaire, Operations Manager

Juneau, AK

Sitka Conservation Society

Andrew Thoms, Executive Director
Sitka, AK

Sitka Fish Outfitters

Jamie Steinson, Owner
Sitka, AK

Sitka Gear

Thaddeus Kaczmarek, Consumer Experience

Leader

Bozeman, MT

SpeyCo Fly Reels

Tim Pantzlaff, Owner
Green Bay, WI

Stanley-PMI

Michelle Flemming, Marketing Manager

Seattle, WA

TFO, LLC

Rick Pope, Chairman

Dallas, TX

Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership Joel Webster, Center for Western Lands Director Missoula, MT

Thomas and Thomas

Joe Goodspeed, Product Development Manager

Greenfield, MA

Treasure Hunter Lodge

Kurt Whitehead and Trina Nation, Owners

Klawock, AK

Trout Unlimited

Austin Williams, Alaska Director of Law and Policy

Anchorage, AK

Umpqua Feather Merchants

Russell Miller, Director of Marketing

Louisville, CO

Uncruise Adventures
Dan Blanchard, Owner
Juneau, AK

goHUNT

Chris Porter, COO

Las Vegas, NV

Harper Studios

Earl Harper, Owner
Seattle, WA

Hatch Magazine

Chad Shmukler, Editor

Philadelphia, PA

Vortex Optics

Mark Boardman, Director of Marketing

Barneveld, WI

Wildlife Forever

Pat Conzemius, President & CEO

White Bear Lake, MN

Yellow Dog Flyfishing Adventures Jim Klug, Director of Operations Bozeman, MT

[Position]

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

December 16, 2019

The Honorable Sonny Perdue
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave., S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20250

Ms. Vicki Christiansen
U.S. Forest Service
1400 Independence Ave., S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20250

Dear Secretary Perdue and Ms. Christiansen,

We are outfitters and guides, tour operators, gear manufacturers and retailers, sportsmen organizations, and conservation groups that value and depend on the Tongass National Forest. We employ hundreds of southeast Alaskans, have tens-of-thousands of Alaskan supporters, and cater to customers that travel to the Tongass for its world-class fish and wildlife, recreation values, subsistence resources, and for the economic opportunities roadless areas provide. The proposed Alaska Roadless Rule and decisions about how to manage the Tongass have a direct and profound impact on us, our customers, and our members.

The proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, which would fully exempt the Tongass, is a huge leap backward and risks undoing much of the progress gained through hard compromise and collaboration in recent years. It turns its back to the region[rsquo]s economic strengths, fishing, tourism and outdoor recreation, which now account for 26% of regional employment and $2 billion to the local economy, and short changes the values that make the Tongass so unique and valuable to local residents and visitors alike. Exempting the Tongass from the Roadless Rule unnecessarily courts conflict and empowers the most extreme voices while obstructing more productive and mutually beneficial pathways to the future. The Forest Service should abandon its proposed exemption and, instead, maintain protections for roadless areas within the Tongass.

Many of us work directly with the Forest Service, either through special use permits to operate on the Tongass, as project partners, or as visitors, hunters, anglers, and subsistence users. Our ability to fulfill our missions and meet the needs of our customers, and the Forest Service[rsquo]s ability to meet the needs of the public, are directly tied to one another. Either we succeed as stewards of our public lands together with the Forest Service, or we standby as turmoil over management decisions grows and forest values are degraded.

Many of the undersigned parties have long supported efforts by the Forest Service to transition the Tongass from unsustainable old-growth logging to management focused on fish and wildlife, tourism and recreation, and a sustainable young-growth forest products industry. We cheered the original transition announcement in 2010, worked tirelessly in support of the 2016 amendment to the Tongass Land Management Plan, and have supported its implementation since. Although compromise can be difficult, the need to move beyond the persistent conflict that has clouded the Tongass for decades is paramount.

Roadless areas on the Tongass are some of the best and most valuable lands on the forest. Many of the most important salmon streams are in roadless areas. Increasingly scarce winter deer range and prime bear habitat is often found in low elevation roadless areas. Roadless areas offer the right combination of beautiful scenery, wild landscapes, fish and wildlife, and access that our growing tourism and recreation industry demands. The Roadless Rule[rsquo]s protections for these unique values give our businesses and organizations a level of certainty upon which we base our business investments and hiring decisions.

The Tongass is a paradise[mdash]not just for Alaskans, but for all Americans. Roadless areas in the Tongass contain much of the region[rsquo]s most productive wildlife habitat, quality salmon habitat and clean water, and recreation opportunity. Any durable and long-lasting solution to the persistent land-management challenges on the Tongass must be based on collaboration and care for the important fish, wildlife, recreation, subsistence and scenic values that make the Tongass unique among our public lands. The proposed Alaska Roadless Rule fails on this measure. We encourage the Forest Service to listen to the overwhelming weight of public comment, the needs of businesses and organizations like ours, and to not exempt the Tongass from the Roadless Rule.

Sincerely,

Above and Beyond Alaska

Becky Janes, Owner

Juneau, AK

Hatch Outdoors Inc

Andrew Dickinson, General Manager

Vista, CA

Lakeview Outfitters

TJ Dawson & Phil Hilbruner, Owners & Guides

Cooper Landing, AK

Lindblad Expeditions

Craig Moylan, Director of Expedition Development, North and South America Seattle, WA

Loon Outdoors

Brett Zundel, Owner / Director of Sales

Boise, ID

Maven Outdoor Equipment Company

Brendon Weaver, Co-owner/Design/Marketing Lander, WY

Mossy[rsquo]s Fly Shop
Mike Brown, Owner

Anchorage, AK

National Deer Alliance

Nick Pinizzotto, President and CEO

Indiana, PA

National Outdoor Leadership School Chris Brauneis, Alaska Branch Director Palmer, AK

Nautilus Reels

Kristen Mustad, Owner

Miami, FL

Orvis

Simon Perkins, COO

Sunderland, VT

Pioneer Studios

Ben Hamilton, Owner

San Antonio, Texas

Pybus Point Lodge

Scott Jorgenson, Owner
Pybus Bay, AK

Quality Deer Management Association Kip Adams, Director of Conservation Bogart, GA

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C.F. Burkheimer Fly Rod Company Carl [ldquo]Kerry[rdquo] Burkheimer, President Washougal, WA

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Wrangell, AK

Chugach Backcountry Fishing Corey Hetrick, Owner

Moose Pass, AK

Coastal Alaska Adventures
Keegan McCarthy, Owner
Douglas, AK

Coastal Alaska Safaris
Chad Poppe, Owner
Wrangell, AK

Custom Alaska Cruises
Keegan McCarthy, Owner
Douglas, AK

Chota Outdoor Gear

Mark Brown, General Manager

Knoxville, TN

Cooper Landing Fishing Guide, LLC

David Lisi, Owner & Guide

Cooper Landing, AK

The Drake

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Denver, CO

DRYFT

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Eva[rsquo]s Wild

Mark Titus, Owner

Seattle, WA

Expedition Broker

Greg Schlacter, Owner
Haines, AK

Raging River Sales
Eric Neufeld, Owner

North Bend, WA

Rajeff Sports / ECHO Flyfishing

James Lemon, Marketing

Vancouver, WA

Redington

Jay Beebe, Community Manager

Bainbridge Island, WA

Red[rsquo]s Fly Shop

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Ellensburg, WA

RIO Products

Simon Gawesworth, Brand Manager

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Sage Fly Fishing

David Lantz, Marketing Manager

Bainbridge Island, WA

Sawyer Paddles and Oars

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Gold Hill, OR

Scientific Anglers

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Scott Fly Rod Company
Jim Bartschi, President
Montrose, CO

Seek Outside

Angie Timm, Founder and Co-owner

Grand Junction, CO

Simms Fishing Products

K.C. Walsh, Executive Chairman

Casey Sheahan, CEO

Diane Bristol, Sr. Director of Community

Engagement

Bozeman, MT

4

El Capitan Lodge

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First Lite

Ford Van Fossan, Conservation, Content and

Digital Merchandising Manager

Ketchum, ID

Fishpond, INC

Ben Kurtz, President

John Land Le Coq, Founder and CEO

Denver, CO

Fly Fishers International

Dave Peterson, Chair Conservation Committee

Livingston, MT

The Flyfish Journal

Jeff Galbraith, Publisher

Bellingham, WA

The Fly Fishing Show

Ben Furimsky, President/CEO

Somerset, PA

The Fly Shop

Pat Pendergast, Director of International Travel

Redding, CA

Fly Water Travel

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Frontiers International Travel
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Sitka Fish Outfitters

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Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership Joel Webster, Center for Western Lands Director Missoula, MT

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Treasure Hunter Lodge

Kurt Whitehead and Trina Nation, Owners

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Trout Unlimited

Austin Williams, Alaska Director of Law and Policy

Anchorage, AK

Umpqua Feather Merchants

Russell Miller, Director of Marketing

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Uncruise Adventures
Dan Blanchard, Owner
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goHUNT

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Hatch Magazine

Chad Shmukler, Editor

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Barneveld, WI

Wildlife Forever

Pat Conzemius, President & CEO

White Bear Lake, MN

Yellow Dog Flyfishing Adventures Jim Klug, Director of Operations Bozeman, MT

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Austin
Last name: Williams
Organization: Trout Unlimited
Title:
Comments:
The following text was copy/pasted from an attached letter. The system cannot display the formatting, graphics, or tables from the attached original.

Alaska Roadless Rule
USDA Forest Service
PO Box 21628

Juneau, AK 99802-1628

Via: www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=54511

RE: Comments on the Proposed Alaska Roadless Rule and Draft Environmental Impact Statement

Dear Ecosystem Planning and Budget Staff,

Please accept these comments submitted on behalf of Trout Unlimited (TU) on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) and proposed rule for the Alaska-Specific Roadless Area Conservation Rule.

TU is the nation's largest sportsman's organization dedicated to coldwater conservation with more than 400 chapters and more than 300,000 supporters nation-wide. TU has more than 22,000 supporters in Alaska that are passionate anglers, lodge owners, fishing and hunting guides, and commercial fishermen, among other various occupations. In addition to members in more remote parts of the state, TU has active chapters in Juneau, on the Kenai Peninsula, in Anchorage and the Mat-SU, and in Fairbanks. Many of TU's members rely on the important fish, wildlife and water resources found on the Tongass and Chugach National Forests for fishing, hunting, recreation, and for employment in related industries such as fishing and tourism. From Prince of Wales Island and Misty Fjords in the south, to Yakutat and the Situk River in the north, the Tongass is a popular destination for anglers and hunters because of its salmon and steelhead runs, cutthroat trout, Dolly Varden, Sitka Black-tail deer, black bear, unique karst features, numerous public use cabins, and growing visitor services infrastructure. Likewise, the Chugach is immensely popular for residents and visitors for its fishing, hunting and outdoor recreation opportunity. In addition to our base of sport anglers, outfitters and guides, TU's membership also includes commercial fishers, Alaska Natives, small business owners, and Alaskans from a variety of walks of life.

TU has a long history of working collaboratively with the Forest Service and other stakeholders on the Tongass and elsewhere throughout the National Forest System. TU, in partnership with the Forest Service and The Nature Conservancy, played a major role in the Sal Creek restoration project on Prince of Wales Island, which was completed more than ten years

ago and helped lay the foundation for future partnership and restoration projects throughout the forest. In addition to various watershed restoration and aquatic organism passage projects throughout the Tongass, TU has been an active participant in a variety of collaborative and partnership groups active in Southeast Alaska, including the Southeast Alaska Fish Habitat Partnership and the Tongass Transition Collaborative, among others. We are actively seeking opportunities to expand our partnership with the Forest Service to the

Chugach. Partnering with the Forest Service is critical to TU and to its ability to fulfill its mission. TU is committed, through the investment of significant staff and financial resources, to protecting and restoring important fish, wildlife and water resources on the Tongass, and to ensuring the region's unique wild salmon resources continue to serve as the economic, cultural and spiritual foundation of Southeast Alaska.

We commend the Forest Service for its efforts in recent years to advance the transition and move toward sustainable forest management and away from large-scale old-growth logging on the Tongass. Improving protections for important fish and wildlife habitat, enhancing visitor services, and supporting a sustainable forest products industry with a future in sustainable young-growth management will enable the Forest Service to increase its support for Southeast Alaska's rural communities and be responsive to the needs of the region. Large-scale and unsustainable old-growth timber sales undermine the region's largest job-producing industries, cause unnecessary and irreparable harm to important fish and wildlife habitat, and is an antiquated practice that would not exist if not for massive taxpayer subsidy.

I. Fishing and Recreation are the Tongass' most Important Forest Products.

The Tongass is the nation's top salmon-producing forest and a popular destination for visitors from around the globe.1 It's many productive salmon streams, important fish and wildlife habitat, and beautiful scenery are the foundation for Southeast Alaska's local economy. Sport, commercial and subsistence fishing in Southeast Alaska contributes $1 billion annually to the regional economy and accounts for 10% of Southeast Alaska's employment.2 In addition to this, more than 1.3 million out-of-state visitors flock to the Tongass each year, making tourism the largest source of private-sector jobs and earnings in southeast Alaska.3 Together, the visitor and seafood industries provide 26% of all regional employment.4 These industries have their foundation in healthy watersheds, in-tact fish and wildlife habitat, natural scenic beauty

1 U.S. Forest Service, Tongass Salmon Factsheet (Mar 2017) Attachment 1, available at https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/fseprd554592.pdf.

2 TCW Economics, Economic Contributions and Impacts of Salmonid Resources in Southeast Alaska, prepared for Trout Unlimited Alaska 16 (July 2010) Attachment 2, available at http://www.tu.org/sites/www.tu.org/files/documents/EconReportFull.pdf. The number of jobs supported by salmon fishing and its economic contribution are likely to be even greater today than was indicated since these figures were calculated using data from 2007 and the economy and salmon prices have continued to increase in years since.

3 Rain Coast Data, Southeast Alaska by the Numbers 2019, prepared for Southeast Conference at 7 (Sep. 2019) Attachment 3, available at

http://www.seconference.org/sites/default/files/FINAL%20Southeast%20by%20the%20Numbers%202019.pdf.

4 Id. at 5.

and untouched landscapes, and depend heavily on protections afforded to inventoried roadless areas by the 2001 Roadless Area Conservation Rule.

Fishing and tourism far outpace other private-sector sources of employment and earnings. They provide a steady and reliable source of employment and earnings for many Southeast Alaskan communities. While logging once played a historically important role in the economy of Southeast Alaska, current timber industry employment accounts for just 0.7% of regional jobs.5 Despite decreases in Southeast Alaska's timber industry, in the years after the 2001 Roadless Rule was initially promulgated Southeast Alaska's population increased 7 percent from 2000 to 2012 and personal income increased by 17 percent over the same period.6 Per capita income for Southeast Alaskans outpaces statewide and national averages while unemployment rates remain lower than statewide or national averages.7 Southeast Alaska's economy is buoyed by its healthy fish and wildlife habitat, productive salmon streams and scenic beauty. Managing the Tongass with fish, wildlife and visitor services at the forefront is the key to ensuring local communities and economies are strong and stable.

II. Roadless Area Protections are Essential to the Local Economy and a Successful Transition.

Two key developments in the Tongass over the past nearly two decades are responsible for the growth and strength of Southeast Alaska's fishing and tourism industries. First, the 2001 Roadless Rule was put in place to conserve the remaining wild landscapes and unroaded portions of the Tongass, which are the core of the local fishing and tourism industries. While various unsuccessful litigation efforts have been mounted against the 2001 Roadless Rule on the Tongass, and a Tongass exemption was temporarily in place before the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals ruled it to be unlawful, the 2001 Roadless Rule has successfully conserved inventoried roadless areas on the Tongass as the law of the land for the vast majority of the past 18 years. Because of the 2001 Roadless Rule, inventoried roadless areas remain unimpacted by industrial old-growth logging and unnecessary road construction, remain reliably productive as cornerstones of the region's fishing and tourism industries, and remain accessible for fishing, hunting, recreation, guiding, and tourism.

Second, through the collaborative efforts and hard compromise of the Tongass Advisory Committee (TAC) and the 2016 amendment to the Tongass Land Management Plan (TLMP), the Forest Service has a roadmap for aligning its management of the Tongass with the public interest and the economic realities of the region. Successfully implementing this collaborative vision would allow the Forest Service to align the Tongass with the public's needs, support a sustainable young-growth forest products industry, and protect the best remaining fish and wildlife habitat on the forest[mdash]including roadless areas, the Tongass 77, and TNC/Audubon Conservation Priority Areas.

5 Id.

6 USDA, Tongass Land and Resource Management Plan Final Environmental Impact Statement Plan Amendment, R10-MB-769e at 3-478 (June 2016) hereinafter 2016 TLMP FEIS.

7 Id. at 3-478 to 479.

Timber planning, including the current proposal to repeal protections for roadless areas on the Tongass, too often comes at the expense of the region's strong economic base of fisheries and tourism. Once-productive salmon streams no longer support abundant salmon runs and ample wildlife populations when clearcut logging disrupts recruitment of large-woody debris, erosion overburdens nearby streambeds, roads cross streams and cut off salmon migration to important spawning or rearing habitat, or second-growth stands become so overgrown they fail to provide meaningful winter habitat for wildlife. Tourists and recreationists don't travel to the Tongass to see and hike through large swaths of clearcut lands. They come to take in its scenic beauty and in-tact landscapes. Each of these factors contributed to why the Forest Service adopted the original 2001 Roadless Rule and remain true today.8

The past 60 years of industrial logging on the Tongass has targeted the rarest and most productive stands of large-tree old-growth forest. High-grading has reducing the highest-volume contiguous old growth on the Tongass by 66 percent forest-wide.9 On northern Prince of Wales Island, where large-scale old-growth logging has been most intense, 94 percent of the contiguous large-tree old-growth stands have been logged since 1954.10 This contiguous large-tree old-growth forest, which historically covers less than five percent of the Tongass, is among the most valuable habitat for fish and wildlife. Past logging and road building has left a legacy on the Tongass where, according to Forest Service estimates, roughly 65 watersheds are in need of significant restoration with an estimated cost of more than $100 million to address the backlog of unmet watershed restoration needs.11 The backlog of road maintenance needs on Alaska's National Forests amounts to $68 million, begging the question of why we would compound these problems through expanded road construction in new areas.12 Approximately a third of all instances on the Tongass where roads intersect streams fail to meet applicable standards for salmon migration.13

III. The Propose Rule is out of Touch with the Needs of the Public.

The overwhelming weight of public input recognizes the extraordinary value of roadless areas on the Tongass and a desire to keep the 2001 Roadless Rule's important protections in

8 See Special Areas; Roadless Area Conservation, 66 Fed. Reg. 3244, 3245-47 (Jan. 12, 2001).

9 Albert, D. M., and J. W. Schoen, Use of Historic Logging Patterns to Identify Disproportionately Logged Ecosystems within Temperate Rainforests of Southeastern Alaska, 27 Conservation Biology 4 at 779-780 (2013) Attachment 4; Albert, D. M., and J. W. Schoen, A conservation assessment for the coastal forests and mountains ecoregion of southeastern Alaska and the Tongass National Forest In A Conservation Assessment and Resource Synthesis for the Coastal Forests & Mountains Ecoregion in Southeastern Alaska and the Tongass National Forest. eds J. W. Schoen, and E. Dovichin. Audubon Alaska and The Nature Conservancy (2007), available at https://www.conservationgateway.org/ConservationByGeography/NorthAmerica/UnitedStates/alaska/seak/era/cfm/ Pages/CA-AKCFM.aspx.

10 Id.

11 USDA, Investment Strategy in Support of Rural Communities in Southeast Alaska 2011-2013, R10-MB-734 at 11 (Nov. 2011) Attachment 5, available at https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprdb5339075.pdf.

12 U.S. Forest Service, Questions for Mr. Quigley at 1 (June 2018) Attachment 6.

13 U.S. Forest Service, 2016-2017 Tongass National Forest Monitoring and Evaluation Report at 3 Attachment 7.

place. Numerous tribes and communities have passed resolutions or spoken out in favor of protecting roadless areas on the Tongass. Many affected businesses in the fishing, hunting and tourism industries also support protecting roadless areas.14 Public comment at the public meetings for the proposed exemption overwhelmingly favored retaining the 2001 Roadless Rule. In some communities, 100% of the public comment supports protecting roadless areas. Recent polling shows 79% of Alaskans and a comparable number of southeast Alaskans want to either keep the 2001 Roadless Rule as it is, or to make minor changes that are offset by increased conservation measures for important fish and wildlife.15 Similarly, the majority of public comments to the Forest Service during the scoping period opposed changing the 2001 Roadless Rule for Alaska.16 The scientific community also recognizes the importance of the 2001 Roadless Rule and the extraordinary value of the remaining big-tree old-growth, and has repeatedly called on the Forest Service to end its old-growth timber sale program.17

When evaluating the benefits from the Tongass to society, the Forest Service and the State of Alaska are placing far too much emphasis on traditional extractive resources while largely ignoring benefits from fish, wildlife, subsistence, recreation, water resources, and carbon storage. By far the most valuable activities occurring on the Tongass are derived from intact fish and wildlife habitat and wild scenery. This is true throughout the National Forest System, but is especially relevant in Southeast Alaska where the Tongass comprises such a large portion of the land base and where the forest's roadless qualities play such an integral role in southeast Alaska's businesses, economy and lifestyle. Maximizing the benefits from the Tongass to the public requires the Forest Service to manage the Tongass in a way that prioritizes the many contributions of fish, wildlife and visitor services[mdash]all of which primarily derive from inventoried roadless areas.

In addition to safeguarding important fish, wildlife, subsistence, and recreational resources throughout roadless areas in the Tongass, the 2001 Roadless Rule also provides reasonable accommodation to community development and infrastructure needs. The 2001 Roadless Rule provides access for mining, energy, and community infrastructure projects. It allows forest health, recreation, and cultural activities. The Kake-Petersburg Intertie and the Blue Lake Hydropower Project Expansion, which opponents of the 2001 Roadless Rule often cite as being obstructed by the rule, are explicitly allowed by court order along with a variety of

14 See Business Letter to Secretary Perdue and Chief Christiansen (Dec. 16, 2019) Attachment 8.

15 See Tulchin Research, Poll Findings: Alaska's Tongass National Forest at 7 (May 2019) Attachment 9, available at http://www.americansalmonforest.org/uploads/3/9/0/1/39018435/ak_tongass_trout_unlimited_final.pdf.

16 U.S. Forest Service, Alaska Roadless Rule Scoping Period: Written Public Comment Summary at 2 (Feb. 2019) available at https://www.fs.usda.gov/nfs/11558/www/nepa/109834_FSPLT3_4616651.pdf.

17 See Jack Ward Thomas and Mike Dombeck, Seattle Times Op Ed, Declare harvest of old-growth off-limits and move on (Aug 23, 2003); Letter to the President by 78 North American Scientists (lead signatories were Jack Ward Thomas and Mike Dombeck) calling for a national old growth policy to protect the remaining old growth on national forest lands throughout the US (June 25, 2014); Letter to Secretary Vilsack from 200+ North American Scientists urging a quick transition out of old-growth logging on the Tongass National Forest (October 15, 2014); Joint Society letter to Secretary Vilsack from American Fisheries Society (AK Chapter), American Ornithologist's Union, American Society of Mammalogists, Ecological Society of America, Pacific Seabird Group, Society for Conservation Biology, The Wildlife Society (January 20, 2015).

other high-profile projects.18 As of June, 2019, all 58 applications submitted for projects in roadless areas in Alaska had been approved, most gaining approval within a month.19 The majority of these applications pertain to surface exploration of potential mining and hydropower projects, but they also include road realignment and reconstruction projects, an aerial tram, a geothermal project, personal use of timber, and a variety of other projects. In October, 2018, the process for approving these projects was further streamlined when Forest Service Chief Christiansen delegated authority to approve project requests to the Regional Foresters. 20

In many regards, Southeast Alaska has already transitioned. More than one-in-four jobs in Southeast Alaska are in either the fishing or tourism industries.21 Even when timber from private and state lands is included, the timber industry in Southeast Alaska accounts for just a few hundred jobs.22 While timber harvesting once played a historically important role in the economy of Southeast Alaska, the future of the Tongass timber program is in planning and implementing appropriately-scaled timber sales that support and encourage local manufacturing of young-growth forest products while also restoring managed stands in previously-harvested areas. If the Tongass is to truly support the local and regional economy, its management[mdash]and especially the management of its roadless areas[mdash]must place fishing and tourism industries at the forefront and to in every way possible avoid or minimize impacts to fish and wildlife habitat.

Exempting the Tongass, or even portions of inventoried roadless areas on the Tongass, from the protections afforded by the 2001 Roadless Rule will undercut the Tongass Transition, erode public confidence and trust in the Forest Service, serve as unnecessary obstacles to the creation of a sustainable forest products industry in the region, and undermine the economic lynchpins of Southeast Alaska's fishing and tourism economy. As the Forest Service itself notes, outfitters, guides and recreation-related businesses are the losers as a result of this rulemaking, likely losing hundreds of thousands of dollars per year, if not more.23

For at least a decade, from the Log Jam timber sale in 2009 to today's Central Tongass Project, the Forest Service has justified old-growth timber sales on the Tongass as "bridge timber" that are necessary to encourage the transition to young-growth forest products. A similar line of thinking permeated the TAC and the 2016 TLMP amendment, where industrial old-growth logging was justified to maintain the existing timber industry and capacity only until large volumes of young-growth timber becomes commercially viable and the arrival of the highly anticipated "wall of wood."

18 See U.S. District Court, District of Alaska, Judgement, Organized Village of Kake v. USDA, 1:09-cv-00023-JWS at 2-3 (May 24, 2011) Attachment 10.

19 U.S. Forest Service, Frequently Asked Questions Regarding Inventoried Roadless Areas 6 (Jan. 2018) Attachment 11; U.S. Forest Service, supra note 12, at 1.

20 U.S. Forest Service, supra note 12, at 1.

21 See Rain Coast Data, supra note 3, at 4.

22 See id. at 4.

23 U.S. Forest Service, Alaska Roadless Rulemaking Regulatory Impact Assessment and Cost-Benefit Assessment 32 (Oct. 2019) available at http://www.fs.usda.gov/nfs/11558/www/nepa/109834_FSPLT3_4876769.pdf.

Exempting the Tongass from the 2001 Roadless Rule disrupts the transition and greatly expands the suitable old-growth timber base, undoes years of progress built on public trust and collaboration, will have irreversible negative impacts to the remaining important fish and wildlife habitat on the forest, and set the transition and the Tongass back decades. Rather than creating large new exemptions to roadless area protections that encourage the timber industry to dig in its heels against the tides of change and to continue cutting as much valuable old-growth timber as possible, the Forest Service should conserve roadless areas on the Tongass and encourage investment in transition technologies and entrepreneurship within the Tongass timber industry.

IV. The Forest Service has Failed to Provide Adequate Opportunity for Public Input and Failed to Address Issues Raised in Scoping.

The Forest Service has needlessly rushed this rulemaking, has not provided adequate notice and opportunity for public input, and has not been responsive to the input it has received. Unlike the processes employed in development of the original 2001 Roadless Rule or the Colorado or Idaho state-specific rules, all of which allowed for diverse stakeholder input from the outset, the rulemaking for the Alaska Roadless Rule has been driven by special interests and the State of Alaska.

The Forest Service has improperly relied on the State of Alaska's Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) as if it was a duly convened federal advisory committee, which it is not. The CAC was hastily convened without any of the procedural safeguards that apply to committees convened through the Federal Advisory Committee Act. Its membership failed to include anyone from the tourism or visitor services industry, failed to include anyone operating on the Tongass through a special use permit, failed to include anyone from the sport fishing or hunting industries, failed to include anyone with scientific or technical expertise, and was heavily skewed toward resource extractive industries such as logging.24 Many of its members had limited understanding of the Roadless Rule and did not have the resources to make an informed decision, such as information on existing commercial operators on the forest. As such, it had only a narrow view of the issues at stake and a relatively poor understanding of how the Roadless Rule functioned on the Tongass.

Despite these shortcomings, the Forest Service is treating the CAC as if it was a federal advisory committee. Each of the alternatives closely mirror the options forwarded to it by the CAC, even where those options conflict with input from the public, other cooperating agencies, or from the TAC's recommendations during the 2016 TLMP amendment. In addition, as has been widely reported, it's clear Alaska Governor Dunleavy convinced President Trump to direct

24 See Alaska Roadless Rule Citizens Advisory Committee, Final Report to the Governor and State Forester, State of Alaska at 15 (Nov. 2018) available at https://s31207.pcdn.co/wp-content/uploads/sites/6/2019/11/Alaska-Roadless-Rule-Citizen-Advisory-Committee-Final-Report_11.21.2018.pdf.

the Forest Service to undertake a full exemption even before the DEIS was made public.25 This is predecisional. The Forest Service has allowed the State of Alaska to unduly influence this process while ignoring the overwhelming public comment in support of protecting roadless areas on the Tongass.

V. The Proposed Rule will not be "durable" and fails to Satisfy the Purpose and Need of the Rulemaking.

The purpose and need for this rulemaking is to achieve "a long-term, durable approach to roadless area management . . . that accommodates the unique biological, social and economic situation in and around the Tongass."26 In order to satisfy this purpose and need, any new rule, if one is promulgated, must have broad support from diverse stakeholders throughout the region, including conservation interests and the fishing and tourism industries, while also being responsive to criticisms of the 2001 Roadless Rule, whether real or perceived. Unfortunately, the Forest Service has taken little effort to address criticisms of the 2001 Roadless Rule that are merely of perception and that could be remedied through efforts short of a new rulemaking and has proposed the most extreme option available. The Forest Service is advancing a proposed rule that is the product of undue political pressure from special interests instead of collaboration and compromise.

When the Forest Service first announced it was considering changes to the 2001 Roadless Rule in Alaska, TU was among a group of businesses and organizations that reached out to the Forest Service and State of Alaska expressing interest in finding a compromise that retained the core conservation principles of the Roadless Rule while alleviating concerns of its critics. At its core, while we support the 2001 Roadless Rule and do not believe an Alaska-specific rule is necessary, our suggestion was to develop a rule that: (1) provided a limited exemption for the "roadless roadless"; (2) expanded roadless area protections to those portions of the Tongass 77 and TNC/Audubon Conservation Priority Areas that are outside inventoried roadless areas; and (3) clarified that roads and tree harvest are allowed where reasonably necessary for essential infrastructure projects, energy generation projects, mining, and transportation projects.

Had the Forest Service developed and advanced an alternative based on input through a robust public process like that used for the Idaho or Colorado rules, it could have arrived at a durable solution. Unfortunately, the Forest Service has instead bent to the will of the State of Alaska and the old-growth logging industry, which are unwilling to accept anything less than a full repeal of the 2001 Roadless Rule on the Tongass. Conflict and controversy are mounting as a result and, if the proposed rule becomes final, litigation is sure to follow. Rather than

25 See The Washington Post, Trump Pushes to Allow new Logging in Alaska's Tongass National Forest (Aug. 27,
2019) Attachment 12, available at https://www.washingtonpost.com/climate-environment/trump-pushes-to-allow-
new-logging-in-alaskas-tongass-national-forest/2019/08/27/b4ca78d6-c832-11e9-be05-f76ac4ec618c_story.html.

26 U.S. Forest Service, Draft Environmental Impact Statement Rulemaking for Alaska Roadless Areas at ES-2 (Oct. 2019) hereinafter DEIS.

achieving a durable and lasting result that puts conflict behind us, this proposed rule douses the remaining embers of the timber wars with fuel.

VI. The Tongass 77 and TNC/Audubon Conservation Priority Areas are Important for Fish and Wildlife and Should be Conserved.

Various areas have been identified as especially important for fish and wildlife and deserve continued protection under any future Alaska-specific roadless rule. These areas include the Tongass 77 (commonly referred to as the T77) and areas identified by the Audubon/TNC Eco-regional Conservation Assessment as either Conservation Priority or Core Integrated Management Watersheds (commonly referred to as TNC/Audubon Conservation Priority Areas). These areas, along with roadless areas, were specifically recognized by the TAC, which recommended they be off-limits to future old-growth logging.27 The 2016 TLMP

amendment sought to implement the TAC's recommendations by identifying these areas as NOT suitable for old-growth logging.28

Any Alaska-specific roadless rule should reinforce the TAC recommendations and the 2016 TLMP amendment by protecting the entire Tongass 77 and all TNC/Audubon Conservation Priority Areas, including those that are outside inventoried roadless areas. These protections should be as robust and as flexible as protections afforded inventoried roadless areas by the 2001 Roadless Rule while still allowing recreation, outfitters and guides, cultural and subsistence activities, and projects designed to restore forest health. If the Forest Service finalizes an Alaska-specific Roadless Rule, TU encourages extending the Watershed Priority to Tongass 77 and TNC/Audubon Conservation Priority Areas outside the existing roadless inventory, as is proposed as a component of Alternative 3.

The Tongass 77 are the "best of the best" from the thousands of salmon and trout watersheds on the Tongass. These areas were identified through a comprehensive process where researchers from the Alaska offices of the Audubon Society, The Nature Conservancy and Trout Unlimited, in consultation with federal and state biologists and various community and business stakeholder groups, identified the most important salmon-producing watersheds that lacked watershed-scale protections. Now narrowed down to 73 watersheds comprising

27 Tongass Advisory Committee, Tongass Advisory Committee Final Recommendations at 13 (Dec. 2015) Attachment 13, available at http://www.merid.org/~/media/Files/Projects/tongass/December%202015%20Meeting/Tongass%20Advisory%20C ommittee%20Final%20Recommendations_Dec%202015.pdf. While some former members of the TAC appear to now characterize the TAC's final recommendations as not unanimous or as not supporting the conclusion that the Tongass 77 should be off limits to old-growth logging, those comments contradict the well-established record of the TAC and the 2016 TLMP amendment. As the TAC's final recommendations clearly state, "The TAC agrees that the USFS should: . . . Limit the old growth timber base to the current definition of Phase I lands outside of The Nature Conservancy (TNC)/Audubon conservation priority areas, Tongass 77 (T77) watersheds and Inventoried Roadless Areas." Id. While the TAC was instructed by the USDA and Forest Service to limit its recommendations to what was possible within the 2001 Roadless Rule, no similar direction was provided to the TAC for the Tongass 77 or TNC/Audubon Conservation Priority Areas, which were taken up by the TAC on its own accord.

28 USDA, Tongass National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan, R10-MB-769g at A-5 (June 2016) available at https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/fseprd527907.pdf.

not quite 1.9 million acres,29 the Tongass 77 form the backbone of Southeast Alaska's salmon fishery and the play a vital role on Southeast Alaska's local economy. The Tongass 77 enjoys support from more than 300 businesses and organizations, most of which are based in Southeast Alaska.30 7,233 individuals, 3,636 of which resided in Southeast Alaska, voiced support for protecting the Tongass 77 and making these areas off limits to logging during planning for the 2016 TLMP amendment.31

Like the Tongass 77, TNC/Audubon Conservation Priority Areas are hugely important to local fish and wildlife populations. These areas were identified through a thorough peer-review process conducted by scientists from Audubon Alaska and The Nature Conservancy.32 These areas are the most ecologically valuable areas for a diverse array of plant and animal species and their conservation is essential to the ecological health and function of Southeast Alaska.

Fish and wildlife, and Southeast Alaska's broad expanses of untracked land and scenic beauty, are the underpinnings of our local economy, culture, and community. Salmon and trout[mdash]and the communities, cultures and economies they sustain[mdash]require clean, healthy watersheds for spawning, rearing and migrating. Based on the outstanding fish and wildlife habitat values in the Tongass 77 and TNC/Audubon Conservation Priority Areas, and their incredible importance to local communities and the region's economy, these areas deserve special protection from future development in any new Alaska-specific rule developed by the Forest Service.

VII. The DEIS Fails to Take a Hard Look at Impacts to Fish and their Habitat.

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires the Forest Service to take a hard look at the potential direct, indirect and cumulative effects of the proposed rule.33 This must include effects and impacts that are "ecological (such as the effects on natural resources and on the components, structures, and functioning of affected ecosystems), aesthetic, historic, cultural, economic, social, or health, whether direct, indirect, or cumulative."34 Yet, the DEIS consistently underplays the potential impacts, makes numerous conclusions that are unsupported by the best available science, and fails to incorporate numerous relevant scientific studies. Because of these shortcomings, the DEIS is inadequate for an informed impacts analysis.

29 See Trout Unlimited, The Tongass 77, Protecting Southeast Alaska's Best Salmon Watersheds (Mar. 2, 2016) Attachment 14, available at http://www.americansalmonforest.org/uploads/3/9/0/1/39018435/t77_4-pager_summary_-_20160302.pdf.

30 See List of Tongass 77 supporters, available at http://www.americansalmonforest.org/t77-supporters.html.

31 Id.

32 See Albert, D. M., and J. W. Schoen, A conservation assessment for the coastal forests and mountains ecoregion of southeastern Alaska and the Tongass National Forest In A Conservation Assessment and Resource Synthesis for the Coastal Forests & Mountains Ecoregion in Southeastern Alaska and the Tongass National Forest. eds J. W. Schoen, and E. Dovichin. Audubon Alaska and The Nature Conservancy (2007), available at https://www.conservationgateway.org/ConservationByGeography/NorthAmerica/UnitedStates/alaska/seak/era/cfm/ Pages/CA-AKCFM.aspx.

33 See 40 C.F.R. [sect] 1502.16.

34 Id. at [sect] 1508.8.

The DEIS fails to adequately asses the current status of fishes and fish habitat on the Tongass, to discuss how the current status relates to historic abundance, and to analyze how the proposed action will affect fisheries, fish habitat, and the important waters that support these resources. Underlying the DEIS, and made explicit by various statements of Forest Service officials at public meetings, is the misguided belief that expanding logging and logging roads into roadless areas will have no effect on fish and fish habitat. This assertion is conclusory and unsupported by the scientific record and common sense.

First, the Forest Service seems to take the position that, while the proposed rule will give it more flexibility to plan logging in new places, the exemption will not lead to more logging. The State's petition and the various comments by Alaska's elected officials and industry proponents make clear that the motivation for the exemption is to revitalize and expand the failing old-growth logging industry. The old-growth logging industry has already high graded the economically viable timber stands. Forest wide, 66.5% of the Tongass' contiguous high-volume stands have been logged. On northern Prince of Wales Island, where logging has been most intense, 93.8% of the contiguous high-volume stands have been logged.35 The old-growth logging industry has already cut nearly all the economically viable forest it has access to on the Tongass and must expand into new roadless areas if it is to continue.

Second, the Forest Service maintains TLMP provides a second layer of protection by identifying most roadless areas as "not suitable" for logging. However, as part of this rulemaking the Forest Service also proposes making an administrative change to the forest plan to reclassify 185,000 acres as suitable for logging. 165,000 of those acres are old-growth forest and 20,000 of those acres are young-growth forest, all of which will newly be available for logging if this proposed rule becomes final. Additionally, the Forest Service often amends the Forest Plan on a project-by-project basis to make new areas suitable, which it likely would do in the future to make new lands available for logging beyond the initial 185,000 acres.

Third, the Forest Service suggests that standards and guides in TLMP, such as stream buffers that prohibit logging within 100 feet of a salmon stream, adequately protect salmon even where logging is allowed. However, as we've seen in the Tongass and elsewhere, logging and logging roads lead to sedimentation, higher stream temperatures, lack of large woody debris recruitment, migration barriers, and a variety of other impacts that degrade habitat and reduce salmon productivity. Additionally, standards and guidelines on the Tongass lag behind what the Forest Service requires on other salmon-producing national forests, including those managed under the Northwest Forest Plan where the Forest Service requires 300-foot buffers.

Fourth, although the DEIS seems to acknowledge that roads are the largest source of sediment to salmon streams,36 and a recent monitoring and evaluation report identified a third

35 See Albert and Schoen, supra note 9, at 779-780.

36 DEIS at 3-112.

of all bridges and culverts across salmon streams on the Tongass fail to meet applicable fish passage standards,37 the DEIS fails to assess the impacts associated with additional road construction necessary to support logging activities in new portions of the Tongass. As the DEIS notes, "road-crossing structures have been common partial or complete barriers to fish movement in much of the developed areas where fish are present,"38 "roads pose the greatest risk to fish resources on the Tongass,"39 and "Roads have been found to contribute more sediment to streams than any other land management activity."40 Even if the rate of logging stays within the projections contemplated by the 2016 TLMP amendment, for which there is no guarantee, road construction must increase under the proposed rule in order to facilitate logging in areas currently inventoried as roadless. Yet, the DEIS erroneously states that "new road construction would be similar under all alternatives"41 and that the proposed rule will have "Neutral/No Effect" on fisheries.42

This proposed rule will allow industrial clear-cut logging of old growth forest to expand into new areas. This expansion will require more road construction and reconstruction. Additionally, the rate and footprint of logging operations is likely to increase through subsequent plan amendments and due to new economically viable timber becoming available. These expansion areas will be the best remaining economically viable stands of old-growth forest, which are also the most important places for salmon and other fish and wildlife species. Logging and road building in these expanded areas will impact salmon, resident fishes, nearby wildlife, and their habitat. The Forest Service ignores these realities and fails to take a hard look at these impacts. The DEIS does not satisfy the requirements of NEPA and must be revised.

VIII. The DEIS Fails to Take a Hard Look at Impacts to Tourism and Recreation.

The DEIS and supporting materials fail to account for existing tourism and recreation activities on the Tongass, fail to account for future growth in those activities, and as a consequence fail to take a hard look at reasonably foreseeable impacts to tourism and recreation. The DEIS lists the small cruise vessel capacity and notes that 242 permitted outfitters and guides operated on the Tongass between 2013 and 2017,43 but somehow concludes the proposed rule will have minimal to no effect on those activities.44 Additionally, the DEIS dismisses likely impacts to "other popular recreation and tourism activities, such as saltwater fishing, sea kayaking, and shopping" because they "do not take place on the Tongass" and the forest merely provides "a backdrop for these activities."45 This assertion is unsupported.

37 U.S. Forest Service, supra note 13, at 3.

38 DEIS at 3-110.

39 Id. at 3-112.

40 Id.

41 Id. at 3-113.

42 Id. at 2-25.

43 Id. at 3-39.

44 Id. at 2-25.

45 Id. at 3-41.

The proposed rule would expand logging and logging roads into new part of the Tongass that are currently undeveloped. Many of these roadless areas are the foundation for local outfitter and guide businesses, tour companies, and are popular with recreationists. Outside of general observations about the volume of use on the Tongass, the Forest Service provides no meaningful accounting of existing or foreseeable future use, where that use occurs on the forest, and makes no meaningful assessment of how that use will be impacted or displaced by expanded logging activities and new logging roads. The Forest Service must undertake a meaningful assessment of how expanding logging activities into new parts of the forest will impact and displace existing forest users. The Forest Service must also consider how this expanded logging will curb growth in the tourism and recreation sector. A new revised or supplemental DEIS is necessary to address these shortcomings.

IX. Additional Specific Comments on the Proposed Rule and Action Alternatives.

TU supports Alternative 1 and encourages the Forest Service to take "no action." However, the following comments are provided on the various action alternatives.

a. "Logical Extensions" Should Avoid the Tongass 77 and TNC/Audubon Priority Areas.

Alternative 3 exempts "substantially-altered roadless areas" and modifies roadless boundaries to allow logging up to the "logical end points of existing road and timber harvest units" in areas currently inventoried as roadless.46 These logical extensions are sprinkled throughout the forest. While TU opposes exempting any of the logical extensions, many of them are especially problematic because they are located in high-value areas for fish, wildlife and/or recreation. The below chart outlines the most problematic logical extensions. These logical extensions should not be included in Alternative 3 or, at a minimum, reduced in size to eliminate the conflict.

1. Timber Harvest and Roads Should not be Allowed for Experimental Forests in Roadless Areas.

Alternatives 2 through 5 would allow timber harvest and road construction or reconstruction in designated experimental forests for research or administration.47 However, this allowance is inconsistent with the protection or roadless values and should not be included in the final rule. Any research or administrative activities that rely on timber harvest or road construction and reconstruction should occur outside inventoried roadless areas.

1. Timber Harvest and Roads Should not be Allowed for Fishways, Hatcheries or Aquaculture Facilities.

Alternatives 2 through 5 would allow road construction or reconstruction in conjunction with fishways, hatcheries or aquaculture facilities in roadless areas and/or community priority areas.48 However, this allowance is inconsistent with the conservation of roadless values and should not be included in the final rule. Unless the road construction or reconstruction is

47 Id. at 2-7.

48 Id. at 2-7 and 2-8.

necessary pursuant to a pre-existing right, any hatcheries or aquaculture facilities should be sited to avoid road construction or reconstruction in roadless areas.

1. Commercial Timber Harvest and Logging Roads Should be Prohibited in Community Priority Areas.

Alternative 3 would allow commercial timber sales and associated logging roads in community priority areas where the volume is less than 1 million board feet (mmbf) of timber.49 This leaves the door open for a series of commercial timber sales of unlimited volume and unlimited new road construction so long as each individual sale is less than 1 mmbf. In effect, this invites segmentation, undermines the purpose of community priority areas, and fails to conserve the important roadless values. This language should not be included in the final rule. Commercial timber sales and logging roads should be prohibited in community priority areas.

1. Timber Harvest Associated with Biomass Production Should be Prohibited in

Community Priority Areas.

Alternative 3 would allow timber harvest where "needed for the construction, expansion, utilization or maintenance of . . . biomass heating and energy systems" and "other renewable energy projects" in Community Priority Areas.50 If adopted as part of the final rule, this language should be changed to clarify that timber harvest is allowed only when incidental to construction of the generation facility and prohibited if done in order to provide a supply of biomass fuel. Timber harvest to fuel a biomass facility must comply with any and all restrictions applicable to traditional commercial logging activities.

1. Timber Harvest Associated with Alaska Native Customary and Traditional Uses Should be Allowed.

TU supports allowing timber harvest for Alaska Native customary and traditional uses, such as for the harvest of individual trees for totems, in roadless areas when consistent with maintaining and conserving roadless characteristics. Associated road construction and reconstruction should be prohibited.

1. Timber Priority Alaska Roadless Areas Should not be Allowed.

Alternative 4 would allow timber harvest and road construction or reconstruction in timber priority roadless areas.51 Establishing Timber Priority Alaska Roadless Areas is inconsistent with the conservation or roadless values and should not be allowed. This roadless

49 Id. at 2-8.

50 Id.

51 Id.

classification should not be part of the final rule. Commercial logging and logging roads should be allowed only outside inventoried roadless areas.

1. Administrative Changes to TLMP.

Alternatives 2 through 6 propose administrative changes to the 2016 TLMP amendment to change 185,000 acres of the Tongass from not suitable for timber production to suitable.52 These changes are inappropriate for this rulemaking. The purpose and need does not contemplate changes to TLMP, this was not an issue significantly raised during scoping, and is not an issue that has been adequately noticed during the public comment period for the DEIS.

The 2016 TLMP amendment was the product of years of collaboration and compromise among diverse stakeholders that struck a careful balance among conservation and resource extraction interests. Unlike the ongoing roadless rulemaking, which relies on input from a non[shy]representative stakeholder group convened by the State of Alaska, the 2016 TLMP amendment is based on recommendations from the TAC, a duly convened federal advisory committee that complied will all procedural and substantive requirements of the federal advisory committee act.53 At its core, the TAC recommended phasing out large-scale old-growth logging over a 16-year period, easing standards and guides to allow increased access to young-growth timber as a way of encouraging the transition away from old-growth logging, and protecting important areas from future logging, including roadless areas, the Tongass 77, and TNC/Audubon Conservation Priority Areas.54 The TAC was clear that its recommendations must be taken as a whole and not adopted partially or in a piecemeal manner.

Changing the suitability determination in the 2016 TLMP amendment undermines the robust and collaborative process that was employed in achieving its careful compromise. This is especially true where, as here, the Forest Service proposes changes to the forest plan without undertaking a similarly robust or collaborative process. If the Forest Service desires to undertake changes to the forest plan, it must do so separately from proposed changed to the 2001 Roadless Rule, with proper public notice that such changes are being contemplated, and with a robust process on par with the process used with the TAC.

1. The Final Rule Should not Include Language Affecting the Chugach National Forest.

There is no reason for the Forest Service to include the Chugach National Forest in its final rule and all language affecting the Chugach should be removed. The State of Alaska's petition was clear that it requested action regarding the Tongass.55 It did not request action

52 Id. at 2-2.

53 Tongass Advisory Committee, supra note 27, at 13.

54 Id.

55 Mack, Andrew T, Commissioner Alaska Department of Natural Resources, State of Alaska Petition for USDA Rulemaking to Exempt the Tongass National Forest from Application of the Roadless Rule and other Actions (Jan 2018).

affecting the Chugach.56 Similarly, although the Forest Service has often referred to the rulemaking as for an "Alaska Roadless Rule," the Forest Service has given every indication it was limiting its consideration to the Tongass and not considering changes affecting the Chugach. Upon releasing the DEIS, the Forest Service press release repeatedly mentions the Tongass and states "The Chugach National Forest would remain under the 2001 Roadless Rule."57

Despite the Petition's clear limitation to the Tongass, and public statements by the Forest Service that proposed changes were limited to the Tongass, the Forest Service has nonetheless proposed changes that significantly undermine roadless area protections on the Chugach. These changes are two-fold:

First, the Forest Service proposes creating a mechanism to allow "administrative corrections" to roadless boundaries in the Chugach following public notice and 30-day comment period.58 These changes are unnecessary because the 2001 Roadless Rule clearly contemplates corrections when it defines "Inventoried roadless areas" as "Areas identified in a set of inventoried roadless areas maps, . . . or any subsequent update or revision of those maps."59 Instead of creating a new regulation for the Chugach and extending the Alaska roadless rulemaking beyond its scope, the Forest Service should work within the existing 2001 Roadless Rule to address any administrative corrections that might be appropriate for the Chugach.

Second, the Forest Service proposes creating a mechanism to modify the classification and boundaries of roadless areas on the Chugach after public notice and a 45-day comment period.60 This second provision would create a loophole in roadless conservation so great as to render roadless area protections in the Chugach meaningless. Any future project, even a massive timber sale, could be allowed in roadless areas on the Chugach through a simple reclassification or boundary modification. Except for the requirement for a simple

notice and comment period, such as is required for any large project anyway, there is no limit to what can be allowed in roadless areas of the Chugach and no standard for when the reclassification or boundary modification is appropriate. Even if the Forest Service decides to retain the first subpart of the Chugach section, this second provision must be excluded.

Modifying the 2001 Roadless Rule for the Chugach is unnecessary, is inconsistent with the conservation of roadless areas, and is especially inappropriate here since the Forest Service has repeatedly assured the public there will be no changes to the Chugach. If the Forest Service desires to modify how roadless areas on the Chugach are managed, it must initiate a new rulemaking with proper notice and scope to include the Chugach.

56 See id.

57 U.S. Forest Service, USDA Forest Service Seeks Public Comment on Draft Environmental Impact Statement, Alternatives to a Proposed Alaska Roadless Rule at 2 (Oct. 15, 2019) available at https://www.fs.usda.gov/nfs/11558/www/nepa/109834_FSPLT3_4876053.pdf.

58 See 84 Fed. Reg. 55528-29 (Oct. 17, 2019).

59 36 C.F.R. [sect] 294.11 (emphasis added).

60 See 84 Fed. Reg. 55529 (Oct. 17, 2019).

X. Conclusion.

The proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, which would fully exempt the Tongass and create misguided loopholes for the Chugach, is a huge leap backward and risks undoing much of the progress gained through compromise and collaboration in recent years. It turns its back to Southeast Alaska's economic strengths[mdash]fishing, tourism and outdoor recreation[mdash]which now account for 26% of regional employment and $2 billion to the local economy. It also short changes the values that make the Tongass so unique and valuable to local residents and visitors alike.

Roadless areas on the Tongass are some of the best and most valuable lands on the forest. Many of the most important salmon streams are in roadless areas. Increasingly scarce winter deer range and prime bear habitat is often found in low elevation roadless areas. Roadless areas offer the right combination of beautiful scenery, wild landscapes, fish and wildlife, and access that local residents and the growing tourism and recreation industry demands. The Tongass is a paradise[mdash]not just for Alaskans, but for all Americans. The Forest Service should abandon its proposed exemption and, instead, continue long-standing protections for roadless areas.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input into this planning process. Please do not hesitate to contact me by email at awilliams@tu.org or by phone at 907.227.1590 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Austin Williams

December 16, 2019

The Honorable Sonny Perdue Ms. Vicki Christiansen

U.S. Department of Agriculture U.S. Forest Service

1400 Independence Ave., S.W. 1400 Independence Ave., S.W.

Washington, D.C. 20250 Washington, D.C. 20250

Dear Secretary Perdue and Ms. Christiansen,

We are outfitters and guides, tour operators, gear manufacturers and retailers, sportsmen organizations, and conservation groups that value and depend on the Tongass National Forest. We employ hundreds of southeast Alaskans, have tens-of-thousands of Alaskan supporters, and cater to customers that travel to the Tongass for its world-class fish and wildlife, recreation values, subsistence resources, and for the economic opportunities roadless areas provide. The proposed Alaska Roadless Rule and decisions about how to manage the Tongass have a direct and profound impact on us, our customers, and our members.

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The proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, which would fully exempt the Tongass, is a huge leap backward and risks undoing much of the progress gained through hard compromise and collaboration in recent years. It turns its back to the region's economic strengths, fishing, tourism and outdoor recreation, which now account for 26% of regional employment and $2 billion to the local economy, and short changes the values that make the Tongass so unique and valuable to local residents and visitors alike. Exempting the Tongass from the Roadless Rule unnecessarily courts conflict and empowers the most extreme voices while obstructing more productive and mutually beneficial pathways to the future. The Forest Service should abandon its proposed exemption and, instead, maintain protections for roadless areas within the Tongass.

Many of us work directly with the Forest Service, either through special use permits to operate on the Tongass, as project partners, or as visitors, hunters, anglers, and subsistence users. Our ability to fulfill our missions and meet the needs of our customers, and the Forest Service's ability to meet the needs of the public, are directly tied to one another. Either we succeed as stewards of our public lands together with the Forest Service, or we standby as turmoil over management decisions grows and forest values are degraded.

Many of the undersigned parties have long supported efforts by the Forest Service to transition the Tongass from unsustainable old-growth logging to management focused on fish and wildlife, tourism and recreation, and a sustainable young-growth forest products industry. We cheered the original transition announcement in 2010, worked tirelessly in support of the 2016 amendment to the Tongass Land Management Plan, and have supported its implementation since. Although compromise can be difficult, the need to move beyond the persistent conflict that has clouded the Tongass for decades is paramount.

Roadless areas on the Tongass are some of the best and most valuable lands on the forest. Many of the most important salmon streams are in roadless areas. Increasingly scarce winter deer range and prime bear habitat is often found in low elevation roadless areas. Roadless areas offer the right combination of beautiful scenery, wild landscapes, fish and wildlife, and access that our growing tourism and recreation industry demands. The Roadless Rule's protections for these unique values give our businesses and organizations a level of certainty upon which we base our business investments and hiring decisions.

The Tongass is a paradise[mdash]not just for Alaskans, but for all Americans. Roadless areas in the Tongass contain much of the region's most productive wildlife habitat, quality salmon habitat and clean water, and recreation opportunity. Any durable and long-lasting solution to the persistent land-management challenges on the Tongass must be based on collaboration and care for the important fish, wildlife, recreation, subsistence and scenic values that make the Tongass unique among our public lands. The proposed Alaska Roadless Rule fails on this measure. We encourage the Forest Service to listen to the overwhelming weight of public comment, the needs of businesses and organizations like ours, and to not exempt the Tongass from the Roadless Rule.

Sincerely,

Above and Beyond Alaska Hatch Outdoors Inc

Becky Janes, Owner Andrew Dickinson, General Manager

Juneau, AK Vista, CA

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[Attachment contains Tongass Salmon Factsheet]

[Attachment contains the technical report, [ldquo]Economic Contributions and Impacts of Salmonid Resources in Southeast Alaska[rdquo]]

[Attachment contains the fact sheets, [ldquo]Southeast Alaska By the Numbers 2019[rdquo]]

[Attachment contains Journal Article titled "Use of Historical Logging Patterns to Identify Disproportionately Logged Ecosystems within Temperate Rainforests of Southeastern Alaska[rdquo]]

[Attachment contains USDA Investment Strategy in Support of Rural Communities in Southeast Alaska 2011-2013]

[Attachment contains Q&A between Mr. Quigley and USFS]

[Attachment contains 2016-2017 Tongass National Forest Monitoring and Evaluation Report]

[Attachment contains PowerPoint presentation titled "Poll Findings: Alaska Tongass Forest"]

[Attachment contains Case 1:09-cv-00023-JWS Document 85 Filed 05/24/11 Organized Village of Kake, et al. vs. US Department of Agriculture, et al. and State of Alaska and Alaska Forest Association]

[Attachment contains USDA article titled "Frequently Asked Questions Regarding Inventoried Roadless Areas"]

[Attachment contains Washington Post Article titled [ldquo]Trump Pushes to Allow New Logging in Alaska[rsquo]s Tongass National Forest[rdquo]]

[Attachment contains 2015 document titled "Tongass Advisory Committee Final Recommendations"]

[Attachment contains article titled "The Tongass 77 Protecting Southeast Alaska's Best Salmon Watersheds"]

[Position]

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

Alaska Roadless Rule
USDA Forest Service
PO Box 21628

Juneau, AK 99802-1628

Via: www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=54511

RE: Comments on the Proposed Alaska Roadless Rule and Draft Environmental Impact Statement

Dear Ecosystem Planning and Budget Staff,

Please accept these comments submitted on behalf of Trout Unlimited (TU) on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) and proposed rule for the Alaska-Specific Roadless Area Conservation Rule.

TU is the nation's largest sportsman's organization dedicated to coldwater conservation with more than 400 chapters and more than 300,000 supporters nation-wide. TU has more than 22,000 supporters in Alaska that are passionate anglers, lodge owners, fishing and hunting guides, and commercial fishermen, among other

various occupations. In addition to members in more remote parts of the state, TU has active chapters in Juneau, on the Kenai Peninsula, in Anchorage and the Mat-SU, and in Fairbanks. Many of TU's members rely on the important fish, wildlife and water resources found on the Tongass and Chugach National Forests for fishing, hunting, recreation, and for employment in related industries such as fishing and tourism. From Prince of Wales Island and Misty Fjords in the south, to Yakutat and the Situk River in the north, the Tongass is a popular destination for anglers and hunters because of its salmon and steelhead runs, cutthroat trout, Dolly Varden, Sitka Black-tail deer, black bear, unique karst features, numerous public use cabins, and growing visitor services infrastructure. Likewise, the Chugach is immensely popular for residents and visitors for its fishing, hunting and outdoor recreation opportunity. In addition to our base of sport anglers, outfitters and guides, TU's membership also includes commercial fishers, Alaska Natives, small business owners, and Alaskans from a variety of walks of life.

TU has a long history of working collaboratively with the Forest Service and other stakeholders on the Tongass and elsewhere throughout the National Forest System. TU, in partnership with the Forest Service and The Nature Conservancy, played a major role in the Sal Creek restoration project on Prince of Wales Island, which was completed more than ten years

ago and helped lay the foundation for future partnership and restoration projects throughout the forest. In addition to various watershed restoration and aquatic organism passage projects throughout the Tongass, TU has been an active participant in a variety of collaborative and partnership groups active in Southeast Alaska, including the Southeast Alaska Fish Habitat Partnership and the Tongass Transition Collaborative, among others. We are actively seeking opportunities to expand our partnership with the Forest Service to the Chugach. Partnering with the Forest Service is critical to TU and to its ability to fulfill its mission. TU is committed, through the investment of significant staff and financial resources, to protecting and restoring important fish, wildlife and water resources on the Tongass, and to ensuring the region's unique wild salmon resources continue to serve as the economic, cultural and spiritual foundation of Southeast Alaska.

We commend the Forest Service for its efforts in recent years to advance the transition and move toward sustainable forest management and away from large-scale old-growth logging on the Tongass. Improving protections for important fish and wildlife habitat, enhancing visitor services, and supporting a sustainable forest products industry with a future in sustainable young-growth management will enable the Forest Service to increase its support for Southeast Alaska's rural communities and be responsive to the needs of the region. Large-scale and unsustainable old-growth timber sales undermine the region's largest job-producing industries, cause unnecessary and irreparable harm to important fish and wildlife habitat, and is an antiquated practice that would not exist if not for massive taxpayer subsidy.

I. Fishing and Recreation are the Tongass' most Important Forest Products.

The Tongass is the nation's top salmon-producing forest and a popular destination for visitors from around the globe.1 It's many productive salmon streams, important fish and wildlife habitat, and beautiful scenery are the foundation for Southeast Alaska's local economy. Sport, commercial and subsistence fishing in Southeast Alaska contributes $1 billion annually to the regional economy and accounts for 10% of Southeast Alaska's employment.2 In addition to this, more than 1.3 million out-of-state visitors flock to the Tongass each year, making tourism the largest source of private-sector jobs and earnings in southeast Alaska.3 Together, the visitor and seafood industries provide 26% of all regional employment.4 These industries have their foundation in healthy watersheds, in-tact fish and wildlife habitat, natural scenic beauty

1 U.S. Forest Service, Tongass Salmon Factsheet (Mar 2017) Attachment 1, available at https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/fseprd554592.pdf.

2 TCW Economics, Economic Contributions and Impacts of Salmonid Resources in Southeast Alaska, prepared for Trout Unlimited Alaska 16 (July 2010) Attachment 2, available at http://www.tu.org/sites/www.tu.org/files/documents/EconReportFull.pdf. The number of jobs supported by salmon fishing and its economic contribution are likely to be even greater today than was indicated since these figures were calculated using data from 2007 and the economy and salmon prices have continued to increase in years since.

3 Rain Coast Data, Southeast Alaska by the Numbers 2019, prepared for Southeast Conference at 7 (Sep. 2019) Attachment 3, available at

http://www.seconference.org/sites/default/files/FINAL%20Southeast%20by%20the%20Numbers%202019.pdf.

4 Id. at 5.

and untouched landscapes, and depend heavily on protections afforded to inventoried roadless areas by the 2001 Roadless Area Conservation Rule.

Fishing and tourism far outpace other private-sector sources of employment and earnings. They provide a steady and reliable source of employment and earnings for many Southeast Alaskan communities. While logging once played a historically important role in the economy of Southeast Alaska, current timber industry employment accounts for just 0.7% of regional jobs.5 Despite decreases in Southeast Alaska's timber industry, in the years after the 2001 Roadless Rule was initially promulgated Southeast Alaska's population increased 7 percent from 2000 to 2012 and personal income increased by 17 percent over the same period.6 Per capita income for Southeast Alaskans outpaces statewide and national averages while unemployment rates remain lower than statewide or national averages.7 Southeast Alaska's economy is buoyed by its healthy fish and wildlife habitat, productive salmon streams and scenic beauty. Managing the Tongass with fish, wildlife and visitor services at the forefront is the key to ensuring local communities and economies are strong and stable.

II. Roadless Area Protections are Essential to the Local Economy and a Successful Transition.

Two key developments in the Tongass over the past nearly two decades are responsible for the growth and strength of Southeast Alaska's fishing and tourism industries. First, the 2001 Roadless Rule was put in place to conserve the remaining wild landscapes and unroaded portions of the Tongass, which are the core of the local fishing and tourism industries. While various unsuccessful litigation efforts have been mounted against the 2001 Roadless Rule on the Tongass, and a Tongass exemption was temporarily in place before the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals ruled it to be unlawful, the 2001 Roadless Rule has successfully conserved inventoried roadless areas on the Tongass as the law of the land for the vast majority of the past 18 years. Because of the 2001 Roadless Rule, inventoried roadless areas remain unimpacted by industrial old-growth logging and unnecessary road construction, remain reliably productive as cornerstones of the region's fishing and tourism industries, and remain accessible for fishing, hunting, recreation, guiding, and tourism.

Second, through the collaborative efforts and hard compromise of the Tongass Advisory Committee (TAC) and the 2016 amendment to the Tongass Land Management Plan (TLMP), the Forest Service has a roadmap for aligning its management of the Tongass with the public interest and the economic realities of the region. Successfully implementing this collaborative vision would allow the Forest Service to align the Tongass with the public's needs, support a sustainable young-growth forest products industry, and protect the best remaining fish and wildlife habitat on the forest[mdash]including roadless areas, the Tongass 77, and TNC/Audubon Conservation Priority Areas.

5 Id.

6 USDA, Tongass Land and Resource Management Plan Final Environmental Impact Statement Plan Amendment, R10-MB-769e at 3-478 (June 2016) hereinafter 2016 TLMP FEIS.

7 Id. at 3-478 to 479.

Timber planning, including the current proposal to repeal protections for roadless areas on the Tongass, too often comes at the expense of the region's strong economic base of fisheries and tourism. Once-productive salmon streams no longer support abundant salmon runs and ample wildlife populations when clearcut logging disrupts recruitment of large-woody debris, erosion overburdens nearby streambeds, roads cross streams and cut off salmon migration to important spawning or rearing habitat, or second-growth stands become so overgrown they fail to provide meaningful winter habitat for wildlife. Tourists and recreationists don't travel to the Tongass to see and hike through large swaths of clearcut lands. They come to take in its scenic beauty and in-tact landscapes. Each of these factors contributed to why the Forest Service adopted the original 2001 Roadless Rule and remain true today.8

The past 60 years of industrial logging on the Tongass has targeted the rarest and most productive stands of large-tree old-growth forest. High-grading has reducing the highest-volume contiguous old growth on the Tongass by 66 percent forest-wide.9 On northern Prince of Wales Island, where large-scale old-growth logging has been most intense, 94 percent of the contiguous large-tree old-growth stands have been logged since 1954.10 This contiguous large-tree old-growth forest, which historically covers less than five percent of the Tongass, is among the most valuable habitat for fish and wildlife. Past logging and road building has left a legacy on the Tongass where, according to Forest Service estimates, roughly 65 watersheds are in need of significant restoration with an estimated cost of more than $100 million to address the backlog of unmet watershed restoration needs.11 The backlog of road maintenance needs on Alaska's National Forests amounts to $68 million, begging the question of why we would compound these problems through expanded road construction in new areas.12 Approximately a third of all instances on the Tongass where roads intersect streams fail to meet applicable standards for salmon migration.13

III. The Propose Rule is out of Touch with the Needs of the Public.

The overwhelming weight of public input recognizes the extraordinary value of roadless areas on the Tongass and a desire to keep the 2001 Roadless Rule's important protections in

8 See Special Areas; Roadless Area Conservation, 66 Fed. Reg. 3244, 3245-47 (Jan. 12, 2001).

9 Albert, D. M., and J. W. Schoen, Use of Historic Logging Patterns to Identify Disproportionately Logged Ecosystems within Temperate Rainforests of Southeastern Alaska, 27 Conservation Biology 4 at 779-780 (2013) Attachment 4; Albert, D. M., and J. W. Schoen, A conservation assessment for the coastal forests and mountains ecoregion of southeastern Alaska and the Tongass National Forest In A Conservation Assessment and Resource Synthesis for the Coastal Forests & Mountains Ecoregion in Southeastern Alaska and the Tongass National Forest. eds J. W. Schoen, and E. Dovichin. Audubon Alaska and The Nature Conservancy (2007), available at https://www.conservationgateway.org/ConservationByGeography/NorthAmerica/UnitedStates/alaska/seak/era/cfm/ Pages/CA-AKCFM.aspx.

10 Id.

11 USDA, Investment Strategy in Support of Rural Communities in Southeast Alaska 2011-2013, R10-MB-734 at 11 (Nov. 2011) Attachment 5, available at https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprdb5339075.pdf.

12 U.S. Forest Service, Questions for Mr. Quigley at 1 (June 2018) Attachment 6.

13 U.S. Forest Service, 2016-2017 Tongass National Forest Monitoring and Evaluation Report at 3 Attachment 7.

place. Numerous tribes and communities have passed resolutions or spoken out in favor of protecting roadless areas on the Tongass. Many affected businesses in the fishing, hunting and tourism industries also support protecting roadless areas.14 Public comment at the public meetings for the proposed exemption overwhelmingly favored retaining the 2001 Roadless Rule. In some communities, 100% of the public comment supports protecting roadless areas. Recent polling shows 79% of Alaskans and a comparable number of southeast Alaskans want to either keep the 2001 Roadless Rule as it is, or to make minor changes that are offset by increased conservation measures for important fish and wildlife.15 Similarly, the majority of public comments to the Forest Service during the scoping period opposed changing the 2001 Roadless Rule for Alaska.16 The scientific community also recognizes the importance of the 2001 Roadless Rule and the extraordinary value of the remaining big-tree old-growth, and has repeatedly called on the Forest Service to end its old-growth timber sale program.17

When evaluating the benefits from the Tongass to society, the Forest Service and the State of Alaska are placing far too much emphasis on traditional extractive resources while largely ignoring benefits from fish, wildlife, subsistence, recreation, water resources, and carbon storage. By far the most valuable activities occurring on the Tongass are derived from intact fish and wildlife habitat and wild scenery. This is true throughout the National Forest System, but is especially relevant in Southeast Alaska where the Tongass comprises such a large portion of the land base and where the forest's roadless qualities play such an integral role in southeast Alaska's businesses, economy and lifestyle. Maximizing the benefits from the Tongass to the public requires the Forest Service to manage the Tongass in a way that prioritizes the many contributions of fish, wildlife and visitor services[mdash]all of which primarily derive from inventoried roadless areas.

In addition to safeguarding important fish, wildlife, subsistence, and recreational resources throughout roadless areas in the Tongass, the 2001 Roadless Rule also provides reasonable accommodation to community development and infrastructure needs. The 2001 Roadless Rule provides access for mining, energy, and community infrastructure projects. It allows forest health, recreation, and cultural activities. The Kake-Petersburg Intertie and the Blue Lake Hydropower Project Expansion, which opponents of the 2001 Roadless Rule often cite as being obstructed by the rule, are explicitly allowed by court order along with a variety of

14 See Business Letter to Secretary Perdue and Chief Christiansen (Dec. 16, 2019) Attachment 8.

15 See Tulchin Research, Poll Findings: Alaska's Tongass National Forest at 7 (May 2019) Attachment 9, available at http://www.americansalmonforest.org/uploads/3/9/0/1/39018435/ak_tongass_trout_unlimited_final.pdf.

16 U.S. Forest Service, Alaska Roadless Rule Scoping Period: Written Public Comment Summary at 2 (Feb. 2019) available at https://www.fs.usda.gov/nfs/11558/www/nepa/109834_FSPLT3_4616651.pdf.

17 See Jack Ward Thomas and Mike Dombeck, Seattle Times Op Ed, Declare harvest of old-growth off-limits and move on (Aug 23, 2003); Letter to the President by 78 North American Scientists (lead signatories were Jack Ward Thomas and Mike Dombeck) calling for a national old growth policy to protect the remaining old growth on national forest lands throughout the US (June 25, 2014); Letter to Secretary Vilsack from 200+ North American Scientists urging a quick transition out of old-growth logging on the Tongass National Forest (October 15, 2014); Joint Society letter to Secretary Vilsack from American Fisheries Society (AK Chapter), American Ornithologist's Union, American Society of Mammalogists, Ecological Society of America, Pacific Seabird Group, Society for Conservation Biology, The Wildlife Society (January 20, 2015).

other high-profile projects.18 As of June, 2019, all 58 applications submitted for projects in roadless areas in Alaska had been approved, most gaining approval within a month.19 The majority of these applications pertain to surface exploration of potential mining and hydropower projects, but they also include road realignment and reconstruction projects, an aerial tram, a geothermal project, personal use of timber, and a variety of other projects. In October, 2018, the process for approving these projects was further streamlined when Forest Service Chief Christiansen delegated authority to approve project requests to the Regional Foresters. 20

In many regards, Southeast Alaska has already transitioned. More than one-in-four jobs in Southeast Alaska are in either the fishing or tourism industries.21 Even when timber from private and state lands is included, the timber industry in Southeast Alaska accounts for just a few hundred jobs.22 While timber harvesting once played a historically important role in the economy of Southeast Alaska, the future of the Tongass timber program is in planning and implementing appropriately-scaled timber sales that support and encourage local manufacturing of young-growth forest products while also restoring managed stands in previously-harvested areas. If the Tongass is to truly support the local and regional economy, its management[mdash]and especially the management of its roadless areas[mdash]must place fishing and tourism industries at the forefront and to in every way possible avoid or minimize impacts to fish and wildlife habitat.

Exempting the Tongass, or even portions of inventoried roadless areas on the Tongass, from the protections afforded by the 2001 Roadless Rule will undercut the Tongass Transition, erode public confidence and trust in the Forest Service, serve as unnecessary obstacles to the creation of a sustainable forest products industry in the region, and undermine the economic lynchpins of Southeast Alaska's fishing and tourism economy. As the Forest Service itself notes, outfitters, guides and recreation-related businesses are the losers as a result of this rulemaking, likely losing hundreds of thousands of dollars per year, if not more.23

For at least a decade, from the Log Jam timber sale in 2009 to today's Central Tongass Project, the Forest Service has justified old-growth timber sales on the Tongass as "bridge timber" that are necessary to encourage the transition to young-growth forest products. A similar line of thinking permeated the TAC and the 2016 TLMP amendment, where industrial old-growth logging was justified to maintain the existing timber industry and capacity only until large volumes of young-growth timber becomes commercially viable and the arrival of the highly anticipated "wall of wood."

18 See U.S. District Court, District of Alaska, Judgement, Organized Village of Kake v. USDA, 1:09-cv-00023-JWS at 2-3 (May 24, 2011) Attachment 10.

19 U.S. Forest Service, Frequently Asked Questions Regarding Inventoried Roadless Areas 6 (Jan. 2018) Attachment 11; U.S. Forest Service, supra note 12, at 1.

20 U.S. Forest Service, supra note 12, at 1.

21 See Rain Coast Data, supra note 3, at 4.

22 See id. at 4.

23 U.S. Forest Service, Alaska Roadless Rulemaking Regulatory Impact Assessment and Cost-Benefit Assessment 32 (Oct. 2019) available at http://www.fs.usda.gov/nfs/11558/www/nepa/109834_FSPLT3_4876769.pdf.

Exempting the Tongass from the 2001 Roadless Rule disrupts the transition and greatly expands the suitable old-growth timber base, undoes years of progress built on public trust and collaboration, will have irreversible negative impacts to the remaining important fish and wildlife habitat on the forest, and set the transition and the Tongass back decades. Rather than creating large new exemptions to roadless area protections that encourage the timber industry to dig in its heels against the tides of change and to continue cutting as much valuable old-growth timber as possible, the Forest Service should conserve roadless areas on the Tongass and encourage investment in transition technologies and entrepreneurship within the Tongass timber industry.

IV. The Forest Service has Failed to Provide Adequate Opportunity for Public Input and Failed to Address Issues Raised in Scoping.

The Forest Service has needlessly rushed this rulemaking, has not provided adequate notice and opportunity for public input, and has not been responsive to the input it has received. Unlike the processes employed in development of the original 2001 Roadless Rule or the Colorado or Idaho state-specific rules, all of which

allowed for diverse stakeholder input from the outset, the rulemaking for the Alaska Roadless Rule has been driven by special interests and the State of Alaska.

The Forest Service has improperly relied on the State of Alaska's Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) as if it was a duly convened federal advisory committee, which it is not. The CAC was hastily convened without any of the procedural safeguards that apply to committees convened through the Federal Advisory Committee Act. Its membership failed to include anyone from the tourism or visitor services industry, failed to include anyone operating on the Tongass through a special use permit, failed to include anyone from the sport fishing or hunting industries, failed to include anyone with scientific or technical expertise, and was heavily skewed toward resource extractive industries such as logging.24 Many of its members had limited understanding of the Roadless Rule and did not have the resources to make an informed decision, such as information on existing commercial operators on the forest. As such, it had only a narrow view of the issues at stake and a relatively poor understanding of how the Roadless Rule functioned on the Tongass.

Despite these shortcomings, the Forest Service is treating the CAC as if it was a federal advisory committee. Each of the alternatives closely mirror the options forwarded to it by the CAC, even where those options conflict with input from the public, other cooperating agencies, or from the TAC's recommendations during the 2016 TLMP amendment. In addition, as has been widely reported, it's clear Alaska Governor Dunleavy convinced President Trump to direct

24 See Alaska Roadless Rule Citizens Advisory Committee, Final Report to the Governor and State Forester, State of Alaska at 15 (Nov. 2018) available at https://s31207.pcdn.co/wp-content/uploads/sites/6/2019/11/Alaska-Roadless-Rule-Citizen-Advisory-Committee-Final-Report_11.21.2018.pdf.

the Forest Service to undertake a full exemption even before the DEIS was made public.25 This is predecisional. The Forest Service has allowed the State of Alaska to unduly influence this process while ignoring the overwhelming public comment in support of protecting roadless areas on the Tongass.

V. The Proposed Rule will not be "durable" and fails to Satisfy the Purpose and Need of the Rulemaking.

The purpose and need for this rulemaking is to achieve "a long-term, durable approach to roadless area management . . . that accommodates the unique biological, social and economic situation in and around the Tongass."26 In order to satisfy this purpose and need, any new rule, if one is promulgated, must have broad support from diverse stakeholders throughout the region, including conservation interests and the fishing and tourism industries, while also being responsive to criticisms of the 2001 Roadless Rule, whether real or perceived. Unfortunately, the Forest Service has taken little effort to address criticisms of the 2001 Roadless Rule that are merely of perception and that could be remedied through efforts short of a new rulemaking and has proposed the most extreme option available. The Forest Service is advancing a proposed rule that is the product of undue political pressure from special interests instead of collaboration and compromise.

When the Forest Service first announced it was considering changes to the 2001 Roadless Rule in Alaska, TU was among a group of businesses and organizations that reached out to the Forest Service and State of Alaska expressing interest in finding a compromise that retained the core conservation principles of the Roadless Rule while alleviating concerns of its critics. At its core, while we support the 2001 Roadless Rule and do not believe an Alaska-specific rule is necessary, our suggestion was to develop a rule that: (1) provided a limited exemption for the "roadless roadless"; (2) expanded roadless area protections to those portions of the Tongass 77 and TNC/Audubon Conservation Priority Areas that are outside inventoried roadless areas; and (3) clarified that roads and tree harvest are allowed where reasonably necessary for essential infrastructure projects, energy generation projects, mining, and transportation projects.

Had the Forest Service developed and advanced an alternative based on input through a robust public process like that used for the Idaho or Colorado rules, it could have arrived at a durable solution. Unfortunately, the Forest Service has instead bent to the will of the State of Alaska and the old-growth logging industry, which are unwilling to accept anything less than a full repeal of the 2001 Roadless Rule on the Tongass. Conflict and

controversy are mounting as a result and, if the proposed rule becomes final, litigation is sure to follow. Rather than

25 See The Washington Post, Trump Pushes to Allow new Logging in Alaska's Tongass National Forest (Aug. 27,
2019) Attachment 12, available at https://www.washingtonpost.com/climate-environment/trump-pushes-to-allow-
new-logging-in-alaskas-tongass-national-forest/2019/08/27/b4ca78d6-c832-11e9-be05-f76ac4ec618c_story.html.

26 U.S. Forest Service, Draft Environmental Impact Statement Rulemaking for Alaska Roadless Areas at ES-2 (Oct. 2019) hereinafter DEIS.

achieving a durable and lasting result that puts conflict behind us, this proposed rule douses the remaining embers of the timber wars with fuel.

VI. The Tongass 77 and TNC/Audubon Conservation Priority Areas are Important for Fish and Wildlife and Should be Conserved.

Various areas have been identified as especially important for fish and wildlife and deserve continued protection under any future Alaska-specific roadless rule. These areas include the Tongass 77 (commonly referred to as the T77) and areas identified by the Audubon/TNC Eco-regional Conservation Assessment as either Conservation Priority or Core Integrated Management Watersheds (commonly referred to as TNC/Audubon Conservation Priority Areas). These areas, along with roadless areas, were specifically recognized by the TAC, which recommended they be off-limits to future old-growth logging.27 The 2016 TLMP amendment sought to implement the TAC's recommendations by identifying these areas as NOT suitable for old-growth logging.28

Any Alaska-specific roadless rule should reinforce the TAC recommendations and the 2016 TLMP amendment by protecting the entire Tongass 77 and all TNC/Audubon Conservation Priority Areas, including those that are outside inventoried roadless areas. These protections should be as robust and as flexible as protections afforded inventoried roadless areas by the 2001 Roadless Rule while still allowing recreation, outfitters and guides, cultural and subsistence activities, and projects designed to restore forest health. If the Forest Service finalizes an Alaska-specific Roadless Rule, TU encourages extending the Watershed Priority to Tongass 77 and TNC/Audubon Conservation Priority Areas outside the existing roadless inventory, as is proposed as a component of Alternative 3.

The Tongass 77 are the "best of the best" from the thousands of salmon and trout watersheds on the Tongass. These areas were identified through a comprehensive process where researchers from the Alaska offices of the Audubon Society, The Nature Conservancy and Trout Unlimited, in consultation with federal and state biologists and various community and business stakeholder groups, identified the most important salmon-producing watersheds that lacked watershed-scale protections. Now narrowed down to 73 watersheds comprising

27 Tongass Advisory Committee, Tongass Advisory Committee Final Recommendations at 13 (Dec. 2015) Attachment 13, available at
http://www.merid.org/~/media/Files/Projects/tongass/December%202015%20Meeting/Tongass%20Advisory%20C ommittee%20Final%20Recommendations_Dec%202015.pdf. While some former members of the TAC appear to now characterize the TAC's final recommendations as not unanimous or as not supporting the conclusion that the Tongass 77 should be off limits to old-growth logging, those comments contradict the well-established record of the TAC and the 2016 TLMP amendment. As the TAC's final recommendations clearly state, "The TAC agrees that the USFS should: . . . Limit the old growth timber base to the current definition of Phase I lands outside of The Nature Conservancy (TNC)/Audubon conservation priority areas, Tongass 77 (T77) watersheds and Inventoried Roadless Areas." Id. While the TAC was instructed by the USDA and Forest Service to limit its recommendations to what was possible within the 2001 Roadless Rule, no similar direction

was provided to the TAC for the Tongass 77 or TNC/Audubon Conservation Priority Areas, which were taken up by the TAC on its own accord.

28 USDA, Tongass National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan, R10-MB-769g at A-5 (June 2016) available at https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/fseprd527907.pdf.

not quite 1.9 million acres,29 the Tongass 77 form the backbone of Southeast Alaska's salmon fishery and the play a vital role on Southeast Alaska's local economy. The Tongass 77 enjoys support from more than 300 businesses and organizations, most of which are based in Southeast Alaska.30 7,233 individuals, 3,636 of which resided in Southeast Alaska, voiced support for protecting the Tongass 77 and making these areas off limits to logging during planning for the 2016 TLMP amendment.31

Like the Tongass 77, TNC/Audubon Conservation Priority Areas are hugely important to local fish and wildlife populations. These areas were identified through a thorough peer-review process conducted by scientists from Audubon Alaska and The Nature Conservancy.32 These areas are the most ecologically valuable areas for a diverse array of plant and animal species and their conservation is essential to the ecological health and function of Southeast Alaska.

Fish and wildlife, and Southeast Alaska's broad expanses of untracked land and scenic beauty, are the underpinnings of our local economy, culture, and community. Salmon and trout[mdash]and the communities, cultures and economies they sustain[mdash]require clean, healthy watersheds for spawning, rearing and migrating. Based on the outstanding fish and wildlife habitat values in the Tongass 77 and TNC/Audubon Conservation Priority Areas, and their incredible importance to local communities and the region's economy, these areas deserve special protection from future development in any new Alaska-specific rule developed by the Forest Service.

VII. The DEIS Fails to Take a Hard Look at Impacts to Fish and their Habitat.

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires the Forest Service to take a hard look at the potential direct, indirect and cumulative effects of the proposed rule.33 This must include effects and impacts that are "ecological (such as the effects on natural resources and on the components, structures, and functioning of affected ecosystems), aesthetic, historic, cultural, economic, social, or health, whether direct, indirect, or cumulative."34 Yet, the DEIS consistently underplays the potential impacts, makes numerous conclusions that are unsupported by the best available science, and fails to incorporate numerous relevant scientific studies. Because of these shortcomings, the DEIS is inadequate for an informed impacts analysis.

29 See Trout Unlimited, The Tongass 77, Protecting Southeast Alaska's Best Salmon Watersheds (Mar. 2, 2016) Attachment 14, available at http://www.americansalmonforest.org/uploads/3/9/0/1/39018435/t77_4-pager_summary_-_20160302.pdf.

30 See List of Tongass 77 supporters, available at http://www.americansalmonforest.org/t77-supporters.html.

31 Id.

32 See Albert, D. M., and J. W. Schoen, A conservation assessment for the coastal forests and mountains ecoregion of southeastern Alaska and the Tongass National Forest In A Conservation Assessment and Resource Synthesis for the Coastal Forests & Mountains Ecoregion in Southeastern Alaska and the Tongass National Forest. eds J. W. Schoen, and E. Dovichin. Audubon Alaska and The Nature Conservancy (2007), available at https://www.conservationgateway.org/ConservationByGeography/NorthAmerica/UnitedStates/alaska/seak/era/cfm/ Pages/CA-AKCFM.aspx.

33 See 40 C.F.R. [sect] 1502.16.

34 Id. at [sect] 1508.8.

The DEIS fails to adequately asses the current status of fishes and fish habitat on the Tongass, to discuss how the current status relates to historic abundance, and to analyze how the proposed action will affect fisheries, fish habitat, and the important waters that support these resources. Underlying the DEIS, and made explicit by various statements of Forest Service officials at public meetings, is the misguided belief that expanding logging and logging roads into roadless areas will have no effect on fish and fish habitat. This assertion is conclusory and unsupported by the scientific record and common sense.

First, the Forest Service seems to take the position that, while the proposed rule will give it more flexibility to plan logging in new places, the exemption will not lead to more logging. The State's petition and the various comments by Alaska's elected officials and industry proponents make clear that the motivation for the exemption is to revitalize and expand the failing old-growth logging industry. The old-growth logging industry has already high graded the economically viable timber stands. Forest wide, 66.5% of the Tongass' contiguous high-volume stands have been logged. On northern Prince of Wales Island, where logging has been most intense, 93.8% of the contiguous high-volume stands have been logged.35 The old-growth logging industry has already cut nearly all the economically viable forest it has access to on the Tongass and must expand into new roadless areas if it is to continue.

Second, the Forest Service maintains TLMP provides a second layer of protection by identifying most roadless areas as "not suitable" for logging. However, as part of this rulemaking the Forest Service also proposes making an administrative change to the forest plan to reclassify 185,000 acres as suitable for logging. 165,000 of those acres are old-growth forest and 20,000 of those acres are young-growth forest, all of which will newly be available for logging if this proposed rule becomes final. Additionally, the Forest Service often amends the Forest Plan on a project-by-project basis to make new areas suitable, which it likely would do in the future to make new lands available for logging beyond the initial 185,000 acres.

Third, the Forest Service suggests that standards and guides in TLMP, such as stream buffers that prohibit logging within 100 feet of a salmon stream, adequately protect salmon even where logging is allowed. However, as we've seen in the Tongass and elsewhere, logging and logging roads lead to sedimentation, higher stream temperatures, lack of large woody debris recruitment, migration barriers, and a variety of other impacts that degrade habitat and reduce salmon productivity. Additionally, standards and guidelines on the Tongass lag behind what the Forest Service requires on other salmon-producing national forests, including those managed under the Northwest Forest Plan where the Forest Service requires 300-foot buffers.

Fourth, although the DEIS seems to acknowledge that roads are the largest source of sediment to salmon streams,36 and a recent monitoring and evaluation report identified a third

35 See Albert and Schoen, supra note 9, at 779-780.

36 DEIS at 3-112.

of all bridges and culverts across salmon streams on the Tongass fail to meet applicable fish passage standards,37 the DEIS fails to assess the impacts associated with additional road construction necessary to support logging activities in new portions of the Tongass. As the DEIS notes, "road-crossing structures have been common partial or complete barriers to fish movement in much of the developed areas where fish are present,"38 "roads pose the greatest risk to fish resources on the Tongass,"39 and "Roads have been found to contribute more sediment to streams than any other land management activity."40 Even if the rate of logging stays within the projections contemplated by the 2016 TLMP amendment, for which there is no guarantee, road construction must increase under the proposed rule in order to facilitate logging in areas currently inventoried as roadless. Yet, the DEIS erroneously states that "new road construction would be similar under all alternatives"41 and that the proposed rule will have "Neutral/No Effect" on fisheries.42

This proposed rule will allow industrial clear-cut logging of old growth forest to expand into new areas. This expansion will require more road construction and reconstruction. Additionally, the rate and footprint of logging operations is likely to increase through subsequent plan amendments and due to new economically viable timber becoming available. These expansion areas will be the best remaining economically viable stands of old-growth forest, which are also the most important places for salmon and other fish and wildlife species. Logging and road building in these expanded areas will impact salmon, resident fishes, nearby wildlife, and their habitat. The Forest Service ignores these realities and fails to take a hard look at these impacts. The DEIS does not satisfy the requirements of NEPA and must be revised.

VIII. The DEIS Fails to Take a Hard Look at Impacts to Tourism and Recreation.

The DEIS and supporting materials fail to account for existing tourism and recreation activities on the Tongass, fail to account for future growth in those activities, and as a consequence fail to take a hard look at reasonably foreseeable impacts to tourism and recreation. The DEIS lists the small cruise vessel capacity and notes that 242 permitted outfitters and guides operated on the Tongass between 2013 and 2017,43 but somehow concludes the proposed rule will have minimal to no effect on those activities.44 Additionally, the DEIS dismisses likely impacts to "other popular recreation and tourism activities, such as saltwater fishing, sea kayaking, and shopping" because they "do not take place on the Tongass" and the forest merely provides "a backdrop for these activities."45 This assertion is unsupported.

37 U.S. Forest Service, supra note 13, at 3.

38 DEIS at 3-110.

39 Id. at 3-112.

40 Id.

41 Id. at 3-113.

42 Id. at 2-25.

43 Id. at 3-39.

44 Id. at 2-25.

45 Id. at 3-41.

The proposed rule would expand logging and logging roads into new part of the Tongass that are currently undeveloped. Many of these roadless areas are the foundation for local outfitter and guide businesses, tour companies, and are popular with recreationists. Outside of general observations about the volume of use on the Tongass, the Forest Service provides no meaningful accounting of existing or foreseeable future use, where that use occurs on the forest, and makes no meaningful assessment of how that use will be impacted or displaced by expanded logging activities and new logging roads. The Forest Service must undertake a meaningful assessment of how expanding logging activities into new parts of the forest will impact and displace existing forest users. The Forest Service must also consider how this expanded logging will curb growth in the tourism and recreation sector. A new revised or supplemental DEIS is necessary to address these shortcomings.

IX. Additional Specific Comments on the Proposed Rule and Action Alternatives.

TU supports Alternative 1 and encourages the Forest Service to take "no action." However, the following comments are provided on the various action alternatives.

a. "Logical Extensions" Should Avoid the Tongass 77 and TNC/Audubon Priority Areas.

Alternative 3 exempts "substantially-altered roadless areas" and modifies roadless boundaries to allow logging up to the "logical end points of existing road and timber harvest units" in areas currently inventoried as roadless.46 These logical extensions are sprinkled throughout the forest. While TU opposes exempting any of the logical extensions, many of them are especially problematic because they are located in high-value areas for fish, wildlife and/or recreation. The below chart outlines the most problematic logical extensions. These logical extensions should not be included in Alternative 3 or, at a minimum, reduced in size to eliminate the conflict.

1. Timber Harvest and Roads Should not be Allowed for Experimental Forests in Roadless Areas.

Alternatives 2 through 5 would allow timber harvest and road construction or reconstruction in designated experimental forests for research or administration.47 However, this allowance is inconsistent with the protection or roadless values and should not be included in the final rule. Any research or administrative activities that rely on timber harvest or road construction and reconstruction should occur outside inventoried roadless areas.

1. Timber Harvest and Roads Should not be Allowed for Fishways, Hatcheries or Aquaculture Facilities.

Alternatives 2 through 5 would allow road construction or reconstruction in conjunction with fishways, hatcheries or aquaculture facilities in roadless areas and/or community priority areas.48 However, this allowance is inconsistent with the conservation of roadless values and should not be included in the final rule. Unless the road construction or reconstruction is

47 Id. at 2-7.

48 Id. at 2-7 and 2-8.

necessary pursuant to a pre-existing right, any hatcheries or aquaculture facilities should be sited to avoid road construction or reconstruction in roadless areas.

1. Commercial Timber Harvest and Logging Roads Should be Prohibited in Community Priority Areas.

Alternative 3 would allow commercial timber sales and associated logging roads in community priority areas where the volume is less than 1 million board feet (mmbf) of timber.49 This leaves the door open for a series of commercial timber sales of unlimited volume and unlimited new road construction so long as each individual sale is less than 1 mmbf. In effect, this invites segmentation, undermines the purpose of community priority areas, and fails to conserve the important roadless values. This language should not be included in the final rule. Commercial timber sales and logging roads should be prohibited in community priority areas.

1. Timber Harvest Associated with Biomass Production Should be Prohibited in

Community Priority Areas.

Alternative 3 would allow timber harvest where "needed for the construction, expansion, utilization or maintenance of . . . biomass heating and energy systems" and "other renewable energy projects" in Community Priority Areas.50 If adopted as part of the final rule, this language should be changed to clarify that timber harvest is allowed only when incidental to construction of the generation facility and prohibited if done in order to provide a supply of biomass fuel. Timber harvest to fuel a biomass facility must comply with any and all restrictions applicable to traditional commercial logging activities.

1. Timber Harvest Associated with Alaska Native Customary and Traditional Uses Should be Allowed.

TU supports allowing timber harvest for Alaska Native customary and traditional uses, such as for the harvest of individual trees for totems, in roadless areas when consistent with maintaining and conserving roadless characteristics. Associated road construction and reconstruction should be prohibited.

1. Timber Priority Alaska Roadless Areas Should not be Allowed.

Alternative 4 would allow timber harvest and road construction or reconstruction in timber priority roadless areas.51 Establishing Timber Priority Alaska Roadless Areas is inconsistent with the conservation or roadless values and should not be allowed. This roadless

49 Id. at 2-8.

50 Id.

51 Id.

classification should not be part of the final rule. Commercial logging and logging roads should be allowed only outside inventoried roadless areas.

1. Administrative Changes to TLMP.

Alternatives 2 through 6 propose administrative changes to the 2016 TLMP amendment to change 185,000 acres of the Tongass from not suitable for timber production to suitable.52 These changes are inappropriate for this rulemaking. The purpose and need does not contemplate changes to TLMP, this was not an issue significantly raised during scoping, and is not an issue that has been adequately noticed during the public comment period for the DEIS.

The 2016 TLMP amendment was the product of years of collaboration and compromise among diverse stakeholders that struck a careful balance among conservation and resource extraction interests. Unlike the ongoing roadless rulemaking, which relies on input from a non[shy]representative stakeholder group convened by the State of Alaska, the 2016 TLMP amendment is based on recommendations from the TAC, a duly convened federal advisory committee that complied will all procedural and substantive requirements of the federal advisory committee act.53 At its core, the TAC recommended phasing out large-scale old-growth logging over a 16-year period, easing standards and guides to allow increased access to young-growth timber as a way of encouraging the transition away from old-growth logging, and protecting important areas from future logging, including roadless areas, the Tongass 77, and TNC/Audubon Conservation Priority Areas.54 The TAC was clear that its recommendations must be taken as a whole and not adopted partially or in a piecemeal manner.

Changing the suitability determination in the 2016 TLMP amendment undermines the robust and collaborative process that was employed in achieving its careful compromise. This is especially true where, as here, the Forest Service proposes changes to the forest plan without undertaking a similarly robust or collaborative process. If the Forest Service desires to undertake changes to the forest plan, it must do so separately from proposed changed to the 2001 Roadless Rule, with proper public notice that such changes are being contemplated, and with a robust process on par with the process used with the TAC.

1. The Final Rule Should not Include Language Affecting the Chugach National Forest.

There is no reason for the Forest Service to include the Chugach National Forest in its final rule and all language affecting the Chugach should be removed. The State of Alaska's petition was clear that it requested action regarding the Tongass.55 It did not request action

52 Id. at 2-2.

53 Tongass Advisory Committee, supra note 27, at 13.

54 Id.

55 Mack, Andrew T, Commissioner Alaska Department of Natural Resources, State of Alaska Petition for USDA Rulemaking to Exempt the Tongass National Forest from Application of the Roadless Rule and other Actions (Jan 2018).

affecting the Chugach.56 Similarly, although the Forest Service has often referred to the rulemaking as for an "Alaska Roadless Rule," the Forest Service has given every indication it was limiting its consideration to the Tongass and not considering changes affecting the Chugach. Upon releasing the DEIS, the Forest Service press release repeatedly mentions the Tongass and states "The Chugach National Forest would remain under the 2001 Roadless Rule."57

Despite the Petition's clear limitation to the Tongass, and public statements by the Forest Service that proposed changes were limited to the Tongass, the Forest Service has nonetheless proposed changes that significantly undermine roadless area protections on the Chugach. These changes are two-fold:

First, the Forest Service proposes creating a mechanism to allow "administrative corrections" to roadless boundaries in the Chugach following public notice and 30-day comment period.58 These changes are unnecessary because the 2001 Roadless Rule clearly contemplates corrections when it defines "Inventoried roadless areas" as "Areas identified in a set of inventoried roadless areas maps, . . . or any subsequent update or revision of those maps."59 Instead of creating a new regulation for the Chugach and extending the Alaska roadless rulemaking beyond its scope, the Forest Service should work within the existing 2001 Roadless Rule to address any administrative corrections that might be appropriate for the Chugach.

Second, the Forest Service proposes creating a mechanism to modify the classification and boundaries of roadless areas on the Chugach after public notice and a 45-day comment period.60 This second provision would create a loophole in roadless conservation so great as to render roadless area protections in the Chugach meaningless. Any future project, even a massive timber sale, could be allowed in roadless areas on the Chugach through a simple reclassification or boundary modification. Except for the requirement for a simple notice and comment period, such as is required for any large project anyway, there is no limit to what can be allowed in roadless areas of the Chugach and no standard for when the reclassification or boundary modification is appropriate. Even if the Forest Service decides to retain the first subpart of the Chugach section, this second provision must be excluded.

Modifying the 2001 Roadless Rule for the Chugach is unnecessary, is inconsistent with the conservation of roadless areas, and is especially inappropriate here since the Forest Service has repeatedly assured the public there will be no changes to the Chugach. If the Forest Service desires to modify how roadless areas on the Chugach are managed, it must initiate a new rulemaking with proper notice and scope to include the Chugach.

56 See id.

57 U.S. Forest Service, USDA Forest Service Seeks Public Comment on Draft Environmental Impact Statement, Alternatives to a Proposed Alaska Roadless Rule at 2 (Oct. 15, 2019) available at https://www.fs.usda.gov/nfs/11558/www/nepa/109834_FSPLT3_4876053.pdf.

58 See 84 Fed. Reg. 55528-29 (Oct. 17, 2019).

59 36 C.F.R. [sect] 294.11 (emphasis added).

60 See 84 Fed. Reg. 55529 (Oct. 17, 2019).

X. Conclusion.

The proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, which would fully exempt the Tongass and create misguided loopholes for the Chugach, is a huge leap backward and risks undoing much of the progress gained through compromise and collaboration in recent years. It turns its back to Southeast Alaska's economic strengths[mdash]fishing, tourism and outdoor recreation[mdash]which now account for 26% of regional employment and $2 billion to the local economy. It also short changes the values that make the Tongass so unique and valuable to local residents and visitors alike.

Roadless areas on the Tongass are some of the best and most valuable lands on the forest. Many of the most important salmon streams are in roadless areas. Increasingly scarce winter deer range and prime bear habitat is often found in low elevation roadless areas. Roadless areas offer the right combination of beautiful scenery, wild landscapes, fish and wildlife, and access that local residents and the growing tourism and recreation industry demands. The Tongass is a paradise[mdash]not just for Alaskans, but for all Americans. The Forest Service should abandon its proposed exemption and, instead, continue long-standing protections for roadless areas.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input into this planning process. Please do not hesitate to contact me by email at awilliams@tu.org or by phone at 907.227.1590 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Austin Williams

December 16, 2019

The Honorable Sonny Perdue Ms. Vicki Christiansen

U.S. Department of Agriculture U.S. Forest Service

1400 Independence Ave., S.W. 1400 Independence Ave., S.W.

Washington, D.C. 20250 Washington, D.C. 20250

Dear Secretary Perdue and Ms. Christiansen,

We are outfitters and guides, tour operators, gear manufacturers and retailers, sportsmen organizations, and conservation groups that value and depend on the Tongass National Forest. We employ hundreds of southeast Alaskans, have tens-of-thousands of Alaskan supporters, and cater to customers that travel to the Tongass for its world-class fish and wildlife, recreation values, subsistence resources, and for the economic opportunities roadless areas provide. The proposed Alaska Roadless Rule and decisions about how to manage the Tongass have a direct and profound impact on us, our customers, and our members.

1

The proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, which would fully exempt the Tongass, is a huge leap backward and risks undoing much of the progress gained through hard compromise and collaboration in recent years. It turns its back to the region's economic strengths, fishing, tourism and outdoor recreation, which now account for 26% of regional employment and $2 billion to the local economy, and short changes the values that make the Tongass so unique and valuable to local residents and visitors alike. Exempting the Tongass from the Roadless Rule unnecessarily courts conflict and empowers the most extreme voices while obstructing more productive and mutually beneficial pathways to the future. The Forest Service should abandon its proposed exemption and, instead, maintain protections for roadless areas within the Tongass.

Many of us work directly with the Forest Service, either through special use permits to operate on the Tongass, as project partners, or as visitors, hunters, anglers, and subsistence users. Our ability to fulfill our missions and meet the needs of our customers, and the Forest Service's ability to meet the needs of the public, are directly

tied to one another. Either we succeed as stewards of our public lands together with the Forest Service, or we standby as turmoil over management decisions grows and forest values are degraded.

Many of the undersigned parties have long supported efforts by the Forest Service to transition the Tongass from unsustainable old-growth logging to management focused on fish and wildlife, tourism and recreation, and a sustainable young-growth forest products industry. We cheered the original transition announcement in 2010, worked tirelessly in support of the 2016 amendment to the Tongass Land Management Plan, and have supported its implementation since. Although compromise can be difficult, the need to move beyond the persistent conflict that has clouded the Tongass for decades is paramount.

Roadless areas on the Tongass are some of the best and most valuable lands on the forest. Many of the most important salmon streams are in roadless areas. Increasingly scarce winter deer range and prime bear habitat is often found in low elevation roadless areas. Roadless areas offer the right combination of beautiful scenery, wild landscapes, fish and wildlife, and access that our growing tourism and recreation industry demands. The Roadless Rule's protections for these unique values give our businesses and organizations a level of certainty upon which we base our business investments and hiring decisions.

The Tongass is a paradise[mdash]not just for Alaskans, but for all Americans. Roadless areas in the Tongass contain much of the region's most productive wildlife habitat, quality salmon habitat and clean water, and recreation opportunity. Any durable and long-lasting solution to the persistent land-management challenges on the Tongass must be based on collaboration and care for the important fish, wildlife, recreation, subsistence and scenic values that make the Tongass unique among our public lands. The proposed Alaska Roadless Rule fails on this measure. We encourage the Forest Service to listen to the overwhelming weight of public comment, the needs of businesses and organizations like ours, and to not exempt the Tongass from the Roadless Rule.

Sincerely,

Above and Beyond Alaska Hatch Outdoors Inc

Becky Janes, Owner Andrew Dickinson, General Manager

Juneau, AK Vista, CA

2

[Attachment contains Tongass Salmon Factsheet]

[Attachment contains the technical report, [ldquo]Economic Contributions and Impacts of Salmonid Resources in Southeast Alaska[rdquo]]

[Attachment contains the fact sheets, [ldquo]Southeast Alaska By the Numbers 2019[rdquo]]

[Attachment contains Journal Article titled "Use of Historical Logging Patterns to Identify Disproportionately Logged Ecosystems within Temperate Rainforests of Southeastern Alaska[rdquo]]

[Attachment contains USDA Investment Strategy in Support of Rural Communities in Southeast Alaska 2011-2013]

[Attachment contains Q&A between Mr. Quigley and USFS]

[Attachment contains 2016-2017 Tongass National Forest Monitoring and Evaluation Report]

[Attachment contains PowerPoint presentation titled "Poll Findings: Alaska Tongass Forest"]

[Attachment contains Case 1:09-cv-00023-JWS Document 85 Filed 05/24/11 Organized Village of Kake, et al. vs. US Department of Agriculture, et al. and State of Alaska and Alaska Forest Association]

[Attachment contains USDA article titled "Frequently Asked Questions Regarding Inventoried Roadless Areas"]

[Attachment contains Washington Post Article titled [ldquo]Trump Pushes to Allow New Logging in Alaska[rsquo]s Tongass National Forest[rdquo]]

[Attachment contains 2015 document titled "Tongass Advisory Committee Final Recommendations"]

[Attachment contains article titled "The Tongass 77 Protecting Southeast Alaska's Best Salmon Watersheds"]

[Position]

December 16, 2019

The Honorable Sonny Perdue
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave., S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20250

Ms. Vicki Christiansen
U.S. Forest Service
1400 Independence Ave., S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20250

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Sincerely,

Above and Beyond Alaska
Becky Janes, Owner
Juneau, AK

Hatch Outdoors Inc
Andrew Dickinson, General Manager
Vista, CA

Alaska Charter Service
Travis Peterson, Owner
Sitka, AK

Alaska Fly Fishing Goods
Brad Elfers, Owner
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Alaska Fly Out Travel
Cory Luoma, Owner
Columbia Falls, MT

Alaska Kenai Fishing For Fun
Brad Kirr, Owner & Guide
Soldotna, AK

Allen Fly Fishing
A.J. Gottschalk, Vice President
Southlake, TX

American Fly Fishing Trade Association
Ben Bulis, President and CEO
Bozeman, MT

Angler Action Foundation
Brett Fitzgerald, CEO
Lake Worth Beach, FL

August Island Pictures
Mark Titus, Writer and Director
Seattle, WA

Backcountry Hunters & Anglers
John Gale, Conservation Director
Missoula, MT

Baranof Wilderness Lodge
Mike & Sally Trotter, Owners
Sitka, AK

Bear Creek Outfitters
Arne Johnson, Owner
Juneau, AK

Cascadia Guide, Inc
Eric Neufeld, Co-Owner
Spokane, WA

Lakeview Outfitters
TJ Dawson & Phil Hilbruner, Owners & Guides
Cooper Landing, AK

Lindblad Expeditions
Craig Moylan, Director of Expedition
Development, North and South America
Seattle, WA

Loon Outdoors
Brett Zundel, Owner / Director of Sales
Boise, ID

Maven Outdoor Equipment Company
Brendon Weaver, Co-owner/Design/Marketing
Lander, WY

Mossy's Fly Shop
Mike Brown, Owner
Anchorage, AK

National Deer Alliance
Nick Pinizzotto, President and CEO
Indiana, PA

National Outdoor Leadership School
Chris Brauneis, Alaska Branch Director
Palmer, AK

Nautilus Reels
Kristen Mustad, Owner
Miami, FL

Orvis
Simon Perkins, COO
Sunderland, VT

Pioneer Studios
Ben Hamilton, Owner
San Antonio, Texas

Pybus Point Lodge
Scott Jorgenson, Owner
Pybus Bay, AK

Quality Deer Management Association
Kip Adams, Director of Conservation
Bogart, GA

C.F. Burkheimer Fly Rod Company
Carl “Kerry” Burkheimer, President
Washougal, WA

Chrome Chasers
Rick Matney, Owner
Wrangell, AK

Chugach Backcountry Fishing
Corey Hetrick, Owner
Moose Pass, AK

Coastal Alaska Adventures
Keegan McCarthy, Owner
Douglas, AK

Coastal Alaska Safaris
Chad Poppe, Owner
Wrangell, AK

Custom Alaska Cruises
Keegan McCarthy, Owner
Douglas, AK

Chota Outdoor Gear
Mark Brown, General Manager
Knoxville, TN

Cooper Landing Fishing Guide, LLC
David Lisi, Owner & Guide
Cooper Landing, AK

The Drake
Tom Bie, Owner
Denver, CO

DRYFT
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Eva’s Wild
Mark Titus, Owner
Seattle, WA

Expedition Broker
Greg Schlacter, Owner
Haines, AK

Raging River Sales
Eric Neufeld, Owner
North Bend, WA

Rajeff Sports / ECHO Flyfishing
James Lemon, Marketing
Vancouver, WA

Redington
Jay Beebe, Community Manager
Bainbridge Island, WA

Red’s Fly Shop
Joe Rotter, Partner
Ellensburg, WA

RIO Products
Simon Gawesworth, Brand Manager
Idaho Falls, ID

Sage Fly Fishing
David Lantz, Marketing Manager
Bainbridge Island, WA

Sawyer Paddles and Oars
Derek Young, Northern US Territory Manager
Gold Hill, OR

Scientific Anglers
Brad Befus, President
Midland,MI

Scott Fly Rod Company
Jim Bartschi, President
Montrose, CO

Seek Outside
Angie Timm, Founder and Co-owner
Grand Junction, CO

Simms Fishing Products
K.C. Walsh, Executive Chairman
Casey Sheahan, CEO
Diane Bristol, Sr. Director of Community Engagement
Bozeman, MT

El Capitan Lodge
Scott Van Valin, Owner
Craig, AK

Far Bank Enterprises
Tag Kleiner, VP of Marketing
Bainbridge Island, WA

First Lite
Ford Van Fossan, Conservation, Content and Digital Merchandising Manager
Ketchum, ID

Fishpond, INC
Ben Kurtz, President
John Land Le Coq, Founder and CEO
Denver, CO

Fly Fishers International
Dave Peterson, Chair Conservation Committee
Livingston, MT

The Flyfish Journal
Jeff Galbraith, Publisher
Bellingham, WA

The Fly Fishing Show
Ben Furimsky, President/CEO
Somerset, PA

The Fly Shop
Pat Pendergast, Director of International Travel
Redding, CA

Fly Water Travel
Ken Morrish, Director of Travel Sales
Ashland, OR

Frontiers International Travel
Mike Fitzgerald, President
Wexford, PA

Gastineau Guiding
Sierra Gadaire, Operations Manager
Juneau, AK

Sitka Conservation Society
Andrew Thoms, Executive Director
Sitka, AK

Sitka Fish Outfitters
Jamie Steinson, Owner
Sitka, AK

Sitka Gear
Thaddeus Kaczmarek, Consumer Experience Leader
Bozeman, MT

SpeyCo Fly Reels
Tim Pantzlaff, Owner
Green Bay, WI

Stanley-PMI
Michelle Flemming, Marketing Manager
Seattle, WA

TFO, LLC
Rick Pope, Chairman
Dallas, TX

Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership
Joel Webster, Center for Western Lands Director
Missoula, MT

Thomas and Thomas
Joe Goodspeed, Product Development Manager
Greenfield, MA

Treasure Hunter Lodge
Kurt Whitehead and Trina Nation, Owners
Klawock, AK

Trout Unlimited
Austin Williams, Alaska Director of Law and Policy
Anchorage, AK

Umpqua Feather Merchants
Russell Miller, Director of Marketing
Louisville, CO

Uncruise Adventures
Dan Blanchard, Owner
Juneau, AK

Glacier Guides, Inc.
Alisha “Mutts” and Zach Decker, Owners
Glacier Bay, AK

goHUNT
Chris Porter, COO
Las Vegas, NV

Harper Studios
Earl Harper, Owner
Seattle, WA

Hatch Magazine
Chad Shmukler, Editor
Philadelphia, PA

Vortex Optics
Mark Boardman, Director of Marketing
Barneveld, WI

Wildlife Forever
Pat Conzemius, President & CEO
White Bear Lake, MN

Yellow Dog Flyfishing Adventures
Jim Klug, Director of Operations
Bozeman, MT

December 17, 2019

Alaska Roadless Rule
USDA Forest Service
PO Box 21628
Juneau, AK 99802-1628

Via: www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=54511

RE: Comments on the Proposed Alaska Roadless Rule and Draft Environmental Impact Statement

Dear Ecosystem Planning and Budget Staff,

Please accept these comments submitted on behalf of Trout Unlimited (TU) on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) and proposed rule for the Alaska-Specific Roadless Area Conservation Rule.

TU is the nation's largest sportsman's organization dedicated to coldwater conservation with more than 400 chapters and more than 300,000 supporters nation-wide. TU has more than 22,000 supporters in Alaska that are passionate anglers, lodge owners, fishing and hunting guides, and commercial fishermen, among other various occupations. In addition to members in more remote parts of the state, TU has active chapters in Juneau, on the Kenai Peninsula, in Anchorage and the Mat-SU, and in Fairbanks. Many of TU's members rely on the important fish, wildlife and water resources found on the Tongass and Chugach National Forests for fishing, hunting, recreation, and for employment in related industries such as fishing and tourism. From Prince of Wales Island and Misty Fjords in the south, to Yakutat and the Situk River in the north, the Tongass is a popular destination for anglers and hunters because of its salmon and steelhead runs, cutthroat trout, Dolly Varden, Sitka Black-tail deer, black bear, unique karst features, numerous public use cabins, and growing visitor services infrastructure. Likewise, the Chugach is immensely popular for residents and visitors for its fishing, hunting and outdoor recreation opportunity. In addition to our base of sport anglers, outfitters and guides, TU's membership also includes commercial fishers, Alaska Natives, small business owners, and Alaskans from a variety of walks of life.

TU has a long history of working collaboratively with the Forest Service and other stakeholders on the Tongass and elsewhere throughout the National Forest System. TU, in partnership with the Forest Service and The Nature Conservancy, played a major role in the Sal Creek restoration project on Prince of Wales Island, which was completed more than ten years

ago and helped lay the foundation for future partnership and restoration projects throughout the forest. In addition to various watershed restoration and aquatic organism passage projects throughout the Tongass, TU has been an active participant in a variety of collaborative and partnership groups active in Southeast Alaska, including the Southeast Alaska Fish Habitat Partnership and the Tongass Transition Collaborative, among others. We are actively seeking opportunities to expand our partnership with the Forest Service to the Chugach. Partnering with the Forest Service is critical to TU and to its ability to fulfill its mission. TU is committed, through the investment of significant staff and financial resources, to protecting and restoring important fish, wildlife and water resources on the Tongass, and to ensuring the region's unique wild salmon resources continue to serve as the economic, cultural and spiritual foundation of Southeast Alaska.

We commend the Forest Service for its efforts in recent years to advance the transition and move toward sustainable forest management and away from large-scale old-growth logging on the Tongass. Improving protections for important fish and wildlife habitat, enhancing visitor services, and supporting a sustainable forest products industry with a future in sustainable young-growth management will enable the Forest Service to increase its support for Southeast Alaska's rural communities and be responsive to the needs of the region. Large-scale and unsustainable old-growth timber sales undermine the region's largest job-producing industries, cause unnecessary and irreparable harm to important fish and wildlife habitat, and is an antiquated practice that would not exist if not for massive taxpayer subsidy.

I. Fishing and Recreation are the Tongass' most Important Forest Products.

The Tongass is the nation's top salmon-producing forest and a popular destination for visitors from around the globe.[1] It's many productive salmon streams, important fish and wildlife habitat, and beautiful scenery are the foundation for Southeast Alaska's local economy. Sport, commercial and subsistence fishing in Southeast Alaska contributes $1 billion annually to the regional economy and accounts for 10% of Southeast Alaska's employment.[2] In addition to this, more than 1.3 million out-of-state visitors flock to the Tongass each year, making tourism the largest source of private-sector jobs and earnings in southeast Alaska.[3] Together, the visitor and seafood industries provide 26% of all regional employment.[4] These industries have their foundation in healthy watersheds, in-tact fish and wildlife habitat, natural scenic beauty

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[1] U.S. Forest Service, *Tongass Salmon Factsheet* (Mar 2017) Attachment 1, *available at* https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/fseprd554592.pdf.

[2] TCW Economics, *Economic Contributions and Impacts of Salmonid Resources in Southeast Alaska*, prepared for Trout Unlimited Alaska 16 (July 2010) Attachment 2, *available at* http://www.tu.org/sites/www.tu.org/files/documents/EconReportFull.pdf. The number of jobs supported by salmon fishing and its economic contribution are likely to be even greater today than was indicated since these figures were calculated using data from 2007 and the economy and salmon prices have continued to increase in years since.

[3] Rain Coast Data, *Southeast Alaska by the Numbers 2019*, prepared for Southeast Conference at 7 (Sep. 2019) Attachment 3, *available at* http://www.seconference.org/sites/default/files/FINAL%20Southeast%20by%20the%20Numbers%202019.pdf.

[4] *Id*. at 5.

and untouched landscapes, and depend heavily on protections afforded to inventoried roadless areas by the 2001 Roadless Area Conservation Rule.

Fishing and tourism far outpace other private-sector sources of employment and earnings. They provide a steady and reliable source of employment and earnings for many Southeast Alaskan communities. While logging once played a historically important role in the economy of Southeast Alaska, current timber industry employment accounts for just 0.7% of regional jobs.[5] Despite decreases in Southeast Alaska's timber industry, in the years after the 2001 Roadless Rule was initially promulgated Southeast Alaska's population *increased* 7 percent from 2000 to 2012 and personal income *increased* by 17 percent over the same period.[6] Per capita income for Southeast Alaskans outpaces statewide and national averages while unemployment rates remain lower than statewide or national averages.[7] Southeast Alaska's economy is buoyed by its healthy fish and wildlife habitat, productive salmon streams and scenic beauty. Managing the Tongass with fish, wildlife and visitor services at the forefront is the key to ensuring local communities and economies are strong and stable.

II. Roadless Area Protections are Essential to the Local Economy and a Successful Transition.

Two key developments in the Tongass over the past nearly two decades are responsible for the growth and strength of Southeast Alaska's fishing and tourism industries. First, the 2001 Roadless Rule was put in place to conserve the remaining wild landscapes and unroaded portions of the Tongass, which are the core of the local fishing and tourism industries. While various unsuccessful litigation efforts have been mounted against the 2001 Roadless Rule on the Tongass, and a Tongass exemption was temporarily in place before the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals ruled it to be unlawful, the 2001 Roadless Rule has successfully conserved inventoried roadless areas on the Tongass as the law of the land for the vast majority of the past 18 years. Because of the 2001 Roadless Rule, inventoried roadless areas remain unimpacted by industrial old-growth logging and unnecessary road construction, remain reliably productive as cornerstones of the region's fishing and tourism industries, and remain accessible for fishing, hunting, recreation, guiding, and tourism.

Second, through the collaborative efforts and hard compromise of the Tongass Advisory Committee (TAC) and the 2016 amendment to the Tongass Land Management Plan (TLMP), the Forest Service has a roadmap for aligning its management of the Tongass with the public interest and the economic realities of the region. Successfully implementing this collaborative vision would allow the Forest Service to align the Tongass with the public's needs, support a sustainable young-growth forest products industry, and protect the best remaining fish and wildlife habitat on the forest—including roadless areas, the Tongass 77, and TNC/Audubon Conservation Priority Areas.

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[5] *Id*.
[6] USDA, *Tongass Land and Resource Management Plan Final Environmental Impact Statement Plan Amendment*, R10-MB-769e at 3-478 (June 2016) *hereinafter* 2016 TLMP FEIS.
[7] *Id*. at 3-478 to 479.

Timber planning, including the current proposal to repeal protections for roadless areas on the Tongass, too often comes at the expense of the region's strong economic base of fisheries and tourism. Once-productive salmon streams no longer support abundant salmon runs and ample wildlife populations when clearcut logging disrupts recruitment of large-woody debris, erosion overburdens nearby streambeds, roads cross streams and cut off salmon migration to important spawning or rearing habitat, or second-growth stands become so overgrown they fail to provide meaningful winter habitat for wildlife. Tourists and recreationists don't travel to the Tongass to see and hike through large swaths of clearcut lands. They come to take in its scenic beauty and in-tact landscapes. Each of these factors contributed to why the Forest Service adopted the original 2001 Roadless Rule and remain true today.[8]

The past 60 years of industrial logging on the Tongass has targeted the rarest and most productive stands of large-tree old-growth forest. High-grading has reducing the highest-volume contiguous old growth on the Tongass by 66 percent forest-wide.[9] On northern Prince of Wales Island, where large-scale old-growth logging has been most intense, 94 percent of the contiguous large-tree old-growth stands have been logged since 1954.[10] This contiguous large-tree old-growth forest, which historically covers less than five percent of the Tongass, is among the most valuable habitat for fish and wildlife. Past logging and road building has left a legacy on the Tongass where, according to Forest Service estimates, roughly 65 watersheds are in need of significant restoration with an estimated cost of more than $100 million to address the backlog of unmet watershed restoration needs.[11] The backlog of road maintenance needs on Alaska's National Forests amounts to $68 million, begging the question of why we would compound these problems through expanded road construction in new areas.[12] Approximately a third of all instances on the Tongass where roads intersect streams fail to meet applicable standards for salmon migration.[13]

III. <u>The Propose Rule is out of Touch with the Needs of the Public.</u>

The overwhelming weight of public input recognizes the extraordinary value of roadless areas on the Tongass and a desire to keep the 2001 Roadless Rule's important protections in

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[8] *See* Special Areas; Roadless Area Conservation, 66 Fed. Reg. 3244, 3245-47 (Jan. 12, 2001).
[9] Albert, D. M., and J. W. Schoen, *Use of Historic Logging Patterns to Identify Disproportionately Logged Ecosystems within Temperate Rainforests of Southeastern Alaska*, 27 Conservation Biology 4 at 779-780 (2013) Attachment 4; Albert, D. M., and J. W. Schoen, *A conservation assessment for the coastal forests and mountains ecoregion of southeastern Alaska and the Tongass National Forest* In A Conservation Assessment and Resource Synthesis for the Coastal Forests & Mountains Ecoregion in Southeastern Alaska and the Tongass National Forest. eds J. W. Schoen, and E. Dovichin. Audubon Alaska and The Nature Conservancy (2007), *available at* https://www.conservationgateway.org/ConservationByGeography/NorthAmerica/UnitedStates/alaska/seak/era/cfm/Pages/CA-AKCFM.aspx.
[10] *Id*.
[11] USDA, *Investment Strategy in Support of Rural Communities in Southeast Alaska 2011-2013*, R10-MB-734 at 11 (Nov. 2011) Attachment 5, *available at* https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprdb5339075.pdf.
[12] U.S. Forest Service, *Questions for Mr. Quigley* at 1 (June 2018) Attachment 6.
[13] U.S. Forest Service, *2016-2017 Tongass National Forest Monitoring and Evaluation Report* at 3 Attachment 7.

place. Numerous tribes and communities have passed resolutions or spoken out in favor of protecting roadless areas on the Tongass. Many affected businesses in the fishing, hunting and tourism industries also support protecting roadless areas.[14] Public comment at the public meetings for the proposed exemption overwhelmingly favored retaining the 2001 Roadless Rule. In some communities, 100% of the public comment supports protecting roadless areas. Recent polling shows 79% of Alaskans and a comparable number of southeast Alaskans want to either keep the 2001 Roadless Rule as it is, or to make minor changes that are offset by increased conservation measures for important fish and wildlife.[15] Similarly, the majority of public comments to the Forest Service during the scoping period opposed changing the 2001 Roadless Rule for Alaska.[16] The scientific community also recognizes the importance of the 2001 Roadless Rule and the extraordinary value of the remaining big-tree old-growth, and has repeatedly called on the Forest Service to end its old-growth timber sale program.[17]

When evaluating the benefits from the Tongass to society, the Forest Service and the State of Alaska are placing far too much emphasis on traditional extractive resources while largely ignoring benefits from fish, wildlife, subsistence, recreation, water resources, and carbon storage. By far the most valuable activities occurring on the Tongass are derived from intact fish and wildlife habitat and wild scenery. This is true throughout the National Forest System, but is especially relevant in Southeast Alaska where the Tongass comprises such a large portion of the land base and where the forest's roadless qualities play such an integral role in southeast Alaska's businesses, economy and lifestyle. Maximizing the benefits from the Tongass to the public requires the Forest Service to manage the Tongass in a way that prioritizes the many contributions of fish, wildlife and visitor services—all of which primarily derive from inventoried roadless areas.

In addition to safeguarding important fish, wildlife, subsistence, and recreational resources throughout roadless areas in the Tongass, the 2001 Roadless Rule also provides reasonable accommodation to community development and infrastructure needs. The 2001 Roadless Rule provides access for mining, energy, and community infrastructure projects. It allows forest health, recreation, and cultural activities. The Kake-Petersburg Intertie and the Blue Lake Hydropower Project Expansion, which opponents of the 2001 Roadless Rule often cite as being obstructed by the rule, are explicitly allowed by court order along with a variety of

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[14] *See* Business Letter to Secretary Perdue and Chief Christiansen (Dec. 16, 2019) Attachment 8.
[15] *See* Tulchin Research, *Poll Findings: Alaska's Tongass National Forest* at 7 (May 2019) Attachment 9, *available at* http://www.americansalmonforest.org/uploads/3/9/0/1/39018435/ak_tongass_trout_unlimited_final.pdf.
[16] U.S. Forest Service, *Alaska Roadless Rule Scoping Period: Written Public Comment Summary* at 2 (Feb. 2019) *available at* https://www.fs.usda.gov/nfs/11558/www/nepa/109834_FSPLT3_4616651.pdf.
[17] *See* Jack Ward Thomas and Mike Dombeck, Seattle Times Op Ed, Declare harvest of old-growth off-limits and move on (Aug 23, 2003); Letter to the President by 78 North American Scientists (lead signatories were Jack Ward Thomas and Mike Dombeck) calling for a national old growth policy to protect the remaining old growth on national forest lands throughout the US (June 25, 2014); Letter to Secretary Vilsack from 200+ North American Scientists urging a quick transition out of old-growth logging on the Tongass National Forest (October 15, 2014); Joint Society letter to Secretary Vilsack from American Fisheries Society (AK Chapter), American Ornithologist's Union, American Society of Mammalogists, Ecological Society of America, Pacific Seabird Group, Society for Conservation Biology, The Wildlife Society (January 20, 2015).

other high-profile projects.[18] As of June, 2019, all 58 applications submitted for projects in roadless areas in Alaska had been approved, most gaining approval within a month.[19] The majority of these applications pertain to surface exploration of potential mining and hydropower projects, but they also include road realignment and reconstruction projects, an aerial tram, a geothermal project, personal use of timber, and a variety of other projects. In October, 2018, the process for approving these projects was further streamlined when Forest Service Chief Christiansen delegated authority to approve project requests to the Regional Foresters.[20]

In many regards, Southeast Alaska has already transitioned. More than one-in-four jobs in Southeast Alaska are in either the fishing or tourism industries.[21] Even when timber from private and state lands is included, the timber industry in Southeast Alaska accounts for just a few hundred jobs.[22] While timber harvesting once played a historically important role in the economy of Southeast Alaska, the future of the Tongass timber program is in planning and implementing appropriately-scaled timber sales that support and encourage local manufacturing of young-growth forest products while also restoring managed stands in previously-harvested areas. If the Tongass is to truly support the local and regional economy, its management—and especially the management of its roadless areas—must place fishing and tourism industries at the forefront and to in every way possible avoid or minimize impacts to fish and wildlife habitat.

Exempting the Tongass, or even portions of inventoried roadless areas on the Tongass, from the protections afforded by the 2001 Roadless Rule will undercut the Tongass Transition, erode public confidence and trust in the Forest Service, serve as unnecessary obstacles to the creation of a sustainable forest products industry in the region, and undermine the economic lynchpins of Southeast Alaska's fishing and tourism economy. As the Forest Service itself notes, outfitters, guides and recreation-related businesses are the losers as a result of this rulemaking, likely losing hundreds of thousands of dollars per year, if not more.[23]

For at least a decade, from the Log Jam timber sale in 2009 to today's Central Tongass Project, the Forest Service has justified old-growth timber sales on the Tongass as "bridge timber" that are necessary to encourage the transition to young-growth forest products. A similar line of thinking permeated the TAC and the 2016 TLMP amendment, where industrial old-growth logging was justified to maintain the existing timber industry and capacity only until large volumes of young-growth timber becomes commercially viable and the arrival of the highly anticipated "wall of wood."

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[18] *See* U.S. District Court, District of Alaska, Judgement, *Organized Village of Kake v. USDA*, 1:09-cv-00023-JWS at 2-3 (May 24, 2011) Attachment 10.
[19] U.S. Forest Service, *Frequently Asked Questions Regarding Inventoried Roadless Areas* 6 (Jan. 2018) Attachment 11; U.S. Forest Service, *supra* note 12, at 1.
[20] U.S. Forest Service, *supra* note 12, at 1.
[21] *See* Rain Coast Data, *supra* note 3, at 4.
[22] *See id*. at 4.
[23] U.S. Forest Service, *Alaska Roadless Rulemaking Regulatory Impact Assessment and Cost-Benefit Assessment* 32 (Oct. 2019) *available at* http://www.fs.usda.gov/nfs/11558/www/nepa/109834_FSPLT3_4876769.pdf.

Exempting the Tongass from the 2001 Roadless Rule disrupts the transition and greatly expands the suitable old-growth timber base, undoes years of progress built on public trust and collaboration, will have irreversible negative impacts to the remaining important fish and wildlife habitat on the forest, and set the transition and the Tongass back decades. Rather than creating large new exemptions to roadless area protections that encourage the timber industry to dig in its heels against the tides of change and to continue cutting as much valuable old-growth timber as possible, the Forest Service should conserve roadless areas on the Tongass and encourage investment in transition technologies and entrepreneurship within the Tongass timber industry.

IV. The Forest Service has Failed to Provide Adequate Opportunity for Public Input and Failed to Address Issues Raised in Scoping.

The Forest Service has needlessly rushed this rulemaking, has not provided adequate notice and opportunity for public input, and has not been responsive to the input it has received. Unlike the processes employed in development of the original 2001 Roadless Rule or the Colorado or Idaho state-specific rules, all of which allowed for diverse stakeholder input from the outset, the rulemaking for the Alaska Roadless Rule has been driven by special interests and the State of Alaska.

The Forest Service has improperly relied on the State of Alaska's Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) as if it was a duly convened federal advisory committee, which it is not. The CAC was hastily convened without any of the procedural safeguards that apply to committees convened through the Federal Advisory Committee Act. Its membership failed to include anyone from the tourism or visitor services industry, failed to include anyone operating on the Tongass through a special use permit, failed to include anyone from the sport fishing or hunting industries, failed to include anyone with scientific or technical expertise, and was heavily skewed toward resource extractive industries such as logging.[24] Many of its members had limited understanding of the Roadless Rule and did not have the resources to make an informed decision, such as information on existing commercial operators on the forest. As such, it had only a narrow view of the issues at stake and a relatively poor understanding of how the Roadless Rule functioned on the Tongass.

Despite these shortcomings, the Forest Service is treating the CAC as if it was a federal advisory committee. Each of the alternatives closely mirror the options forwarded to it by the CAC, even where those options conflict with input from the public, other cooperating agencies, or from the TAC's recommendations during the 2016 TLMP amendment. In addition, as has been widely reported, it's clear Alaska Governor Dunleavy convinced President Trump to direct

[24] *See* Alaska Roadless Rule Citizens Advisory Committee, *Final Report to the Governor and State Forester*, *State of Alaska* at 15 (Nov. 2018) *available at* https://s31207.pcdn.co/wp-content/uploads/sites/6/2019/11/Alaska-Roadless-Rule-Citizen-Advisory-Committee-Final-Report_11.21.2018.pdf.

the Forest Service to undertake a full exemption even before the DEIS was made public.[25] This is predecisional. The Forest Service has allowed the State of Alaska to unduly influence this process while ignoring the overwhelming public comment in support of protecting roadless areas on the Tongass.

V. The Proposed Rule will not be "durable" and fails to Satisfy the Purpose and Need of the Rulemaking.

The purpose and need for this rulemaking is to achieve "a long-term, durable approach to roadless area management . . . that accommodates the unique biological, social and economic situation in and around the Tongass."[26] In order to satisfy this purpose and need, any new rule, if one is promulgated, must have broad support from diverse stakeholders throughout the region, including conservation interests and the fishing and tourism industries, while also being responsive to criticisms of the 2001 Roadless Rule, whether real or perceived. Unfortunately, the Forest Service has taken little effort to address criticisms of the 2001 Roadless Rule that are merely of perception and that could be remedied through efforts short of a new rulemaking and has proposed the most extreme option available. The Forest Service is advancing a proposed rule that is the product of undue political pressure from special interests instead of collaboration and compromise.

When the Forest Service first announced it was considering changes to the 2001 Roadless Rule in Alaska, TU was among a group of businesses and organizations that reached out to the Forest Service and State of Alaska expressing interest in finding a compromise that retained the core conservation principles of the Roadless Rule while alleviating concerns of its critics. At its core, while we support the 2001 Roadless Rule and do not believe an Alaska-specific rule is necessary, our suggestion was to develop a rule that: (1) provided a limited exemption for the "roadless roadless"; (2) expanded roadless area protections to those portions of the Tongass 77 and TNC/Audubon Conservation Priority Areas that are outside inventoried roadless areas; and (3) clarified that roads and tree harvest are allowed where reasonably necessary for essential infrastructure projects, energy generation projects, mining, and transportation projects.

Had the Forest Service developed and advanced an alternative based on input through a robust public process like that used for the Idaho or Colorado rules, it could have arrived at a durable solution. Unfortunately, the Forest Service has instead bent to the will of the State of Alaska and the old-growth logging industry, which are unwilling to accept anything less than a full repeal of the 2001 Roadless Rule on the Tongass. Conflict and controversy are mounting as a result and, if the proposed rule becomes final, litigation is sure to follow. Rather than

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[25] *See* The Washington Post, *Trump Pushes to Allow new Logging in Alaska's Tongass National Forest* (Aug. 27, 2019) Attachment 12, *available at* https://www.washingtonpost.com/climate-environment/trump-pushes-to-allow-new-logging-in-alaskas-tongass-national-forest/2019/08/27/b4ca78d6-c832-11e9-be05-f76ac4ec618c_story.html.
[26] U.S. Forest Service, *Draft Environmental Impact Statement Rulemaking for Alaska Roadless Areas* at ES-2 (Oct. 2019) *hereinafter* DEIS.

achieving a durable and lasting result that puts conflict behind us, this proposed rule douses the remaining embers of the timber wars with fuel.

VI. The Tongass 77 and TNC/Audubon Conservation Priority Areas are Important for Fish and Wildlife and Should be Conserved.

Various areas have been identified as especially important for fish and wildlife and deserve continued protection under any future Alaska-specific roadless rule. These areas include the Tongass 77 (commonly referred to as the T77) and areas identified by the Audubon/TNC Eco-regional Conservation Assessment as either Conservation Priority or Core Integrated Management Watersheds (commonly referred to as TNC/Audubon Conservation Priority Areas). These areas, along with roadless areas, were specifically recognized by the TAC, which recommended they be off-limits to future old-growth logging.[27] The 2016 TLMP amendment sought to implement the TAC's recommendations by identifying these areas as NOT suitable for old-growth logging.[28]

Any Alaska-specific roadless rule should reinforce the TAC recommendations and the 2016 TLMP amendment by protecting the entire Tongass 77 and all TNC/Audubon Conservation Priority Areas, including those that are outside inventoried roadless areas. These protections should be as robust and as flexible as protections afforded inventoried roadless areas by the 2001 Roadless Rule while still allowing recreation, outfitters and guides, cultural and subsistence activities, and projects designed to restore forest health. If the Forest Service finalizes an Alaska-specific Roadless Rule, TU encourages extending the Watershed Priority to Tongass 77 and TNC/Audubon Conservation Priority Areas outside the existing roadless inventory, as is proposed as a component of Alternative 3.

The Tongass 77 are the "best of the best" from the thousands of salmon and trout watersheds on the Tongass. These areas were identified through a comprehensive process where researchers from the Alaska offices of the Audubon Society, The Nature Conservancy and Trout Unlimited, in consultation with federal and state biologists and various community and business stakeholder groups, identified the most important salmon-producing watersheds that lacked watershed-scale protections. Now narrowed down to 73 watersheds comprising

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[27] Tongass Advisory Committee, *Tongass Advisory Committee Final Recommendations* at 13 (Dec. 2015) Attachment 13, *available at* http://www.merid.org/~/media/Files/Projects/tongass/December%202015%20Meeting/Tongass%20Advisory%20Committee%20Final%20Recommendations_Dec%202015.pdf. While some former members of the TAC appear to now characterize the TAC's final recommendations as not unanimous or as not supporting the conclusion that the Tongass 77 should be off limits to old-growth logging, those comments contradict the well-established record of the TAC and the 2016 TLMP amendment. As the TAC's final recommendations clearly state, "The TAC agrees that the USFS should: . . . Limit the old growth timber base to the current definition of Phase I lands outside of The Nature Conservancy (TNC)/Audubon conservation priority areas, Tongass 77 (T77) watersheds and Inventoried Roadless Areas." *Id*. While the TAC was instructed by the USDA and Forest Service to limit its recommendations to what was possible within the 2001 Roadless Rule, no similar direction was provided to the TAC for the Tongass 77 or TNC/Audubon Conservation Priority Areas, which were taken up by the TAC on its own accord.

[28] USDA, *Tongass National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan*, R10-MB-769g at A-5 (June 2016) *available at* https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/fseprd527907.pdf.

not quite 1.9 million acres,[29] the Tongass 77 form the backbone of Southeast Alaska's salmon fishery and the play a vital role on Southeast Alaska's local economy. The Tongass 77 enjoys support from more than 300 businesses and organizations, most of which are based in Southeast Alaska.[30] 7,233 individuals, 3,636 of which resided in Southeast Alaska, voiced support for protecting the Tongass 77 and making these areas off limits to logging during planning for the 2016 TLMP amendment.[31]

Like the Tongass 77, TNC/Audubon Conservation Priority Areas are hugely important to local fish and wildlife populations. These areas were identified through a thorough peer-review process conducted by scientists from Audubon Alaska and The Nature Conservancy.[32] These areas are the most ecologically valuable areas for a diverse array of plant and animal species and their conservation is essential to the ecological health and function of Southeast Alaska.

Fish and wildlife, and Southeast Alaska's broad expanses of untracked land and scenic beauty, are the underpinnings of our local economy, culture, and community. Salmon and trout—and the communities, cultures and economies they sustain—require clean, healthy watersheds for spawning, rearing and migrating. Based on the outstanding fish and wildlife habitat values in the Tongass 77 and TNC/Audubon Conservation Priority Areas, and their incredible importance to local communities and the region's economy, these areas deserve special protection from future development in any new Alaska-specific rule developed by the Forest Service.

VII. <u>The DEIS Fails to Take a Hard Look at Impacts to Fish and their Habitat.</u>

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires the Forest Service to take a hard look at the potential direct, indirect and cumulative effects of the proposed rule.[33] This must include effects and impacts that are "ecological (such as the effects on natural resources and on the components, structures, and functioning of affected ecosystems), aesthetic, historic, cultural, economic, social, or health, whether direct, indirect, or cumulative."[34] Yet, the DEIS consistently underplays the potential impacts, makes numerous conclusions that are unsupported by the best available science, and fails to incorporate numerous relevant scientific studies. Because of these shortcomings, the DEIS is inadequate for an informed impacts analysis.

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[29] *See* Trout Unlimited, *The Tongass 77, Protecting Southeast Alaska's Best Salmon Watersheds* (Mar. 2, 2016) Attachment 14, *available at* http://www.americansalmonforest.org/uploads/3/9/0/1/39018435/t77_4-pager_summary_-_20160302.pdf.
[30] *See* List of Tongass 77 supporters, *available at* http://www.americansalmonforest.org/t77-supporters.html.
[31] *Id*.
[32] *See* Albert, D. M., and J. W. Schoen, *A conservation assessment for the coastal forests and mountains ecoregion of southeastern Alaska and the Tongass National Forest* In A Conservation Assessment and Resource Synthesis for the Coastal Forests & Mountains Ecoregion in Southeastern Alaska and the Tongass National Forest. eds J. W. Schoen, and E. Dovichin. Audubon Alaska and The Nature Conservancy (2007), *available at* https://www.conservationgateway.org/ConservationByGeography/NorthAmerica/UnitedStates/alaska/seak/era/cfm/Pages/CA-AKCFM.aspx.
[33] *See* 40 C.F.R. § 1502.16.
[34] *Id*. at § 1508.8.

The DEIS fails to adequately asses the current status of fishes and fish habitat on the Tongass, to discuss how the current status relates to historic abundance, and to analyze how the proposed action will affect fisheries, fish habitat, and the important waters that support these resources. Underlying the DEIS, and made explicit by various statements of Forest Service officials at public meetings, is the misguided belief that expanding logging and logging roads into roadless areas will have no effect on fish and fish habitat. This assertion is conclusory and unsupported by the scientific record and common sense.

First, the Forest Service seems to take the position that, while the proposed rule will give it more flexibility to plan logging in new places, the exemption will not lead to more logging. The State's petition and the various comments by Alaska's elected officials and industry proponents make clear that the motivation for the exemption is to revitalize and expand the failing old-growth logging industry. The old-growth logging industry has already high graded the economically viable timber stands. Forest wide, 66.5% of the Tongass' contiguous high-volume stands have been logged. On northern Prince of Wales Island, where logging has been most intense, 93.8% of the contiguous high-volume stands have been logged.[35] The old-growth logging industry has already cut nearly all the economically viable forest it has access to on the Tongass and must expand into new roadless areas if it is to continue.

Second, the Forest Service maintains TLMP provides a second layer of protection by identifying most roadless areas as "not suitable" for logging. However, as part of this rulemaking the Forest Service also proposes making an administrative change to the forest plan to reclassify 185,000 acres as suitable for logging. 165,000 of those acres are old-growth forest and 20,000 of those acres are young-growth forest, all of which will newly be available for logging if this proposed rule becomes final. Additionally, the Forest Service often amends the Forest Plan on a project-by-project basis to make new areas suitable, which it likely would do in the future to make new lands available for logging beyond the initial 185,000 acres.

Third, the Forest Service suggests that standards and guides in TLMP, such as stream buffers that prohibit logging within 100 feet of a salmon stream, adequately protect salmon even where logging is allowed. However, as we've seen in the Tongass and elsewhere, logging and logging roads lead to sedimentation, higher stream temperatures, lack of large woody debris recruitment, migration barriers, and a variety of other impacts that degrade habitat and reduce salmon productivity. Additionally, standards and guidelines on the Tongass lag behind what the Forest Service requires on other salmon-producing national forests, including those managed under the Northwest Forest Plan where the Forest Service requires 300-foot buffers.

Fourth, although the DEIS seems to acknowledge that roads are the largest source of sediment to salmon streams,[36] and a recent monitoring and evaluation report identified a third

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[35] *See* Albert and Schoen, *supra* note 9, at 779-780.
[36] DEIS at 3-112.

of all bridges and culverts across salmon streams on the Tongass fail to meet applicable fish passage standards,[37] the DEIS fails to assess the impacts associated with additional road construction necessary to support logging activities in new portions of the Tongass. As the DEIS notes, "road-crossing structures have been common partial or complete barriers to fish movement in much of the developed areas where fish are present,"[38] "roads pose the greatest risk to fish resources on the Tongass,"[39] and "Roads have been found to contribute more sediment to streams than any other land management activity."[40] Even if the rate of logging stays within the projections contemplated by the 2016 TLMP amendment, for which there is no guarantee, road construction must increase under the proposed rule in order to facilitate logging in areas currently inventoried as roadless. Yet, the DEIS erroneously states that "new road construction would be similar under all alternatives"[41] and that the proposed rule will have "Neutral/No Effect" on fisheries.[42]

This proposed rule will allow industrial clear-cut logging of old growth forest to expand into new areas. This expansion will require more road construction and reconstruction. Additionally, the rate and footprint of logging operations is likely to increase through subsequent plan amendments and due to new economically viable timber becoming available. These expansion areas will be the best remaining economically viable stands of old-growth forest, which are also the most important places for salmon and other fish and wildlife species. Logging and road building in these expanded areas will impact salmon, resident fishes, nearby wildlife, and their habitat. The Forest Service ignores these realities and fails to take a hard look at these impacts. The DEIS does not satisfy the requirements of NEPA and must be revised.

VIII. <u>The DEIS Fails to Take a Hard Look at Impacts to Tourism and Recreation.</u>

The DEIS and supporting materials fail to account for existing tourism and recreation activities on the Tongass, fail to account for future growth in those activities, and as a consequence fail to take a hard look at reasonably foreseeable impacts to tourism and recreation. The DEIS lists the small cruise vessel capacity and notes that 242 permitted outfitters and guides operated on the Tongass between 2013 and 2017,[43] but somehow concludes the proposed rule will have minimal to no effect on those activities.[44] Additionally, the DEIS dismisses likely impacts to "other popular recreation and tourism activities, such as saltwater fishing, sea kayaking, and shopping" because they "do not take place on the Tongass" and the forest merely provides "a backdrop for these activities."[45] This assertion is unsupported.

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[37] U.S. Forest Service, *supra* note 13, at 3.
[38] DEIS at 3-110.
[39] *Id*. at 3-112.
[40] *Id*.
[41] *Id*. at 3-113.
[42] *Id*. at 2-25.
[43] *Id*. at 3-39.
[44] *Id*. at 2-25.
[45] *Id*. at 3-41.

The proposed rule would expand logging and logging roads into new part of the Tongass that are currently undeveloped. Many of these roadless areas are the foundation for local outfitter and guide businesses, tour companies, and are popular with recreationists. Outside of general observations about the volume of use on the Tongass, the Forest Service provides no meaningful accounting of existing or foreseeable future use, where that use occurs on the forest, and makes no meaningful assessment of how that use will be impacted or displaced by expanded logging activities and new logging roads. The Forest Service must undertake a meaningful assessment of how expanding logging activities into new parts of the forest will impact and displace existing forest users. The Forest Service must also consider how this expanded logging will curb growth in the tourism and recreation sector. A new revised or supplemental DEIS is necessary to address these shortcomings.

IX. Additional Specific Comments on the Proposed Rule and Action Alternatives.

TU supports Alternative 1 and encourages the Forest Service to take "no action." However, the following comments are provided on the various action alternatives.

a. "Logical Extensions" Should Avoid the Tongass 77 and TNC/Audubon Priority Areas.

Alternative 3 exempts "substantially-altered roadless areas" and modifies roadless boundaries to allow logging up to the "logical end points of existing road and timber harvest units" in areas currently inventoried as roadless.[46] These logical extensions are sprinkled throughout the forest. While TU opposes exempting any of the logical extensions, many of them are especially problematic because they are located in high-value areas for fish, wildlife and/or recreation. The below chart outlines the most problematic logical extensions. These logical extensions should not be included in Alternative 3 or, at a minimum, reduced in size to eliminate the conflict.

General Location	VCU	Conflict
Yakutat	3640, 3641, 3660, 3720	Overlap with T77 and TNC/Audubon
Kadashan, South of Tenakee Springs	2400, 2430, 2460	Overlap with T77 and TNC/Audubon
Upper Tenakee Inlet	2220, 2230	Tenakee supports the roadless rule
Kruzof Island, west of Sitka	3080, 3090	Sitka supports the roadless rule; Overlap with the T77 and TNC/Audubon
North Kuiu Island	4000, 4010, 4200, 4210, 4280	Kake supports the roadless rule; overlap with T77 and

[46] *Id*. at 2-12.

		TNC/Audubon; history of controversial timber sales
Western Kupreanof Island	4290, 4360, 4380, 4400	Overlap with T77 and TNC/Audubon
Northern Kupreanof Island	4240, 4420, 4430	Popular small ship anchorage for outfitters, guides, and small cruises; overlap with T77 and TNC/Audubon
Wrangell Island	4790	Overlap with T77 and TNC/Audubon
Etolin Island	4670, 4680	Overlap with T77 and TNC/Audubon
Deer Island	5250	View/scenery for small cruises; overlap with T77 and TNC/Audubon
Bradfield Canal	5200, 5210	Popular for recreation and tourism, outfitters and guides, bear viewers and Anan
Thorne Island, near Whale Pass	5510	Overlap with TNC/Audubon
Naukati/Coffman Cove	5541, 5542, 5730	Overlap with T77 and TNC/Audubon
South Prince of Wales, East of Hydaburg	6180, 6740, 6750, 6780	Overlap with T77 and TNC/Audubon

b. Timber Harvest and Roads Should not be Allowed for Experimental Forests in Roadless Areas.

Alternatives 2 through 5 would allow timber harvest and road construction or reconstruction in designated experimental forests for research or administration.[47] However, this allowance is inconsistent with the protection or roadless values and should not be included in the final rule. Any research or administrative activities that rely on timber harvest or road construction and reconstruction should occur outside inventoried roadless areas.

c. Timber Harvest and Roads Should not be Allowed for Fishways, Hatcheries or Aquaculture Facilities.

Alternatives 2 through 5 would allow road construction or reconstruction in conjunction with fishways, hatcheries or aquaculture facilities in roadless areas and/or community priority areas.[48] However, this allowance is inconsistent with the conservation of roadless values and should not be included in the final rule. Unless the road construction or reconstruction is

[47] *Id*. at 2-7.
[48] *Id*. at 2-7 and 2-8.

necessary pursuant to a pre-existing right, any hatcheries or aquaculture facilities should be sited to avoid road construction or reconstruction in roadless areas.

d. Commercial Timber Harvest and Logging Roads Should be Prohibited in Community Priority Areas.

Alternative 3 would allow commercial timber sales and associated logging roads in community priority areas where the volume is less than 1 million board feet (mmbf) of timber.[49] This leaves the door open for a series of commercial timber sales of unlimited volume and unlimited new road construction so long as each individual sale is less than 1 mmbf. In effect, this invites segmentation, undermines the purpose of community priority areas, and fails to conserve the important roadless values. This language should not be included in the final rule. Commercial timber sales and logging roads should be prohibited in community priority areas.

e. Timber Harvest Associated with Biomass Production Should be Prohibited in Community Priority Areas.

Alternative 3 would allow timber harvest where "needed for the construction, expansion, utilization or maintenance of . . . biomass heating and energy systems" and "other renewable energy projects" in Community Priority Areas.[50] If adopted as part of the final rule, this language should be changed to clarify that timber harvest is allowed only when incidental to construction of the generation facility and prohibited if done in order to provide a supply of biomass fuel. Timber harvest to fuel a biomass facility must comply with any and all restrictions applicable to traditional commercial logging activities.

f. Timber Harvest Associated with Alaska Native Customary and Traditional Uses Should be Allowed.

TU supports allowing timber harvest for Alaska Native customary and traditional uses, such as for the harvest of individual trees for totems, in roadless areas when consistent with maintaining and conserving roadless characteristics. Associated road construction and reconstruction should be prohibited.

g. Timber Priority Alaska Roadless Areas Should not be Allowed.

Alternative 4 would allow timber harvest and road construction or reconstruction in timber priority roadless areas.[51] Establishing Timber Priority Alaska Roadless Areas is inconsistent with the conservation or roadless values and should not be allowed. This roadless

[49] *Id*. at 2-8.
[50] *Id*.
[51] *Id*.

classification should not be part of the final rule. Commercial logging and logging roads should be allowed only outside inventoried roadless areas.

h. Administrative Changes to TLMP.

Alternatives 2 through 6 propose administrative changes to the 2016 TLMP amendment to change 185,000 acres of the Tongass from not suitable for timber production to suitable.[52] These changes are inappropriate for this rulemaking. The purpose and need does not contemplate changes to TLMP, this was not an issue significantly raised during scoping, and is not an issue that has been adequately noticed during the public comment period for the DEIS.

The 2016 TLMP amendment was the product of years of collaboration and compromise among diverse stakeholders that struck a careful balance among conservation and resource extraction interests. Unlike the ongoing roadless rulemaking, which relies on input from a non-representative stakeholder group convened by the State of Alaska, the 2016 TLMP amendment is based on recommendations from the TAC, a duly convened federal advisory committee that complied will all procedural and substantive requirements of the federal advisory committee act.[53] At its core, the TAC recommended phasing out large-scale old-growth logging over a 16-year period, easing standards and guides to allow increased access to young-growth timber as a way of encouraging the transition away from old-growth logging, and protecting important areas from future logging, including roadless areas, the Tongass 77, and TNC/Audubon Conservation Priority Areas.[54] The TAC was clear that its recommendations must be taken as a whole and not adopted partially or in a piecemeal manner.

Changing the suitability determination in the 2016 TLMP amendment undermines the robust and collaborative process that was employed in achieving its careful compromise. This is especially true where, as here, the Forest Service proposes changes to the forest plan without undertaking a similarly robust or collaborative process. If the Forest Service desires to undertake changes to the forest plan, it must do so separately from proposed changed to the 2001 Roadless Rule, with proper public notice that such changes are being contemplated, and with a robust process on par with the process used with the TAC.

i. The Final Rule Should not Include Language Affecting the Chugach National Forest.

There is no reason for the Forest Service to include the Chugach National Forest in its final rule and all language affecting the Chugach should be removed. The State of Alaska's petition was clear that it requested action regarding the Tongass.[55] It did not request action

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[52] *Id*. at 2-2.
[53] Tongass Advisory Committee, *supra* note 27, at 13.
[54] *Id*.
[55] Mack, Andrew T, Commissioner Alaska Department of Natural Resources, *State of Alaska Petition for USDA Rulemaking to Exempt the Tongass National Forest from Application of the Roadless Rule and other Actions* (Jan 2018).

affecting the Chugach.[56] Similarly, although the Forest Service has often referred to the rulemaking as for an "Alaska Roadless Rule," the Forest Service has given every indication it was limiting its consideration to the Tongass and not considering changes affecting the Chugach. Upon releasing the DEIS, the Forest Service press release repeatedly mentions the Tongass and states "The Chugach National Forest would remain under the 2001 Roadless Rule."[57]

Despite the Petition's clear limitation to the Tongass, and public statements by the Forest Service that proposed changes were limited to the Tongass, the Forest Service has nonetheless proposed changes that significantly undermine roadless area protections on the Chugach. These changes are two-fold:

First, the Forest Service proposes creating a mechanism to allow "administrative corrections" to roadless boundaries in the Chugach following public notice and 30-day comment period.[58] These changes are unnecessary because the 2001 Roadless Rule clearly contemplates corrections when it defines "Inventoried roadless areas" as "Areas identified in a set of inventoried roadless areas maps, . . . *or any subsequent update or revision of those maps.*"[59] Instead of creating a new regulation for the Chugach and extending the Alaska roadless rulemaking beyond its scope, the Forest Service should work within the existing 2001 Roadless Rule to address any administrative corrections that might be appropriate for the Chugach.

Second, the Forest Service proposes creating a mechanism to modify the classification and boundaries of roadless areas on the Chugach after public notice and a 45-day comment period.[60] This second provision would create a loophole in roadless conservation so great as to render roadless area protections in the Chugach meaningless. Any future project, even a massive timber sale, could be allowed in roadless areas on the Chugach through a simple reclassification or boundary modification. Except for the requirement for a simple notice and comment period, such as is required for any large project anyway, there is no limit to what can be allowed in roadless areas of the Chugach and no standard for when the reclassification or boundary modification is appropriate. Even if the Forest Service decides to retain the first subpart of the Chugach section, this second provision must be excluded.

Modifying the 2001 Roadless Rule for the Chugach is unnecessary, is inconsistent with the conservation of roadless areas, and is especially inappropriate here since the Forest Service has repeatedly assured the public there will be no changes to the Chugach. If the Forest Service desires to modify how roadless areas on the Chugach are managed, it must initiate a new rulemaking with proper notice and scope to include the Chugach.

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[56] *See id*.
[57] U.S. Forest Service, *USDA Forest Service Seeks Public Comment on Draft Environmental Impact Statement, Alternatives to a Proposed Alaska Roadless Rule* at 2 (Oct. 15, 2019) *available at* https://www.fs.usda.gov/nfs/11558/www/nepa/109834_FSPLT3_4876053.pdf.
[58] *See* 84 Fed. Reg. 55528-29 (Oct. 17, 2019).
[59] 36 C.F.R. § 294.11 (*emphasis added*).
[60] *See* 84 Fed. Reg. 55529 (Oct. 17, 2019).

X. Conclusion.

The proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, which would fully exempt the Tongass and create misguided loopholes for the Chugach, is a huge leap backward and risks undoing much of the progress gained through compromise and collaboration in recent years. It turns its back to Southeast Alaska's economic strengths—fishing, tourism and outdoor recreation—which now account for 26% of regional employment and $2 billion to the local economy. It also short changes the values that make the Tongass so unique and valuable to local residents and visitors alike.

Roadless areas on the Tongass are some of the best and most valuable lands on the forest. Many of the most important salmon streams are in roadless areas. Increasingly scarce winter deer range and prime bear habitat is often found in low elevation roadless areas. Roadless areas offer the right combination of beautiful scenery, wild landscapes, fish and wildlife, and access that local residents and the growing tourism and recreation industry demands. The Tongass is a paradise—not just for Alaskans, but for all Americans. The Forest Service should abandon its proposed exemption and, instead, continue long-standing protections for roadless areas.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input into this planning process. Please do not hesitate to contact me by email at awilliams@tu.org or by phone at 907.227.1590 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

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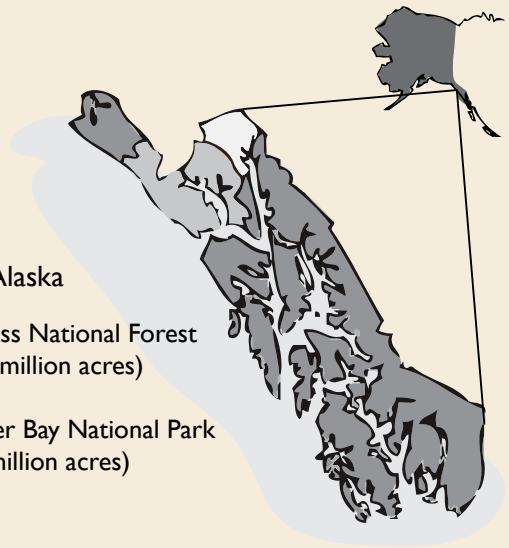
Anchorage, AK 99517
(907) 222-1590

Tongass Salmon Factsheet

These facts are meant to further inform conversations about the Tongass National Forest, which produces more wild salmon than all other national forests combined.



Resource Economics

- Tongass rivers, lakes, and streams produce 80% of the commercial salmon annually harvested from Southeast Alaska. This is about 50 million salmon valued at $60 million annually.
- In 2007, commercial salmon fishing supported an estimated 4,682 jobs (about 1 in 10) in Southeast Alaska, including 2,998 direct fishing jobs and 846 seafood processing jobs.
- In 2007, the combined economic impact of commercial, sport and subsistence salmon fishing, as well as hatchery operations, in SE Alaska, was estimated at $986 million.
- The Tongass NF produces on average 28% of Alaska's annual commercial salmon catch, and 25% of the entire west coast annual harvest!

Cultural Values

- Wild salmon have fed the people of Southeast Alaska for more than 9,000 years.
- Ninety-six percent of Alaskans surveyed say salmon are essential to the Alaskan way of life.

Household Use of Salmon

- Nearly 90% of rural households in Southeast Alaska use salmon.
- The estimated subsistence and personal use harvest averaged 52,511 salmon annually between 2004-2013.
- On average, a resident of Southeast Alaska's rural communities uses 75 pounds of salmon per year (while the US national average for seafood consumption is now less than 15 pounds per person per year).

Sport Fishing

- Two out of every three fish in Southeast Alaska sport harvest are salmon.
- On average, 120,000 sport anglers catch close to one million salmon in Southeast Alaska each year.

Salmon in the Forest

- Tongass fisheries biologists have recorded 14,873 miles of anadromous rivers and streams and 123,173 acres of lakes and ponds that support and produce wild salmon from the Forest.
- Salmon-derived nitrogen has been found in trees more than 500 yards away from salmon streams, particularly in areas where bears feed on salmon.
- More than 50 species of animals feed on salmon when they return to spawn in freshwater.

Watershed Health

- About 6% of the streamside area on Tongass salmon streams has been affected by timber harvest and/or road building.
- Most Tongass watersheds are in near natural conditions, but some critical floodplain areas are degraded in important fish-producing watersheds.
- Per a 2015 forest-wide watershed condition assessment, less than 7% of 900+ watersheds need work to restore aquatic habitat.
- Statewide, 89% of Alaskans say that even in tough economic times, it is important to maintain funding for salmon conservation.

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Economic Contributions and Impacts of Salmonid Resources in Southeast Alaska

FINAL REPORT

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July 2010

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In southeast Alaska where natural resources are the foundation of many industries and a way of life for residents, salmonids resources make important contributions to commercial, sport, and subsistence/personal use fisheries. Primary salmon species include Chinook, coho, sockeye, chum and pink salmon. Steelhead, Dolly Varden and several trout species (Rainbow, brook and cutthroat) also are important, particularly to sport fisheries.

The strong condition of wild salmonids in Alaska is attributed largely to the relative absence of dams and agricultural and urban development, as well as high marine survival rates, intensive harvest management and the prevalence of intact watersheds. In spite of the degradation of some watersheds in southeast Alaska, the region still supports a disproportionately high share of the wild anadromous stocks of salmonids remaining in the Pacific Northwest. Limiting further habitat degradation will be a key factor in conserving both salmonids and their economic contributions to southeast Alaska.

Although previous studies have examined the economics of southeast Alaska fisheries individually, this study focuses on estimating the combined economic values and impacts of commercial, recreational, and personal use/subsistence salmonid fisheries in southeast Alaska. The 2007 fishing season is used to develop a "snapshot" of these values and impacts. Catch data compiled by the Alaska Department of Fish & Game are used with economic factors, including prices paid for the commercial salmon harvest and expenditures made by recreational anglers, to develop economic values. An input-output model for the southeast Alaska economy was developed and used to estimate the regional economic impacts of the salmonid fisheries.

Some highlights of the economic contributions that salmonid fisheries in southeast Alaska make include:

CONTRIBUTIONS TO COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

Between 2003 and 2007, the commercial salmon harvest in southeast Alaska annually ranged between 30 million and 70 million fish. Pink salmon accounted for about 74 percent of all salmon commercially caught in southeast Alaska, followed by chum (18% of all salmon), sockeye (4% of all salmon), coho (2% of all salmon), and Chinook (0.7% of all salmon). Across all salmon species, salmon commercially harvested in southeast Alaska comprised about 28 percent of all commercially caught salmon statewide.

In terms of landing value (also known as ex-vessel value), commercially-caught salmon in southeast Alaska ranged in value between 2003 and 2007 from $63.7 million to $113.4 million. The wholesale value of salmon commercially-harvested in southeast Alaska in 2007 is estimated at $260.9 million, including $34.1 million in net economic values (profits to harvesters and processors).

Fishing vessels, processors, and industry-support businesses generate economic activity throughout the southeast Alaska region. The commercial harvest of salmon generated an estimated $288.5 million in direct expenditures in 2007, and supported an estimated 4,682 full- and part-time jobs, including 2,998 jobs in commercial fishing and 846 jobs in processing, and generated an estimated $94.3 million in personal income, including $27.8 million for commercial harvesters and $32.3 million for processors. The value of total (direct, indirect, and induced) output generated by commercial fishing and processing of salmon is estimated at $599.3 million in 2007.

CONTRIBUTION TO SPORT FISHERIES

Sport fishing in Alaska attracts large numbers of both resident and non-resident anglers. Statewide, anglers participated in 2.5 million days of fishing in 2007, with about 1.5 million days occurring in freshwaters and 1.0 million days occurring in marine waters. Similar to other areas of Alaska, sport fishing opportunities in southeast Alaska are abundant. In most management areas of the region, anglers can fish for all five salmon species, as well as for Dolly Varden, brook trout, rainbow/steelhead trout, cutthroat trout, grayling, halibut and lingcod. Most angling in southeast Alaska occurs in marine waters, and nonresidents of Alaska account for a larger share of the sport fishing activity.

Between 2003 and 2007, the annual sport catch of salmon in southeast Alaska ranged from 748,480 fish to 1.26 million fish. Coho accounted for about 41 percent and pink salmon accounted for about 31 percent of all salmon caught in southeast Alaska sport fisheries. Across all salmon species, the sport harvest of salmon in southeast Alaska in 2007 comprised about 28 percent of all recreationally-caught salmon statewide.

In terms of angler expenditures, recreational fishing for salmonids in southeast Alaska generated an estimated $174 million in angler expenditures in 2007, including trip-related expenditures, fishing equipment, and fishing-related real estate expenditures. Net economic values (or net willingness to pay) for sport fishing in southeast Alaska during 2007 were an estimated $8.2 million for resident anglers and $21.8 million for nonresident anglers.

Similar to commercial fisheries, sport fisheries in southeast Alaska are an important contributor to the regional economy. Purchases of goods and services by resident and nonresident anglers fishing for salmonids support a large number of businesses in southeast Alaska. The value of total output (including direct, indirect, and induced effects) related to purchases by salmonid anglers in southeast Alaska was an estimated $358.7 million in 2007, and supported an estimated 2,334 jobs and generated $84.7 million in personal income.

CONTRIBUTION TO PERSONAL USE AND SUBSISTENCE FISHERIES

Personal use fishing is defined as the taking of, or fishing for fishery resources by Alaska residents for personal use and not for sale or barter, and subsistence fishing is defined as the taking of, or fishing for fishery resources by a resident for subsistence uses. In 2007, 3,153 permits were issued in southeast Alaska (including Yakutat) for personal use and subsistence fishing, with a catch of 41,863 salmon (88 percent was sockeye).

Personal use and subsistence fishing trips generated an estimated $453,500 in expenditures in 2007. Net economic values associated with personal use and subsistence fishing in southeast Alaska are estimated at $320,270 for 2007. Based on $453,500 in trip-related spending, economic activity included the support of five jobs and $195,000 in personal income throughout the region.

CONTRIBUTION OF HATCHERY OPERATIONS TO THE REGIONAL ECONOMY

Almost all salmon smolts from hatcheries in southeast Alaska are produced at facilities owned and operated by private nonprofit (PNP) corporations. Local expenditures made by salmon hatcheries in southeast Alaska are estimated at $11.6 million in 2007, including salary costs and the local purchase of goods and services that support hatchery operations. Hatchery operations directly supported an estimated 174 jobs and generated $6.4 million in income to hatchery staff and proprietors. The direct expenditures by hatcheries multiply as they ripple though the regional economy, thereby resulting in a total of 260 jobs and $9.7 million in personal income in the region.

SUMMARY OF ECONOMIC CONTRIBUTIONS

Salmonid resources create value for persons participating in commercial, sport, and personal use/subsistence fisheries (use values) in southeast Alaska, as well as generate economic activity in local and regional economies. The “use values” of salmonid resources to commercial fisheries in southeast Alaska are estimated at $260.9 million in 2007. The value of salmonid resources to recreational fisheries in southeast Alaska is estimated at $204.4 million in 2007, including expenditures of $174.4 million and net economic values of $30.0 million. The value of salmonid resources to personal use/subsistence fisheries is estimated at $0.77 million, including $453,500 in expenditures and $320,300 in net economic values. In sum, these three components of use values total $466.1 million in 2007.

Salmonid fisheries of southeast Alaska and hatchery operations also contribute to economic activity in the region. Total economic output associated with the three fisheries and hatchery operations is estimated at $986.1 million in 2007, which includes multiple rounds of economic activity resulting from the multiplier effect. The total (direct, indirect, and induced) number of jobs supported by southeast Alaska salmonid fisheries and hatchery operations are estimated at 7,282, and total personal income (wage earnings, profits, and other income) generated by these fisheries and hatchery operations is an estimated $188.9 million.

Fishing for salmon in southeast Alaska, including commercial, recreational and personal use/ subsistence and the processing of commercially harvested salmon, accounts for an estimated 10.8 percent of all employment in southeast Alaska. By comparison, logging and forestry support operations generate an estimated 1.7 percent, and mining supports about 1.0 percent of all regional employment. Employment in state and local government accounts for 21.8 percent of the regional jobs, and employment in the Federal government represents 6.6 percent.

INTRODUCTION

Southeast Alaska includes hundreds of large and small watersheds dispersed throughout more than 1,000 islands strung together just offshore the mainland *(Figure 1)*. The area extends about 500 miles from the U.S./Canada border just below Prince of Wales Island north to Yakutat and Cape Suckling. The Tongass National Forest encompasses over 90 percent of the land area of southeast Alaska.

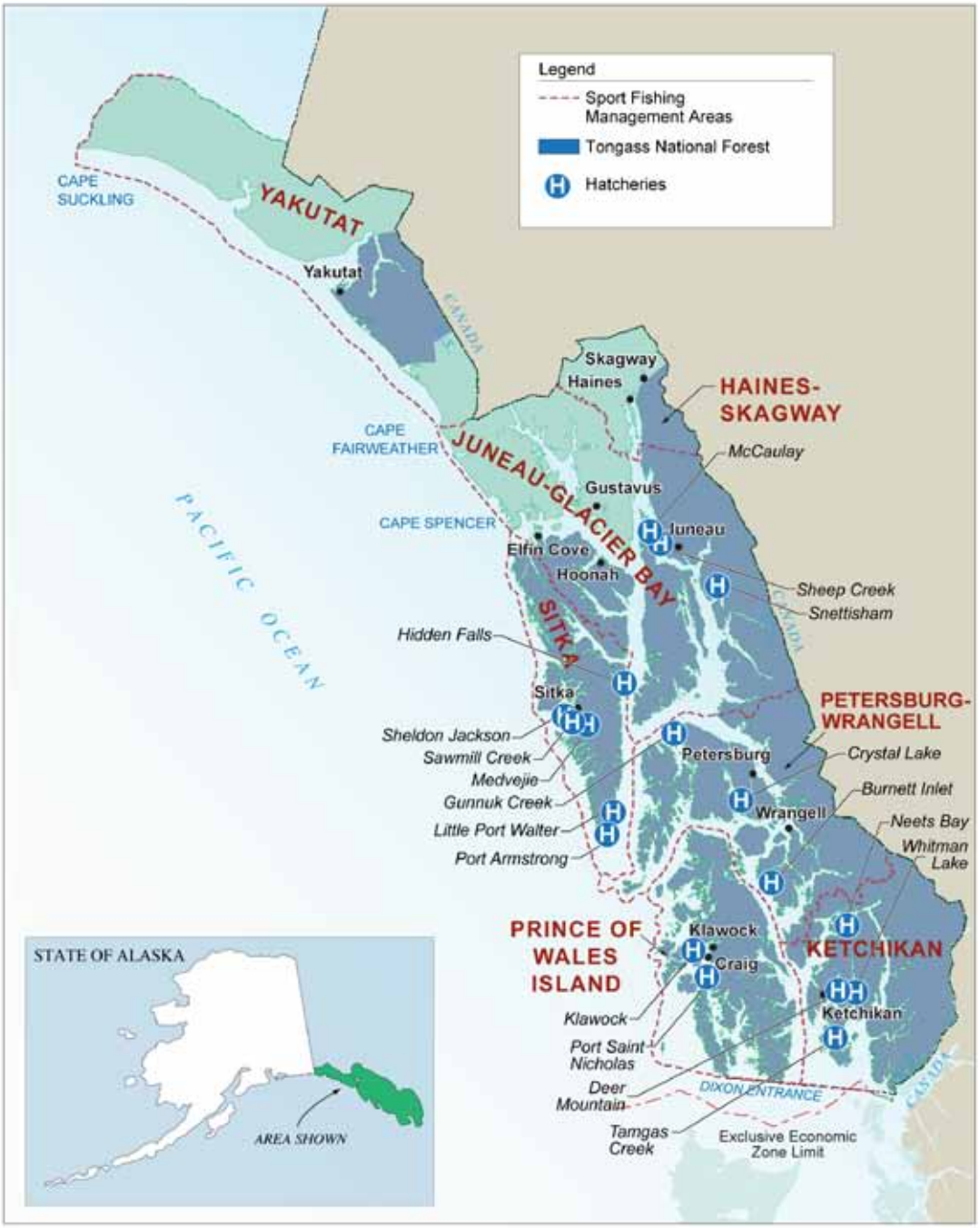


Figure 1. Southeast Alaska Study Area

Understanding the economic values and impacts of the fisheries of southeast Alaska is important for assessing the contributions of watershed programs designed to conserve and enhance natural resources. In southeast Alaska, natural resources are the foundation of many industries and a way of life for residents. Salmonids are important resources that substantially contribute to commercial, sport, and subsistence/personal use fisheries. Primary salmon species include Chinook, coho, sockeye, chum and pink salmon. Steelhead, Dolly Varden/Arctic Char, and several trout species (Rainbow, brook, and cutthroat) also are important, particularly to sport fisheries.

Economic values and impacts are two widely used but distinctly different economic measures. Economic values associated with commercial, recreational, and personal use fisheries measure the monetary importance of these fisheries to those who participate in them. Economic impacts, on the other hand, measure the contribution that the fisheries make to economic activity within a region, as measured in terms of jobs and personal income. Both indicators help to describe the economic importance (or contribution) of fisheries such as salmonid fisheries in southeast Alaska.

Throughout the western United States and British Columbia, Canada, numerous stocks of anadromous salmonids are at risk of extinction, declining, or of serious concern. Of the four salmon producing regions of North America, including Alaska, British Columbia, Pacific Northwest, and Northeast, Alaska is the only region where the condition of wild salmon stocks are considered strong (Knapp 2007). The watersheds of southeast Alaska support a disproportionately high share of the wild anadromous stocks of salmon remaining in the Pacific Northwest (Bryant and Everest 1998). Average commercial catches of wild salmon stocks from Alaska accounted for 89 percent of the estimated 385 million tons of wild salmon stocks harvested in North America over the 1996 though 2001 period.

The relatively strong condition of wild salmon in southeast Alaska is attributed largely to the absence of dams and agricultural and urban development, and to intact watersheds. Intensive human exploitation of watersheds in southeast Alaska began only a few decades ago; however, large scale habitat degradation and fishing pressure pose potential risks to salmonids stocks in southeast Alaska (Bryant and Everest 1998).

Although the economic contribution of southeast Alaska's salmonid resources to commercial and recreational fisheries have been previously studied (Knapp 2007; Northern Economics 2009; ISER 1999; Jones & Stokes Associates 1991), the goal of this study is to conduct a more holistic review of the contribution of salmonid resources to affected fisheries, including subsistence and personal use fisheries. In addition, the role that salmon hatcheries play in supporting salmon fisheries in southeast Alaska and in contributing to the regional economy is examined. Specific objectives of the study are to:

- identify harvest statistics for commercial, sport, and subsistence/personal use salmonid fisheries in southeast Alaska,
- characterize resident and non-resident sport fishing activity by species group,
- estimate gross and net economic values associated with the commercial, sport, and personal use fisheries in southeast Alaska,
- estimate regional economic impacts (purchases, jobs, and earnings) associated with salmonid fisheries in southeast Alaska, and compare to levels of economic activity for other natural resources-based (e.g., timber, mining, oil and gas) and other important industries in southeast Alaska; and
- characterize relevant statistics (e.g., number of facilities, annual operating budgets, jobs) pertaining to salmonid hatchery operations in southeast Alaska.

This report is organized by "user type" of salmonid fishery in southeast Alaska. The contribution that salmon hatcheries make to southeast Alaska fisheries and to the regional economy is presented first, followed by characterizations and economic assessments of commercial, sport, and personal use/subsistence salmonid fisheries. Most statistics presented pertain to these fisheries in 2007; harvest and catch data between 2003 and 2007 also are presented for additional context. Lastly, the economic importance of salmonid resources to fishery participants and the regional economy as a whole is presented.

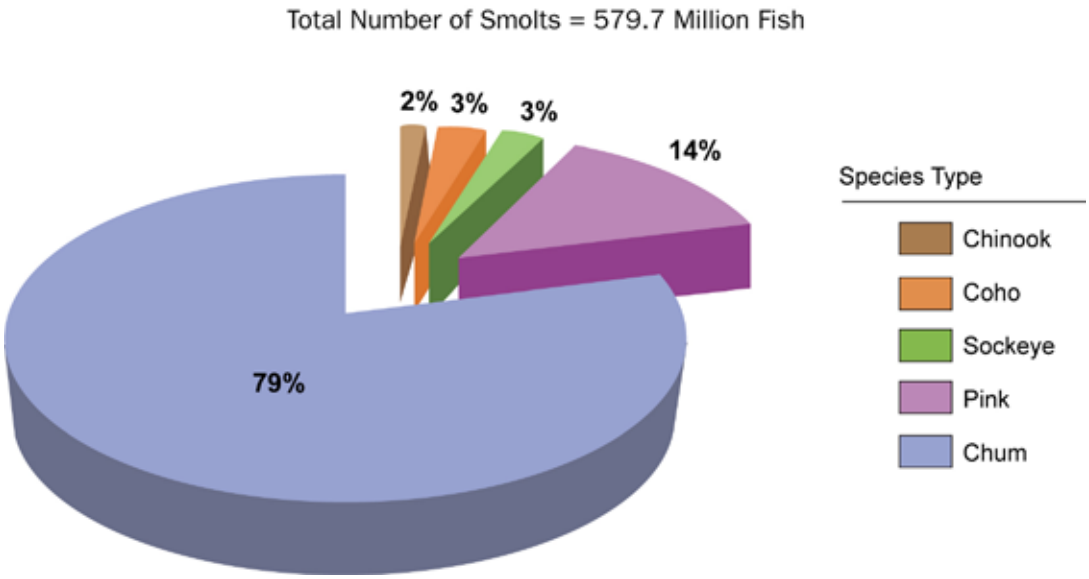
HATCHERY OPERATIONS

In response to declining wild-stock runs of salmon during the late 1960's and early 1970's, the Fisheries Rehabilitation, Enhancement and Development Division of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) embarked on a significant program in the mid-1970s focused on constructing salmon hatcheries to enhance harvest opportunities in both commercial and recreational salmon fisheries. By the late 1990's and early 2000's, statewide hatchery production annually ranged from between 27 and 63 million adult fish.

The ADF&G oversees and regulates all state and private sector salmon enhancement and rehabilitation projects in Alaska. Salmon hatcheries are located in two primary regions of Alaska: the Cook Inlet and Prince William Sound area, and southeast Alaska. As shown in *Figure 1*, salmon hatcheries in southeast Alaska are dispersed throughout the region. In 2007, releases of salmon smolts produced at salmon hatcheries in southeast Alaska was about 580 million fish, representing 37 percent of the statewide totals. Chum salmon account for nearly 80 percent of all salmon released from hatcheries in southeast Alaska in 2007 *(Figure 2)*.

Almost all salmon at hatcheries in southeast Alaska are produced at facilities owned and operated by private nonprofit (PNP) corporations. The Alaska State Legislature authorized in 1974 the establishment of private nonprofit hatcheries in Alaska. The legislature also authorized the formation of regional associations comprised of representatives from local communities to develop and maintain regional salmon production through rehabilitation and enhancement,

Figure 2.
Releases of Salmon Smolts from Southeast Alaska Hatcheries (Year 2007)



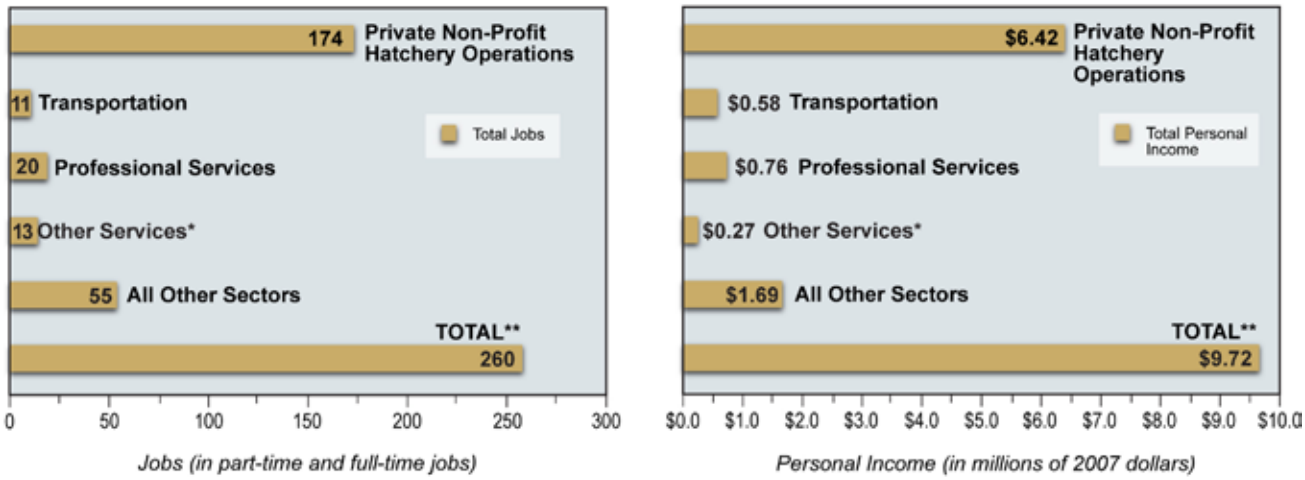
including operation of the PNP hatcheries. These regional associations collect a 3-percent salmon enhancement tax on some commercial landings for enhancement operations, and receive cost-recovery income through the harvest and sale of a portion of the hatchery returns. (McDowell Group 2000)

In addition to hatchery-bred salmon produced primarily for commercial harvest, several hundred thousand smolts and a small number of catchable sized salmon are produced at hatcheries in southeast Alaska for sport enhancement projects. Small numbers of rainbow trout eggs and grayling fry also are supplied to southeast Alaska stocking projects. Typically, rainbow trout eggs are incubated at the Fort Richardson hatchery near Anchorage and then are sent to the Deer Mountain hatchery in southeast Alaska for rearing and stocking. Grayling eggs are taken from the Chena River in Fairbanks, incubated and reared in Anchorage and then flown to southeast Alaska for stocking. (Milton, personal communication)

Hatchery operations in southeast Alaska generate economic impacts within the region based on hatchery expenditures on labor and on the local procurement of goods and services needed for operations. Local expenditures made by salmon hatcheries in southeast Alaska are estimated at $11.6 million in 2007, including the costs for salaries and the local purchase of goods and services that support hatchery operations. Fish food is a major cost for salmon hatcheries, but most fish food is purchased from out-of-state vendors (Pryor, personal communication). In terms of impacts on the regional economy, hatchery operations directly support an estimated 174 jobs and generate $6.4 million in income to hatchery staff and proprietors *(Figure 3)*. Direct expenditures ($11.6 million) by hatcheries multiply as they ripple though the regional economy, resulting in a total of 260 jobs and $9.7 million in personal income throughout the region.

Figure 3.
Economic Impacts of Salmon Hatchery Operations in Southeast Alaska on Sectors of the Southeast Alaska Regional Economy (Year 2007)

Hatchery Operations-Related Expenditures = $11.63 million



** Other services include machinery and equipment repair and maintenance, and other lesser-important services.*

*** Total jobs and personal income include "induced" effects resulting from spending of income received by households and revenues received by local governments.*

Source: Results from IMPLAN-based economic impact model developed by Ed Waters; refer to Appendix A for modeling details.

COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

Industry and Activity Overview

Commercial harvesting of salmon resources in southeast Alaska began in the late 1870's. All five Pacific salmon species (Chinook, coho, sockeye, pink and chum) are annually harvested in the waters off of southeast Alaska. Sockeye salmon was the primary species harvested until the early 1900's when pink salmon began to dominate (ADF&G 2008). Between 2000 and 2008, pink salmon accounted for 73 percent of the salmon harvest (numbers of fish) in southeast Alaska. (ADF&G undated)

The State of Alaska took over management control of salmon resources in Alaska from the federal government soon after statehood in 1959 (Northern Economics 2010). For management purposes, southeast Alaska is divided into six management areas: Juneau, Ketchikan/Craig, Petersburg/Wrangell, Sitka, Haines, and Yakutat. These management areas closely correspond with the management areas for sport fishing in southeast Alaska *(Figure 1)*. Prior to each salmon season, ADF&G develops detailed management plans that specify how salmon fisheries will be managed for that year. Specific management actions that specify times and areas of fishery openings are identified; additional measures are also implemented during the season through emergency orders.

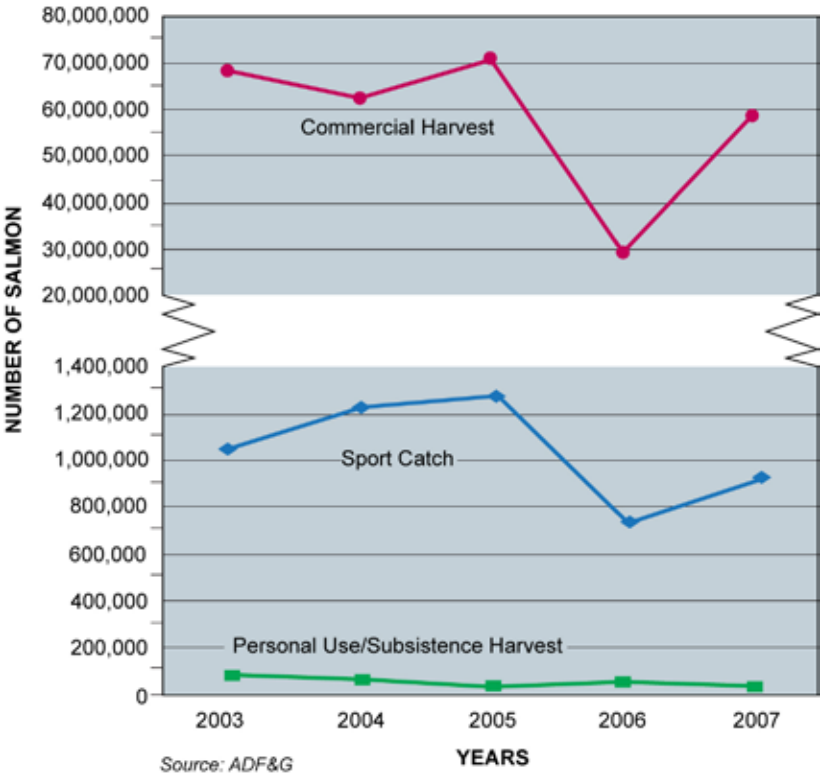
Salmon are commercially harvested in southeast Alaska using purse seines, drift nets, and hand and power troll gear; set gillnets are used instead of purse seines and drift gillnets in the Yakutat region of southeast Alaska. Drift and set gillnets are confined to state waters (generally within 3 miles), whereas troll fisheries operate in both state waters and in the federal waters of the Exclusive Economic Zone. (ADF&G 2008)

Because of the mixed stock and mixed species nature of salmon returns, and because different gear groups often harvest the same stocks of fish, the management of commercial salmon fisheries in southeast Alaska is complex. The Southeast region contains an estimated 5,500 salmon producing streams and tributaries of various productivity levels, making stock-specific fisheries management according to run strength impractical for most individual returns. Additionally, some salmon harvested in the region originate from other states (primarily Washington and Oregon) and from Canada. Net and troll fisheries in southeast Alaska are managed for sustained yield, allocated among users according to Alaska Board of Fisheries regulations, and in accordance with harvest sharing provisions of the Pacific Salmon Treaty between the U.S. and Canada. (ADF&G 2008)

Fish Harvesting and Ex-Vessel Values

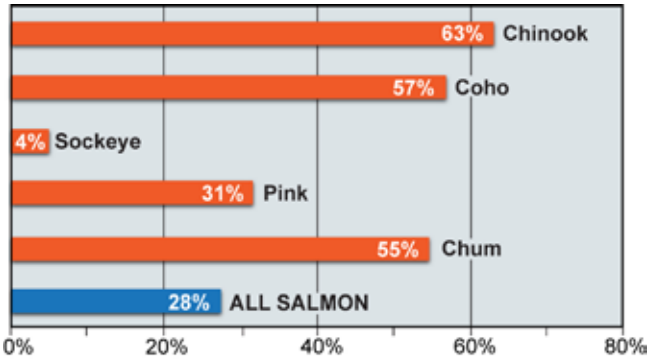
Along with groundfish, herring, and shellfish, salmon is one of the most important commercial fisheries in southeast Alaska. As *Figure 4* shows, the annual salmon harvest ranged between 30 and 70 million fish between 2003 and 2007. In terms of species, pink salmon accounted for about 74 percent of all salmon commercially caught in southeast Alaska between 2003 and 2007, followed by chum (18.1% of all salmon), sockeye (4.4% of all salmon), coho (2.9% of all salmon), and Chinook (0.7% of all salmon).

Figure 4.
Commercial Harvest, Sport Catch and Personal Use/Subsistence Harvest of Salmon in Southeast Alaska, 2003-2007



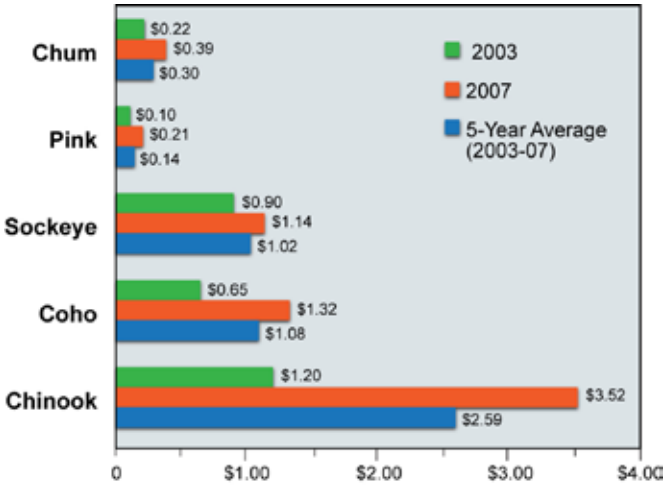
As a percent of the statewide harvest, Chinook, coho and chum commercially harvested in southeast Alaska each accounted for more than 50 percent of the statewide totals *(Figure 5)*. The harvest of pink salmon in southeast Alaska accounted for about 31 percent of all pink salmon commercially caught in Alaska between 2003 and 2007, and the commercial harvest of sockeye in southeast

Figure 5.
2007 Commercial Harvest of Salmon in Southeast Alaska as a Percent of Statewide Total



Source: ADF&G

Figure 6.
Average Price Paid (Exvessel Value) for Salmon Harvested in Southeast Alaska (Years 2003 - 2007)



Source: ADF&G

Alaska accounted for only about 4 percent of the statewide total. Across all salmon species, salmon commercially harvested in southeast Alaska comprised about 28 percent of all commercially caught salmon statewide.

In terms of landing value (also known as ex-vessel value), commercially-caught salmon in southeast Alaska ranged in value from $63.7 million in 2003 to $113.4 million in 2007. This compares to 2007 exvessel values of $6.9 million for groundfish (state-managed waters only) and $21.5 million for shellfish. (ADF&G undated)

The average price paid "at the dock" for salmon varies considerably over the five types of salmon species. In 2007, the average price paid for Chinook salmon landed at ports in southeast Alaska was $3.52 per pound, followed by coho salmon at $1.32 per pound, sockeye salmon at $1.14 per pound, chum salmon at $0.39 per pound, and pink salmon at $0.21 per pound. These average prices represent a significant increase over prices paid earlier in the decade. In 2003, average prices in southeast Alaska were $1.20 per pound for Chinook, $0.65 for coho, $0.90 for sockeye, $0.22 for chum, and $0.10 for pink salmon *(Figure 6)*.

Because of the variation in average price across species, the total landing value associated with the different salmon species is more evenly distributed than the number of fish harvested, with the average annual value between 2003 and 2007 as follows: Chinook, $15.8 million; coho, $17.6 million; sockeye, $10.1 million; pink, $20.4 million; and chum, $25.9 million. Based on average margins by product (canned, fresh, and frozen) for Alaska salmon processors between 2000 and 2004, the wholesale value of salmon commercially-harvested in southeast Alaska in 2007 is estimated at $260.9 million. (This value likely underestimates the actual value because of the increase in salmon prices since the 2000 to 2004 period.)

As explained more thoroughly by Knapp (2007), prices for salmon products at the retail level vary considerably, making determination of the value of salmon products to consumers very difficult. For all species of salmon, prices paid by the consumer "can and do change from year to year, from season to season, and even from day to day." Salmon prices paid by consumers can range from $2.99 per pound in supermarkets, to the equivalent of $30 or more a pound at restaurants. For these and other reasons, the value of salmon commercially harvested from southeast Alaska waters is estimated at the processing (or wholesale) level. It should be recognized, however, that additional value is added as salmon products move up distribution channels.

Net Economic Values

Net economic value is a gauge of the amount of wealth generated for participants in the commercial fisheries. For this study, net economic value for the commercial fishery is defined as the gross revenues generated by commercial harvesting and processing *minus* the costs to harvest and process seafood. In other words, net economic value represents the profits to commercial harvesters and processors.

As discussed previously, the commercial harvest of salmon from southeast Alaska waters generated about $113.4 million in ex-vessel value for harvesters in 2007 and $260.9 million in wholesale value after processing. The net economic value (or profit) associated with the harvesting and processing of the 2007 commercial harvest from southeast Alaska waters is estimated at $34.1 million, based on net income factors estimated by The Research Group (2009) and applied to the 2007 harvest of the different salmon species.

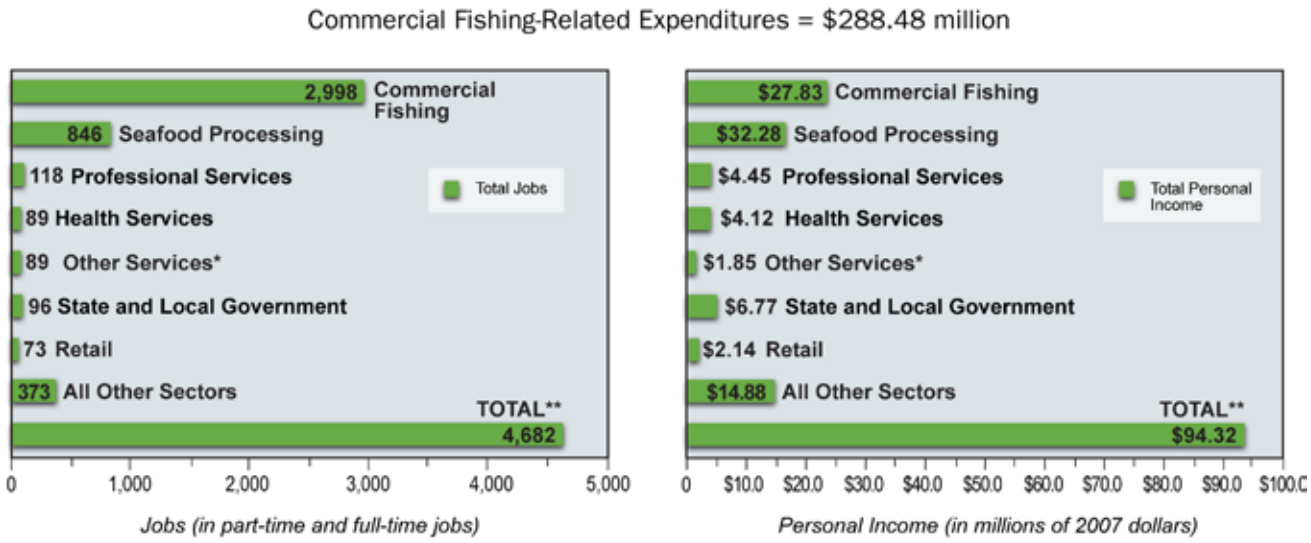
Economic Impacts

Fishing vessels, processors, and industry-support businesses generate economic activity throughout the southeast Alaska region. The economic impacts of the commercial salmon fishery in southeast Alaska can be characterized in terms of the economic output (total expenditures) of the commercial harvesting and processing sectors, and by the employment and personal income directly and indirectly generated by those activities. As described in Appendix A, an economic impact model based on the IMPLAN input-output modeling platform and database was constructed to assess economic impacts of the 2007 commercial harvest in southeast Alaska.

The estimated economic impacts, including output, jobs and personal income, generated by the harvesting and processing of seafood from southeast Alaska waters in 2007 are shown in *Figure 7*. The commercial harvest of salmon generated $288.5 million in direct expenditures in 2007 that supported an estimated 4,682 full- and part-time jobs, including 2,998 jobs in commercial fishing and 846 jobs in seafood processing. Personal income in southeast Alaska generated by the commercial harvesting of salmon was an estimated $94.3 million, including $27.8 million for

commercial harvesters and $32.3 million for processors. The value of total (direct, indirect, and induced) output generated by commercial fishing and processing of salmon was an estimated $599.3 million in 2007.

Figure 7.
Economic Impacts of Commercial Fisheries in Southeast Alaska on Sectors of the Southeast Alaska Regional Economy (Year 2007)



** Other services include machinery and equipment repair and maintenance, and other lesser-important services.*

*** Total jobs and personal income include "induced" effects resulting from spending of income received by households and revenues received by local governments.*

Source: Results from IMPLAN-based economic impact model developed by Ed Waters; refer to Appendix A for modeling details.

SPORT FISHERIES

Activity Overview

Sport fishing opportunities for salmon in Alaska are world-renowned, and attract large numbers of both resident and nonresident anglers. According to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (U.S. Department of the Interior 2008), 180,000 anglers participated in sport fishing throughout Alaska in 2006, of which state residents accounted for 76,000 (42%) and nonresidents of Alaska accounted for 104,000 (58%).

Similar to other areas of Alaska, sport fishing opportunities in southeast Alaska are abundant. In most management areas of the region, anglers can fish for all five salmon species, as well as for Dolly Varden, brook trout, rainbow/steelhead trout, cutthroat trout, grayling, halibut and lingcod. Unlike fishing opportunities in the more populated areas of Southcentral Alaska, most angling in southeast Alaska occurs in marine waters, and nonresidents of Alaska account for a larger share of the sport fishing activity. Overall, most sport fishing in southeast Alaska occurs without guide services, although nonresidents (51%) are much more likely than residents (8%) to take guided

fishing trips (Southwick Associates 2009). Both resident and nonresident anglers in southeast Alaska are more likely to fish in marine waters than in freshwaters.

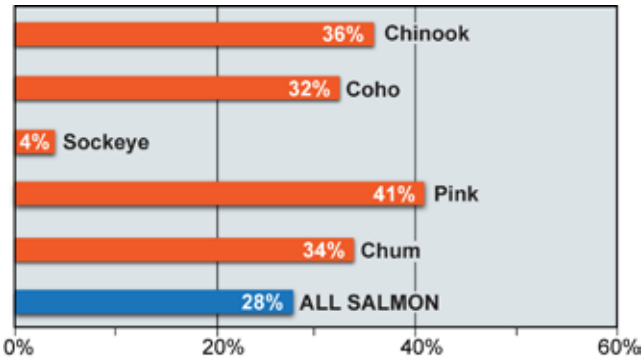
ADF&G regulates marine and freshwater sport fishing in southeast Alaska on a region-wide basis. Although regulations are developed region-wide, specific exceptions to these regulations are developed on a management area-by-management area basis. There are seven sport fishing management areas in southeast Alaska: Ketchikan, Prince of Wales Island, Petersburg-Wrangell, Sitka, Juneau-Glacier Bay, Haines-Skagway, and Yakutat *(Figure 1)*. In addition to the region-wide marine and freshwater regulations, ADF&G has specific regulations for trout in southeast Alaska, which are based on ADF&G research on cutthroat trout and steelhead. (ADF&G 2010)

Catch, Effort and Expenditures

Between 2003 and 2007, the annual sport catch of salmon in southeast Alaska ranged from 748,480 fish (in 2006) to 1.26 million fish (in 2005) (Figure 4). In terms of numbers of salmon caught, coho accounted for about 41 percent of all salmon caught in southeast Alaska sport fisheries between 2003 and 2007, followed by pink salmon (31% of all salmon caught), Chinook (18%), chum (6%), and sockeye (4%).

As a percent of the statewide catch, pink salmon caught in southeast Alaska sport fisheries is the only salmon species that accounted for more than 40 percent of the statewide totals in 2007 *(Figure 8)*. The harvest of Chinook, coho, and chum salmon in southeast Alaska each accounted for between 25 percent and 35 percent of the statewide totals for these species, and the harvest of sockeye accounted for about 4 percent of the statewide totals in 2007. Across all salmon species, the sport harvest of salmon in southeast Alaska in 2007 comprised about 28 percent of all recreationally-caught salmon statewide.

Figure 8.
2007 Sport Catch of Salmon in Southeast Alaska as a Percent of Statewide Total



Source: ADF&G

In 2007, salmon accounted for 929,751 fish (57.4%) of the total number of fish caught (1,619,272 fish) in all sport fisheries in southeast Alaska (ADF&G undated). Catch of Dolly Varden/ Arctic Char was 53,656 fish (3.3% of all fish caught), trout (including rainbow, Cutthroat, brook, and Lake) was 28,967 fish (1.8%), and steelhead was 14,853 fish (0.9%).

In southeast Alaska, recreational anglers participated in 540,260 days of fishing in 2007 (about 22% of statewide totals). Of this total, 81 percent (435,340 days) were in marine waters and 19 percent (104,920 days) were in freshwaters. Residents of Alaska accounted for 219,130 days, or about 41 percent of all angler days, and nonresidents of Alaska accounted for 321,150, or 59 percent. (Southwick Associates 2008)

In terms of angler expenditures, recreational anglers fishing in southeast Alaska spent an estimated $274 million in 2007 on equipment, boats, and trip-related and other items (including construction and maintenance of real estate primarily used for sport fishing), representing about 20 percent of statewide spending on recreational fishing in 2007. Saltwater fishing accounted for almost half ($132 million) of all angler spending in southeast Alaska. Resident anglers accounted for 36 percent of all Southeast sport fishing-related spending and non-residents accounted for 64 percent. Based on the catch of salmonids (including steelhead, trout, and Dolly Varden) as a percentage of the total sport catch in southeast Alaska (63.4%), it is estimated that recreational fishing for salmonids in southeast Alaska accounted for about $174 million of the $274 million in angler expenditures in 2007.

Net Economic Values

A widely-accepted notion is that anglers fishing for salmon, steelhead and other salmonids typically receive some value associated with their fishing experience that is over and above the out-of-pocket expenditures that anglers make to participate in these activities. This "surplus value" concept, which is often referred to as net willingness to pay, is important for understanding the total economic value of sport fisheries and for assessing the economic feasibility of investments to improve the quality of the fishing experience. In essence, these "net economic values" measure the benefits to sport anglers (over and above the costs) of fishing opportunities

Net economic values of sport fishing activities typically are determined based on the value associated with an angler day (or trip). Angler surveys often are used to estimate these values, which can differ by type of activity, including species sought, mode of fishing (e.g., shore fishing or fishing from a boat), and angler success.

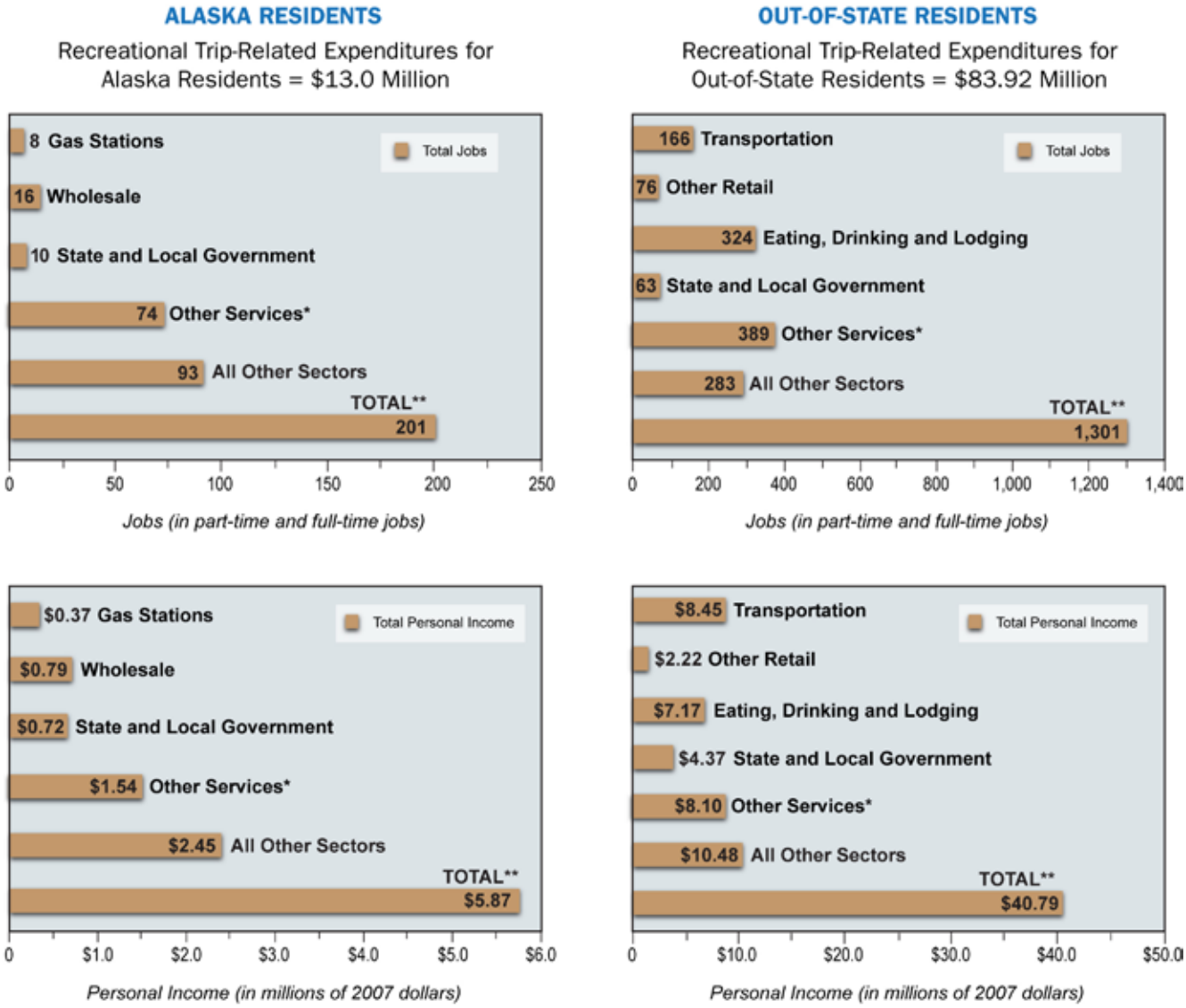
For this study, net economic values for sport fishing for salmonids are estimated based on values derived from a 1999 study of sport fishing in Alaska (ISER 1999). Net economic values (on a angler-day basis) derived from the ISER study are $26.45 per angler day for resident anglers and $47.79 per angler day for nonresident anglers; values were adjusted to 2007 dollars using the consumer price index (1.4194 times 1993 values). These adjusted angler day values were then multiplied by the number of angler days for 2007 reported above–219,130 angler days for resident anglers and 321,150 angler days for nonresidents. These calculations result in estimates of net economic values for sport fishing in southeast Alaska during 2007 of $8,226,100 for resident anglers, and of $21,783,600 for nonresident anglers.

It should be noted that these estimates of net economic value are approximations that are based on average per angler-day values. More precise estimates could be developed by considering important site and species characteristics, such as catch rates and other indicators of sport fishing quality. Collecting and analyzing these types of data, however, are beyond the scope of this study, which necessitates using readily available information instead.

Economic Impacts

Similar to commercial fisheries, sport fisheries in southeast Alaska are an important contributor to the regional economy. Resident and nonresident anglers make purchases of many goods and services that in turn support, both directly and indirectly, a large number of businesses in southeast Alaska. These purchases include trip-related items such as food and lodging, fish packages that include travel arrangements as well as food, lodging, and guiding services, and fishing equipment

Figure 9.
Economic Impacts of Sport Fisheries in Southeast Alaska on Sectors of the Southeast Alaska Regional Economy (Year 2007): Trip-Related and Package Expenditures



** Other services include amusement and recreation services, automobile repair and maintenance, household goods repair and maintenance, and other lesser-important services.*

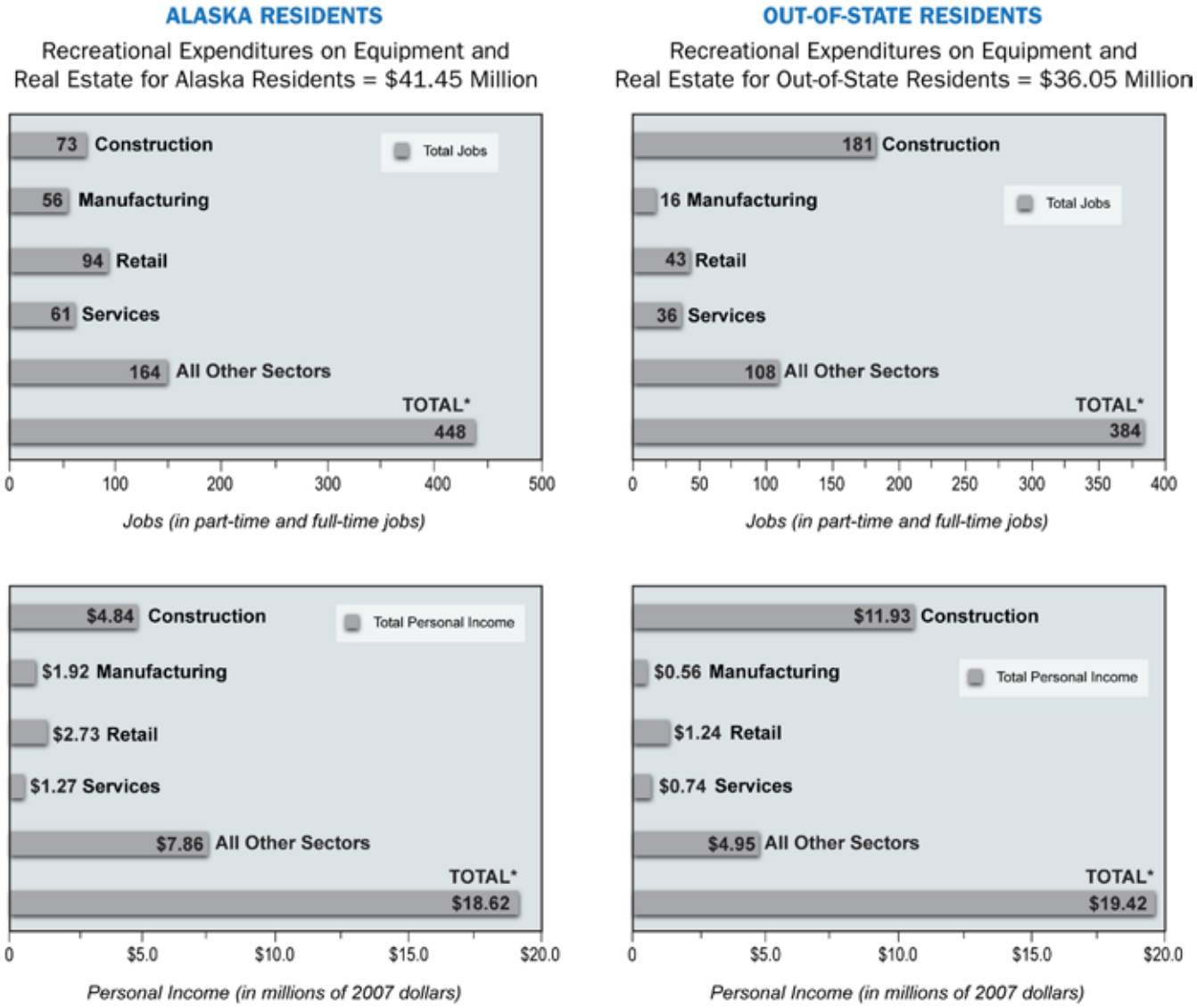
*** Total jobs and personal income include "induced" effects resulting from spending of income received by households and revenues received by local governments.*

Source: Results from IMPLAN-based economic impact model developed by Ed Waters; refer to Appendix A for modeling details.

(including boats). Some resident and nonresident anglers also make fishing-related expenditures for the leasing or owning of real estate that is used for sport fishing purposes.

The expenditures made by anglers for sport fishing activities generate additional economic effects throughout the regional economy beyond the initial angler spending. These additional economic effects are typically estimated with regional input-output models that relate changes in some specific industry to impacts on other industries in the regional economy. For this study, an economic impact model based on the IMPLAN input-output modeling platform and database

Figure 10.
Economic Impacts of Sport Fisheries in Southeast Alaska on Sectors of the Southeast Alaska Regional Economy (Year 2007): Equipment and Real Estate Expenditures



** Total jobs and personal income include "induced" effects resulting from spending of income received by households and revenues received by local governments.*

Source: Results from IMPLAN-based economic impact model developed by Ed Waters; refer to Appendix A for modeling details.

was constructed (see Appendix A) to assess the economic impacts of expenditures made by resident and nonresident anglers for sport fishing for salmonids in southeast Alaska.

Resident anglers who fished for salmonids in southeast Alaska made an estimated $13.0 million in trip-related expenditures, including the purchase of fishing-related packages, in 2007 *(Figure 9)*. These purchases by residents of southeast Alaska supported an estimated 201 jobs and generated $5.9 million in personal income. The value of total output (including multiplier effects) related to purchases by salmonids resident anglers in southeast Alaska was an estimated $26.8 million in 2007.

Although the estimates of economic impacts (jobs and personal income) generated by resident and nonresident anglers are conceptually consistent, these two components of economic impacts are fundamentally different in terms of their contribution to the regional economy. Tourism spending by nonresident anglers is considered a basic industry (much like exporting industries) because money flows into the regional economy from nonresidents of the region, whereas the spending by residents of southeast Alaska is generally considered a reallocation of regional income from one sector to another.

As *Figure 9* shows, the impacts on the regional economy generated by nonresident anglers are substantially higher than those generated by resident anglers. Nonresident anglers spent an estimated $83.9 million on trip-related and package expenditures that supported an estimated 1,301 jobs and generated $40.8 million in personal income. The value of total output generated by nonresident angler purchases was $176.4 million.

The impacts on the regional economy of spending on equipment (including the purchase and maintenance of boats) and real estate-related purchases by resident and non-resident salmonid anglers are shown in *Figure 10*[1]. Unlike for trip-related purchases, resident anglers make greater expenditures on equipment and real estate-related purchases than nonresident anglers do. In 2007, resident anglers spent an estimated $41.4 million on equipment and real estate-related purchases, as compared to an estimated $36.1 million for nonresident anglers.

PERSONAL USE AND SUBSISTENCE FISHERIES

Personal use fishing is defined as the taking of, or fishing for fishery resources by Alaska residents for personal use and not for sale or barter, whereas subsistence fishing is defined as the taking of, or fishing for fishery resources by a resident for subsistence uses (ADF&G undated). In southeast Alaska, a permit is required to participate in personal use fishing.

[1] Expenditures by sport anglers on real estate-related repairs and construction are included in this study because these expenditures were included in the Southwick Associates study that is the source of recreational fishing expenditure data. It should be acknowledged, however, that accurately estimating legitimate real estate-related expenditures associated with recreational fishing is very difficult; as a result, the economic impacts identified in this study that are based on these expenditures should be interpreted cautiously.

As a practical matter, the main difference between personal use fishing and subsistence fishing in southeast Alaska is where anglers fish (Harris, personal communication). Personal use fishing in southeast Alaska occurs in areas designated as "nonsubsistence areas". The Joint Board of Fisheries and Game has designated two nonsubsistence areas in southeast Alaska – the Ketchikan Nonsubsistence Area and the Juneau Nonsubsistence Area.

Personal use fishing in southeast Alaska is managed by the Commercial Fish Division of the ADF&G. Subsistence fishing in state waters also is managed by the Commercial Fish Division, whereas subsistence fishing on Alaska's federal lands and non-navigable waters has been managed since 1990 by the Federal government.

The main reason that Alaska residents participate in personal use and subsistence fishing is the underlying economics. Depending on where the fishing occurs, bag limits are anywhere from 5 to 50 sockeye per day, with annual limits either set at the daily limit or some multiple of it. The gear used is typically dip nets, beach seines, cast nets, and gaffs. Often a group of permit holders will work together and share the harvest. (Harris, personal communication)

Similar to recreational fisheries, the value of personal use or subsistence fishing can be estimated in terms of the expenditures made by participants in the fishery, and by the surplus value or net willingness to pay associated with fishing opportunities. As *Figure 4* shows, the harvest of salmon in personal use and subsistence fisheries in southeast Alaska annually ranged from about 42,000 fish to 79,000 fish between 2003 and 2007. In 2007, 3,153 permits were issued in southeast Alaska (including Yakutat) for personal use and subsistence fishing, with a catch of 41,863 salmon (88 percent was sockeye). Permits were issued to households with an average of three persons per household. Assuming that persons participating in personal use and subsistence fisheries caught, on average, 10 fish on each trip and have per-trip expenditures for bait, fuel, food, and lodging similar to sport anglers, it is estimated that these trips generated $453,500 in expenditures.

A study of personal use and subsistence fisheries in the Copper River of Alaska (Henderson et. al 1999) estimates that residents participating in personal use and subsistence fishing received between $50.93 and $56.88 (1990 values) in net economic value per trip. Using the mid-point of this range and adjusting to 2007 dollars using the consumer price index, per-trip values for 2007 are estimated at $76.51. Using this average per-trip value and the estimated 4,186 trips, net economic values for personal use and subsistence fishing in southeast Alaska are estimated at $320,270 for 2007.

The trip-related spending by persons participating in personal use and subsistence fisheries also generates economic impacts on the regional economy. Based on estimates of $453,500 in trip-related spending in southeast Alaska, this level of spending directly and indirectly supports five jobs and generates $195,000 in personal income throughout the region.

ECONOMIC CONTRIBUTIONS AND IMPACTS OF SOUTHEAST ALASKA SALMONID RESOURCES

Salmonid resources create value for persons participating in commercial, sport, and personal use/subsistence fisheries (use values), as well as generating economic activity in the local and regional economies affected by these fisheries. Salmonid resources also generate societal values to persons who do not directly participate in these fisheries, but who place monetary value on knowing that salmonid resources are being protected for current and future generations (existence and bequeath values). Although not evaluated in this study, these "non-use" components of value contribute to the total economic value of natural resources such as salmonids (Peterson and Sorg 1987).

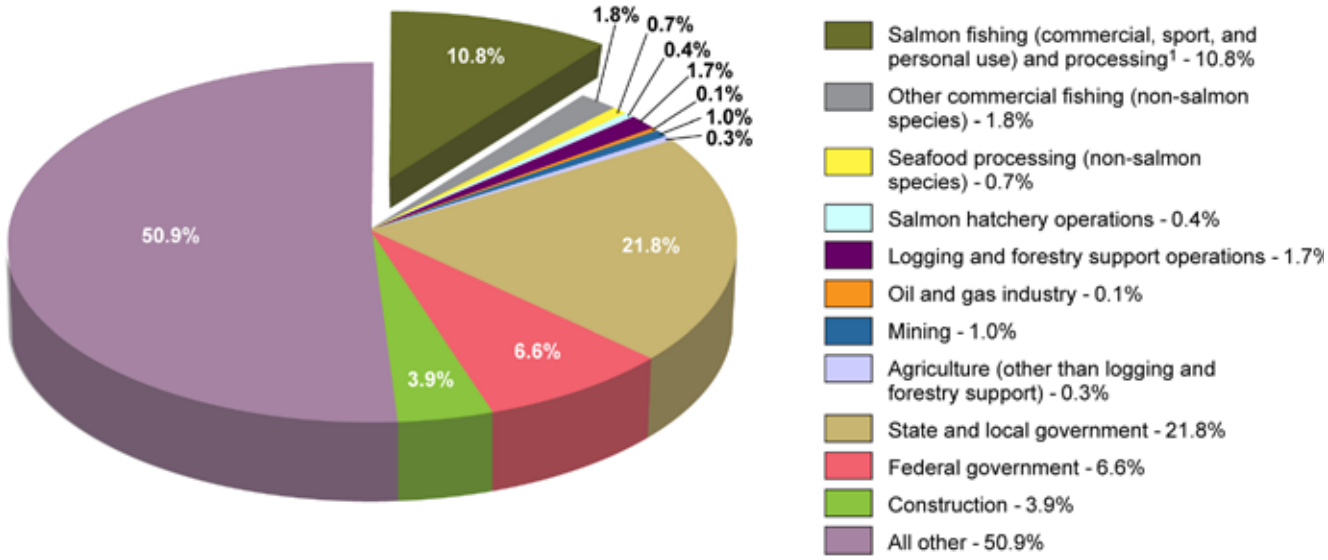
As estimated in this study, the use value of salmonid resources to commercial fisheries in southeast Alaska is estimated at $260.9 million in 2007. The value of salmonid resources to recreational fisheries in southeast Alaska is estimated at $204.4 million in 2007, including expenditures of $174.4 million and net economic values of $30.0 million. The value of salmonid resources to personal use/subsistence fisheries is estimated at $0.77 million in 2007, including $453,500 in expenditures and $320,300 in net economic values. In sum, these three components of use values total $466.1 million.

In addition to contributing to use values, the salmonid fisheries of southeast Alaska and hatchery operations contribute to economic activity in the region. Total output associated with the three fisheries and hatchery operations, which includes the additional rounds of economic activity resulting from the multiplier effect, is estimated at $986.1 million. The total number of jobs directly and indirectly supported by southeast Alaska fisheries and hatchery operations are estimated at 7,282, and total personal income (wage earnings, profits, and other income) generated by these fisheries and hatchery operations is an estimated $188.9 million.

Fishing for salmon in southeast Alaska, including commercial, recreational and personal use/subsistence and the processing of comercially-harvested salmon, accounts for an estimated 10.8 percent of total employment in southeast Alaska (*Figure 11)*. (Note that direct employment effects of salmon fishing and the processing of commercially-harvested salmon are compared in *Figure 11* to total employment by industry in the remainder of the economy.) By comparison, logging and forestry support operations generate an estimated 1.7 percent, and mining supports about 1.0 percent of all regional employment. Employment in state and local government accounts for 21.8 percent of the regional jobs, and employment in the Federal government represents 6.6 percent.

Figure 11.
Southeast Alaska Employment by Industry

Total Employment = 50,077 Estimated Jobs (part- and full-time)



[1] Includes the number of jobs directly resulting from commercial salmon fishing and the processing of that catch, recreational fishing for salmonids, and subsistence salmon fishing.

Sources: Jobs for salmon fishing (commercial, recreational, and personal use/subsistence) were derived for this study based on 2007 fishing activity. Jobs for all other sectors are from 2008 IMPLAN data for southeast Alaska.

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APPENDIX A – ECONOMIC IMPACTS MODELING AND ESTIMATION

This appendix describes the procedures used to estimate the regional economic impacts of the fisheries and hatchery operations in southeast Alaska (SEAK). An IMPLAN-based economic impact model was developed in Excel by Dr. Edward Waters for use in conducting the economic impact analysis. The following steps describe model development and the analysis of economic impacts. References to cell numbers and ranges refer to the Excel spreadsheet in which the model was constructed.

Step 1: Aggregate 2008 IMPLAN data from the following ten boroughs and special areas and use to generate the SEAK IMPLAN model.

- Haines Borough
- Hoonah-Angoon Division
- Juneau Borough
- Ketchikan Gateway Borough
- Petersburg Census Area
- Prince of Wales Area
- Sitka Borough
- Skagway Borough
- Wrangell Borough
- Yakutat Borough

Step 2: Generate "Social Accounting Matrix (SAM)>computable general equilibrium (CGE) reports" for the SEAK IMPLAN model using IMPLAN version 2.

Step 3: Use GAMS (General Algebraic Modeling System) to import the CGE reports files and to construct an "import purged" SAM based on the industry aggregation scheme shown in <SE_AK_2008_INDUSTRY_MAP_(IMPLAN_440).xls>.

Step 4: Configure the SEAK SAM with the following "endogenous" industries (i.e., sectors whose activity levels are determined at least partially by the model).

1 AGRI
2 FISHING
3 OIL_GAS
4 MINING
5 UTILITIES
6 CONSTR
7 FOOD
8 SEAFOOD
9 OTHMANU
10 WHOLESALE

11 TRANSPORT
12 FOODST
13 GASST
14 OTHRETAIL
15 INFO
16 FIRE
17 PROFSERVS
18 EDUSERVS
19 HEALTHSERV
20 EDL
21 OTHSERVS
22 MISC
23 SLGOVENT
24 FEDGOVENT
25 SLGOVI
26 FEDGOVI

Step 5: Include the following endogenous transfer and institutional accounts in the SAM.

27 LAB (employee compensation)
28 PROP (proprietors' income)
29 OPI (other property income: dividends, interest and rent)
30 INDT (indirect business taxes)
31 LOW_HH (the three lowest IMPLAN household income categories)
32 MED_HH (the three middle IMPLAN household income categories)
33 HI_HH (the three highest IMPLAN household income categories)
34 SLGOVT (state and local government)

Step 6: Export the SAM to an Excel file (see tab 'GAMS'). Note that values in the SAM are expressed in million of dollars.

Step 7: Make minor adjustments to certain terms in the SAM to balance row and column sums (see tab 'Modified'). The resulting SAM is shown in tab 'IxI SAM'.

Step 8: Adjust the Fishing industry sector to align Fishing industry output with total 2007 ex-vessel revenues resulting from SE Alaska landings taken from the Alaska Department of Fish & Game website: http://www.cf.adfg.state.ak.us/ (see note 1 below). Elements of the IMPLAN Fishing sector production function were scaled up based on the 2007 ADFG ex-vessel revenue estimates. A corresponding adjustment was made to IMPLAN Fishing industry employment and to estimated inter-industry purchases of local raw fish inputs by the Seafood processing sector. The resulting SAM is shown in tab 'IxI SAM (2)'.

Step 9: Construct the SAM regional economic model using standard matrix algebra techniques (see tab 'IxI SAM MODEL'). The SAM model includes the above 34 endogenous sectors. In this type of model, **"direct effects"** originating from defined external demand (or exogenous spending items) are assumed to stimulate indirect and induced economic activity in the region. **"Indirect effects"** are determined by resulting inter-industry transactions in response to this activity; and **"induced effects"** are triggered by the resulting respending of income and taxes by resident households and local government. Note that a model employing these types of assumptions about the range of endogenous transfer and institutional sectors (i.e., resident households and local government administration) will tend to produce higher multiplier results than would a model that assumes a lower level of endogenous institutional activity.

Step 10: Configure the following impact scenarios for analysis (details are shown in <SEAK_INPUTS_FOR_IO_Analysis_03-12-2010.xls> and <SEAK_Hatchery_Budget.xls>).

Commercial Harvesting & Processing (Note that Washington state FEAM processor margins were used to estimate ex-processor sales.)

Recreational Trip Expenditures & Packages (Note that data were provided by Tom Wegge and mapped to IMPLAN industries and to aggregated SAM sectors.)

- SEAK Residents
- Non-Residents of SEAK

Recreational Equipment & Real Estate (Note that data were provided by Tom Wegge and then adjusted from producer price to purchaser price basis for equipment purchases and mapped to IMPLAN industries and to aggregated SAM sectors.)

- SEAK Residents
- Non-Residents of SEAK

Personal & Subsistence (Note that data were provided by Tom Wegge and mapped to IMPLAN industries and to aggregated SAM sectors.)

Hatchery Operations (Note that expenditure share data from "Yakama Basin Coho and Fall Chinook Acclimation Project" were used to distribute total expenditures to underlying cost categories and mapped to IMPLAN industries and to aggregated SAM sectors).

Step 11: **"Margining"** (i.e., conversion from purchaser prices to producer prices) was performed on the estimated direct expenditures by recreational and personal use anglers in order to properly align expenditure amounts with the industry sector actually providing the goods and services. For example, the price paid for processed food purchased at a local convenience store includes significant transportation and trade margins in addition to the cost of the goods themselves. An attempt was made to "unbundle" these types of transactions to correctly assign expenditures to the list of industries providing the goods and services.

Step 12: Array impact scenarios as consecutive input vectors in cells AK155:AT192 in tab 'IxI SAM MODEL'.

Step 13: Post-multiply each impact scenario vector by the SAM inverse matrix ((I-A)-1). These **"output impact"** results ($ million) are displayed in cells A193:J233.

Step 14: Calculate **employment impacts** (# of jobs) by multiplying each element of the output impact results vectors by the corresponding sector employment-to-output ratio. These results are displayed in cells A235:J276.

Step 15: Calculate **income impacts** ($ million) by multiplying each element of the output impact results vectors by the corresponding sector income-to-output ratio. These results are displayed in cells A278:J319.

Notes:

1. While IMPLAN generally does a good job tracking actual employment and payroll in most regional industries, notable exceptions are the agriculture and fishing sectors, where employment is often part-time or seasonal and therefore not subject to reporting requirements under state unemployment insurance programs. As such, employment and compensation amounts for these "non-covered" industries reported in state employment data and also in IMPLAN tend to be substantially underestimated.

2. **"Leakage"** (i.e., loss of income from the regional spending stream) is determined in regional economic models by (1) the level of goods and services purchased from outside a region ("Imports"), and (2) the relative number of non-resident workers employed in the region. IMPLAN estimates the proportion of non-labor inputs in a region using regional purchase coefficients (RPCs) that are calculated within IMPLAN by a statistical technique that uses available regional data. In the SE Alaska SAM model, the combined "non-services" industries (Agriculture, Fishing, Mining, Utilities, Construction and Manufacturing) imported 39% of their non-labor inputs. The combined "services" sectors (Trade, Transportation, Information, Finance, Insurance, Real Estate, Professionals, Private Education, Health, Accommodations, Restaurants, etc.) imported 30% of their non-labor inputs. Also, about 39% of regional households' purchases were assumed to be imported from outside SE Alaska, and about 19% of employee compensation was assumed paid to nonresident workers.

SOUTHEAST ALASKA

By the Numbers 2019

Visitors Page 6
Maritime, Seafood Page 8 - 9
Health Page 10-11
Timber, Mining Page 12
Construction, Education Page 13
Government Page 14
Demographics Page 15
Business Survey Page 17 - 19

CHANGES **2017 TO 2018**

Regional **population** decreased by **80 people** to **72,876**

Labor force increased by **2 jobs** to **45,642** jobs

Total Government jobs decreased by **108 jobs** to **13,148**

Cruise **Passengers** increased by **7% to 1.2 million**

Pounds of Seafood Landed in the region decreased by **118 million pounds,** a decrease of **39%**

Health Care Jobs in the region increased by **121**, a gain of **3%**

SOUTHEAST ALASKA'S **ECONOMY**

The Southeast Alaska summer of 2019 was filled with record-high temperatures and a historic number of visitors spending money across the region's communities. While it was the picture of prosperity, the region's complex economic framework is thriving in some segments, while struggling in others.

Southeast Alaska's shrinking State sector is down by more than 800 jobs over 7 years. Long the top provider of wages in the region, state government is on track to be a distant third in coming years – after municipal government and tourism – and a bountiful fishing season would make the state the fourth largest provider of wages. Alaska's fiscal health has been managed to the detriment of Southeast Alaskans, as short-term gains took priority over the long-term economic health of the State sector, and State savings were depleted without full implementation of a sustainable fiscal solution. As a result the region has been embroiled in economic uncertainty that is a problematic companion to a thriving private sector.

The regional health care industry had been optimistic about the trajectory of the economic environment, adding nearly 500 jobs and $50 million in wages over the last four years to support the growing health care needs of an aging population. However, steep state cuts to Medicaid funding, compounded by the potential loss of matching federal dollars, have reversed the growing business confidence of that sector. The region's mining sector has been growing, while the ship building and construction sectors have contracted.

Fishing remains mercurial. Southeast Alaska lost nearly 700 seafood jobs in the past four years, with wages down by $22 million. By volume, the catch for 2018 was the lowest in decades, but strong seafood prices have offset losses. The so-called trade war with China is having deleterious impacts on several Southeast industries, including seafood, timber, and mining.

Through all of this, the visitor industry has provided a critical counter-balance to a capricious economy. In just seven years, the tourism sector added more than 2,000 annualized jobs to Southeast communities, increasing wages by $85 million. During the summer of 2020, 1.44 million visitors are projected to spend nearly $800 million during their Southeast Alaska holidays.

The collective result was a flat economy in 2018. Southeast Alaska decreased in population by 80 people, added two jobs, and overall wages grew incrementally. The region persevered through several rough years, but Southeast Alaskans are resilient and remain optimistic about the future. More than a quarter of regional businesses plan to add jobs in the coming year, and 68% of business leaders expect the coming year to be positive and/or better than last year.

SOUTHEAST **2020 STRATEGIC PLAN** SUMMARY

The Southeast Alaska 2020 Economic Plan, is a five-year strategic plan for the region. The membership worked together to develop an overall vision statement, 46 objectives, and 7 priority objectives, along with regional and industry specific SWOT analyses. More than 400 people representing small businesses, tribes, Native organizations, municipalities, and nonprofits were involved in various elements of the planning process. In 2018 this work received a national NADO Innovation Award. The Plan's objectives are listed below.

Transportation

★ **Priority** Minimize Impacts of Budget Cuts to AMHS and Develop a Sustainable Operational Model.
Road Development.
Move Freight to and from Markets More Efficiently.
Ensure the Stability of Regional Transportation Services Outside of AMHS.

Energy

★ **Priority** Promote Priorities of the Regional Energy Plan, Including Infrastructure and Diesel Displacement.
Support Community Efforts to Create Sustainable Power Systems that Provide Affordable/Renewable Energy.
Complete Regional Hydrosite Evaluation for Southeast Alaska.

Maritime

Maritime Industrial Support

★ **Priority** Maritime Industrial Support Sector Talent Pipeline: Maritime Workforce Development Plan.
Continue to Grow the Regional Maritime Sector.
Increase Access to Capital for the Regional Maritime Industrial Support Sector.
Support Capital Investments in Expanded Marine Industry Support Infrastructure.
Harbor Improvements.
Examine Arctic Exploration Opportunities That the Region as a Whole Can Provide.

Seafood Industry

★ **Priority** Mariculture Development.
★ **Priority** Full Utilization and Ocean Product Development.
Increase Energy Efficiency and Reduce Energy Costs.
Regional Seafood Processing.
Seafood Markets.
Sea Otter Utilization and Sustainable Shellfish.
Maintain Stable Regulatory Regime.
Seafood Workforce Development.

Visitor Industry

★ **Priority** Market Southeast Alaska to Attract More Visitors.
Improve Access to Public Lands.
Increase Flexibility in Terms of Permit Use.
Increase Yacht and Small Cruise Ship Visitations.
Improve Communications Infrastructure.
Advocate for Funding to Maintain Existing Recreational Infrastructure.
Grow Cultural and Arts Tourism.

Timber Industry

★ **Priority** Provide an Adequate, Economic and Dependable Supply of Timber from the Tongass National Forest to Regional Timber Operators.
Stabilize the Regional Timber Industry.
Work with USFS to Direct Federal Contracts Toward Locally-Owned Businesses.
Support Small-Scale Manufacturing of Wood Products in Southeast Alaska.
Continue Old-Growth Harvests Until Young-Growth Supply is Adequate.
Community-Based Workforce Development.
Update Young Growth Inventory.

Other Objectives

Healthcare: Meet Regional Workforce Development Needs.
Research: Attract Science and Research Jobs to Southeast Alaska.
Housing: Support Housing Development.
Food Security: Increase Production, Accessibility, and Demand of Local Foods.
Communications: Improved Access to Telemedicine in Southeast Alaska.
Marketing: Market Southeast Alaska as a Region.
Solid Waste: Regional Solid Waste Disposal.
Education: Partner with University & K-12 to Meet Workforce Needs
Arts: Increase Recognition of Southeast Alaska's Thriving Arts Economy.
Mining: Minerals & Mining Workforce Development.
Cultural Wellness: Support Activities and Infrastructure that Promote Cultural Wellness.

A Message from **Southeast Conference**

Executive Director
Robert Venables

We truly are living in "interesting times." In many economic sectors, the region is holding its own or doing well, while others struggle. The pervasive uncertainty that envelopes the region and state is cited as a top reason industry hesitates to invest, expand and grow. A stable fiscal policy is essential.

Southeast Alaska is blessed with the natural resources that can provide the basis for a strong economy. Our fisheries, mariculture, mining, timber and energy "endowment" is second to none. We need to focus on creating an environment that attracts and nurtures investment in those opportunities.

Also critical is the availability of skilled labor. Southeast Conference continues to be involved in workforce development and is a strong supporter of our University as a primary institution for preparing the next generation of workers.

Infrastructure and transportation must be present to support new and growing businesses. Southeast needs adequate ports, harbors, airports, roads, and most certainly a viable ferry system. Changes to AMHS are here, but we have a plan – and more importantly, a process guided by statewide stakeholders with a passion to see it succeed in its mission.

Our award-winning Economic Plan is our guide. This year we use it to measure how we've done the last 5 years as we update it toward our goal of strong economies, healthy communities and a quality environment in Southeast.

Robert Venables, Meilani Schijvens, and Alec Mesdag show off the National Association of Development Organizations 2018 Innovation Award, which Southeast Conference won for the Southeast Alaska 2020 Economic Plan. Photo by Heather Holt.

Incoming President
Alec Mesdag

Alec Mesdag is the Director of Energy Services for Alaska Electric Light and Power in Juneau. Together with his wife, they own and operate Salty Lady Seafood Company, a mariculture farm in Bridget Cove.

I lived in Portland for about five years. Among many strange things about living there, "Keep Portland Weird" stickers are all over the place. When I moved back to Juneau and attended my first Annual Meeting, it struck me that, in Southeast, we don't need to remind each other. I think that's the greatest advantage Southeast Conference has as an economic development organization. The membership and region have great diversity of thought, culture, and experience, and we welcome one another. That mixture drives innovation, and innovation drives growth.

One of the less-heralded bonds of our region is the need to constantly battle with visitors and in-laws from Portland about what it takes to stay warm when wet. That fundamental requirement for successfully going outside in Southeast Alaska helps underpin an ability to distinguish between reality and dogma, and that works as an analogy for what impressed me and encouraged me to become more involved in Southeast Conference. The organization's structure and economic plan acknowledge the need for continuous adaptation by government and the private sector, so the two complement each other's work without creating obstacles and distortions. That is why membership engagement in the Southeast Alaska Economic Plan has more potential to shape the trajectory of our region's economy than any other factor within our control.

The mission of Southeast Conference is to **undertake and support activities that promote strong economies, healthy communities and a quality environment in Southeast Alaska**. As the state and federally-designated regional economic development organization, Southeast Conference serves as the collective voice for advancing the region's economy. We have 200 member organizations representing 1,200 people from 32 regional communities. We started 60 years ago with a group of people supporting the establishment of a regional transportation system, leading to the formation of the Alaska Marine Highway System. Our members stayed together through more than a half-century to focus on concerns unique to the region.

Image Credits: Front cover photo of Juneau Waterfront by Zachary Hanna. Back cover photo by Bethany Goodrich, Sustainable Southeast Partnership. Icons/map by Avery Veliz.

Four Years of Change: 2014 to 2018

Table tracks key Southeast indicators over the past 4 years, along with associated changes.

Demographics	2014	2018	% Change 2014-2018	Change 2014-2018
Population [1]	74,432	72,872	-2%	-1,556
Ages 65 and older [2]	9,243	11,089	20%	1,846
Under Age Five [2]	4,622	4,146	-10%	-476
Twenty somethings [2]	9,398	8,447	-10%	-951
K-12 School District Enrollment [3]	11,804	11,334	-4%	-470
General Economic Conditions				
Total Labor Force (jobs, includes self-employed & USCG)[1,5,6]	45,694	45,642	0%	-52
Total Job Earnings[1, 5, 6]	$2.17 billion	$2.28 billion	5%	+$109 million
Total Private Sector Payroll [1, 6]	$1.41 billion	$1.51 billion	7%	+$97 million
Average Annual Wage [1]	$47,593	$50,023	5%	$2,430
Annual Unemployment Rate [1]	7.1%	6.0%	-1.1%	-1.1%
Top Economic Sectors	2014	2018	% Change	Change
Government	Public Sector: 35% of all employment earnings			
Total Government Employment [1, 5]	13,602	13,148	-3%	-454
Federal Employment [1, 5] (8% of all employment earnings)	2,110	2,111	0%	1
State Employment [1] (14% of all job earnings)	5,504	4,771	-13%	-733
City and Tribal Employment [1] (14% of all job earnings)	5,988	6,266	5%	278
Total Government Payroll (includes USCG) [1, 5]	$765.8 million	$776.9 million	1%	+$11 million
Total State of Alaska Payroll	$311.3 million	$283.3 million	-9%	-$28 million
Visitor Industry	Key Industry: 11% of all employment earnings			
Total Visitor Industry Employment [1, 6]	6,923	8,004	16%	1,081
Total Visitor Industry Wages/Earnings [1, 6]	$188.5 million	$249.3 million	32%	+$60.8 million
Total Southeast Alaska Passenger Arrivals	1,359,897	1,618,311	19%	258,414
Cruise Passengers [10]	967,500	1,169,000	21%	201,500
Total Air Passenger Arrivals from Outside SE [11]	372,197	435,476	17%	63,279
Total AMHS Passengers from Outside SE [12]	20,200	13,835	-32%	-6,365
Commercial Fishing & Seafood Industry	Key Industry: 10% of all employment earnings			
Total Seafood Employment (includes fishermen) [1, 6]	4,372	3,711	-15%	-661
Total Seafood Employment Earnings [1, 6]	$259.0 million	$237.4 million	-8%	-$21.6 million
Pounds of Seafood Processed[7]	232.9 million	132.7 million	-42%	-97.8 million
Pounds Landed (commercial seafood whole pounds by SE residents) [8]	300.0 million	185.2 million	-38%	-114.8 million
Estimated Gross Earnings (ex-vessel value of pounds landed) [8]	$277.1 million	$246.9 million	-11%	$30.2 million
Shared Fish Taxes[13]	$5.8 million	$4.5 million	-22%	-$1.2 million
Health Care Industry (public & private health)	Key Industry: 11% of all employment earnings			
Health Care Employment [1, 6]	3,523	3,990	13%	467
Health Care Wages [1, 6]	$194.8 million	$243.3 million	25%	+$48.5 million
Maritime Economy (Includes employment from all industries)	Top Sector: 27% of Private Sector employment earnings			
Private Maritime plus USCG Employment [1,5,6]	6,768	6,273	-7%	-495
Private Maritime plus USCG Wages [1,5,6]	$395.5 million	$396.8 million	0%	+$1.3 million
Other Selected Statistics	2014	2018	% Change	Change
Construction Employment [1, 6] (6% all employment earnings)	2,168	1,909	-12%	-259
Mining Employment [1] (4% of all employment earnings)	783	889	14%	106
Price of Gold [7]	$1,266	$1,268	0%	$2
Total Southeast AMHS Ridership[12]	242,648	179,312	-26%	-63,336
Cost of Living: Consumer Price Index[1]	215.8	225.5	5%	9.7
Housing Starts: Housing Permitted /Completed [4,1]	321	188	-41%	-133
Avg. Daily Volume ANS Oil Production (mbbls/day)[14]	512,810	508,601	-1%	-4,209
Annual Avg. Domestic Crude WTI Oil Prices (in $/Barrel)[14]	$97.88	$71.71	-27%	-$26

Sources: [1]Alaska Department of Labor (ADOL); [2]ADOL Southeast Alaska Population by Age, 2014 to 2018; [3]Alaska Department of Education and Early Development; [4]Based on the quarterly Alaska Housing Unit Survey, a survey of local governments and housing agencies; [5] US Coast Guard; [6] 2017 US Census Nonemployer (self-employment) Statistics; [7]Kitco Metals Inc.; [8]ADF&G Southeast Alaska Commercial Seafood Industry Harvest and Ex-Vessel Value Information, 2014-2018; [10]Cruise Line Agencies of Alaska; [11]US Bureau of Transportation Statistics (RITA); [12]Alaska Marine Highway System data; [13]Shared Taxes and Fees Annual Report FY17, ADOR; [14]Alaska Department of Revenue *Crude Oil and Natural Gas Prices*.

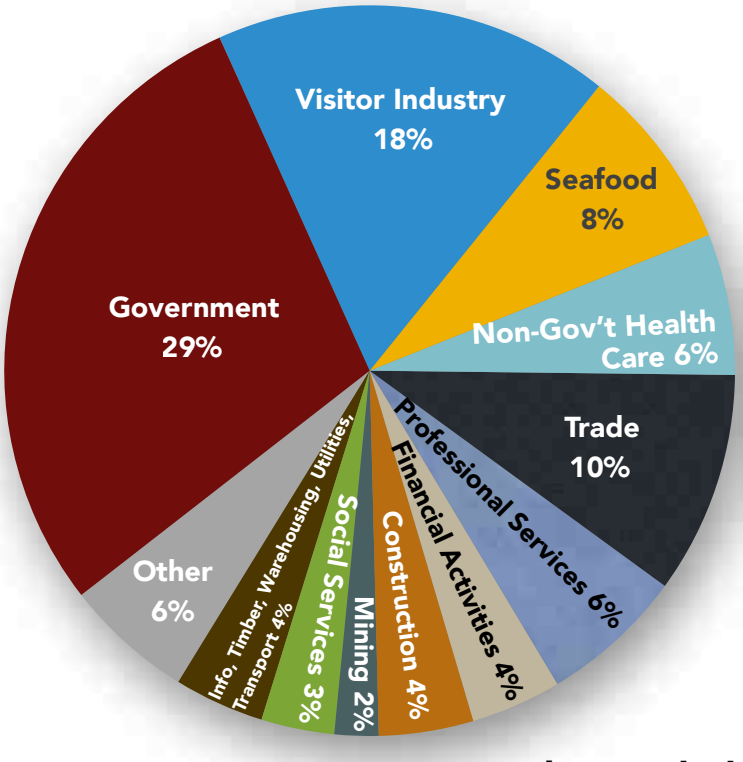
The Whole **Southeast Alaska Economy** 2018

In 2018, Southeast Alaska gained 380 year-round equivalent jobs and $17 million in workforce earnings over 2017. Approximately a quarter (26.1%) of regional workers are non-residents.

Annual Average Jobs

45,642 Jobs

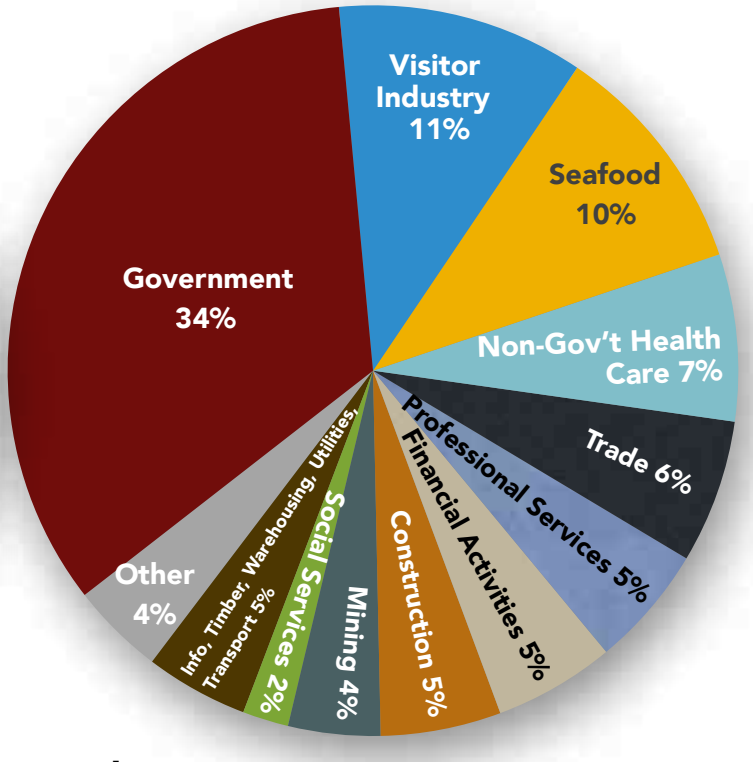
Up 2 Jobs in 2018 +0%



Employment Earnings

$2.3 Billion Workforce Earnings

Up $86 Million +4%



2018 Southeast Alaska Employment Earnings

	Employment Related Earnings			Employment Numbers		
	Wages (2018)	Self-Employment Earnings (2017)	Total Earnings	Annual Average Employment (2018)	Self-Employed (2017)	Total Employment
Government (includes Coast Guard)	$721,459,750	$55,467,580 CG*	**$776,927,330**	12,486	662 CG*	**13,148**
Visitor Industry	$216,101,975	$33,241,000	**$249,342,975**	7,037	967	**8,004**
Seafood Industry	$61,983,458	$175,459,000	**$237,442,458**	1,458	2,253	**3,711**
Trade: Retail and Wholesale	$120,405,013	$24,666,000	**$145,071,013**	3,903	587	**4,490**
Health Care Industry (private only)	$154,278,150	$14,330,000	**$168,608,150**	2,615	237	**2,852**
Construction Industry	$88,673,702	$32,972,000	**$121,645,702**	1,331	578	**1,909**
Financial Activities	$52,935,761	$69,216,000	**$122,151,761**	1073	757	**1,830**
Professional and Business Services	$78,756,495	$44,242,000	**$122,998,495**	1,606	1,304	**2,910**
Mining Industry	$92,753,768	$274,000	**$93,027,768**	879	10	**889**
Social Services	$42,218,089	$4,224,000	**$46,442,089**	1,289	187	**1,476**
Information (publishing, broadcasting, telecomm.)	$22,074,083	$1,474,000	**$23,548,083**	483	58	**541**
Timber Industry	$16,739,683	$2,025,000	**$18,764,683**	280	57	**337**
Warehousing, Utilities, & Non-Visitor Transport	$46,340,395	$15,414,000	**$61,754,395**	777	166	**943**
Other	$66,819,751	$27,657,000	**$94,476,751**	1,677	925	**2,602**
Total	$1,781,540,073	$500,661,580	$2,282,201,653	36,894	8,748	45,642

Sources: Alaska Department of Labor 2018 Employment & Wage data; 2017 (latest available) US Census Nonemployer (self-employment) Statistics; Active Duty Military Population by 2018, ADOL.*****These cells in Government refer to 2018 active duty Coast Guard personnel employment and wages, and not self-employment data.
Notes: Seafood Industry includes animal aquaculture, fishing & seafood product preparation, and Southeast Alaska resident commercial fishermen (nonresident fishermen & crew who did not report income are excluded). **Visitor Industry** includes leisure & hospitality, and visitor transportation (air, water, scenic). **Timber** includes forestry and logging support activities for forestry, and wood product manufacturing.

Southeast Tourism Statistics 2020

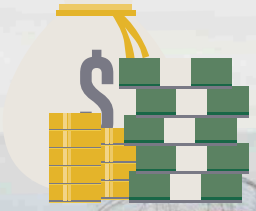
Estimated Regional Visitor Industry Projections for 2020

43
Cruise Ships in Southeast

606
Cruise Ship Voyages

1.44
Million Cruise Passengers

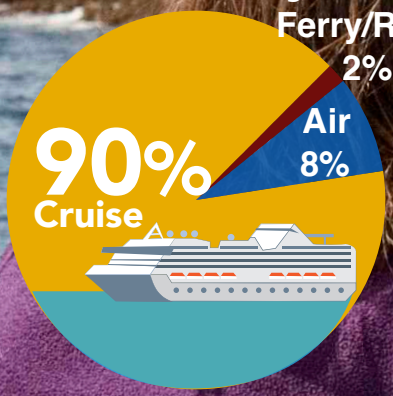
$793
Million in Tourist Spending



2020

65%
Increase in cruise passengers from 2010

Tourist Arrivals in Southeast by Mode

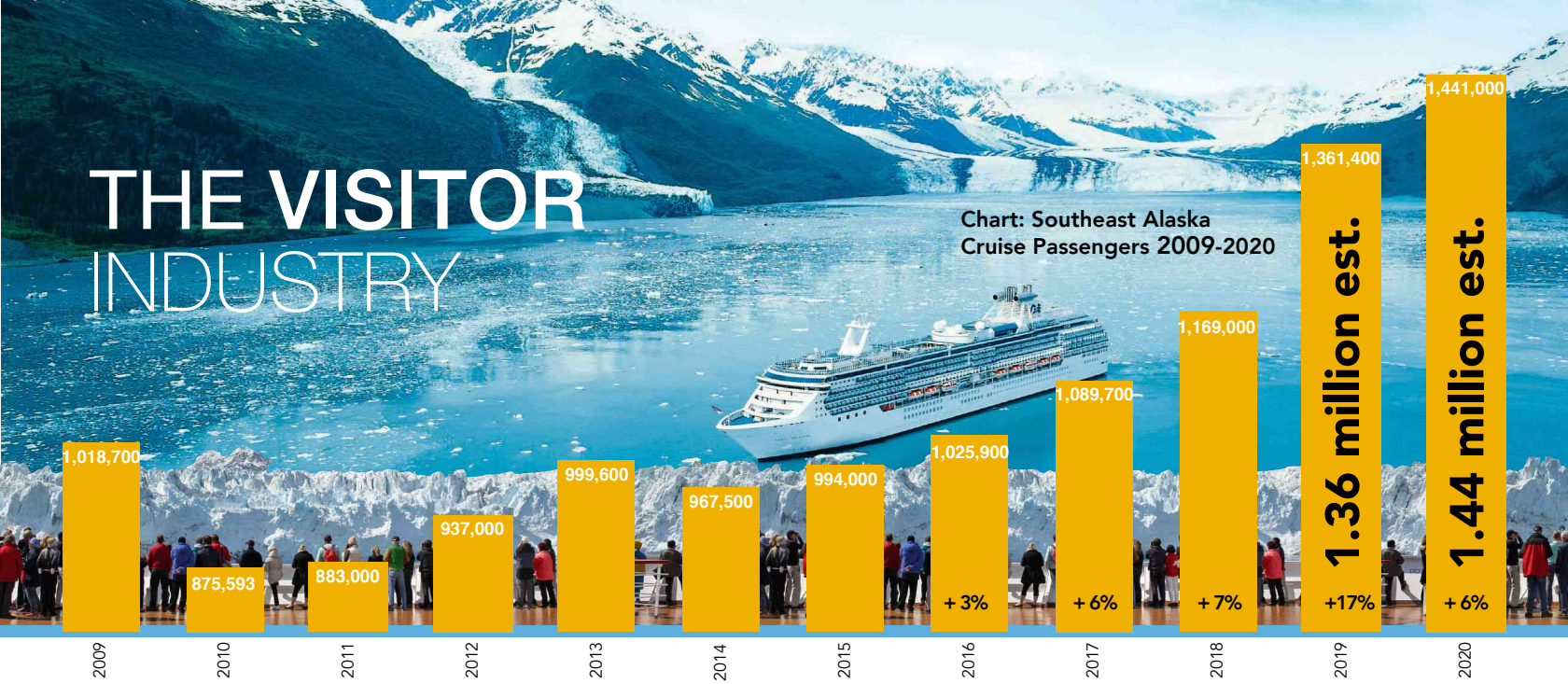


Southeast Alaska Cruise Passengers Arrivals by Port

Port	2018 actuals	2019 projected	2020 projected	% of all passengers	Change 2018 to 2020
Juneau	1,151,094	1,325,792	1,421,929	99%	24%
Ketchikan	1,053,764	1,212,033	1,275,636	89%	21%
Skagway	957,847	1,044,107	1,070,610	74%	12%
Gustavus (Glacier Bay)	569,807	636,811	584,528	41%	3%
Hoonah (Icy Strait Point)	189,000	272,327	404,033	28%	114%
Sitka	158,362	224,379	210,399	15%	33%
Haines	57,798	67,799	78,322	5%	36%
Wrangell	11,974	17,342	17,742	1%	48%
Total Southeast	1,169,000	1,361,400	1,441,000	100%	23%

Sources: Cruise voyage and passenger number projections provided by Cruise Lines International Association Alaska. Excludes numbers for some smaller cruise ships. Spending and mode projections developed by Rain Coast Data based on CLIAA, AVSP VII, US Bureau of Transportation Statistics, and Alaska Marine Highway System data.
Photo Credit: Tourists aboard an Allen Marine vessel in Sitka, by Peter Metcalfe.

THE VISITOR INDUSTRY



Visitor Industry
8,004 Annualized Jobs

Up 265 Jobs in 2018 +3%
Wages up 8%

The visitor industry is the largest private sector industry in Southeast, both in jobs and, since 2016, in total workforce earnings (see chart on page 5). Indeed, if the industry continues to grow it is set to eclipse both the municipal and state government sectors in total wages (it is already larger than both in terms of employment) and become the region's largest sector overall. The visitor industry accounted for 18% of regional employment (8,004 annual average jobs) and a quarter of all private sector employment.

Since 2011, tourism has added more than 2,000 year-round equivalent jobs to the Southeast economy. Those working in the visitor industry earned $249 million in 2018—or 11 percent of all regional employment income. The average annualized wage in the visitor industry is $31,152, significantly lower than the average regional wage of $50,002, but it is a figure that has been steadily increasing over time.

In 2018, 1.6 million air, ferry, and cruise passengers came to Southeast Alaska from outside the region, a 19% increase over 2014. Airline passenger traffic from outside the region grew 17%, and cruise passenger traffic to the region increased by 13%. However, ferry arrivals from outside the region fell by 32% due to decreases in funding and service.

Cruise Ship Traffic

Most passengers arriving in the region come by cruise ship than any other mode. When tourists only are considered, that figure will be 90% by 2020. Cruise passenger traffic has seen massive increases in recent years. Between 2010 and 2020, the number of cruise passengers arriving in the region is projected to increase by a staggering 65%, including two-year growth of 23% expected between 2018 and 2020. Southeast Alaska will receive 5% of all global cruise ship passengers in 2019.

In 2019, 40 cruise ships are scheduled to visit the region, carrying 1.36 million passengers on 577 voyages. In 2020, ten new ships and 29 additional port calls are expected to be added, while 7 ships will be phased out of the region. Lines with new ships will include Carnival, Princess, Royal Caribbean, Norwegian, and Oceania. Lines that plan to reduce their Alaska fleet include Holland America, Crystal, and Azamara, which has no ships scheduled to visit Alaska in 2020.

Key Economic Driver

Southeast Alaska is the most visited part of the state, with two-thirds of all tourists coming to the region. One-third of all Alaska visitor spending occurs in Southeast, where visitors are expected to spend nearly $800 million in 2020.

Increased Jet Service

For the fourth year in a row, in 2018 Southeast Alaska saw a record-breaking number of airline passengers from outside the region, with 435,476 arrivals. However, in 2019 air passenger numbers declined. As of July 2019, airline passenger arrivals were down 4% over the first half of 2018.

Visitor Outlook

The visitor industry has the strongest outlook of all Southeast Alaska industries. Alaska's popularity as a visitor destination has continued to grow. In 2018, Glacier Bay was rated the best cruise designation in the world by cruisers. More Americans are traveling due to a strong national economy and international travel destinations are increasingly perceived to have security risks. Cruise passenger arrivals are expected to continue to rise as larger, higher-capacity vessels visit the region. Along with increased visitors, the number of jobs and associated income in this sector will continue to rise.

However, Southeast's strong visitor economy is tied to a strong national economy. As more signals suggest the possibility of a national recession, the region should be prepared for this sector to see a reduced number of visitors if a recession does occur.

Sources: Combination of ADOL 2018 Employment and Wage data and 2017 US Census Nonemployer (self-employment) Statistics; McDowell Group; US Bureau of Transportation Statistics (RITA); Alaska Marine Highway System; Cruise Line Agencies of Alaska; Cruise Market Watch; Cruise Critic; Juneau International Airport Passenger Statistics; Economic Impact of Alaska's Visitor Industry. Forecast 2020 U.S. Department of Commerce, US Office of Travel and Tourism Industries. OMB budgets. Cruise Lines International Association Alaska.
Note: In this analysis, the visitor industry includes leisure and hospitality businesses, along with air, water & scenic transportation companies.
Photo Credit: Cruise Lines International Association Alaska & Shutterstock 290564897.

SOUTHEAST MARITIME: **6,273 Jobs**

Private and US Coast Guard Maritime Employment & Workforce Earnings (-2 jobs 2017-2018)

Fishing & Seafood Processing
Jobs: **3,508**
Wages: **$237.4 M**
Change in jobs 2014-18: **-20%**

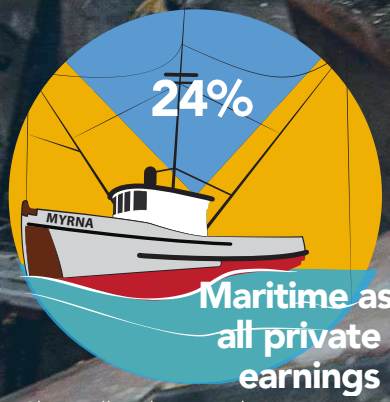
Marine Tourism
Jobs: **1,258**
Wages: **$47.2 M**
Change in jobs 2014-18: **+68%**

US Coast Guard
Jobs: **793** (Active Duty and Civilian)
Wages: **$66.4M**
Change in jobs 2014-18: **+5%**

Marine Transportation (Excluding Tourism)
Jobs: **367**
Wages: **$24.8M**
Change in jobs 2014-18: **-5%**

Ship Building, Repair, Marinas
Jobs: **326**
Wages: **$19.1 M**
Change in jobs 2014-18: **+73%**

Marine-Related Construction
Jobs: **21**
Wages: **$1.8 M**
Change in jobs 2014-18: **-75%**



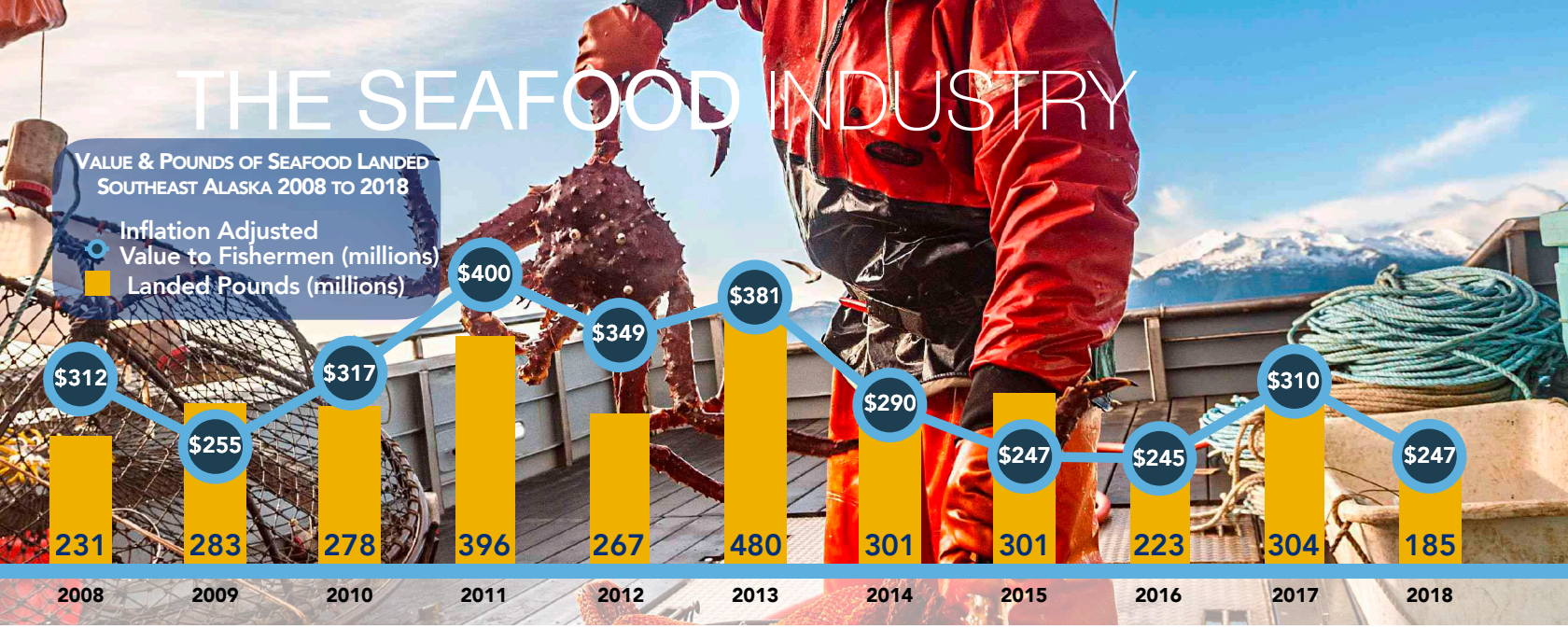
Maritime as a % of all private sector earnings in SE

Southeast Private & USCG Maritime Economy 2014-2018

Total Jobs 2018: **6,273**
Total Wages 2018: **$396.8 Million**
Change in jobs since 2014: **-495**
Change in jobs by percent: **-7%**
Change in earnings since 2014: **-$1.3 Million**
Change in earnings by percent: **-0.3%**

Photo by Chris Miller Photography.
For methodology, notes, and sources, see *www.raincoastdata.com/sites/default/files/Maritime by the Numbers.pdf*

THE SEAFOOD INDUSTRY



Southeast Seafood Industry 3,711 Jobs

Down 118 Jobs in 2018

The regional 2018 fishing season was significantly below the ten-year average, and total pounds landed was the lowest since the 1980s. Poor pink salmon and herring returns are primarily to blame. The Southeast Alaska seafood harvest in 2018 was 185 million pounds with an ex-vessel value of $247 million. An "average" year would have netted 117 million more pounds of seafood, and earned fishermen $57 million in direct earnings. Fishermen caught 100 million fewer pounds of pink salmon than would be expected in an average year, and 19 million fewer pounds of herring. However, a strong chum return helped offset some of these losses.

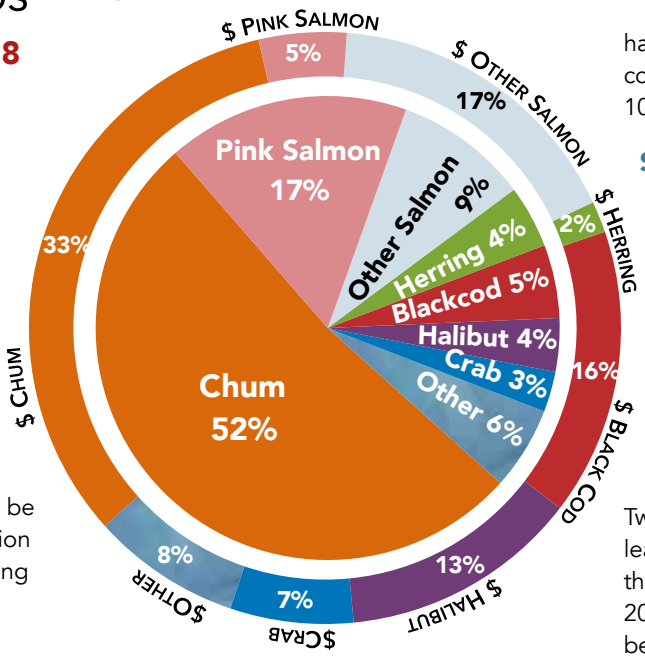
Key Economic Driver

The regional seafood industry (including commercial fishing and seafood processing) generated 3,711 annual regional jobs and $237 million in earnings in 2018, making up 8% of jobs in the region and 10% of earnings. This represents 118 fewer jobs than last year, and a loss of 650 jobs since 2015.

The majority of the statewide catch of Chinook, coho, keta (chum), shrimp, Dungeness crab, and the dive fisheries occurs in Southeast Alaska. In 2018, the five salmon species represented 78% of the regional seafood catch by volume, and just over half of total ex-vessel value ($135 million). Halibut and black cod, at 9% of the total catch, accounted for nearly one-third of total catch value in 2018.

Seafood Landed in SE Alaska by Species, 2018

Outer ring = % of harvest by DOLLAR value: $247 million
Inner pie = % of harvest by POUNDS landed: 185 million



Pink salmon were 76% below 10-year averages. Warm sea temperatures between 2013 and 2016 are being blamed for the reduction in pink salmon.

There was significant variability across fisheries in 2018. Southeast Alaska's 2018 king salmon season was the worst in 57 years of record-keeping, and 2019, with limits set by the Pacific Salmon Treaty, will be even worse. The sockeye salmon harvest was also one of the poorest on record, 47% below 10-year average harvest levels, as was Dungeness crab. In contrast, the 2018 chum salmon return was the 10th largest since statehood.

Seafood Processing

In 2018, shore-based seafood facilities in Southeast Alaska processed 133 million pounds of seafood, with a wholesale value of $439 million, a 42% decrease in seafood pounds processed over 2017. State-shared fisheries taxes for processing activity in FY18 generated $4.5 million for regional communities.

Seafood Industry Outlook

Two-thirds of regional seafood business leaders reported an unfavorable outlook for their industry. While the preseason forecast for 2019 of 44 million salmon was somewhat below typical years, only 60% of that number had been realized by the late summer 2019, mostly due to a poor Chum return. Only a quarter of the expected Chum had been captured by early September.

Uncertainty related to harvest fluctuations, a return of warming ocean temperatures (known as "the blob"), Chinese tariffs, commercial fisheries budget cuts, and global advances in salmon farming all contribute to growing concerns. Retaliatory tariffs imposed by China have already caused a one-third drop in US seafood sales, and more seafood tariffs are set to be enacted on December 15th. Meanwhile, the regional mariculture industry has been growing.

Sources: Combination of ADOL 2018 Employment and Wage data; 2017 US Census Nonemployer (self-employment) Statistics; ADF&G Seafood Production of Shorebased Plants in Southeast Alaska; ADF&G Southeast Alaska Commercial Seafood Industry Harvest and Ex-Vessel Value Information; Run Forecasts and Harvest Projections for 2019 Alaska Salmon Fisheries and Review of the 2018 Season; ADF&G March 2019; Shared Taxes and Fees Annual Report FY18, ADOR; Alaska Commercial Salmon Harvests and Ex-vessel Values, ADF&G. **Seafood Industry** includes animal aquaculture, fishing, & seafood product preparation and Southeast Alaska resident commercial fishermen (nonresident fishermen & crew who did not report income are excluded). Laine Welch Fish Factor. **Photo**: Chris Miller Photography.

THE HEALTH CARE INDUSTRY

24% wage growth in 3 years

Health Care
3,990 Jobs

Up 121 Jobs in 2018
+3.1%

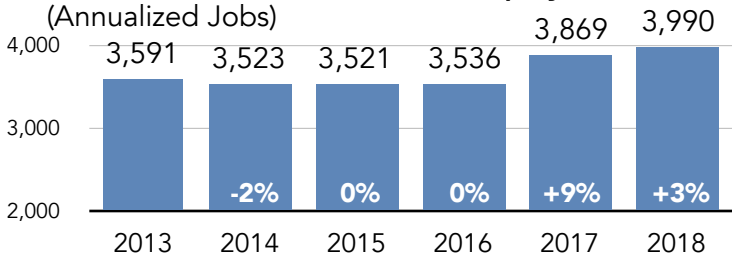
Since 2017, regional health care jobs have finally been growing after years of remaining essentially flat, and even declining.

In 2018, there were 3,990 annual average (year-round equivalent) health care jobs in Southeast Alaska, comprising 9% of the total regional workforce. Between 2016 and 2018, total health care employment increased by 12.5%, for a gain of more than 450 jobs. High worker replacement rates, partly due to the high use of traveling health care workers, means that the total number of people working in the regional health care industry is higher than the annual average job number, with more than 5,000 workers participating in the Southeast Alaska's health care industry in 2018.

The top health care employers in the region are Southeast Alaska Regional Health Consortium (SEARHC) with nearly 1,200 staff, Juneau's Bartlett Regional Hospital with approximately 650 employees, and PeaceHealth Ketchikan Medical Center with nearly 500 workers. Just over a quarter (28%) of health care jobs (1,130) are government jobs, including municipal hospital workers and State of Alaska Pioneer Homes staff.

Regional health care wages have grown significantly in recent years, increasing by $47 million, or 24%, over the past three years, from $195 million in 2015 to $243 million in 2018. Southeast Alaska's health care workers earned 11% of all regional wages last year. The total economic impact of the health care industry in Southeast Alaska in 2018 was $569 million.

Southeast Alaska Health Care Employment
(Annualized Jobs)



Despite growing health care needs in the region due to an aging populace and growing patient volumes, health care employment and wages stagnated through 2016 amid political uncertainty over national health care policy, proposed Medicare cuts, and cuts to state Medicaid. Once that uncertainly appeared to be resolved, hiring increased significantly.

Nationally competition for health care jobs is fierce. With more health care workers needed nationally to support an aging America and more Americans accessing health care, there is a shortage of medical professionals entering the workforce. Medical and nursing schools graduate a similar number of students as they did two decades ago, and baby boomers are retiring. Regional wages were found not to be competitive enough to attract and retain sufficient talent. Southeast providers had to adjust wages upward to remain competitive in attracting workers, resulting in the significant total wage increase.

Whether or not this trend continues is up in the air, as political uncertainty surrounding health care is back.The Spring 2018 Southeast Alaska Business Confidence survey showed that the health care sector was the most optimistic among all regional sectors. However, in December 2018 the governor proposed steep cuts to health care and Medicaid spending across the State of Alaska, which would also result in the loss of matching federal dollars. There are 19,815 individuals enrolled in Medicaid across the region. By Spring 2019 the annual confidence survey showed that health care sector leaders dropped to become the least optimistic in the span of just a year. (See page 17).

In 2019, Southeast Conference conducted a Southeast Alaska health care workforce survey to measure the future workforce needs of regional health care providers along with the obstacles to meeting those needs. Top management from 22 regional health care organizations completed the survey, representing 3,161 health care workers, or 80% or all health care staff. The survey was commissioned by the University of Alaska Southeast, University of Alaska Anchorage, Bartlett Regional Hospital, the Southeast Alaska Regional Health Consortium, and Alaska State Hospital and Nursing Home Association. The following page summarizes some of the survey's key findings.

Source: Southeast Alaska Health Care Workforce Analysis September 2019, Southeast Conference. **Photo credits:** Peter Metcalfe

Southeast Alaska Health Care **Workforce Analysis**

Best/Least Effective **Recruitment** Strategies

Southeast Alaska health care leaders were asked to rank the effectiveness of 16 recruitment strategies. This chart is a weighted ranking of their highest and lowest ranked tools.

The most effective recruitment tools for Southeast health care institutions include higher wages and providing flexible work arrangements.

The least effective recruitment tool was use of job fairs.

Primary **Retention & Turnover** Factors

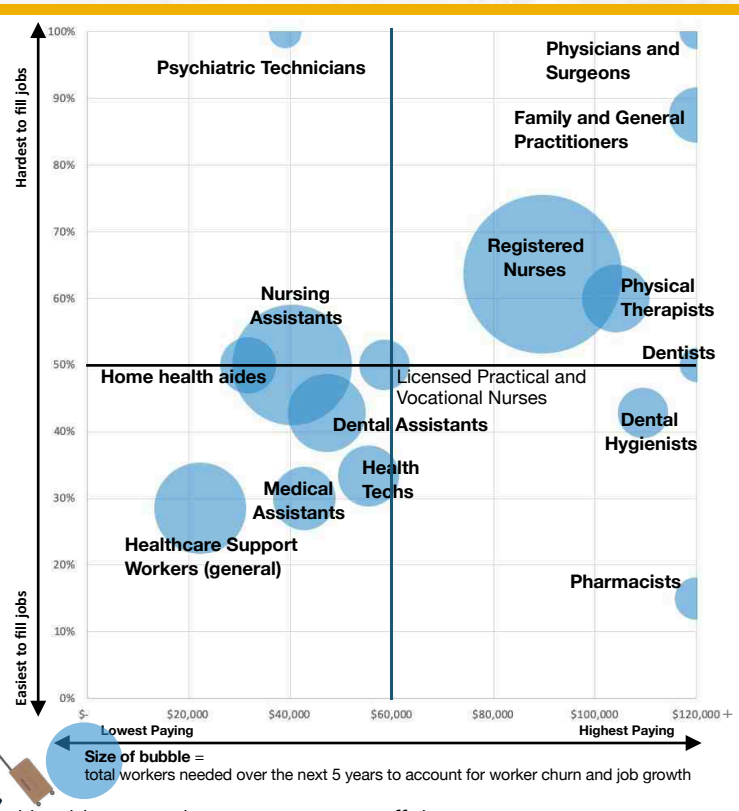
Health care leaders asked to rank the significance of 20 factors that result in long-term retention, or in staff turnover.

The high quality of life offered by Southeast towns, being from Alaska, and the region's access to recreation keep people at their health care jobs in Southeast Alaska.

The high cost of living, lack of childcare, and relative isolation are the primary reasons health care workers quit their jobs. Housing costs and lack of housing availability also key factors.

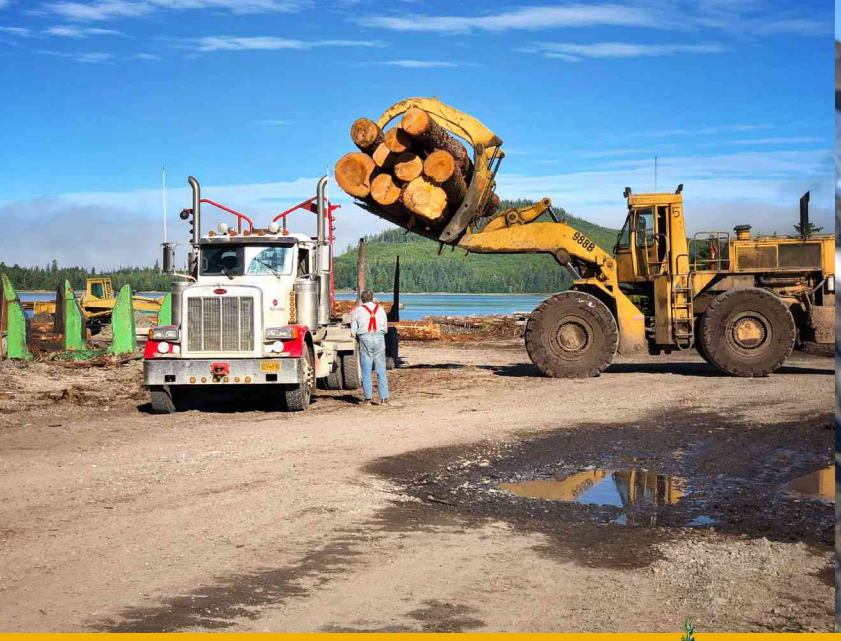
Workforce 5 Year Development Needs

This bubble chart cross-tabulates earnings, recruitment ease, and turnover, and compiles a single picture of the region's future health care workforce needs. It provides a visual blueprint as to where the most resources should be focused when attracting workers to the region, or for "growing our own" workforce. Registered nurses have the highest workforce development need. Last year, 824 registered nurses worked in the region, although the average quarterly worker count was 628, meaning there was significant worker churn in those positions. Moreover, it is hard to fill registered nurse jobs, 82% of health care organizations in the region say it is a difficult position to fill, including 64% who say it is very difficult. While the position is not growing as fast as others — the projected growth for this position is 5% in five years — combined growth and turnover rates mean that **an additional 543 registered nurses will be needed in the region over the next five years**, assuming nothing is done to stem the high rate of turnover. Nursing assistants will also be in high demand, with 312 new positions in need of filling by 2023. While physicians, surgeons, and psychiatric technicians are the hardest positions to fill, the total number of positions forecast to be in need of filling over the next five years is comparatively smaller at 49 combined positions.

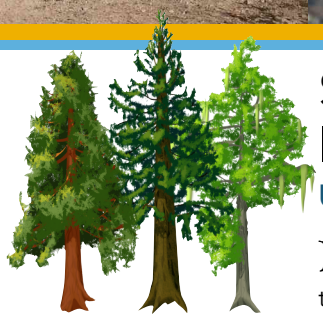


Traveling **Health Care Workers**

Use of traveling health care workers is another important tool that the regional health care industry can use to staff their organizations. Last year, nearly 350 traveling health care workers came to Southeast Alaska. Travelers are both positive and problematic for the Southeast Alaska health care industry. While each of those traveling health care workers represents additional capacity, they also represent additional costs. According to survey analysis, it costs 30% to 250% more to engage a traveling health care worker than it would be to hire a permanent employee, depending on the organization.



Southeast **Timber Industry** 337 Jobs



Down 17 Jobs in 2018 -5%

Regional timber jobs declined by 5% in 2018. The workforce is down to 337 jobs in 2018, with total earnings of $18.8 million. Most of the region's timber jobs are concentrated on Prince of Wales Island, which is home to Viking Lumber, the last remaining mid-sized sawmill in Southeast Alaska. Southeast timber jobs peaked at 3,543 annual average jobs in the 1990s.

In 2001, the Roadless Rule dramatically curtailed logging, roadbuilding, and mineral leasing in all national forests. The Tongass was temporarily exempted from the rule in 2003, but in 2011 that exception was overturned, further limiting access to regional timber stands. Maintaining a sufficient timber supply has been challenging. Even in parts of the Tongass where the rule does not apply, timber sales face regulatory and economic hurdles, and constant legal challenges.

In 2019, the USFS indicated that exempting the Tongass from the Roadless Rule could be the preferred alternative in the draft environmental impact statement to be issued in the fall. The final impact statement and record of decision will not be completed until late 2020 and will be subject to years of litigation. Removal of Roadless Rule restrictions could make more suitable timber land available for harvesting and increase forest-related employment. However, the Forest Service would still have to amend its 2016 management plan before new timber sales could be readied.

Currently, the regional timber supply remains low. A land exchange between the Mental Health Trust and the US Forest Service opened up areas for timber harvest in 2019, although ongoing process arguments have delayed phase 2 of that project, which could have a negative effect on the short-term regional timber supply.

The trade war is also impacting the timber sector. Spruce has been the subject of higher Chinese import tariffs, stalling sales in northern Southeast, where the forests are primarily spruce. The longer-term impact of the trade disputes remains unknown at this time.

Sources: ADOL 2018 Employment and Wage data; Kitco Metals Inc; Coeur Mining Inc. 2018 Annual Report; Hecla Mining Company 2018 Annual Report.
Photo credits: Bryce Dahlstrom, Viking Lumber and Constantine Metal Resources.

Southeast **Mining Industry** 889 Jobs

Up 3 Jobs in 2018

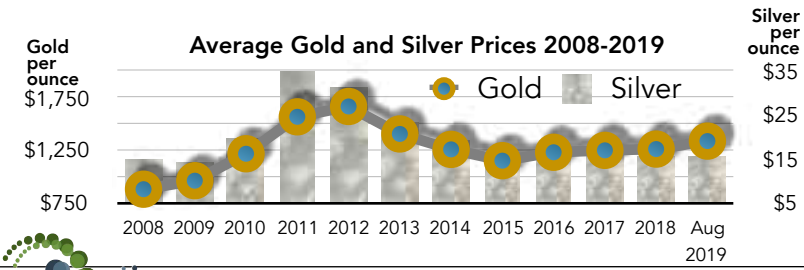
Mining industry employment in the region was flat in 2018, and is on track for 2019 to maintain a similar number of workers. In 2018, there were 889 annual average mining jobs in Southeast Alaska, with a payroll of $93 million. Two large mines operating in the region account for most (93%) of mining employment. In August 2019, Hecla Greens Creek employed 436 full-time permanent employees (+5 from 2018), while Coeur Alaska Kensington had a staff of 386 (-3 from 2018). Average annual wages of $104,650 in 2018 were up 2% from 2017. Mining jobs remain the highest-paying in the region, paying more than double the average regional wage of $50,002.

Hecla Greens Creek is one of the largest silver mines in the world, while the Coeur-owned Kensington is exclusively a gold mine. At Hecla Greens Creek production was mixed in 2018: silver production was down 5% to 8 million ounces, while zinc was up 5%, and gold production was up 1%. Production at Kensington was down 1%, with 113,778 ounces of gold produced in 2018. Zinc prices were up in 2018, and gold continues to rise incrementally.

Mineral exploration continues at the Palmer Zinc-Copper-Gold-Silver Project in Haines. Constantine received permits to construct an underground ramp (tunnel) for expanded exploration. The company recently released a positive Preliminary Economic Assessment, projecting an 11-year mine life with the current resources.

In September, the governor asked that Bokan Mountain, a rare earth element exploration project on Prince of Wales Island, be federally designated as a high priority infrastructure project.

The mining sector is expected to grow incrementally in 2019 and 2020, as it mitigates the impacts of new tariffs.



Construction Industry

1,909 Jobs

Down 23 Jobs in 2018 -1%

For the fifth year in a row construction employment is down, bringing employment to its lowest level since 1992. Jobs fell by 23 last year to 1,909, a combined loss of 360 jobs, or 16% decline, over five years and a $28 million corresponding drop in wages. Construction workers in the region earned $122 million in 2018 — or 5% of all Southeast Alaska employment earnings.

One positive indicator for the sector was that housing construction was up in 2018, as 13 more units were permitted or completed than in the year prior. A total of 188 new homes were permitted in 2018. However, home construction remains significantly down from previous years.

Construction outlook

Visitor industry infrastructure needs have improved the outlook for construction in the region.

- Hoonah's Icy Strait Point is constructing a 500-foot floating dock in partnership with Norwegian Cruise Lines.
- Norwegian Cruise Lines also is exploring a partnership to build a private dock north of Ketchikan at Ward Cove.
- In Juneau, Norwegian recently bid $20 million to purchase 2.9 acres of waterfront land (known as the Subport) and the area is expected to be developed.
- In Ketchikan, the city is considering a $150 million reconfiguration of its existing cruise dock to accommodate cruise vessels exceeding 1,000 feet in length.
- In Juneau, construction is underway on the the public-private waterfront Archipelago project.
- The Central Council of the Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska is building a heritage park in Thane.

Early employment data indicate construction-related employment is finally growing again, and is projected to grow 3% in 2019.

Education

3,096 Jobs

Up 14 Jobs in 2018 +0%

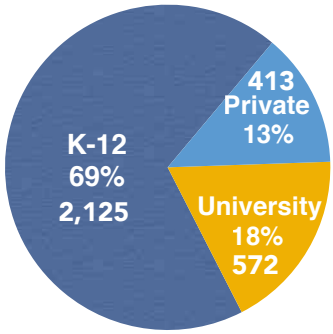
Education is a significant source of jobs in Southeast Alaska. With just over 3,000 average annual workers, the region's educators make up 7% of all regional jobs, and 6% of all regional wages. Teaching jobs provide a counterbalance to summer-centric industries like tourism, fishing, and construction jobs. Education jobs peak at 3,546 in the winter, and decline to just 1,264 positions in July. The average educator's wage in the region was $44,388 last year. Combined, educators earned $137.4 million in 2018.

Education jobs are primarily in the public sector, and 20% of all government jobs are in education. K-12 education is conducted by municipal governments, and comprise 69% of all education positions in the region, with 2,125 average annual workers in 2018, a number that has remained stable in recent years.

The university employed 558 workers in 2018, a decline of 15% compared to 2014, consistent with budget cuts that reduced funding to the University of Southeast Alaska by 13% over this period.

Private education jobs account for 13% of all education employment.

Distribution of 3,096 SE Education Jobs



School Enrollment

UAS enrollment was down by 4% from 2017 to 2,561 students in 2018. In 2018, the number of K-12 students dropped by 146 kids, to 11,334. Regionally, K-12 enrollment decreased for the 21st time in 23 years. Since 1997 annual enrollment shrank by more than 3,500 students, a 24% decline across Southeast Alaska.

Sources: Combination of Alaska Department of Labor 2018 Employment and Wage data and 2017 US Census Nonemployer (self-employment) Statistics; State of Alaska. Alaska Department of Education and Early Development; UA in Review. **Photography credit:** Rain Coast Data and UAS

GOVERNMENT

Government Jobs 2018

Local 5,266 Jobs **-84**
State 4,771 Jobs **-49**
Federal 2,111 Jobs **+1**
Tribal 999 Jobs **+24**

Government
13,148 Jobs

Down 108 Jobs in 2018 -1%

Government wages made up 34% of all regional employment earnings ($777 million) and 29% of the region's jobs (13,147) in 2018.

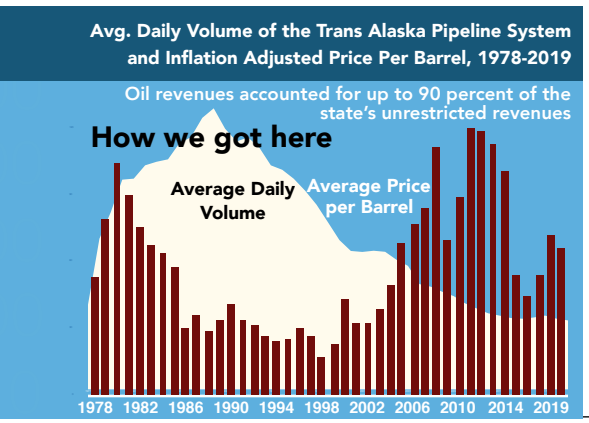
State Government Losses

State government employment and spending have continued to decline, significantly impacting the regional economy. In Southeast Alaska, 12% of all direct wages come from the state (down from 15% in 2011). State jobs have declined for seven years in a row. Historically, oil paid for up to 90% of the state budget; today, oil covers about 30 percent. Total tourism wages are on track to surpass total state wages in 2019.

State Budget Challenge

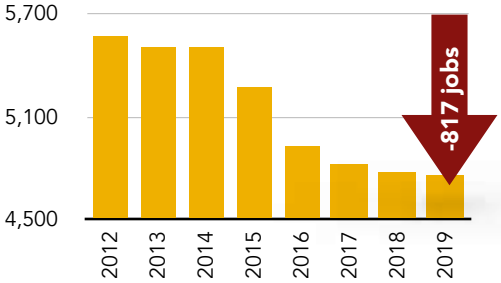
Alaska is now only America's sixth-largest oil-producing state. Declining oil production and prices devastated the State of Alaska budget. The state has operated in deficit mode for the past six years, using more than $16 billion in savings to cover budget gaps.

In February 2019, the governor proposed a plan to reign in spending by making $1.6 billion in cost reductions to the operating budget, with the bulk of the savings realized through cuts to ferries, health care, the University of Alaska, K-12 education, seniors, and creating a cost shift from the state to municipalities. Absent from the plan to balance the budget were reduced tax credits to oil companies ($1.2 billion in FY19); reduced Permanent Fund Dividend payments (a full PFD payment and repayment of previously capped dividends would cost $4.3 billion); or consideration of taxes. (See page 18 for budget survey results). The ensuing disagreement over how best to balance the budget, along with the controversial use of line item vetoes, has created an atmosphere of deep political and economic uncertainty in the region.



Southeast State Jobs

State jobs in the region are down for the 7th year in a row, for a total of 817 jobs lost since 2012, ***a decline of 15%***



Federal Government

Federal government employment losses are compounding state job cuts, but appear to have stabilized. Since 2005, federal employment in the region has fallen by 600 jobs (28%) worth $50 million in annual wages.

Local Government

Local entities across the region are having to provide new programs and services the state has cut, resulting in financial complications and resulting in the loss of 84 municipal jobs across the region. Despite these challenges, local government jobs are poised to grow slightly in 2019. Tribal government, which includes 18 entities in the region, added 24 jobs in 2018.

Government Outlook

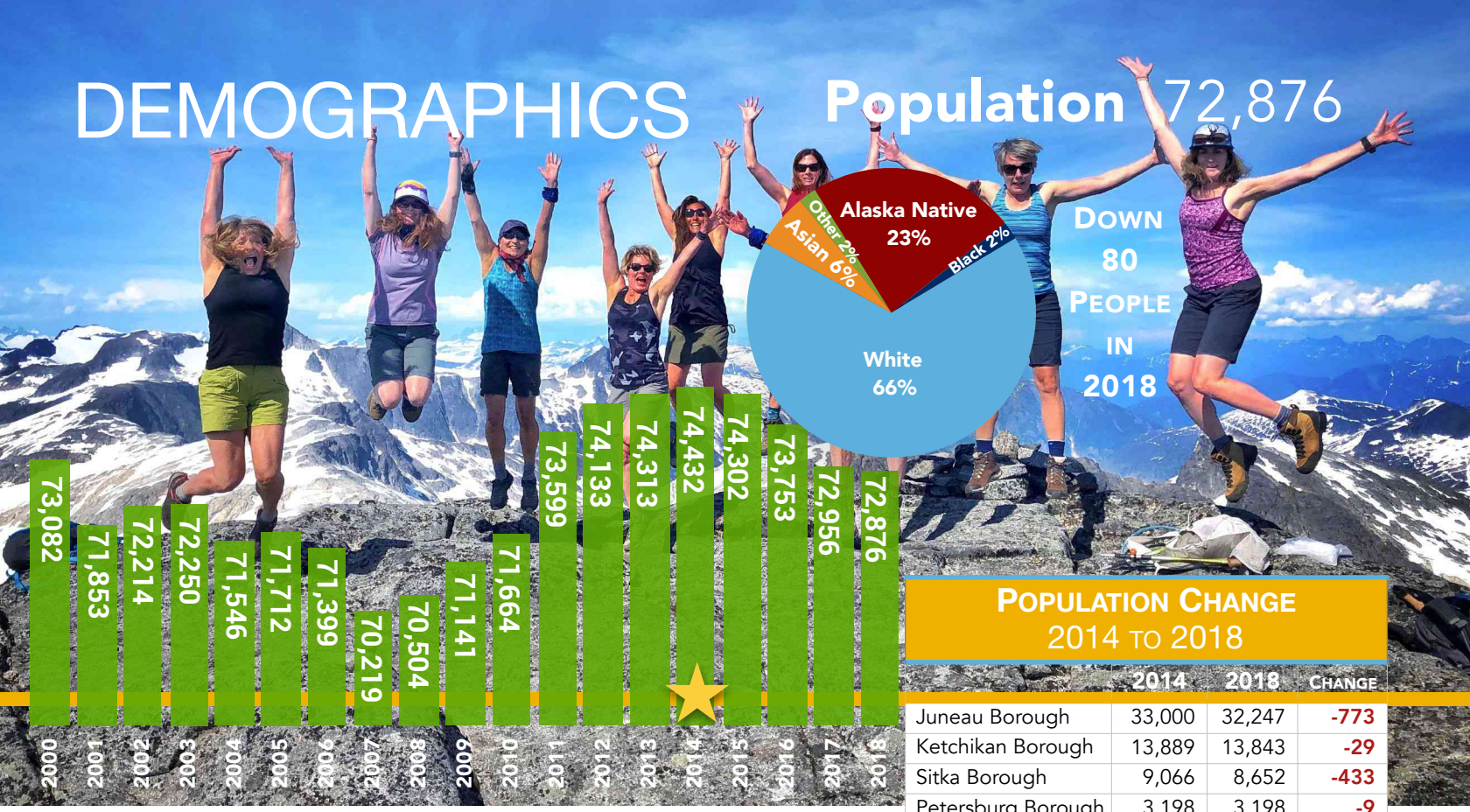
Early job reports from 2019 are somewhat positive. In the first half of 2019, only 14 additional state jobs were lost, local government jobs have grown by 2%, and federal jobs are up by 1% as well.

While legislation restructuring the $66 billion Alaska Permanent Fund passed in 2018, allowing lawmakers to use a portion of fund earnings to pay for state services and stabilize the state budget, these funds remain in limbo as the budget fight continues. The permanent fund is now more important to the budget than the oil industry, and all other taxes combined. But until a sustainable budget pathway is agreed upon and implemented, the region's economic outlook will remain uncertain.

Sources: ADOL 2018 Employment and Wage data; Alaska Department of Revenue. **Photo Credit:** Juneau Empire.

DEMOGRAPHICS

Population 72,876



2018 marked the 4th straight year of regional population decline in Southeast Alaska, but the net loss of 80 people was just a fraction of those seen in previous years. Half of the communities in the regions experienced gains in 2019, including the boroughs of Ketchikan, Petersburg, Haines, and Wrangell. In general, population losses last year were relatively small. While some communities on Prince of Wales Island, like Klawock and Coffman Cove, experienced dramatic population changes, the island population as a whole declined by 2%.

The leveling out of losses comes as relief to the region. Between 2014 and 2018, Southeast Alaska's population decreased by 1,642. The losses were region-wide, with six of eight boroughs reporting population declines. The boroughs of Skagway and Wrangell grew by 11% and less than one percent, respectively, during that period.

Juneau is the Loss Leader

Population losses were most significant in Juneau. Dramatic cuts in state employment contributed to a reduction of nearly 900 residents in the capital city over the past three years. Juneau's losses also abated in 2018, with a decline of just 55 people.

Migration

More people moved away from Southeast than moved here in 2018, but natural increases helped reduce the impact of outmigration. In 2018, there were 255 more births than deaths, while 335 more people moved out of the region than moved in.

Aging Continues

Since 2010, the most pronounced demographic shift has been aging of the population. During that period, the 60-plus population grew by 5,000 people, a 42% increase over 2010 due to aging in place. Nearly a quarter of people in the region are now age 60 or older. In Haines, Wrangell, and the Hoonah-Angoon census area, where the averages ages are 48.6, 48, and 46.8, respectively, it is nearly one-third. The average age of Southeast as a whole is 39.9. Juneau is comparatively the youngest community in the region.

Population Outlook

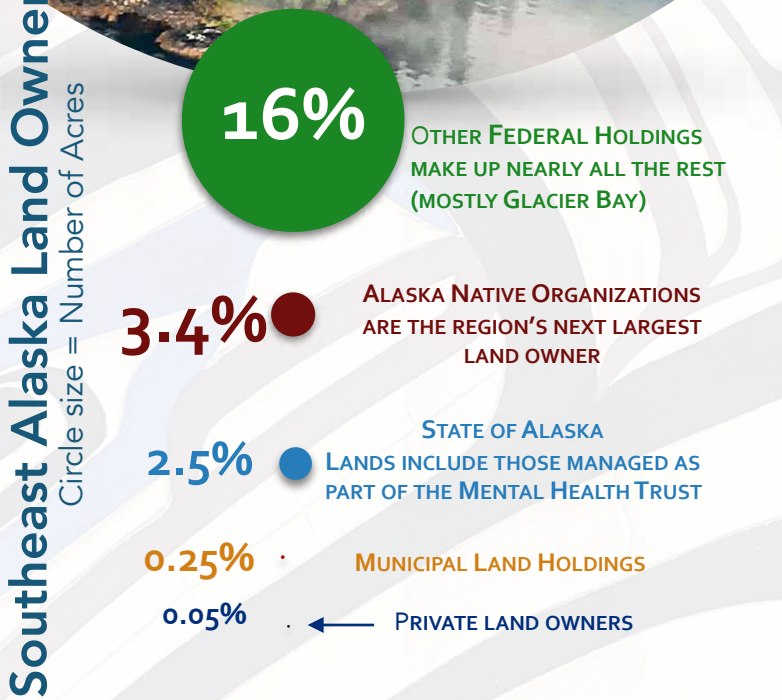
Population losses appear to have leveled out, but uncertainty regarding the state funding cuts makes it hard to project future changes. As long as the state continues to make fiscal reductions, these will continue to be paired with population declines.

Population Change 2014 to 2018

	2014	2018	Change
Juneau Borough	33,000	32,247	-773
Ketchikan Borough	13,889	13,843	-29
Sitka Borough	9,066	8,652	-433
Petersburg Borough	3,198	3,198	-9
Haines Borough	2,551	2,480	-70
Wrangell Borough	2,413	2,426	11
Metlakatla	1,446	1,398	-49
Craig	1,205	1,095	-112
Skagway Borough	1,038	1,088	109
Klawock	803	777	-28
Hoonah	786	789	1
Kake	627	601	-26
Yakutat Borough	623	523	-109
Gustavus	518	554	35
Thorne Bay	530	524	-8
Angoon	420	410	-10
Hydaburg	407	398	-9
Coffman Cove	175	168	-8
Tenakee Springs	129	144	17
Hollis	93	124	31
Naukati Bay	120	124	4
Klukwan	84	94	10
Hyder	91	80	-13
Kasaan	76	81	8
Pelican	77	68	-9
Port Alexander	45	55	10
Edna Bay	47	43	-4
Whale Pass	38	57	17
Port Protection	56	31	-24
Game Creek	18	18	0
Elfin Cove	16	12	-4
Point Baker	12	13	0
Remainder	835	761	-168
Total	**74,432**	**72,876**	**-1,642**

Sources: Alaska Department of Labor (ADOL); ADOL Southeast Alaska Population by Age, Sex and Borough/Census Area, 2010 to 2018; Alaska Population Projections.
Photography credit: Debbie Hart.

SOUTHEAST ALASKA REGIONAL OVERVIEW



THE REGION

The Southeast Alaska panhandle extends 500 miles along the coast from Metlakatla to Yakutat, encompassing approximately 33,500 square miles of land and water. The saltwater shoreline of Southeast Alaska totals approximately 18,500 miles. More than 1,000 islands make up 40 percent of the total land area. The region is home to 34 communities. The three largest communities—Juneau, Ketchikan, and Sitka—together are home to 75 percent of the regional population.

CULTURE

The dominant culture in the region is indigenous. Alaska Natives—the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian—make up nearly a quarter (23%) of the region's population. The Tlingit have resided in the region for 11,000 years. The region's mild climate, abundant food and raw materials supported the development of highly organized and culturally advanced societies with extensive trade routes and rich artwork.

ECONOMIC TRENDS

Starting in the 1880s, the economy of Southeast Alaska experienced a century of growth that intensified after statehood in 1959. From statehood into the 1990s, population and employment levels in Southeast more than doubled as the workforce expanded in the areas of mining, government, fishing, tourism, and timber. In the beginning of the 1990's seafood and timber directly accounted for a fifth of the regional economy. However, over that next decade pulp mills and sawmills in the region closed, laying off 3,200 workers. During the same period, the value of salmon declined and catch levels fell. Total Southeast Alaska wages hit bottom in 1997. The population continued to decline through 2007. Between 2008 and 2015, the region experienced a significant economic recovery, rebounding to record numbers of jobs, wages, and residents. However, the state budget crisis and the loss of more than 800 State of Alaska jobs changed the economic trajectory of the region.

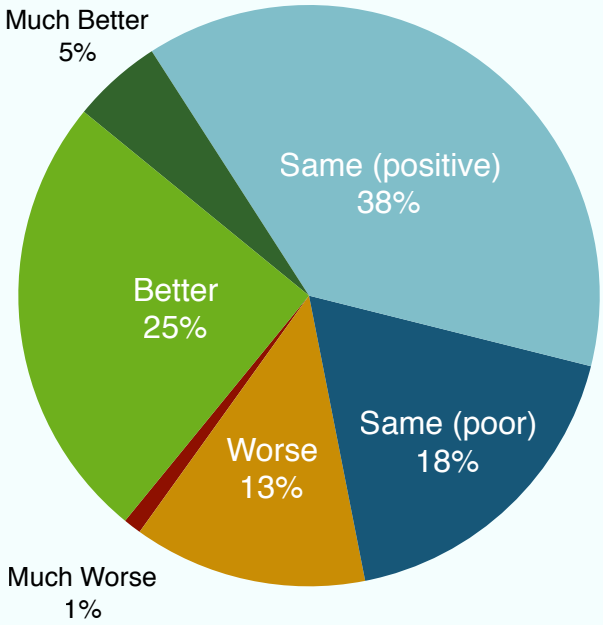
LAND OWNERSHIP

A lack of privately-owned land and land available for development is unique to Southeast Alaska and impacts the ability of the region to nurture the private sector. (See infographic on the left.) Southeast Alaska's land ownership is dominated by the federal government, which manages 94 percent of the land base. Most of this (78%, or 16.75 million acres) is the Tongass National Forest. The remaining federal lands are mostly in Glacier Bay National Park. The State manages 2.5 percent of the total land base (511,500 acres), including the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority and University of Alaska lands. Boroughs and communities own 53,000 acres—a quarter of one percent of the regional land base. Alaska Native organizations, including village, urban, and regional corporations and the Annette Island Reservation, own 3.4 percent (728,100 acres) of the land base. Other private land holdings account for 0.05 percent of the land base. In 2017, communities received nearly $19 million in federal Payment In Lieu of Taxes and Secure Rural Schools funding to compensate for federal ownership of the regional land base.

Sources: Personal communications with State of Alaska; US Forest Service; Sealaska. *Economies in transition: An assessment of trends relevant to management of the Tongass National Forest, USDA 1998.* **Image Credits:** Misty Fjords Shutterstock image 68855041. Canoe by Annie Caufield. Background image carving by Mike Dangeli.

SOUTHEAST **ECONOMIC OUTLOOK** SURVEY

"What is the economic outlook for your business or industry over the next year (compared to the previous year)?"



Current Regional Business Climate Survey

In April of 2019, 320 Southeast Alaska business owners and top managers from 25 communities responded to Southeast Conference's Business Climate and Private Investment Survey.

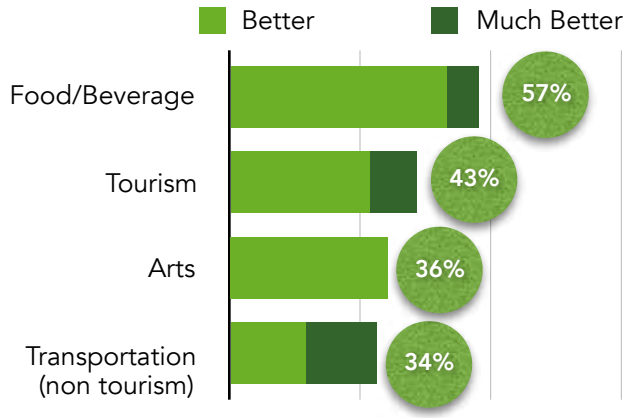
Southeast Alaska Economic Outlook

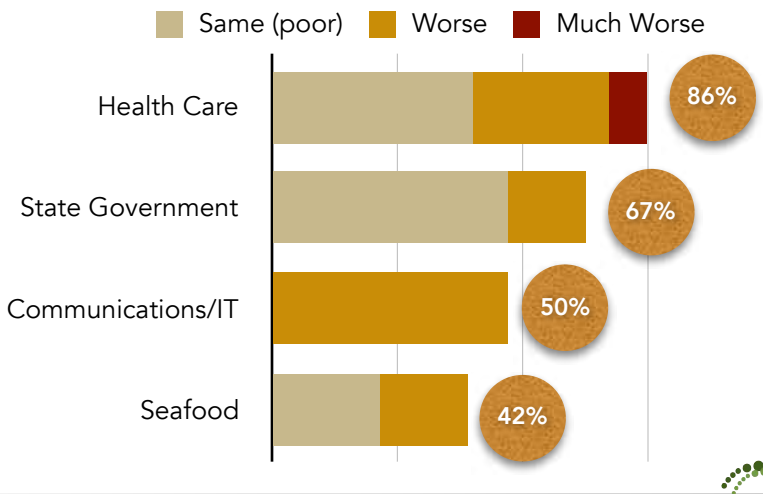
Southeast Alaska business leaders overall have a similar outlook looking forward that they did a year ago. More than half (56%) of survey respondents expect their prospects to remain status quo, 30% expect their prospects to improve in the coming year, and 14% expect decline. This represents a one percent increase in overall positive outlook over last year, but a three percent increase in those who feel the outlook is "much better" than it was the year before.

Businesses in Hoonah, Gustavus, and Skagway reported the outlooks that are most likely to improve — more than 50% of business leaders in each of those communities said that they expect the economic outlook to be better or much better in the next 12 month. Petersburg leaders reported the most deteriorating economic outlook. The food and beverage, and tourism industries reported the most improving outlooks by industry, with more than 40% of respondents foreseeing improvement. The least optimistic sector was the health care industry; 43% of respondents expect that industry to worsen.

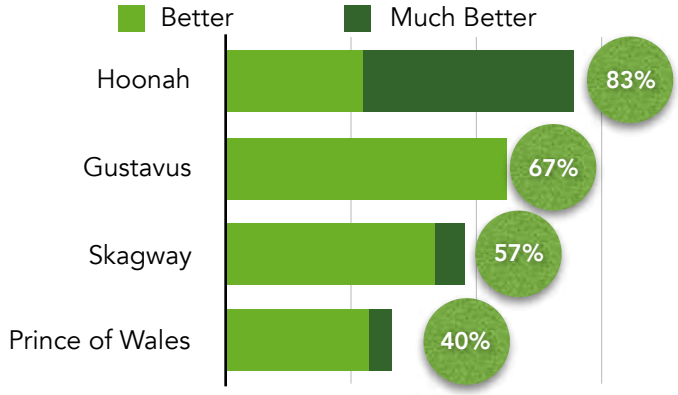
What is the economic outlook for your business or industry compared to last year?

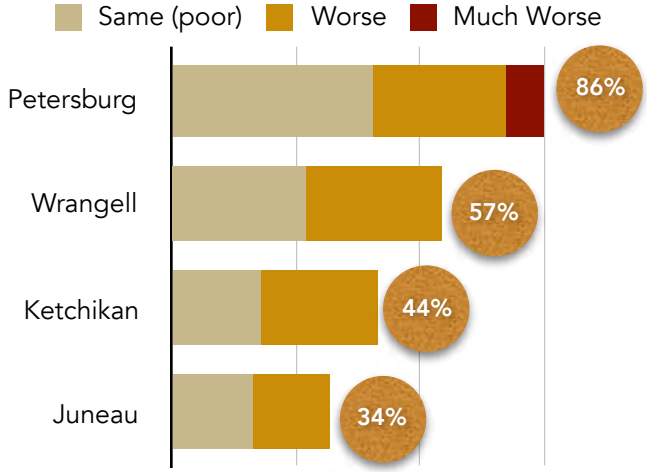
By Industry





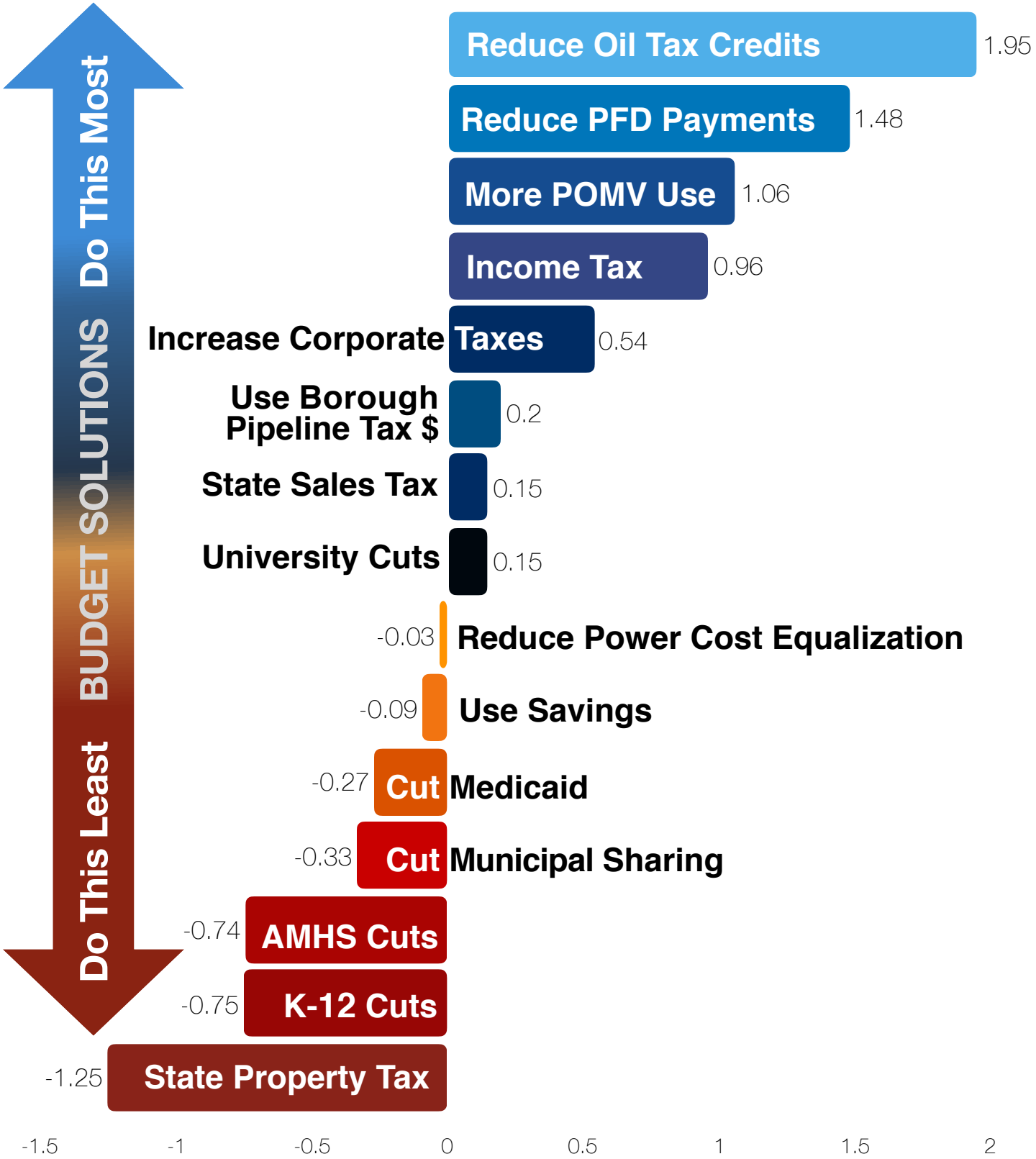
By Community





Southeast Businesses **Budget Findings**

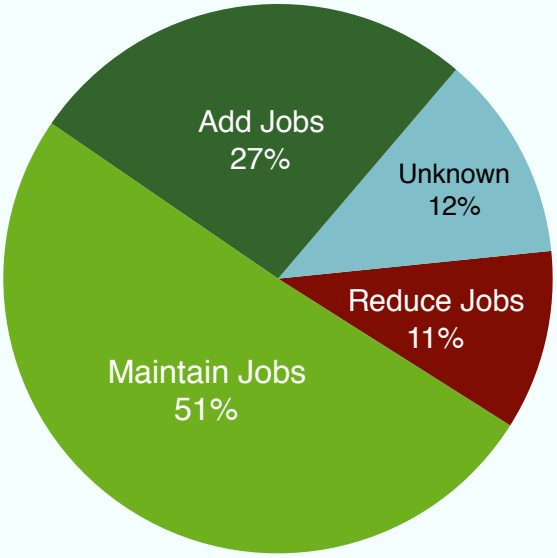
Southeast Conference asked **320** Southeast business owners and top managers in **25** regional communities how they would like to see the state achieve a balanced budget. This is an overall ranking of their responses.



Responses weighted by use preference

Adding **Jobs in 2019 and 2020**

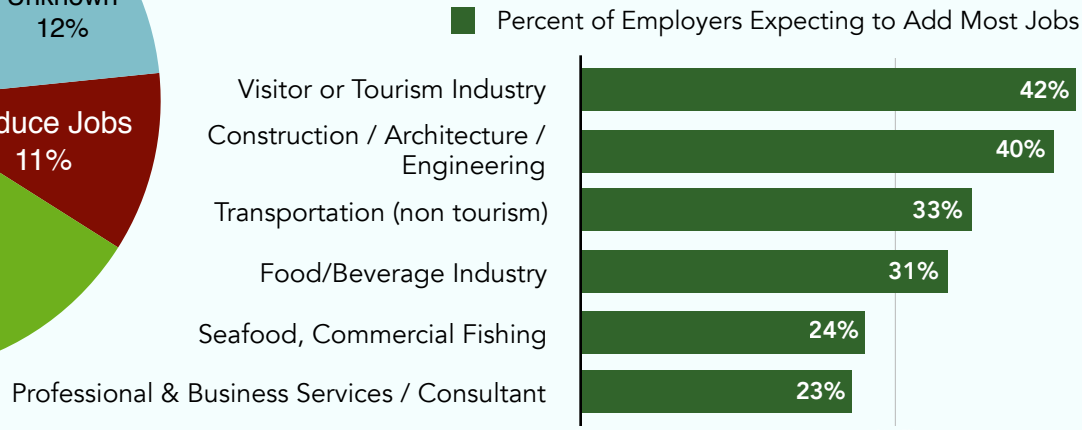
Over the next year, do you expect your organization to add jobs, maintain jobs, reduce jobs, or are you unsure?



Hiring in the next year

A new question added to the survey this year was regarding hiring expectations over the next year. More than a quarter of the 320 business leaders surveyed expect to add jobs to their businesses over the next 12 months, while 51% expect to maintain total jobs, and 11% expect to reduce total employees. The largest gains are expected in the visitor industry, where a staggering 42% of respondents expect to increase their total staff in the upcoming year. The arts, IT, financial, and real estate sectors project the smallest worker increases.

Analyzed by community, Skagway employers expect the most significant job gains. Juneau and Petersburg are the least likely to add jobs next year.



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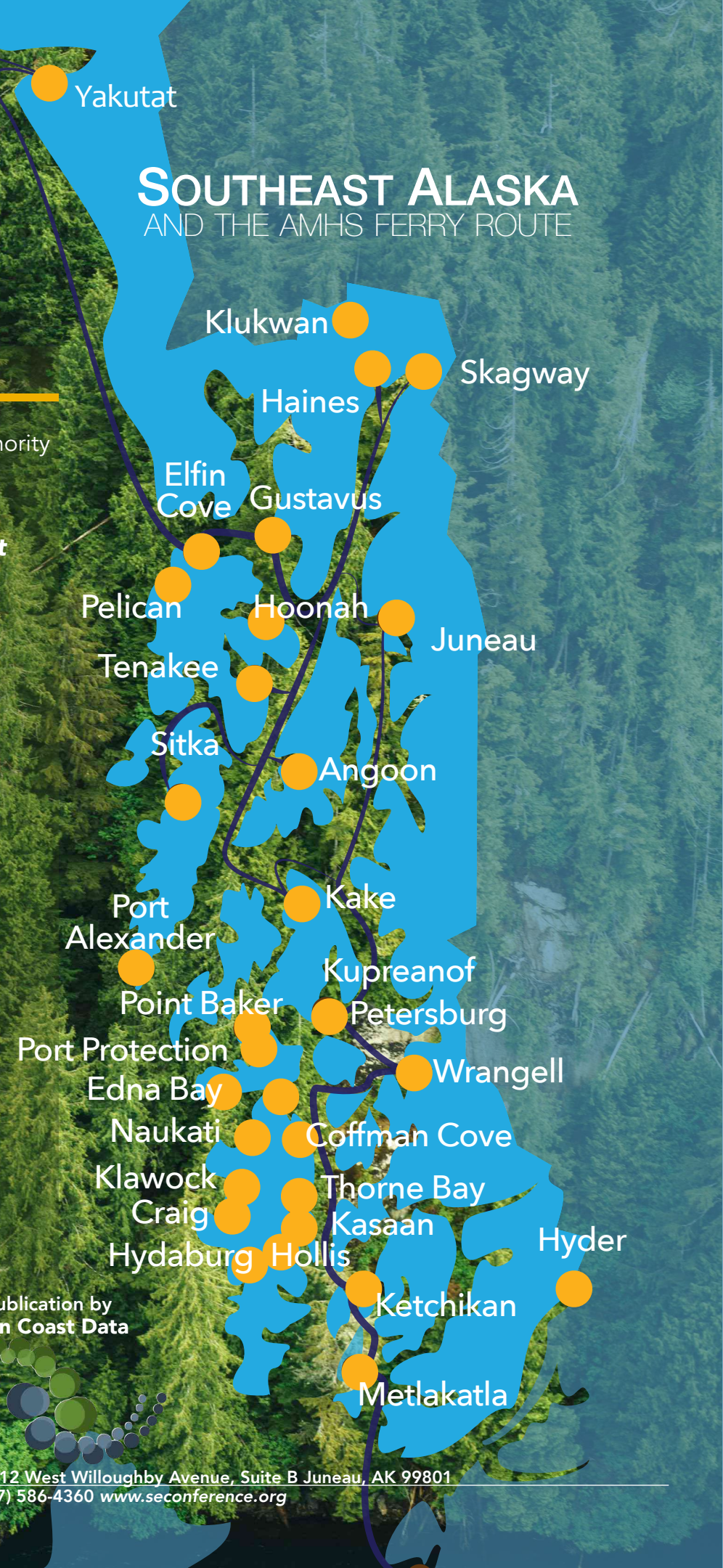

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Conservation Biology

Contributed Paper

Use of Historical Logging Patterns to Identify Disproportionately Logged Ecosystems within Temperate Rainforests of Southeastern Alaska

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Abstract: *The forests of southeastern Alaska remain largely intact and contain a substantial proportion of Earth's remaining old-growth temperate rainforest. Nonetheless, industrial-scale logging has occurred since the 1950s within a relatively narrow range of forest types that has never been quantified at a regional scale. We analyzed historical patterns of logging from 1954 through 2004 and compared the relative rates of change among forest types, landform associations, and biogeographic provinces. We found a consistent pattern of disproportionate logging at multiple scales, including large-tree stands and landscapes with contiguous productive old-growth forests. The highest rates of change were among landform associations and biogeographic provinces that originally contained the largest concentrations of productive old growth (i.e., timber volume >46.6 m^3/ha). Although only 11.9% of productive old-growth forests have been logged region wide, large-tree stands have been reduced by at least 28.1%, karst forests by 37%, and landscapes with the highest volume of contiguous old growth by 66.5%. Within some island biogeographic provinces, loss of rare forest types may place local viability of species dependent on old growth at risk of extirpation. Examination of historical patterns of change among ecological forest types can facilitate planning for conservation of biodiversity and sustainable use of forest resources.*

Keywords: forestry, fragmentation, land-cover change, old-growth forest

El Uso de Patrones Históricos de Tala para Identificar Ecosistemas Talados Desproporcionadamente en Bosques Lluviosos Templados del Sureste de Alaska Albert & Schoen 11-839

Resumen: *Los bosques del sureste de Alaska permanecen en su mayoría intactos y contienen una proporción sustancial de los bosques lluviosos templados maduros de la Tierra. Sin embargo la tala a escala industrial ha ocurrido desde los 1950s dentro de un rango relativamente estrecho de tipos de bosque que nunca se ha cuantificado en una escala regional. Analizamos los patrones históricos de tala de 1954 hasta 2004 y comparamos las tasas relativas de cambio entre tipos de bosque, asociaciones de formaciones terrestres y provincias biogeográficas. Encontramos un patrón consistente de tala desproporcionada en escalas múltiples, incluyendo grandes fragmentos y paisajes con bosques maduros productivos contiguos. Las tasas más altas de cambio estuvieron entre las asociaciones de formaciones terrestres y provincias biogeográficas que originalmente contenían la mayor concentración de bosque maduro productivo (p.ej.: volumen de madera >46.6 m^3/ha). Aunque solo 11.9% de los bosques maduros productivos han sido talados a lo largo de la región, los fragmentos se han reducido al menos en 28.1%, bosques de karst en 37%, y paisajes con el volumen más alto de bosque maduro contiguo en 66.5%. Dentro de algunas provincias biogeográficas aisladas, la pérdida de tipos raros de bosque puede ubicar la viabilidad local de especies dependientes del bosque maduro en riesgo de extirpación. Examinar los patrones históricos de cambio entre tipos de bosque ecológicos puede facilitar la planeación para la conservación de la biodiversidad y el uso sustentable de los recursos forestales.*

Palabras Clave: bosque maduro, cambio en cobertura de suelo, fragmentación, silvicultura

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Introduction

Assessment of threats to rare ecosystems has become an increasing focus for global conservation, and factors such as geographical distribution and changes to ecosystem composition, structure, and function have been used in such assessments (Nicholson et al. 2008; Rodriguez et al. 2010). We used historical patterns of logging to assess change among forest ecosystems within the coastal temperate rainforests of southeastern Alaska and specifically to assess how current forest conditions differ from historical conditions.

Coastal temperate rainforests are globally uncommon. The largest (35% of this ecosystem worldwide) is distributed along the Pacific coast of North America from northern California through southern coastal Alaska (Kellogg 1992; DellaSala et al. 2011:16). Although the southern half of the Pacific coast rainforest is heavily developed, northern British Columbia and southeastern Alaska retain the largest amount of intact old-growth temperate rainforest on Earth and support abundant populations of species that have declined or are threatened in the southern portion of their historical ranges (e.g., Pacific salmon [*Oncorhynchus* spp.], brown bear [*Ursus arctos*], and Marbled Murrelet [*Brachyramphus marmoratus*]) (DellaSala et al. 2011:57).

In southeast Alaska, where fire is rare, natural patterns of disturbance such as wind storms, landslides, and flooding produce a fine-scale patchwork of forest types and structure that differ substantially from the more homogenous, even-aged stands that develop after clearcut logging (Kramer et al. 2001; Ott & Juday 2002; Alaback et al. 2013). Old-growth forests typically occur in a mixed-age mosaic dominated by old trees (>300 years) and have multilayered canopies, abundant understory vegetation, and high structural diversity (Harris & Farr 1974; Kramer et al. 2001). In contrast, clearcut logging is a stand-replacing event that initiates succession (0–5 years, shrubs; 5–25 years young conifers; 25–30 years, conifers that prevent light from reaching the forest floor) (Alaback 1982). Twenty to 30 years after clearcutting (stem-exclusion phase), the forest is characterized by a homogeneous structure, low understory diversity and productivity, and relatively low habitat value for native fauna. This stage typically lasts >100 years (Wallmo & Schoen 1980; DellaSala et al. 1996). Although timber volume sufficient for commercial harvest may regenerate <100 years after logging (Harris & Farr 1974), the structure and diversity of old-growth forests require several centuries to develop (Alaback 1982; DellaSala et al. 2011:49).

Large-scale timber harvesting in the region developed, following passage of the 1947 Tongass Timber Act, within a framework of subsidized, long-term timber contracts (Beier et al. 2009). Later, harvest on private lands began under the 1971 Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (Knapp 1992). Logging in the region peaked at 2.3 million m^3/year in 1990 and declined to approximately 0.4 million m^3/year in 2004 (USFS 2008*a*) as a result of combined political, economic, and institutional factors (Beier et al. 2009). Although the location and timing of past logging is known, the pattern of logging relative to the availability of forest types has not been analyzed at a regional scale to allow for evaluation of changes in diversity and abundance of forest ecosystems and determination of the potential implications for conservation of biodiversity (Lindenmayer et al. 2000) and timber supply (Beier 2010).

Our objectives were to document current forest conditions and historic patterns of logging; estimate the original distribution of ecosystems (ecological forest types) among biogeographic provinces; and map the distribution of old-growth ecosystems that have sustained disproportionate rates of logging in the past. Uniquely, we documented in a spatially explicit manner how southeastern Alaska forests have changed as a result of logging and how the present landscape differs from historical conditions. Although researchers have evaluated change in condition of old-growth forests over time in areas farther south in the Pacific Northwest (Staus et al. 2002; Wimberly & Ohmann 2004), few have provided a sufficiently fine-grained characterization of ecological systems to identify changes in rare forest types (Strittholt et al. 2006) or specifically investigated ecological correlates of anthropogenic change (Alig et al. 2005). Recent (60 years) patterns of old-growth logging in southeastern Alaska can provide a model for understanding other temperate rainforest regions that were less well documented and now reflect a more complex mosaic of human development (Huston 2005).

Methods

Study Area

Southeastern Alaska extends approximately 800 km between Dixon Entrance (55°N, 130°W) and Yakutat Bay (59°N, 140°W) and is dominated by the Alexander Archipelago, which has >5000 islands and a total land area of 8.7 million ha (Fig. 1). Approximately 80% of the region is contained within the Tongass National Forest (6.8 million ha). Our study area was in the perhumid rainforest zone, which is characterized by a maritime climate with cool summers (<15 °C), abundant precipitation (200–600 cm), and mild winters (rarely < −10 °C) (Alaback 1996). Although the region is characterized as a rainforest, a large proportion of the landscape is wetlands, alpine tundra, and recently glaciated terrain (Nowacki et al. 2001).

Closed-canopy conifer forests are widely distributed below 600 m and are typically dominated by associations of western hemlock (*Tsuga heterophylla*), Sitka spruce

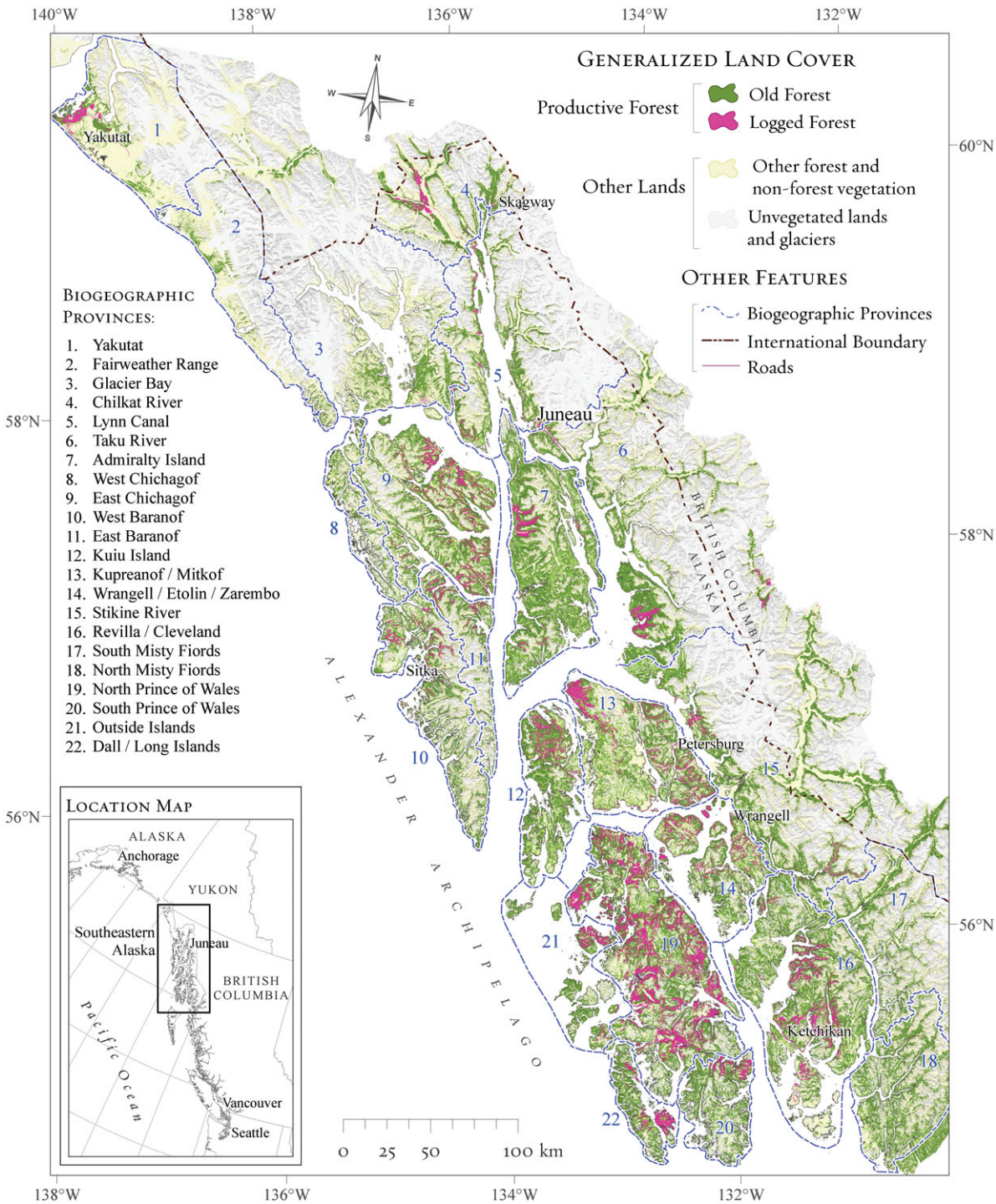

Figure 1. Generalized land cover and productive forest lands among biogeographic provinces in southeastern Alaska.

(*Picea sitchensis*), western redcedar (*Thuja plicata*), and Alaska yellow-cedar (*Chamaecyparis nootkatensis*) (Viereck et al. 1992). In general, large-tree (mean diameter >53 cm), old-growth forests are patchily distributed and tend to occur most frequently on well-drained sites, including lower elevation slopes, alluvial fans, and floodplains (Shephard et al. 1999) and on karst (i.e., porous limestone) substrates (Baichtal & Swanston 1996). We defined forest ecosystems on the basis of landforms and forest structural characteristics that correlate with important ecological processes, such as soil productivity and frequency of disturbance, species composition, and habitat value for native flora and fauna (Shephard et al. 1999; Caouette & DeGayner 2008).

Mapping of Forest Ecological Systems

To characterize forest types, we combined data on vegetation and landform associations to identify ecologically important distinctions not represented by vegetation mapping alone (Comer et al. 2003). Forest productivity is determined largely by soil characteristics and climatic gradients (Nowacki et al. 2001; USFS 2008*b*), and we followed the U.S. Forest Service (USFS 2008*a*) definition of forest productivity: a "productive forest" is land capable of producing >1.4 m^3/ha of wood fiber/year or with standing volume of timber >46.6 m^3/ha. Although not strictly a measure of net primary productivity, we assumed that given the region's low rate of forest disturbance under historical conditions (Alaback 1996; Kramer et al. 2001), characteristics of existing old-growth forest provided an index of site potential adequate for broad-scale comparison of forest productivity among landforms and biogeographic provinces (USFS 2008*b*).

Our primary source for mapping vegetation was the USFS (2008) Tongass timber inventory, which was completed in 1986. The inventory consisted of extensive ground surveys and aerial photography and periodic updates to reflect ongoing management. Productive old-growth forests are categorized by average tree size (Caouette & DeGayner 2005) and volume of standing timber. On the basis of mean diameter, productive old-growth forests are categorized as large-tree (>53 cm), medium-tree (43–53 cm), and small-tree (<43 cm) stands. Caouette and DeGayner (2008) report accuracy of 60–80% between this inventory and ground-based stand exams. Although characterization by tree size and timber volume differs from a typical forest classification that is based on species composition (e.g., Viereck et al. 1992), it is a useful indicator of structural gradients (Caouette & DeGayner 2008) that represents an important aspect of forest diversity (Noss 1990) and habitat functions for wildlife species (e.g., Schoen & Kirchhoff 1990; Iverson et al. 1996).

To map forests on lands outside the Tongass, we merged the timber inventory from the Haines State Forest (HSF) (ADNR 1985) and the Interim Land Cover Classification (ILC) (Shasby & Carneggie 1986). The HSF inventory categorizes stands on the basis of tree size, similar to the Tongass inventory. The ILC category "closed-canopy conifer" is roughly equivalent to the medium-tree old-growth category (i.e., middle 74%) of the Tongass inventory. Other ILC categories did not meet criteria for productive old growth and were excluded from further analyses. Following Caouette and DeGayner (2005), we categorized small-tree stands on hydric soils as low-volume strata, small-tree stands on nonhydric soils and medium-tree stands on hydric soils as medium volume, and all large-tree and medium-tree stands on nonhydric soils as high-volume strata (USFS 2008*a*). We used the National Wetlands Inventory (Cowardin et al. 1979) to identify hydric soils and calculated estimates of gross timber volume as a function of volume strata and geographic area (USFS 2008*a*). We digitized more recent road construction and logging activity outside the Tongass through visual interpretation of aerial photography (current in 1997) and Landsat Enhanced Thematic Mapper (ETM) imagery (current in 2000–2002).

To characterize forest conditions over a landscape matrix rather than as individual stands (Wiens 1995), we developed an index of old-growth forest density. We based the index on a moving-window analysis of gross volume within a 0.9-km radius (1.56 km^2). This index integrated information on forest structure and the degree to which productive old-growth forests are contiguous across this landscape.

Our sources for mapping landform associations were the Tongass Soils Inventory, derived from aerial photography and ground surveys (USFS 1996), and Karst Inventory, derived from field surveys and U.S. Geological Survey data on bedrock geology (Baichtal & Swanston 1996). We categorized landform associations as coastal (marine deposits and wave-cut terraces uplifted by tectonic or isostatic forces), lowland (glacial till and outwash, low topographic relief, extensive wetlands), valley floor (glacially carved U-shaped valleys with alluvial and glacial deposits), hills (rolling terrain, heavily scoured by glaciers), mountain slopes (low-to-mid slopes of mountain features, angular terrain, carved by glaciers, alluvial, and colluvial deposits), mountain summits (higher elevation, angular terrain), and volcanic (postglacial, volcanic terrain). A detailed description of landforms and the interacting effects of geology, landform, and hydrology on vegetation in this area is available in Nowacki et al. (2001). For areas lacking data on landform association, we used a supervised classification of topographic features (elevation, slope, and topographic position index) and the Tongass Soils Inventory as the training set (Hengl & Rossiter 2003). Overall agreement of this model with the soils inventory was 68%. Because karst was relatively rare, we merged all landform associations in areas of karst to preserve sufficient sample size for analyses.

To analyze the geographic distribution of forests and logging activity, we used biogeographic provinces (USFS 2008*a*) that represent ecologically important patterns of climate, glacial history, and island biogeography (Nowacki et al. 2001; Cook et al. 2006). The resulting maps of forest condition and landform associations were evaluated and considered robust by biologists and foresters with knowledge of local areas. All mapping was conducted with ArcInfo (version 9.2, Environmental Systems Research Institute, Redlands California).

Assessment of Forest Change

Data on the original composition of logged stands were available for 98,023 ha within the Tongass that were

logged after 1986. We assumed the proportional rates of logging within this sample among large- (29.3%), medium- (64.6%), and small- (6.1%) tree stands were representative of all logging that occurred from 1954 to 2004. To estimate historical timber volume, we assumed the distribution of hydric soils was a suitable variable to discriminate between medium-volume (i.e., hydric soils) and high-volume stands (i.e., nonhydric) (USFS 2008*a*). These assumptions are conservative and supported by anecdotal evidence that earlier logging (before 1979) was skewed more toward large-tree and high-volume stands than logging that occurred after 1986 (Rakestraw 1981; USFS 2008*a*). We used this information to compare average density of landscape forest and patch characteristics among the forest landscapes with the highest volume of forest (>18,762 m^3/km^2) between 1954 and 2004.

We determined patterns of selectivity in logging by comparing forest types selected for logging with their original availability (Alldredge et al. 1998). We evaluated selectivity among stand characteristics (tree size and timber volume), landscape-scale forest (timber volume per square kilometer), elevation (m), categories of landform associations and biogeographic provinces (percent productive forest). We used chi-square tests for categorical variables and Kruskal–Wallis for continuous variables (Conover 1980) to test for significance. We examined the correlation between rate of logging and forest productivity (as indexed by the percentage of land in productive forest) among biogeographic provinces and landform associations with Spearman's rank correlation (Conover 1980) and logistic regression (Hosmer & Lemeshow 1989).

Logistic-Regression Model of Forest Change

We developed a multiple logistic-regression model to identify the suite of forest variables most strongly predictive of whether forests had been logged or not logged and to map this relation within remaining old growth. To control for spatial autocorrelation at a regional scale, we explicitly included differences among biogeographic provinces as a potential explanatory variable in the logistic model. At the local scale, we spaced sample locations on a systematic grid at 1-km intervals and eliminated duplicate points that fell within any single forest stand. Each observation was coded as logged (1) or not logged (0) for the logistic model. We excluded federally protected lands from the logistic analyses.

Comparing all combinations of independent variables, we identified the best model with the Akaike information criterion (Hosmer & Lemeshow 1989) in STATISTICA software (StatSoft, Tulsa, Oklahoma). To account for an inadequate sample of logging within some biogeographic provinces, we grouped provinces of Admiralty Island with Chichagof Island; Glacier Bay and Fairweather provinces with Lynn Canal; and Misty Fiords with the Stikine River mainland (Fig. 1). We used the area under receiver operating characteristics (ROC) curve and percentage of observations correctly classified to evaluate the model (Guénette & Villard 2005). We interpreted the model by evaluating the significance of independent variables and the odds ratios (Hosmer & Lemeshow 1989).

We mapped the output of the logistic model as an index of selectivity that reflects the degree to which any combination of geographic, forest, and environmental variables were either preferentially selected or avoided for logging. For the purpose of calibrating the model to observed forest conditions, we determined the cut point that provided maximum accuracy in differentiating logged and old-growth stands (Guénette & Villard 2005). We used this criterion to estimate the remaining distribution of old-growth forest types that had sustained disproportionate rates of logging.

Results

Mapping of Forest Ecological Systems

Forested lands covered 4,488,848 ha in southeastern Alaska, approximately 50% of the total land base. Productive forests (including old-growth and younger stands) covered 2,657,154 ha, approximately 30% of the region's land base. Among landform associations, the proportion of land in productive forest was highest on karst (67%), followed by coastal areas (53%), hills (53%), mountain slopes (50%), valley floors (43%), volcanoes (31%), lowlands (31%), and mountain summits (2%).

Within productive old growth in 2004 (2,320,088 ha), large-tree stands represented 10.2%, whereas medium-tree stands represented 74.7% and small-tree stands represented 15.1% of the total (Table 1). Average timber volume among old-growth stands was 194.9 m^3/ ha (SD 46.4, range = 37–263), and at a landscape scale average volume was 4,330 m^3/km^2 (SD 5,029, range = 0–25,770). As a measure of availability, productive old-growth forests were most abundant on mountain slopes (58.7%), followed by lowlands (12.5%), valley floors (10.4%), hills (10.1%), and karst (4.1%). Among biogeographic provinces, North Prince of Wales had the largest proportion of all productive old growth (10.9%), followed by Admiralty Island (10.5%), Revillagigedo Island and Cleveland Peninsula (10.0%), and East Chichagof Island (7.6%). The remaining 16 provinces contained ≤6.2% of productive old growth each (Table 1).

Assessment of Forest Change

Although a large majority of productive forests in 2004 were old-growth forests (88.1%), the relative rate of logging differed among forest types and biogeographic provinces (Table 1). Large-tree stands were logged

Table 1. Distribution and condition of productive forest lands and the relative rate of logging among categories of tree size, landform association, and biogeographic province in southeastern Alaska.

	Productive forest lands					
	old forest		*logged forest*			
Variable	*(ha)*	*(%)*	*(ha)*	*(%)*	*Logged (%)*[a]	*Relative proportion logged*[b]
Tree size						
large	237,591	10.2	92,900[c]	29.3	28.1	2.36
medium	1,748,187	74.7	204,825[c]	64.6	10.5	0.88
small	354,310	15.1	19,341[c]	6.1	5.2	0.43
Landform						
Karst	95,596	4.1	56,217	17.7	37.0	3.11
valley floor	242,429	10.4	45,521	14.4	15.8	1.33
Coastal	36,576	1.6	5138	1.6	12.3	1.04
Hills	235,914	10.1	28,391	9	10.7	0.90
mountain slopes	1,373,992	58.7	149,879	47.3	9.8	0.83
Lowlands	293,484	12.5	30,681	9.7	9.5	0.80
Volcanic	6,571	0.3	521	0.2	7.3	0.62
mountain summits	55,526	2.4	718	0.2	1.3	0.11
Biogeographic province						
North Prince of Wales	255,884	10.9	119,699	37.8	31.9	2.68
Dall and Long Islands	44,056	1.9	10,880	3.4	19.8	1.66
Yakutat Forelands	33,525	1.4	7402	2.3	18.1	1.52
Kupreanof and Mitkof	144,764	6.2	27,364	8.6	15.9	1.34
Wrangell, Etolin, and Zarembo	93,341	4	16,713	5.3	15.2	1.28
East Chichagof	177,353	7.6	28,928	9.1	14.0	1.18
Outside Islands	47,951	2	7448	2.3	13.4	1.13
East Baranof	36,952	1.6	5,583	1.8	13.1	1.10
Chilkat River Complex	56,064	2.4	8,069	2.5	12.6	1.06
Revilla Island and Cleveland Peninsula	234,832	10	29,476	9.3	11.2	0.94
South Prince of Wales	68,218	2.9	7,236	2.3	9.6	0.81
Kuiu Island	117,705	5	12,007	3.8	9.3	0.78
West Baranof	95,561	4.1	7,869	2.5	7.6	0.64
Taku River	139,349	6	8,717	2.7	5.9	0.49
Stikine River	135,547	5.8	6,083	1.9	4.3	0.36
Admiralty Island	245,417	10.5	10,968	3.5	4.3	0.36
Lynn Canal	85,929	3.7	2,542	0.8	2.9	0.24
Glacier Bay	61,880	2.6	81	0	0.1	0.01
South Misty Fiords	128,030	5.5	0	0	0	0
North Misty Fiords	87,883	3.8	0	0	0	0
West Chichagof	30,107	1.3	0	0	0	0
Fairweather Icefields	19,741	0.8	0	0	0	0
All productive forest	2,340,088	100	317,066	100	11.9	1.0

[a] *Percent original availability.*
[b] *Ratio of percentage change within each category to the average change for all forest types (11.9%).*
[c] *Estimated by extrapolating the observed rates of logging from 1986 to 2004 (n = 98,023 ha) of large (29.3%), medium (64.6%), and small trees (6.1%) in all forest lands logged (n = 317,066 ha).*

2.4 times more than their relative availability, whereas medium-tree and small-tree stands were logged less than their availability (Table 1). Logging also occurred disproportionately at broader spatial scales. Logging was significantly higher in productive forests that were contiguous at a landscape scale (Wald $\chi^2 = 2910$, 1 df, $p < 0.0001$) and in the most productive landforms (Spearman's $R = 0.48$, $p = 0.02$) and biogeographic provinces, such as North Prince of Wales ($R = 0.802$, $p = 0.01$) (Fig. 2), than in noncontiguous forests and provinces and landforms with less productive forest lands.

As a result of selective patterns of logging, characteristics of remaining old-growth forests differed from forest types that occurred historically. Average landscape volume of old-growth forest declined region-wide by 16.8% from 1954 ($\bar{X} = 11{,}958$ [SD 5,009]) to 2004 ($\bar{X} = 9{,}941$ [SD 4,666]; $Z = 81.65$, $n = 26{,}538$, $p < 0.01$). This trend reflects a process by which large, contiguous old-growth landscapes were fragmented and interspersed with young growth and the remaining old-growth stands contain a smaller proportion of large trees than historically. The highest volume landscape forests in 1954 (>18,762 m^3/km^2) were reduced by 66.5% region-wide from 243,373 ha in 1954 to 81,611 ha in 2004. This reduction was accompanied by similar declines in the number of patches (1954 $n = 2{,}464$; 2004 $n = 1{,}660$), average

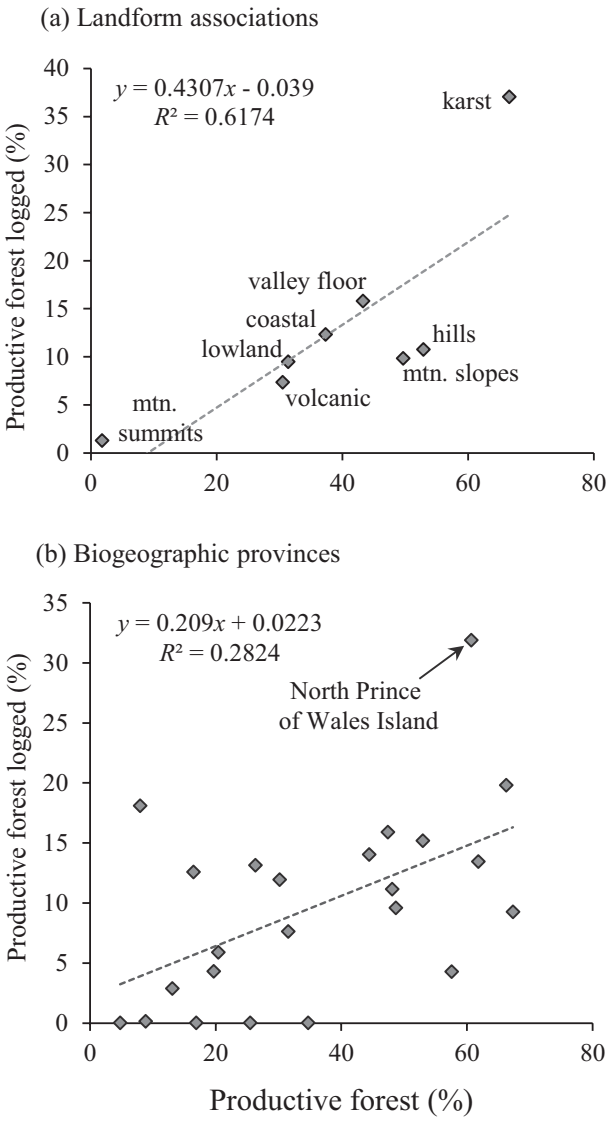

Figure 2. Percentage of lands in productive forest relative to percentage of those forests logged among (a) landform associations and (b) biogeographic provinces.

patch size (1954 $\bar{X} = 169$ ha [SD 848.4]; 2004 $\bar{X} = 105$ ha [SD 403]), and largest patch size (1954 max = 19,434; 2004 max = 9,433 ha). Due to natural fragmentation, high-volume forests contiguous at a landscape scale were always rare. The largest proportion (31%) of contiguous high-volume forest occurred on northern Prince of Wales Island, where such forests have been reduced by 93.8% (77,536 ha in 1954 to 4,801 ha in 2004) (Fig. 3) and average patch size declined from 264 ha in 1954 (SD 1,186.5) ($n = 435$, max = 11,692) to 73 ha in 2004 (SD 176.6) ($n = 164$, max = 1,321).

Logistic-Regression Model of Forest Change

With the exclusion of federally protected lands, the logistic-regression analyses included 1,727,483 ha, or 73.8%, of all productive forest lands in the region. The logistic model identified 4 variables that provided the best discrimination between logged and unlogged sites ($G = 4{,}438.58$, 18 df, $p < 0.0001$) (Table 2). The most significant predictor variable was landscape forest (Wald $\chi^2 = 1175.5$, 1 df, $p < 0.0001$), followed by biogeographic province ($\chi^2 = 614$, 15 df, $p < 0.0001$), stand volume ($\chi^2 = 499.5$, 1 df, $p < 0.0001$), and elevation ($\chi^2 = 479.2$, 1 df, $p < 0.0001$). Due to inadequate sample size, landform was not included in the final model. The goodness-of-fit chi-square test indicated the logistic model was apt ($p = 0.95$). The ROC indicated a good fit to the observed data (AUC = 0.859) and an optimal cut point of $p = 0.18$ to differentiate between logged and unlogged stands in the logistic model.

Regression coefficients showed that with other factors held constant, landscapes with higher forest density, stands with higher volumes of timber, and those located at lower elevations had higher rates of logging, whereas more sparsely distributed forests, lower volume stands, and those at higher elevations were logged at lower rates (Table 2). Although the highest proportion of all productive forests logged during this period was on North Prince of Wales (Table 1), the logistic model indicated that with other factors held constant, the relative rate of logging on East Baranof Island was similar to that on North Prince of Wales, both of which were 2.34 times greater than the regional average (Table 2).

With a cut point of 0.18 the logistic model correctly classified 75.8% of productive forest as either logged or unlogged. Forest types most commonly selected for logging, such as high-volume contiguous forests at lower elevations ($p \geq 0.18$), accounted for 34.6% (597,052 ha) of all productive forest, had sustained rates of logging 3.43 times greater than average, and consequently had a relatively high proportion of area in second growth (40.8%). In contrast, forest types not typically selected for logging such as lower volume fragmented forests and those at higher elevations ($p < 0.18$) represented 65.4% (1,130,386 ha) of all productive forest lands, sustained less than the average rate of logging (0.48-times), and remained largely in old-growth condition (94.3%).

Discussion

Although only a small fraction of all old-growth forests in southeastern Alaska have been logged (11.9%), the systematic way the most productive stands and landscapes have been targeted indicates that the likelihood of maintaining the natural abundance of forest types, including important fish and wildlife habitat, may be lower than this percentage suggests. Landscape-scale blocks of productive forest, stands of larger trees, and forests at lower elevations were disproportionately targeted for logging, and rate of logging was positively correlated with broad-scale forest productivity among landforms and biogeographic

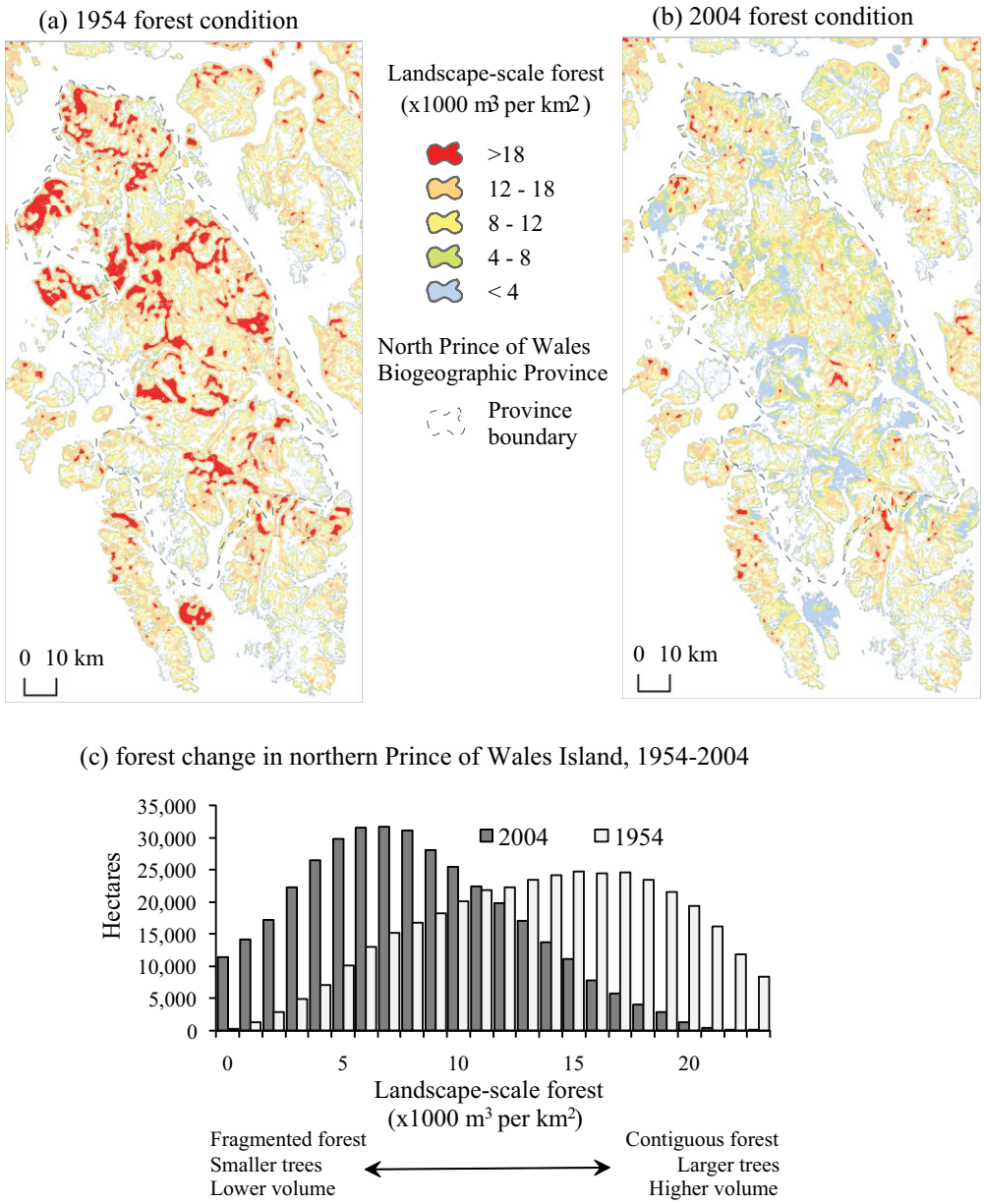

Figure 3. Change in the landscape-scale distribution of productive (i.e., timber volume >46.6 m^3/ha) old-growth forest in southeastern Alaska from (a) 1954 to (b) 2004 and (c) change in availability of remaining old-growth forests in the North Prince of Wales biogeographic province.

provinces. This spatial correlation of logging to forest productivity was consistent with patterns of change observed in coastal forests of western Oregon (Alig et al. 2005), and the more general relationship of resource development to ecosystem productivity as a common aspect of human development (DeFries et al. 2004; Huston 2005).

A consequence of depletion of rare forest types, such as large tree stands, karst forests, and high-volume forests that are contiguous at a landscape scale, is that habitat quality may also decline and adversely affect populations of fish and wildlife. For example, results of studies show a range of functions associated with large-tree forests, including provision of black bear (*Ursus americanus*) dens (Erikson et al. 1982), winter habitat for Sitka black-tailed deer (*Ococoileus hemionus sitkensis*) (Schoen & Kirchhoff 1990), nesting habitat for Northern Goshawk (*Accipiter gentilis*) (Iverson et al. 1996), and woody debris in streams that serves as structural habitat for salmon and other species (Heifetz et al. 1986; Willson & Halupka 1995). Similarly, karst exhibits attributes that make it highly productive for salmon (Bryant et al. 1998), yet

Table 2. Results of logistic regression model of forest types in southeastern Alaska that were either logged (1) or not logged (0) during 1954–2004.

Variable	*Odds ratio*[a]	*Coefficient*[b]	*SE*	*Wald* χ^2	*p*
Intercept	0.00	−7.35	0.17	1910.01	<0.0001
Landscape forest ($m^3 \times 1000/km^2$)	1.22	0.20	0.01	1175.52	<0.0001
Timber volume (m^3/ha)	1.02	0.02	0.00	499.51	<0.0001
Elevation (m × 100)	0.66	-0.42	0.02	479.22	<0.0001
Biogeographic province					
North Prince of Wales	2.34	0.85	0.05	277.46	<0.0001
East Baranof Island	2.34	0.85	0.15	30.92	<0.0001
Chichagof and Admiralty Island	2.16	0.77	0.07	119.22	<0.0001
Wrangell, Etolin, and Zarembo	2.14	0.76	0.10	62.78	<0.0001
Kupreanof and Mitkof	1.89	0.64	0.08	68.14	<0.0001
West Baranof Island	1.77	0.57	0.13	19.01	<0.0001
Revilla Island and Cleveland Peninsula	1.36	0.31	0.07	18.35	<0.0001
Dall Island Complex	1.25	0.22	0.12	3.53	0.0603
Outside Islands	1.00	0.00	0.15	0.00	0.9962
Chilkat River	0.90	−0.11	0.12	0.76	0.3836
Kuiu Island	0.56	−0.57	0.10	30.01	<0.0001
Taku River	0.44	−0.82	0.12	47.72	<0.0001
Yakutat Forelands	0.43	−0.84	0.16	25.84	<0.0001
Stikine River and Misty Fiords	0.39	−0.94	0.13	49.62	<0.0001
Lynn Canal and Glacier Bay	0.20	−1.61	0.21	56.56	<0.0001

[a] *Odds ratio represents the change in likelihood that a site was logged with a 1-unit change in a continuous predictor variable or the relative likelihood of logging among biogeographic provinces.*
[b] *Multiple logistic-regression coefficients indicate the overall preference for (coefficient > 0) or avoidance of (coefficient < 0) specific forest types or locations on the basis of historical patterns of logging with other factors held constant.*

karst is sensitive to increased soil erosion from road construction and logging (Baichtal & Swanston 1996). Landscape-scale blocks of old-growth forest are habitat for northern flying squirrels (*Glaucomys sabrinus*) on Prince of Wales Island and a key indicator of population persistence over time (Smith & Person 2007). Although both brown bears and wolves (*Canis lupus*) use a variety of areas, including old growth, they are particularly sensitive to fragmentation of landscapes by logging roads because roads increase risks of human-induced mortality (Schoen et al. 1994; Person & Russell 2008).

The sensitivity of species to changes in forested areas is recognized in the 1997 Tongass Land Management Plan that designated the Northern Goshawk as a "sensitive species," the northern flying squirrel and Marbled Murrelet as "species of concern," and the brown bear, wolf, and Sitka deer as "management indicator species" (USFS 2008*a*). Concerns regarding population viability of some species led the USFS to establish an Interagency Viable Population Committee that designed a landscape conservation strategy to address viability of species associated with old growth (USFS 2008*b*).

Nowhere are these factors more evident than on northern Prince of Wales Island. This province has extensive low-elevation karst, landscape-scale tracts of productive forests, high-quality habitat for a range of species (Albert & Schoen 2007), and is an important center of endemism (Cook & MacDonald 2001; Cook et al. 2006). The island has also sustained the highest rates of logging in the region (Albert & Schoen 2007; DellaSala et al. 2011:58). Although northern Prince of Wales contained only 10.9% of all productive forests in the region in 1954 it received 37.8% of all the logging. Consequently, 93.5% of its highest volume landscape-scale blocks of old growth had been logged.

The specific threshold at which habitat alteration affects population viability is difficult to determine (Fahrig 2001). However, results of a review of habitat thresholds literature (to inform forest planning in coastal British Columbia) indicated that maintaining loss of habitat below 40% of historical abundance poses a low risk to most species, whereas declines above that level result in less confidence that risks of extirpation will remain low (Price et al. 2009). On the basis of this criterion, rare forest types that have been reduced by >40% of historical abundance such as landscape-scale blocks of high-volume old growth, and particularly those on Prince of Wales Island, may warrant special consideration (Cook et al. 2006). Such a proactive approach to maintain forest diversity is particularly important because declines in the abundance and distribution of local populations of plants and animals may not be quantitatively measured for decades or centuries after habitat modification has occurred (Tilman 1994).

From a global perspective, southeastern Alaska supports a relatively low human population density, has developed industrially later than regions to the south, and continues to support populations of species such as salmon, brown bears, wolves, and Marbled Murrelets that have become rare or have been extirpated from more developed regions (DellaSala et al. 2011). Locally, the focus of logging within areas of higher productivity is typical

of agrarian expansion into previously undeveloped lands (Huston 2005) and likely reflects processes that contributed to the decline of these species elsewhere. Our model provides a spatial framework within which to identify remaining old-growth forests that have been disproportionately logged and provides a historical reference for planning restoration of functional attributes such as landscape-scale connectivity among forests blocks. Such tools may be particularly relevant in the context of recent petitions to list endemic subspecies associated with productive old-growth forest such as Queen Charlotte Goshawk (*A. g. laingi*), Prince of Wales flying squirrel (*G. s. griseifrons*), and Alexander Archipelago wolf (*C. l. ligoni*) for protective status under the U.S. Endangered Species Act. These results provide a baseline for assessing the distribution and abundance of rare ecosystems (e.g., large-tree old growth) on the basis of historical patterns of change and have implications for planning for ecological sustainability (Lindenmayer et al. 2000) and future management of forest resources in southeastern Alaska and elsewhere (DeFries et al. 2004; Turner et al. 2007).

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Forest Service

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Version 1.0

USDA Investment Strategy in Support of Rural Communities in Southeast Alaska 2011-2013

On the Cover

Visitor Services, *top left: Cruise ships docked in downtown Juneau during the busy summer tourist season*

Ocean Products, *top right: Seiner-caught salmon, vital to the economy of Southeast Alaska.*

Forest Products, *bottom left: Stacked lumber at Viking Lumber Co. on Prince of Wales Island.*

Renewable Energy*, bottom right: Energy efficient boiler that heats the Southeast Alaska Discovery Center in Ketchikan.*

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Executive Summary

Most rural communities in Southeast Alaska are experiencing declining populations, fewer job opportunities, and increasing energy costs. USDA agencies (Farm Service Agency, Forest Service, Rural Development) and the U.S. Economic Development Administration (USEDA) are partnering to revitalize communities and restore public lands by supporting job creation in areas that offer growth potential: fisheries and mariculture, recreation and tourism, forest management, and renewable energy. The goals of this USDA Investment Strategy (Strategy) include:

- creating quality jobs and sustainable economic growth;
- promoting small business creation, expansion, and retention;
- improving access to capital; and
- promoting job training and educational opportunities.

Working with the Juneau Economic Development Council (JEDC), USDA agencies collaborated with over 120 leaders from local businesses and communities to identify initiatives in four areas—Ocean Products, Visitor Services, Forest Products, and Renewable Energy—that will create a regional competitive advantage, thereby raising the economic conditions for all of Southeast Alaskans[1]. This is the first time a broad-based, interagency, regional collaborative assessment focusing on economic clusters has been attempted in Southeast Alaska.

This interagency team recommends improving community and ecological health by funding economic initiatives that: cross agency boundaries; align with current actions by USDA agencies; have a high likelihood for success; and are readily achievable. The initiatives include:

- Ocean Products: Increase watershed restoration activities so as to increase wild salmon production; include the seafood industry in USDA programs; study the use of fish byproducts for renewable energy purposes; and support mariculture through zoning adjustments and financial assistance.

- Visitor Products: Create independent traveler opportunities by developing multi-community land and water trails; increase opportunities for guided access; and improve opportunities to provide input regarding Tongass National Forest access fees.

- Forest Products: Promote new opportunities from second growth forest while maintaining support to the existing industry; showcase the use of young growth wood in local structures; simplify the small timber sale process; improve the Tongass timber planning process; catalyze the use of wood waste for energy; and develop a detailed analysis on the volume of young growth available across all lands.

- Renewable Energy: Collaborate with the State of Alaska to develop a Southeast renewable energy plan; increase agency support to renewable energy development projects; convert agency administrative facilities from oil to renewable energy; increase use of the Biomass Crop Assistance Program (BCAP).

USDA has identified about $30 million of existing funding to support these initiatives. In order to grow these economic sectors, however, USDA recommends an additional $29 million investment over the next two years. Given the current challenging economic times and likely decreasing federal budgets, an "all-hands-all-lands approach" of leveraging resources across agencies will be essential. Combining grant and loan programs provided by Rural Development, Farm Service Agency, U.S. Economic Development

[1] The full report can be found at www.jedc.org.

Administration, and Forest Service State and Private Forestry with annual appropriations can increase access to capital to facilitate entrepreneurship and economic growth. In the past two years, over $40 million in guaranteed loans and grants have been provided to communities, businesses, and non-profits in Southeast Alaska. Of these funds, over $10 million was directly in support of initiatives similar to those identified by the economic cluster groups.

Table 1. **Summary of planned and recommended investments to improve economic opportunities for rural communities in Ocean Products, Visitor Products, Forest Products, and Renewable Energy.**

USDA Investments Oceans, Visitors, Forests, Energy R10 - Tongass	Investments Planned For FY12 & FY13	Recommended Additional Funding to Increase Growth FY12 & FY13	Total of Planned and Recommended Investments in FY12 & FY13
Oceans	6,478,000	5,650,000	12,128,000
Visitors	1,912,000	8,370,000	10,282,000
Forests	24,967,000	11,775,000	36,742,000
Energy	728,000	3,355,000[1]	4,083,000
Total	**$34,085,000**	**$29,150,000**	**$63,235,000**

1 – Does not include $20 million to convert federal facilities in Southeast Alaska from oil to biomass heat.

In addition to financial investments and leveraging resources, collaboration, community capacity, and interagency coordination will be important to the success of this Strategy. USDA will also continue to support the business cluster work groups, launch a grant-making program to improve community capacity, and maintain an emphasis on interagency leadership and coordination. USDA will provide financial support to the business cluster work groups for facilitation, which continue to meet and have shifted their focus to implementation of the initiatives. The community capacity grant program will give communities additional resources to gain technical assistance in writing business, energy, or tourism plans, or convene and plan watershed restoration meetings, for example. Finally, USDA agencies, USEDA, and other partners will continue to meet at least quarterly to leverage resources and programs.

USDA in Alaska sees this Strategy as an ongoing, dynamic effort built on strengthening relationships among agencies, partners, and with businesses; finding shared visions and solutions; and directing USDA resources in areas that have the greatest potential to create sustainable jobs and healthy communities. USDA expects to update this plan in two years or sooner, if needed.

Introduction

Recognizing the pressing social, economic, and environmental challenges facing forest-dependent rural communities in Southeast Alaska, in May 2010 Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack directed the U.S. Forest Service (USFS), Rural Development (RD), and the Farm Service Agency (FSA) to work with the U.S. Economic Development Administration (USEDA) and regional partners to enhance economic opportunities while maintaining community and ecosystem health.

This Transition Framework for Economic Diversification was initiated to assist Southeast Alaska communities in diversifying their economies through renewed collaborative efforts among public and private entities. Initially, the Framework focused on challenges with harvesting of old growth timber on the Tongass. Upon closer examination, it became clear that broadening the focus to natural resource management in general would be necessary given the breadth of challenges. It also became clear that considerable attention to strengthening the economy was needed.

To implement the Framework, USDA and USEDA formed an Implementation Team and established a two-year timeline. The team adopted a collaborative approach with the goals of increasing employment and improving community and ecosystem health in four areas: renewable energy, forest management, fisheries and mariculture, and tourism and recreation. The team recognized early that a significant investment in strengthening and building collaboration and partnerships was essential to success.

In September 2010, the Forest Service contracted the Juneau Economic Development Council to complete an economic development asset map and report that outlined the human, financial, institutional, and natural assets of Southeast Alaska. The report identifies many of the assets and barriers to economic development in the region. Assets include the abundance of natural beauty and recreational opportunities, cultural opportunities, safety, and availability of high-speed internet. Barriers include high freight, electricity, and real estate costs, government regulations, lack of transportation and infrastructure, limited collaboration, and limited education and workforce readiness.

JEDC used the report and map to develop an economic action plan for job creation in Southeast Alaska organized around four important economic sectors for the regional economy: Ocean Products, Visitor Services, Forest Products, and Renewable Energy. Economic cluster working groups generated the basis of the plan. More than 100 leaders from state, private, non-governmental, and federal organizations and groups have participated in this collaborative effort to date.

In May 2011, JEDC summarized over 30 major action initiatives developed by the cluster working groups. The report is available at: http://jedc.org/seclusterinitiative.php. The three USDA agencies and USEDA then identified those action initiatives that agency resources could support in the next two years. In particular, initiatives were selected that:

- align with USDA agency programs;
- cross agency boundaries; and
- have a high likelihood for success (especially in the near-term), are readily achievable, and create the greatest benefit within the limited resources available.

This USDA Investment Strategy for Southeast Alaska (hereafter Strategy) summarizes the work that has already been accomplished in support of these initiatives, outlines what the agencies intend to do in the next two years, and what additional work can be done if additional resources were available.

Why does USDA need to be involved in job growth?

Most of the land in Southeast Alaska is publicly owned. The Forest Service manages the 17 million acres of the Tongass National Forest, nearly 80% of the land base. Approximately 70,000 people reside in 32 towns and villages in Southeast Alaska, many of which are accessible only by boat or plane. Residents rely heavily on natural resource-based industries. Currently the fishing, tourism, and mining industries support the largest number of jobs.

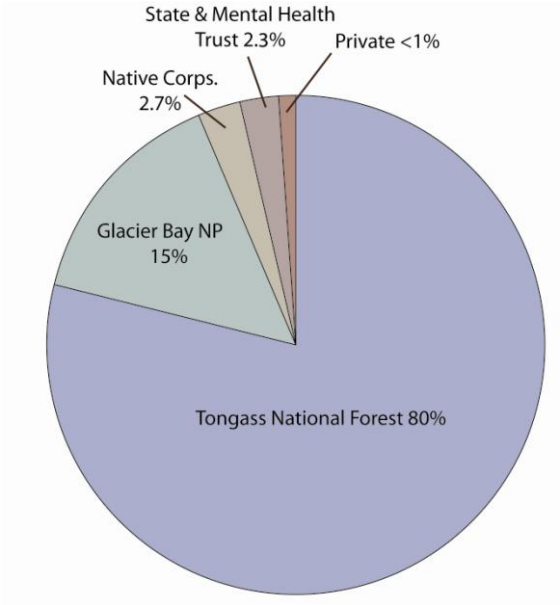


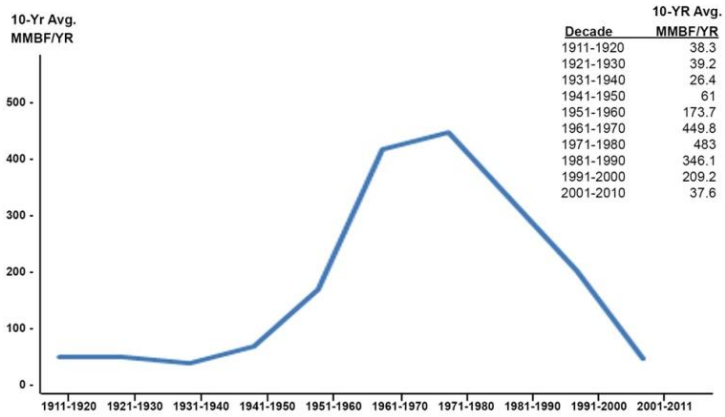
Figure 1. Landownership in Southeast Alaska

Today, communities in Southeast Alaska are facing rising energy costs, out-migration, and overall economic decline, not unlike rural areas in other parts of the U.S. Declines can be seen in economic indicators such as population, income, and youth as a proportion of population, all of which are indicators of community health.

Historically, the timber industry provided the backbone to stable economies. At its peak, jobs in the timber industry were comparable to the fishing industry. Today, timber jobs are at the lowest level in the last 50 years. With an ongoing decline in timber harvest, and renewed national interest in roadless area and old growth conservation, communities now face unprecedented economic challenges.

Research has shown that the region's population is aging more quickly than the rest of Alaska and the nation. From 2000 to 2009, the number of people between the ages of 55 to 69 increased by 60 percent, while every age group below age 49 decreased during the same time period. To reverse the downward trend in population, particularly with youth, local communities must have healthy economies, available housing, a reasonable cost of living, and job opportunities.

The decline in population is linked to the decline of the timber industry, manufacturing industries, fishing industry, and reduction in state and federal jobs. High fuel prices and increased costs of living have led many who live in smaller communities to migrate out. Young people are moving away and schools are closing. For some communities, the loss of even one family with children can mean that the local school enrollment falls below the minimum number required by the state for the school to remain open.



Decade	10-YR Avg. MMBF/YR
1911-1920	38.3
1921-1930	39.2
1931-1940	26.4
1941-1950	61
1951-1960	173.7
1961-1970	449.8
1971-1980	483
1981-1990	346.1
1991-2000	209.2
2001-2010	37.6

Figure 2. 100 Years of Timber Harvest from the Tongass National Forest

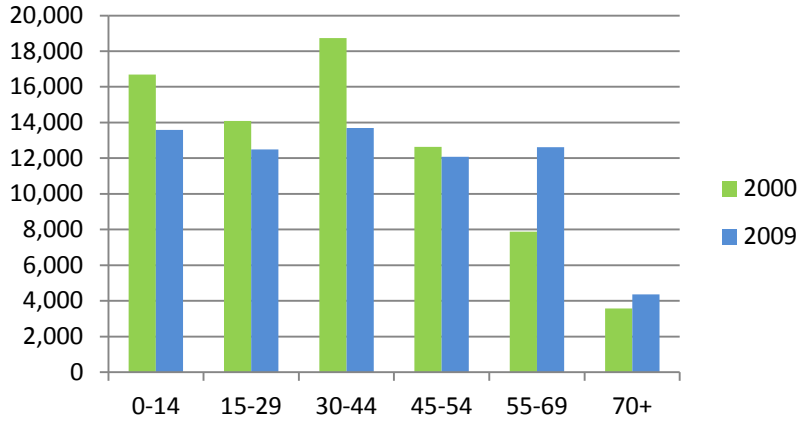


Figure 3. Changes in Population Based on Age

In spite of these overall trends, the region is rich in natural and cultural resources with healthy populations of salmon, healthy forests, and abundant wildlife populations. Animals thrive in Southeast Alaska that are rare elsewhere, such as brown bears, mountain goats, wolverines, bald eagles, black oystercatchers and trumpeter swans. Local community and Native connections to the region are strong and enduring. The vibrant people and communities create the foundation for a strong economy.

What is USDA and USEDA's role?

Creating jobs, growing the economy, and supporting healthy communities require an "all-hands-all-lands" approach in which USDA and USEDA are important partners. By increasing collaboration across agencies, we can leverage resources, support entrepreneurs, and facilitate people working together to create healthy communities and a healthy environment.

USDA and USEDA have a track record of supporting economic growth and healthy communities in Alaska by working with key business leaders, state, tribal, and local governments and communities. Individually, each of these four agencies has established programs and authorities that will help alleviate economic challenges in Southeast Alaska. By coordinating and implementing the variety of programs within this plan, we hope to decrease duplication and improve outcomes.

Revitalizing and maintaining community sustainability requires attention to the interrelation and interdependency of the region's economy, ecology, and culture. Now, more than ever, a collective focus is needed to improve the health of the 32 communities in Southeast Alaska. USDA agencies and USEDA are committed to providing the resources, leadership, and support necessary to support making this happen.

This Strategy marks an important milestone for as federal and state governments work with the people, industries, and communities of Southeast Alaska to support job creation and improve rural community health. Given this is the first interagency plan of its kind, periodic review and adjustments will be necessary.

Agency Programs

The agencies of the USDA and USEDA already have programs and authorities in place that allow them to respond to those "readily achievable" action initiatives defined by the cluster working groups. The Strategy and initiatives are also well aligned with Goal 1 of USDA's Strategic Plan for 2010-2015, which states, "The Department will provide on-the-ground support (financial, technical and planning assistance) for local multi-county, community-driven strategic plans." Below is a list of agencies involved in the Strategy for Southeast Alaska and their respective roles, programs, and authorities.

The **U.S. Forest Service** has a broad multiple-use management mission to meet the diverse needs of people. For example, providing wood fiber, water, minerals, and a place to hunt, fish, and enjoy wilderness are all within the mission. Through its State and Private Forestry branch, the Forest Service provides technical and financial assistance to state and private forest landowners. "The Principal Laws Relating to Forest Service State and Private Forestry Programs"[2] include:

- The Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act of 1978, as amended through 2008
- Economic Action and Rural Development Program authorities
- Forest Products Conservation and Recycling Program authorities
- Watershed Restoration and Enhancement (Wyden Amendment)
- Biomass Commercial Utilization Grant authorities
- Tribal Watershed Forestry Assistance authorities.

The scientists of the Pacific Northwest Research Station (PNW) develop and deliver knowledge and technology through decades of research which has encompassed climate change, forest health, fish and wildlife habitat, imperiled species, and the socio-economic importance of forests to people from every walk of life. The Sitka Wood Utilization Center, a sub-unit of PNW, provides local specialized expertise.

USDA Rural Development works in partnership with the private sector and community-based organizations on many fronts. In general, they provide loan guarantees, direct loans, and grants across a wide range of programs for community and economic development.

- The Business Program funds projects that create or preserve quality jobs and/or promote a clean rural environment.

- The Cooperative Program promotes an understanding and use of the cooperative form of business as a viable organizational option for marketing and distributing agricultural products.

- The Single Family Housing Programs and Multi-Family Housing Programs provide homeownership opportunities to low- and moderate-income rural Americans, the elderly, and persons with disabilities through several loan, grant, and loan guarantee programs. This is important in Southeast Alaska where the lack of affordable housing contributes to the decline in population. The funds may also be used to buy and improve land and to provide necessary facilities such as water and waste disposal systems.

- Community Programs provide loans and grants and loan guarantees for water and environmental projects such as water systems, waste systems, solid waste, and storm drainage facilities. Community Facility loans, loan guarantees, and grants also fund hospitals, fire protection, and safety, as well as many other community-based needs and initiatives.

[2] The full document can be found under "Southeast Alaska Economic Diversification Transition Framework" at http:/www.fs.usda.gov/r10.

- The Electric Programs provide leadership and capital to upgrade, expand, maintain, and replace rural electric infrastructure.

- Telecommunications Loans and Grants finance voice telephone service. The Broadband Access Loan program provides loans for funding the costs of construction, improvement, and acquisition of facilities to provide broadband service to eligible communities.

- Water and Environmental Programs provides loans, grants and loan guarantees for drinking water, sanitary sewer, solid waste and storm drainage facilities in rural areas and cities and towns of 10,000 or less.

The **Farm Service Agency** has a long-standing tradition of conserving the nation's natural resources through the Conservation Reserve Program. It provides farmers with a strong safety net through the administration of farm commodity programs. The agency provides credit to agricultural producers who are unable to receive private, commercial credit, with a special emphasis on providing loans to beginning, minority and women farmers and ranchers. While Southeast Alaska does not produce a lot of agricultural crops, FSA programs benefit entrepreneurs interesting in pursuing mariculture opportunities.

FSA administers the Biomass Crop Assistance Program[3] (BCAP) which provides financial assistance to owners and operators of agricultural and non-industrial private forest land who wish to establish, produce, and deliver biomass feedstocks. This program could help kick start the biomass industry in Southeast by investing additional funds to support development of a pellet manufacturing facility. Matching payments may be available for the delivery of eligible material to qualified biomass conversion facilities by eligible material owners. Qualified biomass conversion facilities produce heat, power, bio-based products, or advanced biofuels from biomass feedstocks.

The mission of the **U.S. Economic Development Administration** is to lead the federal economic development agenda by promoting innovation and competitiveness, preparing American regions for growth and success in the worldwide economy. USEDA is guided by the basic principle that distressed communities must be empowered to develop and implement their own economic development and revitalization strategies. USEDA assistance is available to rural and urban areas of the Nation experiencing high unemployment, low income, or other severe economic distress. They accomplish this by:

- Promoting business policies that help businesses and entrepreneurs and their communities grow and succeed.

- Promoting the Administration's National Export Initiative as well as attracting Foreign Direct Investment in the U.S.

- Focusing on research and development that moves quickly from the lab to the marketplace.

[3] http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/webapp?area=home&subject=ener&topic=bcap&utm_source=spotlight&utm_medium=click&utm_content=rotation2&utm_campaign=bcapeducation

Agency Investments in Support of Economic Growth

The Strategy highlights actions and programs that will: accomplish selected regional business cluster initiatives identified in the May 2011 JEDC report; improve community capacity and infrastructure; and leverage multiple agency programs and resources. The interagency leadership team recommends investment in the following three areas that cut across all economic sectors:

1. **Collaborative Working Groups—**The Forest Service will continue to support regional business sector working groups. The existing four groups (Ocean Products, Visitor Products, Forest Products, and Renewable Energy) are just beginning to operate with a high degree of enthusiasm. Continued facilitation and staff support is needed to help these groups be successful, and to potentially expand support to new clusters (estimated cost between $100,000 to $200,000/yr).

2. **Community Capacity—**This fall, USFS, RD, and private partners will launch a community level grant program similar to a Community Capacity and Land Stewardship program in Oregon and Washington. This small grant program provides critical community capacity seed money in such areas as supporting entrepreneurs to write business plans, helping communities hire facilitators for community planning, recreation and tourism planning or energy planning, and investments in community watershed stewardship groups ($100,000 – $200,000/yr.).

3. **Interagency Leadership—**The interagency leadership team has proven a valuable means to ensure federal, state, and private resources are leveraged as effectively as possible to facilitate economic investments. USDA and USEDA will continue to partner in regional and local collaborative efforts to promote a stronger economy, jobs, and healthy communities. While all these agencies do this work to varying degrees, maintaining an emphasis on interagency leadership will help Southeast Alaska communities thrive.

In addition to these three overarching strategies, initiatives selected by the USDA/USEDA Implementation team (those that are ripe for action), are listed below under the following economic sectors: Ocean Products, Visitor Services, Forest Products, and Renewable Energy. Each initiative includes background on the issue, the opportunity for action, and next steps. Many initiatives also include financial investment tables, which capture much of the agency funding in these industries over the past two years (FY10&11), the expected funding assuming continued budgets at approximately the current level (FY12&13), and recommendations for additional financial investment to accelerate growth in that sector.

This set of initiatives are an important starting point and are subject to change as collaborative groups invest more effort into them. As the business sector work groups continue to meet and develop new ideas, USDA partners plan to periodically update these action items.

Ocean Products

The ocean products industry is the largest private sector wage payer and second largest employer in Southeast Alaska. Fishing is not only an important economic driver for rural communities, but Southeast Alaskans are deeply connected to the ocean and seafood as a way of life. The Ocean Products Cluster Working Group identified 11 action initiatives to increase jobs and support healthy communities. The Implementation Team selected four initiatives that USDA can contribute to in the next two years.

INITIATIVE 1—Increase wild salmon production through habitat restoration.

Background: Many important salmon streams are in a degraded condition across the Tongass National Forest. Restoring degraded salmon streams will create immediate jobs in restoration, such as heavy equipment operation, and is expected to increase salmon productivity. An increase in salmon productivity would increase the opportunity for commercial, sport, and subsistence harvest as well as additional jobs in the fishing industry. In the past two years, including American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funding, the Forest Service has invested over $10 million in watershed restoration to improve degraded salmon habitat in the Tongass. Typically, the Tongass receives $1.5 million/year for these efforts. Over $100 million is needed to address the remaining watershed restoration work. At the current funding rate, it will take over 50 years to address the major problems affecting wild salmon production on the Tongass.

Watershed restoration project adds wood to stream to create fish habitat.

Action: Increase investments in watershed restoration to improve ecosystem and community health in Southeast Alaska. The Tongass National Forest proposes to triple the annual funding for watershed restoration to $4.6 million.

Lead agency: Forest Service

Table 2. **Summary of financial investments in watershed restoration across the Tongass National Forest that support Ocean Products Initiative 1. Investments are categorized into two year periods, and include past, projected and future investments needed to grow the sector.**

Tongass NF Investments in Increasing Wild Salmon Production through Watershed Restoration	Participants	Type of Investment	Investments Made FY10&FY11	Investments Planned FY12&FY13[4]	Recommended Funding to Increase Growth in FY12&FY13
Restoration of Priority Watersheds: Craig, Thorne Bay, Ketchikan, Wrangell, Sitka, Hoonah, Petersburg	TNC, USFS, SCS, TU, ADF&G	Whole watershed approach focused on salmon	$1,992,900	$1,225,000	$2,800,000
Fish-pass structure maintenance and enhancements at Thorne Bay, Admiralty NM, Yakutat, Hyder, Sitka, Petersburg, Craig	USFS, SCS	Older salmon passage structures deferred maintenance and reconstruction	$1,689,000	$700,000	$1,300,000
"Red" pipe removal and/or replacements, road maintenance, and storage Wrangell, Sitkoh River, Revilla, Kake, POW	USFS	Road and culvert deferred maintenance affecting water quality and salmon passage	$5,658,000	$678,000	$500,000
Riparian thinning and instream restoration at Staney Creek, Zarembo, Twelvemile, Sitkoh River, Saginaw	USFS, RAC, TNC, NFF, SCS, TU, State	Restoration of priority stream reaches to repair "hot spots"	$737,400	$625,000	$300,000
Salmon stock recolonization and enhancement: Ketchikan, Sitka, Wrangell	USFS	Projects to reestablish or strengthen salmon runs in restored watersheds	$540,000	$400,000	$150,000
Research to Evaluate Restoration Effectiveness - Implement the NetMap toolbox for the Tongass National Forest	USFS Research	To target stream reaches where restoration is appropriate and effective	$97,000	0	$250,000
Research to Evaluate Restoration Effectiveness - Conduct a vulnerability assessment of climate change impacts on freshwater spawning and rearing habitat	USFS Research	Assess impacts of climate change on salmon as relates to restoration	0	0	$75,000
Research to Evaluate Restoration Effectiveness - Develop monitoring indicators and protocol to assess the effectiveness of stream restoration	USFS Research	Required to implementing monitoring	0	0	$275,000
TOTAL			**$10,617,300**	**$3,628,000**	**$5,650,000**

USFS = Forest Service, TNC = The Nature Conservancy, SCS = Sitka Conservation Society, RAC = Resource Advisory Council, TU = Trout Unlimited, NFF = National Forest Foundation, State = State of Alaska, ADF&G = Alaska Department of Fish & Game.

[4] Investments planned with annual appropriations assuming budgets at similar levels.

INITIATIVE 2—Include the seafood industry in USDA programs.

Background: USDA has several programs designed to promote agriculture development, but the seafood industry often does not qualify for the economic assistance either because it is excluded or because of regulatory roadblocks. The Ocean Products cluster identified mariculture as a significant source of employment and economic opportunity in Southeast Alaska. Access to capital to make investments in this industry is critical to success and would allow this industry to get off the ground much more quickly.

Ocean products sector has the largest payroll in Southeast Alaska.

Action: Identify and promote ways to include mariculture development among the traditional USDA agriculture programs.

Lead agency: Farm Service Agency

INITIATIVE 3—Study the conversion of Southeast Alaska fish byproduct to biogas and fertilizer through anaerobic digestion.

Background: Commercial fishing provides millions in economic activity and thousands of jobs in Southeast Alaska. It also creates significant amounts of fish waste that is often dumped into the ocean, creating environmental problems near communities. Processing the currently underutilized resources could create economic opportunities and jobs in the region.

Action: Rural Development will consider funding projects that would convert fish waste to energy through their Business Loan Guarantee Program.

Lead agency: Rural Development

INITIATIVE 4—Strengthen the region-wide mariculture industry through zoning and support to entrepreneurs.

Background: Studies estimate that the mariculture industry could provide hundreds of jobs and $20-50 million of economic activity in Southeast Alaska. Mariculture could provide important jobs for small, struggling rural communities, but industry growth is dependent on federal program support to local entrepreneurs as well as acceptable areas for farm sites. To date, FSA has lent approximately $450,000 to oyster farmers in the region.

Action: Improve collaboration among state and federal agencies, and the public, to increase loans to the mariculture industry. Identify acceptable areas for mariculture development through public planning and agency coordination.

Lead agency: Farm Service Agency

Table 3. **Summary of financial investments in mariculture across Southeast Alaska that support Ocean Products Initiative 4. Investments are categorized into two year periods, and include past, projected and future investments needed to grow the industry.**

USDA Investments in Support of Mariculture in Southeast Alaska	Participants	Type of Investment	Investments Made FY10&FY11	Investments Planned FY12&FY13[5]	Recommended Funding to Increase Growth in FY12&FY13
Loans to oyster farmers	FSA	Mariculture Entrepreneurship	$450,000	*	*
Community facilities to support mariculture industry; Geoduck nursery and mariculture technical assistance Ketchikan, Kake, Southeast Alaska	RD Enterprise Grant, USEDA	Mariculture Entrepreneurship	$2,099,956	$500,000	*
Development of oyster-towers best practices manual	RD Enterprise Grant	Mariculture Entrepreneurship	$29,500	*	*
Dock renovations, seaport revitalization, Petersburg, Kake, Saxman	USEDA	Seaport Community Infrastructure	$4,628,800	$2,000,000	*
TOTAL			**$7,208,256**	**$2,500,000**	*

FSA = Farm Service Agency, RD = Rural Development, USEDA = Economic Development Administration

* Until FSA, RD, & DOC receive loan applications, it will be difficult to anticipate needed funds.

Restoration of streams on the Tongass National Forest boosts salmon populations.

[5] Investments planned with annual appropriations assuming budgets at similar levels.

ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Traditionally, USEDA and RD have provided infrastructure support to the ocean products industry. Over $7 million in financing to build docks, vessels, and housing has been provided in the past two years. Applicants have indicated the need for about $2 million over the next two years. This amount could greatly increase as growth opportunities develop.

Table 4. **Summary of additional opportunities for investment in the ocean products industry in Southeast Alaska. Investments are categorized into two year periods, and include past, projected and future investments needed to grow the industry.**

USDA Investments in Support of Ocean Products Southeast Alaska	Participants	Type of Investment	Investments Made FY10&FY11	Investments Planned FY12&FY13[6]	Recommended Funding to Increase Growth in FY12&FY13
New fishing vessel construction, Petersburg	RD loan guarantee	Fishing Vessel Entrepreneurship	$1,100,000	*	*
Total			**$1,100,000**	*	*

RD = Rural Development

* Until FSA, RD, & USEDA receive grant or loan applications, it will be difficult to anticipate needed funds.

[6] Investments planned with annual appropriations assuming budgets at similar levels.

Visitor Products

The visitor industry is the largest private sector employer (5,689 jobs in 2009) in Southeast, accounting for 15% of all regional employment, and 10% of all regional wages. Tourism has been the fastest growing industry in Southeast Alaska for the last decade.

The Visitor Products Cluster Working Group identified five action initiatives to increase jobs and support healthy communities. The USDA/USEDA implementation team selected three of these initiatives to focus on in the next two years.

INITIATIVE 1—Develop multi-purpose, multi-community land and water trails and support facilities.

Background: Southeast Alaska is a world class recreation and tourism destination. Juneau and Sitka have greatly expanded their community trail systems through partnerships with Sitka Trail Works and Juneau Trail Mix. These trail networks have become very popular with the locals and tourists by allowing visitors to enjoy both the outdoors and the amenities available in local communities. This approach could be expanded through the region creating a new niche for Southeast visitors.

Action: Increase independent travelers to Southeast Alaska through improved public awareness about community trail systems; expanded infrastructure development, particularly trail and cabin infrastructure improvements to provide a broad range of accessible visitor experiences; and increased collaboration with SEAtrails, a regional non-profit focused on supporting community trails. The Tongass National Forest has requested a significant increase in funding for multi-community trail projects and young growth cabin developments.

Lead Agency: Forest Service

New concrete stairs connects two trails and improves access at the Mendenhall Glacier Visitor Center in Juneau.

Table 5. **Summary of financial investments in infrastructure across Southeast Alaska that support Visitor Products Initiative 1. Investments are categorized into two-year periods, and include past, projected and future investments needed to grow the industry.**

Infrastructure Investments in Support of Visitor Products in Southeast Alaska	Participants	Type of Investment	Investments Made FY10&FY11	Investments Planned FY12&FY13[7]	Recommended Funding to Increase Growth in FY12&FY13
Multi-community trails Projects	USFS, Sitka Trail Works, Juneau Trail Mix, State, Multiple Community Partners	Increase independent travelers & improve community trails	$9,126,200	$514,600	$4,500,000
Construct young growth cabins and shelters associated with community trail systems	USFS, Sitka Trail Works, Juneau Trail Mix, Prince of Wales, University of Alaska, Multiple Community Partners	Increase number of independent travelers by providing hut to hut trails connected to communities	$350,000	$150,000	$600,000
Young growth cabin groups in community campgrounds	USFS, Sitka Trail Works, Juneau Trail Mix, Ketchikan, Multiple Community Partners	Increase number of independent travelers; road accessible mini-cabins in existing campgrounds	0	0	$450,000
Research to enhance development of multi-community trails and infrastructure to promote independent traveler industry	USFS Research, Partners	Analyze characteristics and features of successful multi-community linked recreation systems	0	0	$125,000
Cabins: survey design, construct, replace, maintain at Admiralty National Monument, Hoonah, Ketchikan, Sitka, Wrangell, Juneau	USFS, Friends of Tongass Cabins	Deferred Maintenance and Reconstruction	$2,017,100	$786,800	*See young growth cabins under #1
Total			**$11,493,300**	**$1,452,400**	**$5,675,000**

USFS = Forest Service

INITIATIVE 2—Increase guided access to public land.

Background: The demand for guided recreation tours exceeds available permits on the Tongass National Forest. Increasing guided access to public land will promote economic opportunity and job growth, while maintaining a quality outdoors experience for visitors.

Action: Improve coordination and communication between the outfitter and guide industry and the USFS to increase access. The USFS will hold both pre- and post-season meetings to identify opportunities for additional use, potentially by adjusting schedules among operators; use post-season meetings to evaluate season and consider adjustments; and evaluate ways to improve decision-maker flexibility in allocations through NEPA documents. The Tongass National Forest has requested $150,000 to improve decision-making flexibility in commercial permitting.

[7] Investments planned with annual appropriations assuming budgets at similar levels.

Lead Agency: Forest Service

***Table 6*. Summary of financial investments to increase guided access to public lands through improved permitting, supporting Visitor Products Initiative 2. Investments are categorized into two-year periods, and include past, projected and future investments needed to grow the industry.**

Investments to Increase Guided Access on the Tongass National Forest	Participants	Type of Investment	Investments Made FY10&FY11	Investments Planned FY12&FY13[8]	Recommended Funding to Increase Growth in FY12&FY13
Evaluate ways to improve decision-maker flexibility in allocating commercial use in NEPA decisions documents	USFS, Research, Partners	Increase guided public access to the Tongass	0	0	$150,000

USFS = Forest Service

A new elevated walkway at Mendenhall Glacier will improve visitor services for the 400,000 visitors per year.

[8] Investments planned with annual appropriations assuming budgets at similar levels.

INITIATIVE 3—Strengthen accountability for Tongass access fees.

Background: The Tongass National Forest collects over $2 million per year in recreation user fees, which are used to operate and maintain the facilities where the fees were collected. They are also used to administer commercial outfitter and guide permits and to operate and maintain facilities used by these groups. The fees are currently allocated to projects annually by a fee board of Tongass employees. Public understanding of how these fees are spent and accounted for is limited.

Action: To strengthen accountability for how access fees are used, the Tongass National Forest will involve representatives of the outfitter and guide industry, cabin users, and others in the fee allocations process as well as develop better ways to inform the public about how fees are used.

Lead Agency: Forest Service

ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

In addition to the above priorities, USDA and other agencies have several existing grant and loan programs that can support visitor products industries. For example:

- The Farm Service Agency has a new Voluntary Public Access and Habitat Incentive Program (VPA-HIP)[9], the primary objective of which is to encourage owners and operators of privately-held farm, ranch, and forest land to voluntarily make that land available for access by the public for wildlife-dependent recreation, including hunting or fishing, under programs implemented by state or tribal governments. VPA-HIP is a competitive grants program authorized under Section 1240R of the Food Security Act of 1985, as amended, and is only available for states and tribal governments. Up to $50 million is available through fiscal year 2012. FSA will work with tribal government and the states to encourage participation in this program.

Improving and investing in infrastructure essential to the visitor products industry will help maintain and potentially grow this economic sector. The Forest Service has identified over $2 million in additional funding initiatives in FY12-13 in infrastructure and community initiatives. For example:

- The Tongass National Forest may be able to increase its visitor use, but the funding for the necessary research to manage this growth while sustaining and protecting ecosystems, riparian areas, and wildlife habitat is inadequate. Additional funding could allow increased capacity and, therefore, industry growth.

- The Mendenhall Glacier Visitor Center in Juneau, the Discovery Visitor Center in Ketchikan and the many bear viewing wildlife areas on the Tongass are a major part of many visitors' itineraries when they visit Southeast Alaska. The Forest Service will invest in deferred maintenance and safety upgrades at these facilities, which will improve the quality of experience for visitors.

[9] http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/newsReleases?area=newsroom&subject=landing&topic=pfs&newstype=prfactsheet&type=detail&item=pf_20100708_consv_en_vpa_hip.html

***Table 7*. Summary of additional financial investments in infrastructure, maintenance, and research to support the visitor products industry across Southeast Alaska. Investments are categorized into two-year periods, and include past, projected and future investments needed to grow the industry.**

Other Investments in Support of Visitor Products in Southeast Alaska	Participants	Type of Investment	Investments Made FY10&FY11	Investments Planned FY12&FY13[10]	Recommended Funding to Increase Growth in FY12&FY13
Sustainable Recreation & Tourism Community Initiatives	USFS, City, State, Tribal, Tourism Partners	Community collaborative partnerships to support development of recreation and tourism programs and facilities	$147,900	$200,000	$225,000
Research to evaluate effectiveness of the community collaborative partnerships	USFS Research, Collaborative groups in Sitka, Wrangell, Yakutat, Juneau, Hoonah	Improve community collaborative recreation and tourism partnerships	0	0	$150,000
Visitor Center repairs and upgrades at Mendenhall Glacier Visitor Center in Juneau and Southeast Alaska Discovery Center in Ketchikan	USFS	Deferred maintenance	$2,958,400	$175,000	$800,000
Wildlife Viewing Area Maintenance - Pack Cr, Anan, Dog Salmon, Fish Cr and Margaret Cr Bear Viewing Areas	USFS, Alaska Dept. Fish & Game	Deferred maintenance and public safety improvements	$193,000	$85,000	$1,370,000
TOTAL			**$3,299,300**	**$460,000**	**$2,545,000**

USFS = Forest Service

Anan Creek Bear Viewing Platform.

[10] Investments planned with annual appropriations assuming budgets at similar levels.

While the visitor and ocean products industries are primary economic drivers in Southeast Alaska, the forest products industry remains economically and culturally significant. The Forest Products Cluster Working Group identified nine action initiatives to improve the economic viability of rural communities through investments in the forest products industry. The USDA implementation team selected five of these for initial focus.

INITIATIVE 1—Use young growth wood for cabin and recreational structures.

Starrigavan Creek Cabin made from young growth timber thinned to improve salmon habitat near Sitka. The cabin is heavily used by visitors.

Background: As part of the Transition Framework, the Tongass National Forest has committed to transitioning into young growth timber harvest as quickly as possible. Creating local markets and incentives for young growth timber will be necessary to facilitate this transition. Currently, the Forest Service, Rural Development, the City of Sitka and partners are working on a model example of utilizing local wood in the Sitka 3 to 5 School.

Action: Promote and facilitate the use of young growth timber in Southeast Alaska by demonstrating the product's value through investments in recreation projects; grading the lumber (allowing homes built with young growth to qualify for bank financing); and providing research information to support the utility of young growth wood. To achieve this goal, the Tongass National Forest committed to:

- Working with the industry and District Rangers on Prince of Wales Island to identify a young-growth cabin demonstration project that utilizes processed material and to prioritize funding for the milling and construction.
- Performing a mill study on young growth milling.
- Requesting an additional $1 million dollars in funding to construct young growth cabins in high visibility campgrounds (see Visitor Services actions).
- Working with the State of Alaska to make certified lumber grading personnel available in Southeast Alaska, expanding potential markets for value-added products.
- Making the Ketchikan Wood Technology Center's young growth structural analysis data available to the Initiative's Team in partnership with USFS research (PNW).

Lead Agency: Forest Service

Table 8. **Summary of financial investments to promote the use of young growth forest products in Southeast Alaska, supporting Forest Products Initiative 1. Investments are categorized into two year periods, and include past, projected and future investments needed to grow the industry.**

Investments to Promote Young Growth Forest Products in Southeast Alaska	Participants	Type of Investment	Investments Made FY10&FY11	Investments Planned FY12&FY13[11]	Recommended Funding to Increase Growth in FY12&FY13
Construct pre-school from second growth wood - Sitka	RD, USFS, Private Donations, Community Partners	Demonstration of use of second growth in large commercial facility	Donated staff and community partnership group	$1,100,000	0
Complete analysis and publish mechanical properties of young-growth data set	USFS Research, Contractor	Testing was completed prior to closure of Ketchikan Wood Technology Center (contract with lead researcher to complete)	0	0	$50,000
Young growth cabin demonstration projects	USFS, University of Alaska, Alaska Cooperative Extension, Friends of Tongass Cabins	Demonstration of use of Young Growth Timber and implement training program with University	$320,000	$150,000	$150,000
Construct traditional Alaska Native smoke houses	Tribes, USFS	Provide Smoke Houses to Tribes and Stimulate Interest in Alaska Value Added Products	$15,000	$15,000	$75,000
TOTAL			**$335,000**	**$1,265,000**	**$275,000**

USFS = Forest Service, RD = Rural Development

INITIATIVE 2—Simplify small timber sale process to allow small mills on Prince of Wales Island to operate more efficiently, economically, and with more consistent timber supply.

Background: Prince of Wales Island is home to over a dozen small timber mills, many of which are struggling to operate as efficiently and economically as possible. Challenges include a complicated and often cumbersome process to bid on small sales, and a perceived lack of a fair and level playing field between export and domestic processing bidders on timber sales.

Action: Provide small mill operators a more efficient, economical and stable wood supply. The working group identified seven specific steps (i.e., simplifying the small sale process to make it less cumbersome and creating a sort yard) that will help achieve this goal. If challenges with the small sale program are improved on Prince of Wales, the results could be utilized across the Tongass National Forest, similar to the Micro Sales Program expansion beyond Prince of Wales. The Tongass National Forest committed to meeting with small mill owners to further refine their needs, and to coordinate with the Alaska Regional Office to improve the program.

Lead Agency: Forest Service

[11] Investments planned with annual appropriations assuming budgets at similar levels.

INITIATIVE 3—Improve Tongass timber planning processes to provide more consistent supply

Background: The working group identified several key challenges with the Tongass timber sale program, including delivery of timber sales, special use permit processes, and the agency's ability to accept partner funds. The group recommended 10 ten steps to improve timber supply to local mills (i.e., tracking spreadsheets and accountability for product delivery), all of which are internal to the Forest Service.

Action: Provide a more predictable and consistent supply of timber (old or young growth) so the forest products industry can make appropriate investments to maintain and create jobs. The Tongass timber staff has committed to each action item to address product delivery. The staff will establish a tracking mechanism for review by the Forest Leadership Team so that product delivery issues can be identified and corrective action taken.

Lead Agency: Forest Service

INITIATIVE 4—Where feasible, substitute woody biomass for diesel to meet energy needs of Southeast Alaska.

Background: Many rural communities in Southeast Alaska are faced with increasingly expensive energy. Reducing energy costs by substituting woody biomass for diesel could both help rural communities and improve ecosystem health, particularly if the source of the wood energy is the byproduct of restoration treatments. Sealaska Corporation in Juneau recently converted to wood energy and has demonstrated significant cost savings. The Forest Service is also exploring conversion of public buildings, proposing over $20 million in investment. Challenges include ensuring a wood supply, demand, technical assistance to entrepreneurs, and financing.

Action: To catalyze the use of woody biomass in Southeast Alaska, the Forest Service and Rural Development are partnering on the following:

- Rural Development will work closely with the Goose Creek Biofuels Cooperative on Prince of Wales Island to assist in applying for and securing financing through grants and loans. The Cooperative has written a business plan for developing a local pellet production facility.

- The Thorne Bay Ranger District will work on a potential stewardship agreement to make waste wood from old landing sites available to an entrepreneur.

- The Tongass National Forest will approach Southeast Conference about sponsoring the development of a biomass energy plan for Southeast Alaska, as well as work with USDA counterparts to leverage federal funding for implementation of such a plan.

- State and Private Forestry will provide technical assistance to local entrepreneurs as needed.

Table 9. **Summary of financial investments that support Forest Products Initiative 4, catalyzing the use of woody biomass in Southeast Alaska. Investments are categorized into two year periods, and include past, projected and future investments needed to grow the industry.**

USDA Investments in Support of Woody Biomass Southeast Alaska	Participants	Type of Investment	Investments Made FY10&FY11	Investments Planned FY12&FY13[12]	Recommended Funding to Increase Growth in FY12&FY13
Biomass development planning and coordination	USFS	Fund position and jump start Forest Product Lab Wood Energy Grants Program and consultant funding to provide technical assistance	$605,000	$326,000	0
JEDC wood products development service and Alaska Wood Energy Development Task Group	RD, JEDC, USFS (S&PF, TNF, Research)	Grants, cooperative agreements, joint venture agreements, contracts for services	$280,000	$276,000	0
Construct pellet production plant on Prince of Wales Island	RD, State AEA, USFS	Utilize wood waste and reduce reliance on oil. Grants, loans; 10-year biomass contract; private investment(s)	0	0	$6,500,000 [13]
Complete a wood energy					
Total			**$885,000**	**$602,000**	**$6,500,000**

USFS = Forest Service, RD = Rural Development, S&PF = State and Private Forestry, JEDC = Juneau Economic Development Council, AEA = Alaska Energy Authority, FSA = Farm Service Agency

INITIATIVE 5—Conduct a timber base analysis to determine the volume of young growth for sustaining and strengthening the forest industry in Southeast Alaska.

Background: The ability to shift the Tongass timber sale program to a program predominately focused on young growth requires a detailed and accurate understanding of the volume of young growth throughout the region. This young growth analysis would broaden existing research being conducted by the Tongass National Forest to include all young growth stands in Southeast Alaska to support the total industry, regardless of ownership.

Action: Develop an accurate analysis of young growth availability, which will provide the local forest products industry a more predictable program of work to make investments. The analysis will include harvest scheduling and growth and yield modeling to determine levels of wood products available from a variety of management approaches.

Lead Agency: Forest Service

[12] Investments planned with annual appropriations assuming budgets at similar levels.
[13] See Appendix B for details of Pellet Production Plant.

Table 10. **Summary of financial investments in young growth research, supporting Forest Products Initiative 5. Investments are categorized into two year periods, and include past, projected and future investments needed to expand the research.**

USDA Investments in Support of Young Growth Research in Southeast Alaska	Participants	Type of Investment	Investments Made FY10&FY11	Investments Planned FY12&FY13[14]	Recommended Funding to Increase Growth in FY12&FY13
All lands young-growth scenario analysis for in Southeast Alaska	USFS Research, Partners	Provides needed data on young growth industry potential in SE	$25,000	$50,000	$250,000

ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Continued investment in old growth timber supply at the current levels is needed during this transition period. Increased funding to support second growth timber harvest is needed.

Pellets made in Alaska from native species.

[14] Investments planned with annual appropriations assuming budgets at similar levels.

Table 11. **Summary of additional financial investments in the forest products industry. Investments are categorized into two year periods, and include past, projected and future investments needed to maintain the industry and increase young growth supply.**

USDA Investments in Support of Forest Products Southeast Alaska	Participants	Type of Investment	Investments Made FY10&FY11	Investments Planned FY12&FY13[15]	Recommended Funding to Increase Growth in FY12&FY13
Timber supply to maintain existing industry: Wrangell Island EIS; Big Thorne EIS (Luck Lake/Eagle); Tonka EIS; Saddle Lakes EIS; Zarembo EIS; Thomas Bay EIS; Naukati EIS	USFS	Maintains current industry of 200 jobs, existing mills, etc. Additional funds needed to identify outyear supply	$19,900,000	$20,750,000	$5,000,000
Young growth timber supply: Kosciusko EA; Heceta EA; Tuxekan EA; Dargon Point CE; Winter Harbor 2 EA; Shrimp Bay EIS; Thomas Bay EIS; Vank Island EA	USFS	Integrated thinning projects to improve wildlife habitat	0	$500,000	$3,500,000
Stewardship pilot projects: Central Kupreanof; Big Thorne EIS (Ratz); Peril Strait	USFS	Integrated projects to accomplish multiple resource objectives. Additional funding needed to implement service contracts	$2,500,000	$1,800,000	$2,000,000
Alaska young growth marketing research	USFS Research	Determine consumer reaction to value-added Alaska young growth wood	0	0	$150,000
Alaska young growth volume tables for biomass, traditional, & specialty products	USFS Research	Support to industry to better estimate young growth product potential	0	0	$50,000
Product grade recovery studies	USFS Research	Gain understanding of value added products recoverable from young-growth material of various ages and sizes	0	0	$450,000
Young growth harvest schedule plan; YG out into the future using the FPS Model combined with the latest YG inventory data for each district would provide the information needed to schedule out YG projects	USFS, Research	Provides ranger districts specific information about young growth stands that may be scheduled for harvest using FPS model	0	0	$100,000
Total			**$22,400,000**	**$23,050,000**	**$11,250,000**

[15] Investments planned with annual appropriations assuming budgets at similar levels.

Renewable Energy

High energy costs are a large deterrent to economic growth in the communities of Southeast Alaska. The Renewable Energy Cluster Working Group identified one action initiative that is likely to receive funding in the next two years.

INITIATIVE 1—Biomass Energy Demand Development

Background: FSA administers the **Biomass Crop Assistance Program**[16] (BCAP), which provides financial assistance to owners and operators of agricultural and non-industrial private forest land who wish to establish, produce, and deliver biomass feedstocks. Matching payments may be available for the delivery of eligible material to qualified biomass conversion facilities by eligible material owners. Qualified biomass conversion facilities produce heat, power, bio-based products, or advanced biofuels from biomass feedstocks.

Action: Encouraging utilization of the BCAP program to help kick start the biomass industry in Southeast by investing additional funds that could support development of a pellet manufacturing facility.

Lead Agency: Rural Development

Wood chip boiler.

[16] http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/webapp?area=home&subject=ener&topic=bcap&utm_source=spotlight&utm_medium=click&utm_content=rotation2&utm_campaign=bcapeducation

Table 12. **Summary of financial investments in renewable energy. Investments are categorized into two-year periods, and include past, projected and future investments needed to grow the industry.**

USDA Investments in Support of Renewable Energy Southeast Alaska	Participants	Type of Investment	Investments Made FY10&FY11	Investments Planned FY12&FY13[17]	Recommended Funding to Increase Growth in FY12&FY13
Authorization for Swan-Tyee Intertie and investigative permits for 5 hydro projects; Pre-licensing documents and filed detailed comments on 6 FERC hydro projects; ongoing review of 13 FERC projects; ongoing work with Tenakee Springs and Little Port Walter hydro projects (non-FERC); NEPA and special use authorization for Whitman lake; finalize post-licensing plans; finalize post-licensing documents and plans for Blue Lake hydro; Monitoring and inspection of Whitman and Blue Lake hydro construction	USFS	Renewable Hydropower	$184,000	$183,000	$260,000
Ongoing review, permitting for Neka, Bell Island geothermal projects and Tenakee Inlet study.	USFS	Geothermal	0	$25,000	$25,000
Established and filled Energy Coordinator position.	USFS	Renewable Energy	$310,000	$320,000	0
Partnering/assisting diesel-dependent community with a small hydro project that is exempt from FERC licensing—perhaps Elfin Cove (permits, NEPA, FERC exemption). Also partnering/assisting diesel-dependent community to identify a feasible energy project.	USFS,RD	USFS lead on NEPA; USDA assists commun-ities with grants/ loan ($275,000 per community for planning)	0	0	$550,000
Convert 6 USFS Administrative Offices from Oil to Biomass	USFS	Creates demand for wood waste, reduces heating cost	$1,100,000	0	$2,450,000
Biomass Heating Conversion from Oil through Grants and Loans	RD, FSA, USFS	Create demand for 10,000 tons per year of pellets and replace 1,000,000 gallons per year of fuel oil	$650,000	$200,000	$20,000,000
Assessment of Tongass Plan to evaluate energy development barriers, including potential modifications to Forest Plan; complete after SE IRP report	USFS	Energy Planning	0	0	$70,000
Total			**$2,244,000**	**$728,000**	**$23,355,000**

USFS = Forest Service, RD = Rural Development, FSA = Farm Service Agency

[17] Investments planned with annual appropriations assuming budgets at similar levels.

How do we measure success?

Given the prevalence of public land in Southeast Alaska, improving rural community health in the region requires the deliberate linking of natural resource management agencies (i.e., USFS, State of Alaska), government service providers (RD, FSA, and others), communities, and local economic development networks. The asset mapping project has helped to create this link, and involved the public and business leaders in identifying opportunities that further the social and economic well-being of communities in Southeast Alaska. The economic cluster working groups identified numerous action initiatives that have the potential to increase prosperity, create jobs, and expand the visitor, ocean, and forest products industries. Suggestions included upgrades in infrastructure, improvements in fish and wildlife habitat, and construction of new facilities to produce and use renewable energy and biofuels. These projects and investments all have the potential to preserve the way and quality of life in rural Alaska while protecting the environment, creating higher skill and higher wage jobs, and raising income levels.

In spite of the benefits of the cluster groups and collaboration to date, the impacts of this investment strategy with respect to regional prosperity will take time to realize, and will likely be difficult to attribute to any one cause. Additionally, measures of success will be different depending on whether they are tied to a specific action initiative, or to the overall effort to improve ecological and community health in the region. Measures of success are also likely to vary by local community interests and needs. That being said, potential measures of success could include:

- Community groups develop plans of facilitating job creation and retention, and business expansion and development.
- Community groups secure additional resources/investments through Rural Development, NRCS, FSA and other public and private entities.
- Increased partnership across business sectors, government and communities.
- Increased capacity of rural entrepreneurs to access financial capital and technical assistance.
- Economic cluster groups are meeting on a regular basis. Cluster working groups have refined action plans and are moving forward with support of one or more projects.
- Community initiatives are linked and build on each other, lessons transferred, within and across communities.
- Creation of new jobs–full-time, part-time, seasonal.
- Increases in Southeast Alaska wages, income, population, and businesses.

Continued work with the cluster working groups will help to identify more opportunities, and develop collective visions for success. Additionally, the implementation team has created a work group that will identify more specific metrics of success, which will be used to monitor progress.

What are important next steps?

This Strategy reflects a new direction among USDA agencies in Southeast Alaska. This is the first time that these agencies have taken the results of a cluster work group process and begun to align USDA programs and priorities in support of the business community. It is, after all, the private sector and its entrepreneurial spirit that will create jobs and a vibrant economy in Southeast Alaska.

This document is the first attempt to identify resources to support the initiatives of the cluster groups. The cluster groups continue to meet and create new ideas and approaches to implement these initiatives. Likewise, USDA programs and funding will change. Thus, it is important to view this document as a snapshot of this moment in time and to expect to revisit and revise on a regular basis.
Collaboration among federal, state, and local governments, tribes, non-governmental organizations, and key businesses are essential to success. This is particularly true in Southeast Alaska where most of the land and resources are managed by the federal government. For example, mariculture development may require permits from the state for activities below mean high tide and permits from the Forest Service for activities above mean high tide. Obtaining such permits can be an onerous process, particularly if agencies are not working together.

Perhaps one of the most important next steps is recognition of the need to "connect the dots," linking communities, businesses, resource management agencies, and service providers to facilitate community sustainability, job creation, and rural wealth creation. Perhaps through this effort unexpected connections will emerge that will result in new possibilities and opportunities. In light of the current overall global economic conditions, this may be our best path to a brighter future in Southeast Alaska.

Important next steps include:

- Strengthening the relationships between agencies and organizations that control access to resources.
- Continuing interagency funding in support of business cluster work groups.
- Supporting entrepreneurs and communities to build capacity to implement initiatives through grants.
- Investigating ways to elevate and sustain agency support of cluster initiatives.
- Conducting an annual review of accomplishments, successes, and failures.
- Updating the USDA investment strategy on an annual basis.
- Telling the story, particularly as successes emerge.

Appendix A: Tongass Transition – RD Projects Funded in Southeast Alaska in 2010

Compiled September 28, 2010

Community	Borrower/ Applicant Name	Award Date	Agency-Program	Direct Loan Amount	Guaranteed Loan Amount	Grant Amount	Description
Wrangell	Wrangell Medical Center	new	RD-Community Facilities	$19,500,000			Construct a new hospital for the community
Ketchikan	Ketchikan Indian Corporation	new	RD-Tribal Affairs			$200,000	Purchase equipment for new Vocational-Technical School
Petersburg	City of Petersburg	new	RD-Community Facilities			$200,000	Construct and furnish new energy efficient public library
Wrangell	City of Wrangell	new	RD-Community Facilities			$67,000	Purchase automation equipment for the Public Library
Regionwide	Juneau Economic Development Council	new	USFS			$240,000	Asset mapping and regional economic planning
Wrangell	Wrangell Medical Center	new	RD-Community Facilities			$100,000	Purchase greenhouse/community garden/farmer's market
Regionwide	Juneau Economic Development Council	Sep-10	RD-Rural Business Enterprise Grant			$99,837	Woody biomass technical assistance project
Petersburg	Alaska Sustainable Wild Seafood	Aug-10	RD-Renewable Energy America Program			$20,000	Energy efficiency improvements to fishing vessel
Yakutat	Yakutat Tlingit Tribe	Jul-10	RD-Community Facilities			$250,000	Construct Community Center
Sitka	Sitka Counseling and Prevention Services	Aug-10	RD-Community Facilities	$1,256,000			Purchase leased building
Ketchikan	Ketchikan Gateway Borough	Aug-10	RD-Community Facilities			$18,000	North Tongass VFD paving of driveway
Sitka	Sheldon Jackson Child Care Center	Aug-10	RD-Community Facilities	$500,000			Purchase existing Child Care Center
Juneau	RH Rentals	Jul-10	RD-Business & Industry Loan Guarantee		$570,000		New multi-use property with apartments and self storage
Regionwide	Southeast Region EMS	Aug-10	RD-Community Facilities			$56,000	EMS equipment and vehicles
Juneau	Alaska Shellfish Growers Association	Jun-10	RD-Rural Business Enterprise Grant			$29,500	Development of an oyster-growers best practices manual
Sitka	Talon Lodge, LLC	Jun-10	RD-Business & Industry Loan Guarantee		$1,840,000		Working capital and debt restructure
Kake	Rural Community Assistance Corp.	Jun-10	RD-Rural Business Enterprise Grant		$99,956		Geoduck nursery and mariculture technical assistance
Metlakatla	Metlakatla Indian Community Housing Authority	Jun-10	RD-Housing Preservation Grant			$53,605	Repair and weatherize 10 elder homes

Juneau	Vision Alaska II LLC	May-10	RD-Business & Industry Loan Guarantee		$1,111,111		Purchase of existing television station
Juneau	R&S Rentals	Apr-10	RD-Business & Industry Loan Guarantee		$1,161,500		New multi-use property with apartments and self storage
Ketchikan	Ketchikan Gateway Borough	Apr-10	RD-Rural Business Enterprise Grant			$99,000	Establish a revolving loan fund
Petersburg	FV Redemption, LLC	Apr-10	RD-Business & Industry Loan Guarantee		$1,100,000		New fishing vessel construction
Total Funded CP/BP	$21,256,000	$5,782,611	$3,238,698	Community and Business Programs - $30,277,309			
Single Family Housing Loans				$4,477,858	$4,046,358	$7,500	
Mutli-Family Housing Rent Subsidies						$1,623,028	Housing Programs - $10,154,742
Grand Total Program-Wide 2010 for Southeast Alaska				**$25,733,856**	**$9,828,969**	**$4,869,226**	**$40,432,051**

Appendix B. Parameters of Sustainable Pellet Manufacturing Plant in Southeast Alaska

By Daniel Parrent, State & Private Forestry

For this discussion—the viability of as sustainable pellet manufacturing plant in Southeast Alaska, it is assumed that:

1. The desired outcome is the installation and operation of a sustainable (i.e., profitable) pellet manufacturing plant(s) in Southeast Alaska.

2. The average green wood moisture content, including sawmill residuals, will be approximately 50%, and that one ton of green feedstock will produce approximately 1,000 pounds of pellets. (NOTE: an additional quantity of wood (20 to 30 percent) will be required as fuel for a feedstock dryer.)

SCALE

What is a sustainable pellet manufacturing plant? Some contend that, at a minimum, a pellet plant would have to produce 25 to 30 thousand tons of pellets annually to be viable. Under certain circumstances, that may be true. However, circumstances in Southeast Alaska are not necessarily the same as those found in the Lower 48. Given Alaska's higher manufacturing, utility, labor and transportation costs, it is unlikely that an Alaska pellet manufacturer would be able to compete with Continental U.S. and Canadian producers in North American, European or Asian markets. The home for Alaska-made pellets is Alaska.

A viable pellet manufacturing operation in Southeast Alaska would have to produce a minimum of 10,000 tons per year (using sawmill residuals as a primary source of furnish) to break-even or be minimally profitable. Operating one-shift 50 weeks per year would mean producing 5 tons per hour.

In terms of fuel oil displacement, 10,000 tons of pellets would be roughly equivalent to about 1 million gallons of fuel oil. The current, non-residential demand for pellets is about 300 tons per year (Sealaska Corp., Juneau office building).

DEVELOPING DEMAND

A number of preliminary facility assessments have already been conducted. In addition, some gross estimates of non-residential fuel consumption have been compiled. A preliminary estimate, which is NOT very inclusive, exceeds 3 million gallons, half of which is the Coast Guard Station in Kodiak. However, total heating oil consumption in Juneau alone (all users: residential, institutional, industrial, etc) is roughly 11 million gallons annually. More information is presented in the table below.

If all the businesses listed in the table were to convert to pellet fuel, regional demand for pellets would rise to over 33 thousand tons per year. This would be enough to support a small pellet facility. Alternatively, if one quarter of residential consumers of heating oil in Juneau were to convert to pellet fuel, the supply from a small pellet plant would meet demand.

Potential for biomass heating systems at large energy-using facilities in Southeast Alaska

Facility ID	Community	Fuel oil consumption (gal/yr)
Hames PE Center	Sitka	51,000
US Coast Guard (Air Station Sitka)	Sitka	140,000
SEARHC (hospital only)	Sitka	131,100
SEARHC (non-hospital)	Sitka	33,300
Sitka High School	Sitka	65,700
Blatchley Middle School	Sitka	40,150
Keet Gooshi Heen Elem. School	Sitka	27,000
Baranof Elementary School	Sitka	27,600
Pacific High School	Sitka	4,300
Sitka Airport	Sitka	20,400
Sitka Animal Shelter	Sitka	3,300
Centennial Hall	Sitka	8,700
Sitka Fire Hall	Sitka	9,200
Sitka Public Library	Sitka	4,000
Sitka Public Services Center	Sitka	8,300
Sitka Community Hospital	Sitka	68,000
Waste Water Treatment Plant	Sitka	13,000
Sawmill Cove Admin Bldg	Sitka	9,000
Mt Edgecombe High School	Sitka	142,300
University of Alaska SE, Sitka	Sitka	10,500
Haines Schools and city buildings	Haines	60,000
Klawock School	Klawock	14,000
Coffman Cove municipal building (if built)	Coffman Cove	6,200
USFS Discovery & Visitors Center	Ketchikan	20,000
Klukwan Heritage Center (if built)	Klukwan	3,000
Coffman Cove School	Coffman Cove	10,000
Kake Community Center	Kake	10,250
Kake School	Kake	20,000
Hoonah School/pool/gym	Hoonah	50,000
US Coast Guard (Ketchikan base)	Ketchikan	130,000
US Coast Guard (Kodiak)	Kodiak	1,500,000
Willoughby District heating (if built)	Juneau	660,000
	TOTAL	**3,300,300**

Appendix C. Additional Rural Development Investments

Access to affordable housing is directly related to economic development, particularly in rural communities. Affordable housing continues to be of high concern for many communities in the region. Rural Development's housing programs fit a certain income category of household income, for example "moderate," "low," and "very low" income coupled with household size. Rural Development can subsidize direct loans at interest rates as low as 1%, based on income/family size calculations. In Sitka, for example, entry level teachers, and other midlevel professionals qualify for the direct loan and loan guarantee program for Single Family Housing. By providing rental assistance to qualifying families, this program helps individuals and families remain in adequate housing.

Two-Year Estimate of Program Investment

Business Programs – 2 year projected investment		**$14,248,913**
Business and Industry Loan Guarantees	$13,648,164	
Grants to facilitate Business Development	$ 600,749	
Housing Programs – 2 year projected investment		**$12,307,820**
Single Family Guaranteed Loans	$ 6,848,834	
Single Family Direct Loans (Low)	$ 1,114,624	
Single Family Direct Loans (Very Low)	$ 2,615,204	
Home Improvement Loans	$ 18,088	
Home Improvement Grants	$ 7,650	
Multi-Family Housing Rental Assistance	$ 1,703,420	
Community Programs – 2 year projected investment		**$11,113,652**
Community Facilities Direct Loans	$ 7,140,000	
Community Facilities Guaranteed Loans	$ 68,000	
Community Facilities Grants	$ 1,088,052	
Water/Environmental Loans/Grants	$ 2,817,600	
Rural Utilities Service	?	
Total Projected Investment - next 2 Years		**$37,670,385**

Appendix D. Energy Projects that have Received Initial or Additional Funding in the Capital Budget

By Barbara A. Stanley, Energy Coordinator, Alaska Region, USDA Forest Service

Admiralty National Monument

- Thayer Lake Hydro: Kootznoowoo received $1,060,500 for permitting and final design from the Alaska Renewable Energy Fund.

Juneau Ranger District

- Snettisham Transmission Line Avalanche Mitigation: AEL&P received $2.0 million for design and construction from the Alaska Renewable Energy Fund.
- Connelly Lake Hydro: AP&T received $468,000 for reconn/feasibility from the Alaska Renewable Energy Fund. (not NFS lands)
- Schubee Lake Hydro: AP&T received $80,000 for reconn/feasibility from the Alaska Renewable Energy Fund.
- Excursion Inlet Hydro: Haines Borough received $93,593 for reconn/feasibility. Funded through Alaska Renewable Energy Fund.

Hoonah Ranger District

- Elfin Cove Hydro: Community of Elfin Cove Utility Commission received $347,000 for permitting/final design. No paperwork has been submitted to FERC; may qualify for FERC exemption. Funded through Alaska Renewable Energy Fund.
- Pelican Hydro Upgrade: City of Pelican received $1,896,836 for construction. Funded through Alaska Renewable Energy Fund. . (not NFS lands)
- Sitka Ranger District
- Indian River Hydro: City of Tenakee Springs Electric Department received $203,000 for permitting/final design. (Not NFS lands but will affect USFS fishpass.) Funded through Alaska Renewable Energy Fund.
- Reconnaissance Study of Tenakee Inlet Geothermal Resources: IPEC received $589,200 for reconn/feasibility.
- Blue Lake Hydro: City & Borough of Sitka received an appropriation of $28.5 million for construction.

Ketchikan-Misty Fiords Ranger District

- Metlakatla-Ketchikan Intertie: Metlakatla Indian Community received $1.18 million for permitting/design/construction. Not expected to impact NFS lands. Funded through Alaska Renewable Energy Fund.
- Whitman Lake Hydro: City of Ketchikan received an appropriation of $8.25 million for construction and also received $700,000 for construction from the Alaska Renewable Energy Fund.

Craig Ranger District

- Biomass Fuel Dryer: City of Craig received $350,000 for construction. Funded through Alaska Renewable Energy Fund.
- Reynolds Creek Hydro Transmission: Alaska Power Company received $2.0 million for construction. Not expected to impact NFS lands. Funded through Alaska Renewable Energy Fund.

Appendix E:
OceansAlaska Mariculture Research, Training & Development Facility

Mission

The OceansAlaska Mariculture Facility will facilitate the emergence of a mariculture industry by providing respected research, development, demonstration and training. Alaska can have a strong and sustainable shellfish mariculture industry that creates vibrant coastal communities.

Potential for Shellfish Mariculture in Alaska

Shellfish Mariculture in Southeast Alaska has the potential to provide direct and indirect jobs, providing a sustainable industry and taking advantage of Alaska's clean waters and miles of coastline. All other successful shellfish mariculture areas in the world have been led by research and development activities that provide the innovation and incentive to create investment and private sector jobs. Alaska shellfish mariculture has the potential to create a strong, healthy shellfish industry that will generate 200-300 new economically and environmentally sustainable year-round jobs and expand to a $50 million a year industry in 20 years by overcoming barriers to development.

For instance, Yakutat has plans to create 36 oyster farmers in the next few years- all of which need the training and expertise that OceansAlaska can provide. The dive fisheries in Southeast Alaska went from a nascent industry to an $8-9 million industry employing more than 200 divers in the past 10-12 years. Hundreds of cannery workers, fuel, transport, grocery and other interrelated industries have benefited, keeping jobs in Southeast Alaska through the winter time. Over 70% of the expenditures of small shellfish farms are spent within 20 – 30 miles of the farm site. There is untapped potential to expand these businesses and provide year-round jobs in struggling coastal communities.

Plagued by a decline in employment and followed by a declining population, all but one Southeast community has lost population in the last 10 years. The Alaska Native villages have been hit especially hard. Populations have declined as much as 50% in the last 15 years as residents move to larger towns in search of paying employment. Mariculture (of oysters, geoducks, mussels, seaweeds, etc.) is a realistically accessible solution to this economic decline. There is increasing worldwide demand for the products, especially from Asia, and all long-term projections for demand is strong- the U.S. market for shellfish alone estimated to increase from 11 to 14.3 billion pounds by 2020. More interest and participation is needed in Southeast Alaska to make this industry an important part of the regional economy.

All Southeast Alaska communities are located on the water, and most of the people in the smaller communities are already reliant on the ocean for much of their sustenance. They are boat users, fishermen, construction workers, and entrepreneurs who already possess many of the skills needed to grow shellfish or other marine products. This is perhaps particularly important in the many villages which are predominantly made up of Alaska Natives. Much effort will be required to inform our residents of the opportunities at their very doorstep, and to train them to use their skills and the local environment to their benefit. There are several ways that OceansAlaska will grow this industry- including providing a stable seed supply, identifying species suitable for local grow out, researching and teaching best-practice methods of grow out, and training new entrants in farm planning, permitting, biological processes, and entry programs. Ongoing outreach, training and mentorship are essential; most people in the region unaware of the opportunities or unsure how to begin a mariculture business. Only then will sustainable jobs be created- jobs that are dependent on Alaskan resources that few places in the world possess- clean and nutritious ocean water and an entrepreneurial mentality.

Organization

OceansAlaska is a 501c3 non-profit with nine (9) Board of Directors (See http://www.oceansalaska.org/oa2/pages/staff_board_contacts.html for details), all located in Ketchikan, Alaska. The Mariculture

Advisory Council is a 15-member body made up of shellfish growers and harvesters, researchers, educators, native corporations, and industry representatives throughout Alaska. David Mitchel, General Manager, Tom Henderson, Mariculture Director, and Susan Round, Accounts Manager, are staff for OceansAlaska.

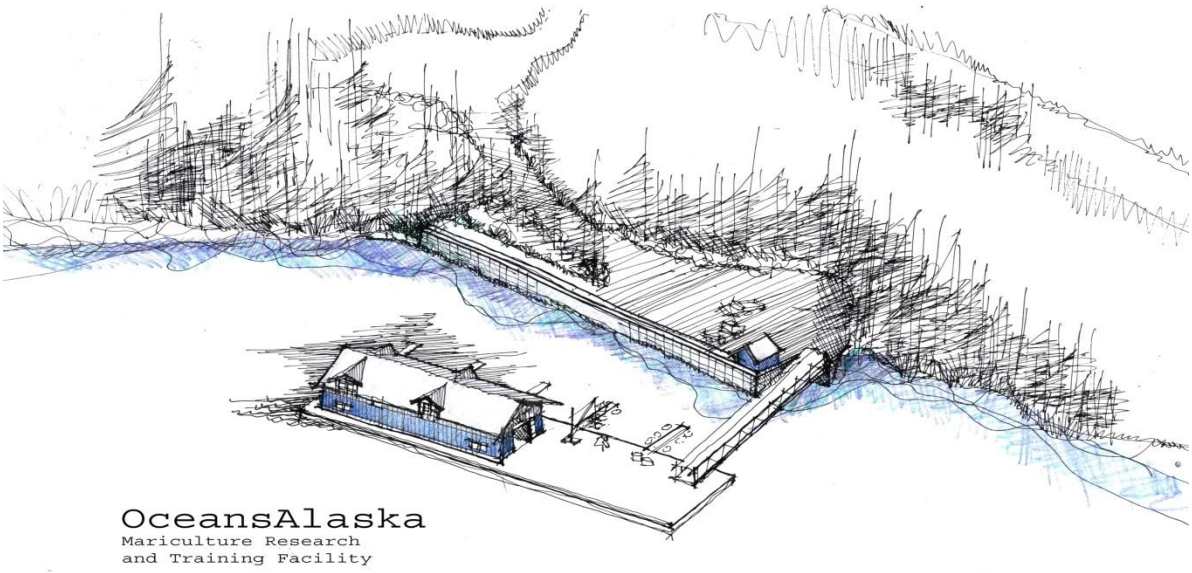
Facility Description

The State of Alaska provided OceansAlaska, through the Ketchikan Gateway Borough, with approximately 28 acres of uplands and tidelands and 24 acres of subtidal. The access road and site pad have been developed, utilities are completed, and permitting is complete. Two contractors, BAM and Western Dock & Bridge, were awarded contracts totaling more than $2.8 million to complete the site work, utilities, ramp, dock and building. Construction is to be completed by August, 2011.

The Mariculture Research, Training & Development Facility will be a 120' x 40' concrete float with a 70'x24' building on the float, accessible by an aluminum ramp. The building has metal siding and roofing, with the interior fiberglass reinforced panels and sealed fixtures, and surface mounted plumbing and wiring for flexibility of use. The space is equipped with power, salt water, potable water, and plumbing fixtures. The building will contain a setting facility, algae tanks, wet lab, processing area, sorting facilities, dry lab, hoist, office, mariculture library, training room, and grow-out space.

Access road and site pad- prior to completion, May 2010

Sketch of completed facility



Strategic Direction

There are critical industry needs that OceansAlaska can play a role in overcoming:

1) **Research and Development:** OceansAlaska will develop and disseminate scientific and technical information of value to the public, shellfish farmers and public officials.

2) **Education and Training:** Provide quality education, training and outreach to existing owners, entrepreneurs and employees involved, or wishing to be involved, in the industry.

3) **Demonstration:** Build operational facilities for growing, harvesting and processing shellfish.

4) **Technology Transfer/Best Practices:** Provide a platform to test various methods for growth and harvest of shellfish and other applicable mariculture species.

Initial Projects and Programs

OceansAlaska will begin operations with multiple initiatives aimed at directly expanding the output of geoduck and oysters.

- **Shellfish Setting Facility**: Inconsistent and poor seed supply has been a major barrier in the development of mariculture in Alaska, and this will alleviate those concerns by producing a consistent supply of oyster and geoduck seed from the larval stage to a size suitable for nurseries. Sealaska and other major buyers of seed have agreed to commit to buying from OceansAlaska to guarantee seed supply for their operations.

- **Geoduck Nursery:** Working in cooperation with industry, a geoduck nursery grow-out facility will produce the geoducks the needed size for planting on farm sites. Seward's Aluutiq Hatchery will transfer the seed from the larval stage to the setting facility and then to the nursery to enable the clams to reach a plantable size in a cost-effective system.

- **Mariculture Research:** The OceansAlaska Mariculture Director will research the best systems and techniques of rearing for local conditions. Sea Cucumbers, scallops, mussels, seaweed, kelp, as well as oyster and geoduck research will be initiated at OceansAlaska.

- **Oyster Nursery & Entry Program:** Following the successful model of getting beginning oyster farmers into the business, an oyster FLUPSY and Farmer Access Program will allow trainees to grow their spat while going through training, financing and permitting process.

- **Outreach &Training:** Interest must be generated within the Southeast communities to increase participation in mariculture. The OceansAlaska Mariculture Director will provide ongoing assistance to new entrants throughout Alaska. Classroom training in basic marine biology, business operation, onsite mariculture training with supervision and mentoring. Working in conjunction with the University of Alaska system and the shellfish industry, OceansAlaska will provide hands-on training and demonstration of oyster farming, as well as classroom education to provide comprehensive biological understanding of oyster farming.

- **Operational Training:** OceansAlaska will provide resources and assistance in business planning, site selection, raft construction, and assistance in permitting and other barriers to entry for beginning farmers. USDA FSA loans, possible State of Alaska mariculture loans, and other business loan application assistance will be provided.

- **Resource Hub:** OceansAlaska will collect and disseminate information from other mariculture organizations, research institutes, universities, and industry. For example, the Alaska Sea Grant Marine Advisory Program's Aquaculture Specialist and Canada's Center for Shellfish Research have vast research and project information available for dissemination to interested farmers. Potential entrants will be able to learn everything they need to know at OceansAlaska, as well as have on-line access.

These projects and programs will begin in the first year of operation at the OceansAlaska facility. The Mariculture Advisory Council will use a priority-setting process to determine further research, development and training projects that OceansAlaska will conduct. **Industry involvement** in all aspects of project development is critical to the success of OceansAlaska, and ensuring funding of projects will directly affect commercial mariculture and benefit coastal Alaska.

OceansAlaska recently hired Tom Henderson as the Mariculture Director for the facility. Tom brings a wealth of experience as an oyster farmer in Southeast Alaska, salmon hatchery manager, trainer for oyster farming apprentices, and participant in Mariculture research and development experiments. Tom has over 15 years of experience with shellfish mariculture and a lifetime of aquaculture and farming experience, and can provide direct assistance and in-depth understanding of farming operations to existing, new or prospective farmers. Assistance in designing and building grow-out rafts, FLUPSYs, and other equipment necessary for operations can be provided through training. OceansAlaska can also provide business insight and best practices for species care, transportation and processing issues, lease site selection, regulatory hurdles, and business practices. This training will be instrumental in allowing people to expand or begin new successful businesses. All OceansAlaska operations will be managed by Tom, and he has already begun training and outreach as a pilot project in Yakutat and Angoon in collaboration with Sealaska.

Funding

The facility is necessary to begin nursery, research, training and development initiatives. State of Alaska funding and land, Economic Development Administration funds, Housing and Urban Development funds and local grants have all contributed to the project. A recent State of Alaska grant will help fund the essential beginning equipment needs, but operational costs remain a priority, as does a heat exchanger that would save on long-term utility costs. Public investment in OceansAlaska and the mariculture industry is essential to its success, and a critically important approach to promote economic development in coastal Alaska.

Equipment
Electrical costs are projected to increase in Ketchikan and the facility expected to use a substantial amount of energy heating water for the setting facility and nursery operations. A Marine Heat Exchanger is being researched and scoped by engineers to see its viability in dramatically reducing the heating costs. It is projected to cost $75,000 and will save OceansAlaska in long-term utility costs. OceansAlaska sits on the ocean, fittingly, and is an ideal location and use for this technology.

Annual Operations Budget
These projected costs include a fully operation oyster entry program, and up to 25 trainees requiring travel, supplies, and use of the facility.

Wages	**Total**
Mariculture Director	$57,600
General Manager	$66,000
Bookkeeper/ Accts	$7,500
Internship	$7,500
Compensation/Benefits	$20,976
Subtotal Wages	$159,576
Other Expenses	
Outreach &Dissemination	$4,800
Research Supplies	$10,800
Utilities	$29,000
Maintenence & Repair	$18,000
Travel & Conf.	$48,000
Dues & Subscriptions	$1,080
Office Equip. &Supplies	$1,800
Permits, Licenses	$10,011
Insurance, Legal	$33,600
Misc.	$15,709
Subtotal other expenses	$172,800
Total Expenses	$332,376

The Ketchikan Gateway Borough has expressed interest in promoting and supporting economic development through OceansAlaska. Geoduck growers, Southeast Alaska Regional Dive Fisheries (SARDFA), and other industry groups have expressed interest in paying for projects to be conducted at the facility. Sealaska, trainees and other users will pay a fee for services provided and help operational costs in first years, with the long-term goal for the operations to be sustained by private investment in the facility. Other public sources of funding will be pursued until private industry can sustain operational costs and for programs and research projects, estimated to be at 100% in 5-7 years.

Government Support

We have a great opportunity to create a strong, viable locally based industry in coastal communities in Alaska through the development of a shellfish industry. It will be driven by individual's investing capital and time on the farm. What is the public policy that will attract individuals to make this investment?

Investment in research, training, and development that can foster entrepreneurial activity is a critical role the government can provide. It can also overcome one major barrier to entry in a new industry but creating loan programs and making money available to those individuals willing to take a risk in a new industry.

One prevailing factor is the common property ownership of the land, water and animals by the State of Alaska or the Federal government. In Alaska the private sector cannot begin to invest or create viable shellfish industry without permission of the government. This level of common property ownership and control of the water and land creates a different type of hurdle and business risk. There are many activities and policies that can be adopted by the government that reduce the risk or improve the chances for a private individual farm to succeed. Expediting the permitting process, making small parcels of land available for mariculture farmers in remote locations, fully funding the permitting agencies, and providing programs and processes that make it easier for new entrants to navigate the government are examples of policies that can lead to increased economic growth in Alaska.

How to move into a new economic base in Southeast Alaska and through- out rural Alaska is a major challenge with most of the land base owned by the Federal Government. Any activity has to pass through the Federal legal process that involves all of the stakeholders, including those who do not live in Alaska. It takes participation of the owners of the land and water. Without understanding and support from the Federal, State and third party interest it is nearly impossible for small businesses and enterprises to operate in Alaska.

Conclusion

There is little doubt that Alaska has more potential undeveloped sites for shellfish mariculture than the rest of the United States combined, providing the opportunity for siting hundreds of shellfish farms. Removal of constraints and proper public investment and assistance can cause a snowball effect of new farmers into the industry. The U.S. market for shellfish alone is estimated to increase from 11 to 14.3 billion pounds by 2020, as the overall worldwide demand for seafood grows steadily. The estimated shellfish industry in Alaska could grow to $50M with a sustained and coordinated research, training and development effort. With superior water quality, marketable product, and steady prices, mariculture can provide sustainable jobs into the future.

Industry has identified the facility's operations as a main constraint in advancing shellfish Mariculture as outlined in the OceansAlaska report Tipping the Balance, and the community of Ketchikan has put the project as a top overall priority (#6), and critical for economic development. OceansAlaska is focused on removing the constraints to mariculture development in Alaska. The Mariculture Research, Training and Development Facility signifies a critical step in providing mariculture jobs for coastal Alaskan communities.

Endorsements (*Provided upon Request)*

Memorandums of Understanding

- Ketchikan Gateway Borough
- University of Alaska Southeast
- Sealaska Corporation, Central Council of Tlinget & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska, Shaan Seet, Inc., Organized Village of Kake, Yak-Tat Kwaan.
- Ketchikan Indian Community
- Shellfish Growers Co-op

Resolutions

- Southeast Conference
- Ketchikan Chamber of Commerce
- Ketchikan Gateway Borough
- Ketchikan Visitors Bureau

Letters of Support

- Ketchikan Gateway Borough
- City of Ketchikan
- Greater Ketchikan Chamber of Commerce
- Southeast Conference
- Alaska Department of Fish & Game
- Sea Grant Marine Advisory Board

Contact Information

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Questions from Mr. Quigley:

Maintenance Backlog

Quigley Q1: What is the forest service's road maintenance backlog for the National Forest System nationally? In Utah? In Alaska?

Answer: The current Forest Service road maintenance backlog as discussed in the FY 2020 Congressional Justification is $3.4 billion, including road bridges, on our passenger car network. In Utah, the backlog is $112 million, and in Alaska the road maintenance backlog is $68 million.

Quigley Q2: As you know the State of Alaska and State of Utah have both asked your agency to rewrite one of the most important conservation rules in our country-the "Roadless Rule". They have effectively asked you to roll it back within their states. Nationally, the road maintenance backlog has been estimated to be about $3.2 billion. How can the Forest Service justify building new roads, which is an almost certain result from roadless state specific rulemakings, when it can't afford the ones it has?

Answer: The 2001 Roadless Rule establishes prohibitions on road construction, road reconstruction, and timber harvesting. While those prohibitions may change in a state-specific roadless rule, it does not necessarily mean that new roads would be constructed. Any proposed new road construction project would be subject to NEPA analysis, which would establish a project-specific justification for the new road and evaluate the environmental effects of the proposed project and consider alternatives.

Rulemaking Priorities/Rationale

Quigley Q3: What criteria does the USDA consider when reviewing a petition for a rulemaking?

Answer: In accordance with 7 CFR 1.28, the Secretary responds to petitions in a timely manner and considers each petition on its own merits.

Quigley Q4: My understanding is that 100% of the projects proposed in roadless areas in Alaska, at least 54 in total, have been approved. Is that correct? This includes renewable energy development projects, mining projects, utility projects, among various other types of projects, right? Isn't that also correct for Utah? And on average, how long has it taken to approve these projects? You recently delegated authority to approve these projects to the regional foresters in order to be even more responsive to local concerns and to speed up the approval process, right?

Answer: All 58 applications submitted for projects in Alaska roadless areas have been approved. The majority of them pertain to surface exploration of potential mining and hydropower. Recently approved projects in Utah pertain to mining and road realignments. On October 24, 2018 Chief Christensen delegated authority for all exceptions to the Regional Foresters in an effort to better support agency decision-making. Projects within Alaska and Utah under the

delegated authority of the Regional Forester generally take one to three weeks for approval. Projects that previously required approval from the Chief took from one to three months for approval.

Quigley Q5: What actions will the USDA take if the rationale in a petition for a rulemaking is not justified?

Answer: In accordance with 7 CFR 1.28, the Secretary will notify petitioners promptly of any decisions regarding a petition.

Quigley Q6: The Forest Service spent years and countless agency resources to adopt a forest plan for the Tongass in 2016 that transitions away from old-growth logging, and focuses on a young-growth model. How is rolling back the Roadless Rule to allow thousands of acres of old-growth forest to be logged in line with that commitment?

Answer: The 2001 Roadless Rule establishes prohibitions on road construction, road reconstruction, and timber harvesting. While those prohibitions may change in a state-specific roadless rule, it does not necessarily mean that additional old growth harvesting would occur. The 2016 Forest Plan establishes the transition from an old-growth timber program to a predominantly young-growth timber program. That transition will not be affected by a state-specific roadless rule. Any proposed project would be subject to NEPA analysis, which would evaluate the environmental effects of the proposed project and consider alternatives.

Cost of Rulemakings

Quigley Q7: We understand that the early estimates put the cost the Alaska rulemaking between $5-6 million and the potential Utah rulemaking between $3-4 million. Given the myriad responsibilities, backlogged work, and budget challenges of the Forest Service, how does the agency justify spending considerable staff time and nearly $10 million on undertaking state-based exceptions to the Roadless Area Conservation Rule?

Answer: The Roadless Rule recognizes the need for state-specific solutions to meet the intent of the Rule. These actions follow in the spirit of the Roadless Rule and are designed to meet state-specific needs. Rule-making and regulation development are normal activities of the Forest Service. Costs associated with any rule-making are inherent to the agency's budget and function.

Quigley Q8: From which appropriated accounts are these staff and other resources being taken?

Answer: The Roadless Rule analyses are primarily funded by allocations from the Land Management Planning, Inventory, and Monitoring account, with lesser allocations from timber and vegetation management funds.

Quigley Q9: What work is not getting done in order to process these state exception rules?

Answer: Some regional and forest-level planning work has been delayed in order to pay for these efforts.

Quigley Q10: What is the estimated cost of additional roadbuilding, which is likely to occur under state rules?

Answer: We cannot answer that question with the information that we have available at this time.

Quigley Q11: Given that the last Tongass Roadless rulemaking was declared invalid in federal district court in a decision it unsuccessfully appealed all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court, where the Court left the lower court rulings in place. Please estimate for the hearing record total federal expenditures, including all staff time, for defending a new Tongass Roadless Rule in court up to the Supreme Court and explain what the agency's priority uses would be for a supplemental appropriation in that amount that was not spend on judicial proceedings.

Answer: In 2011, a federal court set aside the rulemaking that temporarily exempted the Tongass National Forest from the 2001 Roadless Area Conservation Rule. The Alaska District Court's ruling was initially reversed by a three-judge panel of the Ninth Circuit, but the District Court's ruling was ultimately upheld in a 6–5 en banc ruling in 2015. The Supreme Court declined to review the *en banc* decision in 2016. USDA did not appeal the adverse ruling of the District Court and did not participate in appellate briefing in the Ninth Circuit. In 2016 the Department of Justice, on USDA's behalf, filed a motion opposing review of the Ninth Circuit's *en banc* ruling by the Supreme Court. Due to varying complexity and duration of individual cases, USDA does not have an estimate of the costs associated with defending a new Tongass Roadless Rule.

Economic Balance in Tongass

Quigley Q12: How much did the Forest Service spend in 2018 and in the previous 5, 10, 20 year period on managing timber sales in the Tongass? How much did the Forest Service spend on other priorities in those same time periods, such as stream restoration, recreation, tourism?

Answer: In FY 2018, direct support for the Tongass National Forest timber sale program was $6.3 million, including primary timber management (NFTM) and engineering (CMRD) budget line items (BLIs). Direct support figures are based on average historical direct costs to plan, prepare, offer, award, and administer timber sales on the Tongass National Forest. The analysis of direct support for the timber sale program excludes costs for the Regional Office and Supervisor's Office program management, operations support, pre-NEPA activities, facilities maintenance, travel, training, and fleet not related to producing timber outputs and generic supply costs. The total FY 2018 allocations to the Tongass National Forest for primary timber management (NFTM) and engineering (CMRD) budget line items were $10,746,320 and $6,321,381 respectively.

Annual data are available from FY 2010 through FY 2018 due to records retention requirements. The average annual total allocation for this period was $11,134,000 for timber program management, of which $6,047,000 was direct support to the timber sale program. For the same time period, the average annual total allocation for engineering support was $6,893,000, of which $1,696,000 was incurred for direct support to the timber sale program.

Timber Program Allocations with Engineering Support:				
Fiscal Year	Primary Timber Management allocation (BLI NFTM)	Portion of NFTM, direct support to timber sale program	Primary Engineering allocation (BLI CMRD)	Portion of CMRD, direct support to timber sale program
2018	$10,746,320	$4,920,000	$6,321,381	$1,380,000
2010-2018 Average	$11,134,497	$6,046,361	$6,893,331	$1,695,931

The Forest Service manages for multiple uses on the Tongass National Forest, including restoration, recreation, and tourism. BLIs to support these priorities include Wildlife and Fisheries (NFWF), Recreation and Wilderness (NFRW), and Trails (CMTL), which are the primary program areas for restoration and recreation management. These include activities that support the tourism industry. The FY 2018 final allocations and the average annual allocation for the period for FYs 2010-2018 are as follows:

Tongass National Forest Allocations for Wildlife and Fisheries, and Recreation (not including facilities)			
Fiscal Year	Wildlife and Fisheries (NFWF)	Recreation and Wilderness (NFRW)	Trails (CMTL)
2018	$4,169,281	$3,663,383	$1,650,300
2010-2018 Average	$4,296,850	$3,839,984	$1,398,256

Significant restoration activities are also implemented through partnerships and contracts which are not represented in the allocation chart above. In addition to appropriated funding, the Tongass National Forest reinvests recreation fee revenues into programs of work which support recreational uses of the forest, which includes support of tourism.

Quigley Q13: For how much did the timber sell for over these same time periods?

Answer: The available summary data available for the years 2012 through 2018 are displayed below, including total thousand board feet (MBF) and the award value.

Summary FY12-FY18			
Fiscal Year	# of sales	Total MBF	Total award value
2012	37	52,483	1,506,780
2013	38	15,866	266,002
2014	46	105,523	8,151,762

Summary FY12-FY18			
Fiscal Year	# of sales	Total MBF	Total award value
2015	45	22,625	2,072,083
2016	42	13,535	344,622
2017	45	30,808	1,021,291
2018	48	9,211	1,203,853
Average or Total	43	250,051	14,566,392

Quigley Q14: How many sales received no bids and went unsold?

Answer: In 2018, there was one large sale on the Tongass National Forest which received no bids and it has not been resold. For the period between 2012 and 2017, an average of 1 to 2 small sales per year on the Tongass National Forest received no bids and those sales were subsequently reoffered and awarded. There were no 'No Bid' sales in 2010 or 2011. The period between 2005 and 2009 experienced a higher incidence of 'No Bid' sales and those, for the most part, have been reoffered, sold, awarded, and completed. Market conditions during the 2005 to 2009 period were particularly challenging.

Quigley Q15: In a report in Northwest Science in 1998, federal fisheries experts Dr. Fred Everest and Dr. Buck Bryant described retaining the existing intact, roadless watersheds and wilderness areas of the Tongass as a "key element" in sustaining the region's extraordinary salmon runs which support unmatched commercial, subsistence, and recreational fisheries, and thus the economy of Southeast Alaska. Does the Forest Service now dispute that finding?"

Answer: The Forest Service does not dispute the finding. The Tongass National Forest Land Management Plan recognizes that the Forest is a productive landscape which sustains robust fish stocks for subsistence, commercial, and sport fisheries as well as supports traditional and cultural values. Maintaining the habitat diversity and connections among watersheds is essential to the continued productivity of the Forest's salmon fisheries. Irrespective of land status, the Forest Service manages the landscape consistent with the conservation provisions outlined within the 2016 Forest Plan to maintain and improve fish habitat.

Quigley Q16: Given the losses sustained by the American taxpayer on Tongass timber sales, would it numerically make more sense for the taxpayer to simply buy out the salaries of the timber workers and forego the logging or pay to transition these individuals into other jobs such as building and maintaining additional recreation sites?

Answer: There are many policy factors involved in this question, so the Forest Service cannot reasonably speculate on an answer.

Quigley Q17: Even in roaded portions of the Tongass, the Forest Service is paying millions for timber sale related road construction. Assuming portions of Tongass roadless areas are opened

up to timber sales and logging road construction under a new roadless rule, please provide an upper bound estimate of what the agency could incur in added road construction costs in those areas over the next decade. If appropriate, please indicate how that figure differs among alternatives under consideration in the Tongass rulemaking.

Answer: We cannot answer that question with the information that we have available at this time.

Restoration

Quigley Q18: What portion of the USFS budget is directly or indirectly associated with offering public trees for sale, as lumber or biomass, to logging companies, without regard to the USFS's claimed reasons or justifications for such sales?

Answer: The FY 2020 President's Budget proposes $375 million for Forest Products, which is 7.3 percent of the total discretionary budget and an increase of $7 million over the 2019 enacted level. This program conducts the sale and disposal of National Forest System timber.

Quigley Q19: Given the need to significantly reduce fire risk on million acres across the West, what percent of this need is the proposed budget expected to accomplish in 2020?

Answer: The FY 2020 President's Budget proposes $450 million for Hazardous Fuels, an increase of $15 million over the 2019 enacted level. With this funding, the agency aims to reduce hazardous fuels on 3.4 million acres in 2020, working with state partners to prioritize investments in places where the greatest wildfire risk exists and where fuels treatments have a high probability of reducing that risk.

Quigley Q20: At current budget levels, coupled with changing climate and continuous growth of small understory trees, how many years would it take to address the backlog of needed restoration at current budgets? Are you even keeping pace with the problem?

Answer: The Forest Service is committed to working with partners to increase active management and treat larger landscapes. Through a shared stewardship framework, the agency will work with States to jointly prioritize investments where they will be the most effective. The agency will put any funds appropriated by Congress, along with tools and authorities in place, to good use in order to improve the condition of the national forests and grasslands.

Quigley Q21: I see that the agency has retired the use of watershed conditions as a Key Performance Indicator. Just last week your agency posted on its official Twitter account that in the United States approximately 180 million people in more than 68,000 communities rely on forested lands to capture and filter their drinking water. Given that nearly one-fifth of the nation's water supply originates from national forests, and quality water is arguably our most precious and at-risk resource, how does the agency justify dropping watershed conditions as a Key Performance Indicator? Can you describe in specific terms how this budget proposal

provides accounts for investments in watershed, wildlife habitat and recreation values, given the emphasis on timber and fuels?

Answer: USDA works closely with the Forest Service to determine which agency performance measures are suitable for a Departmental-level Key Performance Indicator. The Forest Service continues to track a broader suite of measures internally that align with major program activities, including percent of watersheds in properly functioning condition (see page 145 of the agency's 2020 Congressional Budget Justification).

Quigley Q22: Given the importance of community protection from wildfires, what percent of your budget and fuels reduction is focused in the areas immediately adjacent to communities?

Answer: The FY 2020 President's Budget proposes $450 million for Hazardous Fuels, which is 8.75 percent of the total discretionary budget and an increase of $15 million over the 2019 enacted level. With this funding, the agency aims to reduce hazardous fuels on 3.4 million acres in 2020, working with state partners to prioritize investments in places where the greatest wildfire risk exists and where fuels treatments have a high probability of reducing that risk. In 2018, the Forest Service completed fuels treatments on over 3.4 million acres, 2 million of which were in the wildland-urban interface to protect communities. This budget request continues the upward trajectory to increase treatments of fuels and protect communities.

Quigley Q23: Given the proposed simplification and bundling of budget line items in the Forest Service's budget, as well as the simplification of targets and performance measures, how will the USFS demonstrate continued commitment to other stakeholder/environmental values?

Answer: The integration of budget line items will allow for improved prioritization of activities at a landscape scale and streamlining of administrative costs. The proposed budget structure will also facilitate improved collaboration across program areas to focus on outcomes across all program areas at a landscape scale rather than simply the outputs of any one program. With reduced administrative costs, agency experts will be able to focus on land management priorities and accomplishing work for the broad range of stakeholders we support. The Forest Service intends to deliver on all existing performance expectations regardless of the agency's budget structure.

Quigley Q24: How will simplified performance measures proposed in the budget track (and demonstrate to Congress) the implementation of prescribed fire – a necessary final step for reducing fire risk? The forest service has indicated that of the 52 million "high priority" acres, 35 million are best treated by prescribed fire. Does your budget support a 2 to 1 ratio for prescribed fire as the treatment?

Answer: The Forest Service has not proposed simplified performance measures and will continue to use a suite of performance measures that align with major program activities (see page 145 in the Forest Service 2020 President's Budget). Prescribed fire is a crucial component

of hazardous fuels reduction and reducing the risk of fire. The 2020 President's Budget requests $450 million for hazardous fuels reduction, which will include prescribed fire where appropriate to achieve the desired fuel conditions to reduce risk.

The Forest Service tracks the implementation of prescribed fire within hazardous fuels work. In the majority of instances, prescribed fire is used to achieve the final desired condition. We are able to see the ratio of prescribed fire that contributes to measures that track the extent to which prescribed fire is being used to accomplish our goals. At present, prescribed fire typically accounts for roughly half of our hazardous fuels accomplishments on an annual basis. Fuels treatments are developed collaboratively with partners, and funds will be invested where the greatest risk from wildfire exists and where fuel treatments have a high probability of reducing that risk.

Quigley Q25: What portion of the USFS budget is associated with fire suppression?

Answer: The FY 2020 President's Budget requests $1.011 billion for Suppression Operations, about 20 percent of the total discretionary request. If spending requirements exceed that amount, the Budget also requests $1.95 billion in wildfire suppression cap adjustment funds.

Quigley Q26: How do simplified or "flagship" targets capture the commitment of the USFS to address climate change in a meaningful way?

Answer: Flagship targets capture the absolute amount of land management projects in terms of volume and acres treated for hazardous fuels. Many projects are informed and guided by R&D science-management partnerships including inventory and climate science. These partnerships ensure that forests are resilient to future climates and climate variability. Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) provides the basis for broad land-scape level planning and captures the national impact of forest land management on greenhouse gas mitigation. The Forest Service remains committed to addressing the impacts of a changing climate on the Nation's forests. Many of the Forest Service internal performance measures track progress towards improving forest condition, which in turn helps address the impacts of a changing climate.

Good Neighbor Authority

Quigley Q27: What is the plan for the USFS to track and report on the value of federal timber being used to support restoration projects?

Answer: The Forest Service tracks all timber sale volume and value sold through our Forest Products information systems. With this system we can track not only all timber sales, but projects carried out under the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program (CFLRP), Joint Chief's Projects, Stewardship projects, and Good Neighbor sales. Within the contracts we can analyze the various forest products sold along with the size of contract.

Quigley Q28: More specifically, given the change in the authority to allow states to manage program income, how does the USFS plan on demonstrating accountability to Congress and ensuring that program income is used for restoration as required in the statute?

Answer: We are developing policies to implement the new authorities under the 2018 Farm Bill. Part of the implementation guidelines will be the specific requirements to report the volume and value of all forest products sold through the Good Neighbor and Stewardship authorities. We are working closely with our Financial Policy staff to ensure we meet all requirements. We are committed to demonstrating accountability and complying with the intent of the statute.

Quigley Q29: It seems that GNA creates an incentive to use it in high-value forests, yet these are not the forests most in need of restoration. Do you expect that relatively low value, fire prone forests will contain sufficient timber value to complete restoration and can you support that with studies?

Answer: We have placed an emphasis on integrating low-value treatments with higher value timber sales to allow for more acres to be treated in each project. The Forest Service conducts not only a NEPA analysis on all projects, but also a financial analysis. Projects are selected to be either a Good Neighbor authority, Stewardship, or a traditional sale depending on the estimated costs and revenues identified in the appraisal process. Sales are directed to states or partners when the appraisal shows that it is more cost effective to have the state or partner do the project, or there are opportunities for them to financially contribute to the project to help offset the costs. When a project is better suited to integrate other federal funding sources to help support all of the restoration activities, then the project most likely will be implemented directly by the Forest Service.

Lawsuits

Quigley Q30: Given that the USFS budget justification indicated that the agency paid out for only two substantive lawsuits in 2018, and at only around $250k at that, how does this indicate that environmental litigation is slowing the process in any meaningful way? Even considering 11 lawsuits in FY18, how does this demonstrate that litigation is precluding active forest management?

Answer: Because lawsuits typically take multiple years to resolve, it is important to look at the trend in litigation and the multiplying effects of lawsuits filed over time. In the period between fiscal years 2009-2018, the Forest Service recorded 134 lawsuits filed against projects with a primary activity of vegetation management, including timber production and timber salvage treatments. In total, 46 of those lawsuits were filed between FYs 2015 and 2016. In addition to delays in project implementation due to litigation, there is considerable work associated with supporting the defense of those project decisions. This lawsuit-related work diverts Forest Service staff from their primary resource management responsibilities and delays work on current activities and planning for future projects.

In addition, it is important to note that litigation trends vary across the country. For example, in the Forest Service's Northern Region (Montana, Northern Idaho, North Dakota) 12 lawsuits were filed over project decisions with active forest management activities between fiscal years 2015 and 2018. In the same time period in the Rocky Mountain Region (Colorado, Wyoming, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas), 1 lawsuit was filed on an active forest management decision. Consequently, the effects of litigation on active forest management decisions are more concentrated and acutely felt on national forests in certain regions.

Shared Stewardship

Quigley Q31: How will the Forest Service ensure accountability- public, legal, and fiscal- with its Shared Stewardship Initiative, which the agency characterizes as "allowing the states to lead on federal forest management"?

Answer: The agency's characterization of "allowing the states to lead on federal forest management" is an acknowledgement that:

- National Forests and Grasslands exist within a state's boundary;
- the mission of the agency is "To sustain the health, diversity and productivity of the Nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations";
- The issues we are facing span federal, tribal, state, private and other legal jurisdictions and are of interest to many stakeholders.

Our intent for Shared Stewardship is to expand our relationship and partnership with states, and others, to address improving forest conditions, and take advantage of opportunities such as: reducing risk of large wildland fires; reducing impact of insect and disease outbreaks; increasing resiliency; supporting economies and communities; and providing goods, services, values and resources to meet the needs of the American public.

Accountability is important to the Forest Service. We promote partnerships and engagement with a wide variety of entities, including states, tribes, counties, and communities in general. While the Forest Service has been out reaching to states to engage in Shared Stewardship, we will continue to be inclusive of other groups and responsive to the broader public's needs.

We use a wide array of agreement types to document our partnerships. Each type of agreement has an oversight process to insurance compliance with federal appropriations law, best accounting practices, and other legal requirements. Agreements for Shared Stewardship or other such titled documentation have been general commitments. Promoting Shared Stewardship does not change our requirements to comply with federal laws and policies. Rather, this strategy is a recognition that, to achieve landscapes that are healthy and resilient to fire and other disturbances, we must take a more integrated approach to prioritizing investments in order to realize these goals.

Accomplishments so far under Shared Stewardship include a USDA MOU with the Western Governors' Association and a Shared Stewardship Agreement with the State of Idaho to implement a shared vision for improving forest health conditions across Idaho. Others State

agreements are in development, but we do not have specific performance targets for Shared Stewardship.

Quigley Q32: According to the agency's Shared Stewardship report science-based tools will be used to identify the highest priority areas for restoration. Can you describe how these science-based prioritization processes are playing out in the states? How is the Forest Service ensuring consistency across states? How are stakeholders plugging into the process, including at the national scale? And how will the Forest Service evaluate the effectiveness of Shared Stewardship agreements, including for watershed restoration, recreation, and wildlife habitat outcomes?

Answer: We are using several tools and working with states to establish a science-based prioritization process and stakeholder engagement approach specific to each state's needs.

At the national level, we are developing a new scenario investment planning tool that builds upon the National Cohesive Strategy for Wildland Fire Management. Scenario investment planning allows the agency to assess forest health risks across broad landscapes and project outcomes and tradeoffs for various management actions. Working with tribes, states, and other partners, we can then jointly set priorities for investing in management activities at the appropriate scale and place.

At the state level, we will assess the additional strategies and tools tribes, states, and partners offer. In many cases we will build off State Forest Action Plans. We will work with tribes and states to convene additional stakeholders and develop evaluation criteria for our joint efforts. While the specifics will vary by location, in all cases our goal is work with our partners to establish joint priorities, work across boundaries, and conduct active management at the scale needed to achieve the desired outcomes.

Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program

Quigley Q33: The President's budget zeros out the CFLRP program, alleging that other programs essentially do the same work and accomplish the same outcomes. What are those programs, and what are their track records of success?

Answer: While the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program taught us additional lessons about the benefits of working with collaborative groups, the Forest Service has a number of programs that encourage collaborative engagement with stakeholders and leverage partner dollars:

- The Joint Chiefs Landscape Restoration Program provides funding to accomplish shared restoration objectives across boundaries. In 2019, the Forest Service and the National Resources Conservation Service will invest $12 million in 13 projects.
- The Good Neighbor Authority allows the Forest Service to enter into agreements with tribes, states, and counties to work together to keep forests healthy and productive. Since Good Neighbor Authority was first authorized, the number of projects and participating

states has continued to grow. Nearly 200 Good Neighbor agreements in 37 states have been executed to perform a variety of restoration services.

- Stewardship contracting is another collaborative authority that we use. In FY 2018, 24% of the national total of timber sold was done under stewardship contracts. We are working with industry and communities to understand where and how we will most effectively use the new 20-year stewardship contracting authority that was granted in the FY 2018 Omnibus Appropriation.

Quigley Q34: What steps is the Forest Service taking to implement the extension of the CFLRP program authorized in the 2018 Farm Bill? Has the Forest Service stood up a federal advisory committee to approve new projects? What is the timing of the committee's first meeting? Has the Forest Service provided direction to existing CFLRP projects that want to apply for an extension of their projects about how to seek re-enrollment?

Answer: The Forest Service and the Secretary's office are working to establish Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) committee for Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program (CFLRP). Once approved, the agency will publish a Federal Register Notice to solicit applications for review. An initial FACA committee meeting may occur in early 2020. The 13 CFLRP projects selected in 2012 have the Chief's approval to complete the last two years of their original 10-year proposal, depending on available resources. Proponents of the 10 CFLRP projects selected in 2010 have been notified that they must apply for extensions.

Streams and Fish Habitat: Fish Passage

Goal: Maintain or restore the natural range and frequency of aquatic habitat conditions on the Tongass National Forest to sustain the diversity and production of fish and other freshwater organisms.
Objectives: Use baseline fish habitat objectives, identified in the Forest Plan Standards and Guidelines, to evaluate the relative condition of riparian and aquatic habitat.

Background: Fish and aquatic resources on the Tongass National Forest provide major subsistence, commercial, and sport fisheries. Abundant rainfall and watersheds with high densities of streams provide a high quantity and diversity of freshwater fish habitats. The Tongass National Forest provides spawning and rearing habitat for the majority of fish produced in Southeast Alaska. Past riparian harvest altered aquatic habitat by reducing the supply of large wood available to streams. Maintenance of this habitat and associated waters is a focal point for the public, State and Federal agencies, and Native organizations.

Streams and Fish Habitat Question*: Is the natural range and frequency of aquatic habitat conditions maintained?*

Fish Passage at Road Crossings

Upstream migration is essential for many fish species in the Tongass National Forest. Anadromous fish (fish that migrate from the ocean to freshwater to spawn) require access to spawning habitat. Juvenile anadromous fish migrate during their freshwater life stage, seeking seasonal habitats. Resident fish (fish that spend their entire life in freshwater) also may migrate seasonally in response to food, shelter and spawning needs.

Providing for fish passage at stream and road intersections to ensure fish migration is an important consideration when constructing or reconstructing forest roads. Improperly located, installed or maintained stream crossing structures can restrict these migrations, thereby adversely affecting fish populations. These structures can present a variety of potential obstacles to fish migration. The most common obstacles are excessive vertical barriers, debris blockages, and extreme water velocities that can inhibit fish passage, especially smaller or juvenile fish.

The Tongass National Forest strives to incorporate an adaptive management process to achieve the desired management goals and objectives for the fish passage at road crossings program. The adaptive management approach includes a continuous process of using, or developing, state-of-the-art assessment and restoration techniques followed by monitoring and adjustment of the techniques, accordingly.

Designing the crossing structure to fit the stream is the key for attaining fish passage objectives and avoiding many unintended and undesirable impacts. Culverts that constrict the stream channel may cause excessive water velocity, excessive bedload deposition or rapid change in water surface profile at the inlet. Culverts installed at a gradient significantly different than the natural stream grade can induce stream head cutting upstream or excessive deposition of bedload at the culvert inlet. Culverts that do not retain adequately sized bedload may lead to excessive water velocities within the culvert. Culverts with excessive water velocities within them may release energy by eroding the outlet control, leaving the outlet perched.

Design techniques to provide fish passage across roads include:

Natural Stream Bottom Design: Maintaining the natural streambed using bridges and bottomless arch culverts;

Stream Simulation Design: Installing culverts that mimic and retain the natural stream characteristics of stream width, gradient, substrate and pool depth and spacing. Stream simulation assumes that if a culvert is installed in a manner that mimics that of the stream channel the ability for fish movement will be no less or greater at the road crossing than in the natural channel (Photo 1).

Simplified Stream Simulation (SSS) Design: An experimental, potentially cost effective method of installing culverts in a manner that over time are expected to provide conditions in the culvert that closely mimic and retain natural stream characteristics of stream width, gradient and substrate. This is achieved by sufficiently sizing and countersinking the culvert and then staging bedload material directly upstream. Overtime, as a result of high flows, the staged and native bedload material becomes deposited within the culvert and fish passage conditions are achieved.

No Slope Design: Installing culverts that are countersunk and at a flat gradient. This technique has limited application and is only effective where the natural stream grade is also flat and the water is pooled and backwatered, as is found in palustrine, estuarine and occasionally floodplain channels.

Hydraulic Design: Culverts designed to result in predetermined water velocities or depths at predetermined flows. This design often includes installing culverts equipped with a system of weirs or baffles. The complex hydraulics and poor bedload transport associated with baffled culverts require very careful design considerations if fish passage is to be retained over time. This hydraulic design technique must match estimated fish swimming performance to calculated hydraulic conditions at a range of flows.

Removal: Removing culverts and restoring the natural stream channel.

Photo 1. Time series of culvert replacement for fish passage remediation using a stream simulation design.

Evaluation Criteria

The Tongass National Forest has identified and surveyed 3,687 fish stream road crossings along approximately 5,000 miles of forest roads. Thirty-five percent of these are anadromous crossings, while the remaining 65 percent are resident fish streams. Approximately 54 percent of the crossings are culverts and 46 percent are bridges or removed structures. Approximately 91 percent of the crossings have had fish passage determinations completed and 33 percent of those have been determined not to meet State of Alaska fish passage standards. There is an average of 0.36 miles and a median of 0.19 miles of fish stream habitat length upstream of the anadromous crossings and an average of 0.19 mile and a median of 0.11 miles upstream of the resident crossings that are not meeting passage standards.

Fish Passage Standards and Guidelines including drainage-structure-design-criteria have evolved over time and are still evolving as information on fish swimming performance, fish movement patterns and culvert hydraulics is improved. Therefore, the assessment of the effectiveness of the Standards and Guidelines contained in the Forest Plan can only be meaningfully conducted on drainage structures more recently designed and installed.

Between 1998 and 2017, the Tongass has re-installed, retrofitted or removed approximately 604 crossings that were previously not meeting passage standards in fish streams and potentially impeding fish passage. This number includes 25 culverts on roads that were converted to Forest Highways which the State of Alaska now has jurisdiction over. Not included are recently replaced crossings that were previously not impeding fish passage or culverts installed on streams that did not previously have a crossing structure. Two-hundred and forty-seven of the 604 were remediated by being removed and 357 of them were reinstallations (Figure 1). The estimated cost of this remediation is 18.4 million dollars, indexed to 2018 dollars. Approximately 80 percent of the reinstallations were replaced with culverts, 18 percent were replaced with bridges, and 2% were retrofits or maintenance occurred. The monitoring provided in this report excludes bridges, removed structures and bottomless culverts since they routinely do not impede fish passage. Only non-bottomless culvert installations were evaluated since they are more problematic for fish passage.

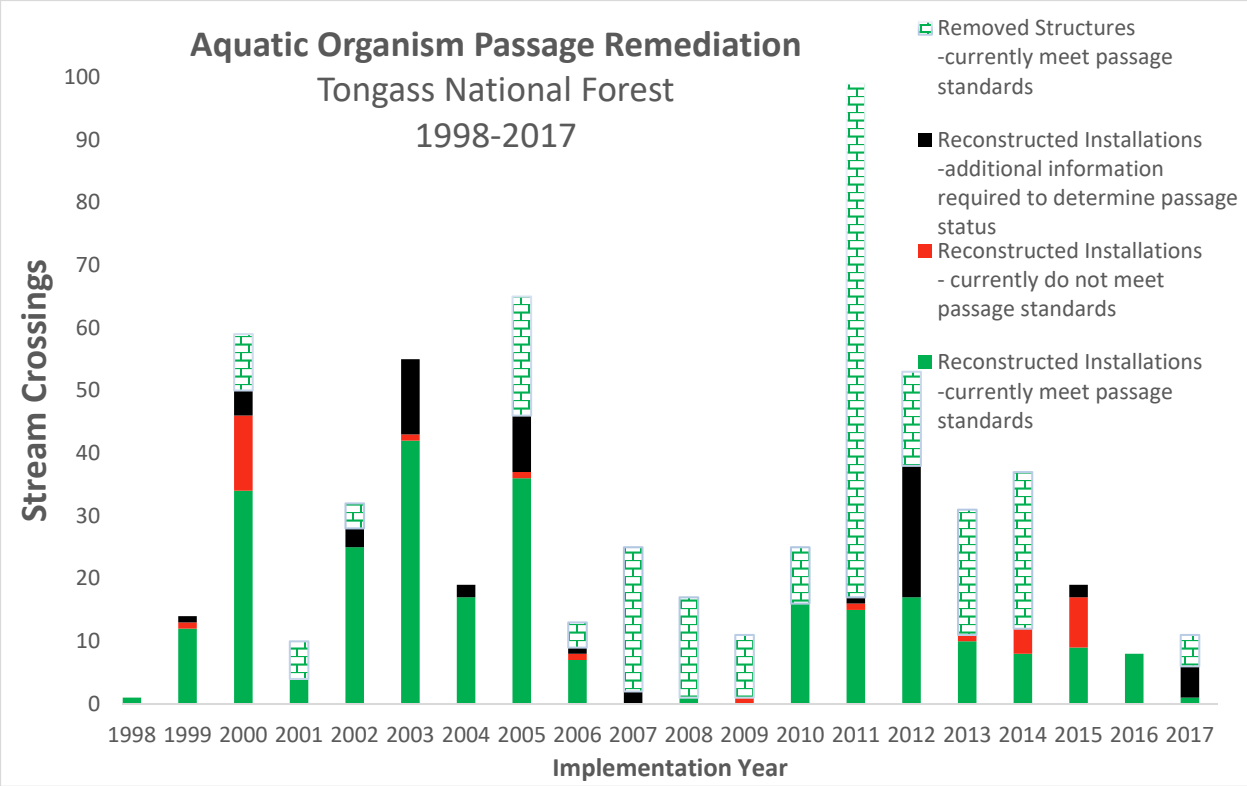

Figure 1. Aquatic organism passage remediation on the Tongass National Forest 1998 - 2017

The culverts were primarily assessed using criteria established in the USFS Alaska Region Juvenile Fish Passage Assessment Matrix (Table 1). The matrix separates out culverts that have conditions that can be assumed to meet standards from those that do not. The evaluation matrix stratifies culverts by type and establishes criteria thresholds for culvert gradient, stream constriction, debris blockage, and vertical barrier at the culvert outlet (perch) specific to each culvert type. Each culvert is placed into one of the five juvenile fish-passage capability categories.

- **GREEN category**: conditions are assumed to be adequate for fish passage and to meet State of Alaska juvenile fish passage flow standards.
- **RED category**: conditions are assumed not to be adequate for fish passage and not to meet State of Alaska juvenile fish passage flow standards.
- **GRAY category**: conditions are such that additional and more detailed analysis is required to determine their juvenile fish passage ability. This additional analysis includes use of the FishXing analytical software. Also includes all baffled pipes.
- **YELLOW category**: Conditions are assumed to be adequate for fish passage and to meet State of Alaska juvenile fish passage flow standards. However, the potentially insufficient depth of bedload material in the bottom of the culvert elevates concerns about the ability of the bedload to be retained. These culverts are on a more frequent inspection schedule to assure that bedload is retained
- **BLACK category**: The fish passage condition is unknown because critical survey measurements are not currently available.

Table 1. USFS Alaska Region juvenile salmonid fish passage assessment matrix

Structure Group #	Structure Group	Green Conditions assumed adequate to pass juvenile fish	Gray Conditions require additional analysis	Red Conditions assumed inadequate to pass juvenile fish
1	Bottomless pipe arch or embedded[1] pipe arch or embedded CMP[2].	Culvert span to bed width ratio >= 0.75 and no blockage or backwatered[3] and no blockage.	Culvert span to bed width ratio of 0.5 to 0.75 OR blockage >0 percent but <=10 percent.	Culvert span to bed width ratio <0.5 or blockage >10 percent
2	Non-embedded pipe arches and culvert span <= 144 inches or non-embedded CMP and culvert span > 48 inches and <=144 inches.	Culvert gradient <0.5 percent and no perch[4] and no blockage and culvert span to bed width ratio > 0.75 or backwatered and no blockage.	Culvert gradient between 0.5 percent - 2.0 percent or perch >0.0 feet but <=4 inches or blockage >0 percent but <=10 percent or culvert span to bed width ratio between 0.5 to 0.75.	Culvert gradient >2.0 percent or >4 inches perch or blockage >10 percent or culvert span to bed width ratio <0.5.
3	Non-embedded CMP and <= 48 inch span.	Culvert gradient <0.5 percent and no perch and no blockage and culvert span to bed width ratio > 0.75 or backwatered and no blockage	Culvert gradient between 0.5 percent - 1.0 percent or perch >0.0 feet but <=4 inches or blockage >0 percent but <=10 percent or culvert span to bed width ratio between 0.5 to 0.75.	Culvert gradient >1.0 percent or >4 inch perch or blockage >10 percent or culvert span to bed width ratio <0.5.
4	Non-embedded culvert and culvert span >144 inches	Culvert gradient <1.0 percent and no perch and no blockage and culvert span to bank full ratio > 0.75 or backwatered and no blockage.	Culvert gradient between 1.0 percent - 2.0 percent or perch >0.0 feet but <=4 inches or blockage >0 percent but <=10 percent or culvert span to bed width ratio between 0.5 to 0.75.	Culvert gradient >2.0 percent or >4 inch perch or blockage >10 percent or culvert span to bed width ratio <0.5.
5	Box culverts, tidally influenced culverts, culverts with non-standard configurations or materials or baffled culverts.	Fully backwatered	All	Perch >4 inches
6	Bridges or fords or removed structures	No road fill caused blockage	Not Applicable	Road fill causing blockage. Water piping through road fill
7	Multiple structure installations	Multiple structures are assessed as other similar structures with the exception that constriction is calculated by dividing the stream bedwidth by the sum of all the structure widths. The structure with the best passage performance is used to determine the passage capability of the entire array.		

Note: These criteria are not design criteria, but rather indicate whether the structure is likely to provide fish passage for juvenile salmonids at a particular point in time.

[1] Culverts are considered embedded if they have 100 percent bedload cover and average substrate depth >=20 percent of culvert rise. If culverts have 100 percent bedload cover and the average substrate depth is < 20 percent but > 5 percent of the culvert rise at both the inlet and outlet of the culvert and meet other criteria for a Green culvert than it will be identified as a Yellow crossing and requires more frequent re-inspections to assure bedload depth is retained.

[2] CMP – corrugated metal pipe

[3] The culvert is considered backwatered if the elevation of the top-of-water at the downstream control is greater than the elevation of the upstream invert of the culvert. Culvert gradient, constriction, and perch criteria are not considered in the assessment of fish passage in backwatered culvert.

[4] Perch is calculated as a flow dependent value. Perch is the defined as the difference in height between the downstream invert of the culvert (or top of bedload at downstream end of culvert if bedload is present) and top-of-water at the downstream control.

Sampling/Reporting Period

The sampling period is annual. A subsample of culverts installed from 1998 - 2017 in fish streams are monitored annually.

Monitoring Results

As part of a multi-year monitoring project, 42 culverts spanning fish streams were monitored in 2016 and 2017 to assess their ability to provide fish passage (Photo 2). These culverts were chosen from 269 culverts which have been installed, reinstalled or retrofitted in fish streams between 1998 and 2017. The culverts monitored in 2016 and 2017 are located on Chichagof, Wrangell, False, Kruzof, Mitkof, and Prince of Wales Islands. From 2000 through 2006 and 2009 through 2015 culverts were monitored on Kupreanof, Kuiu, Wrangell, Mitkof, Zarembo, Revillagigedo, Chichagof, False, and Prince of Wales Islands. Twenty-nine culverts that were installed between 2012 and 2015 using a simplified stream simulation (SSS) design were monitored annually between 2012 and 2015. In 2016, 13 of these were resurveyed and in 2017, 18 were resurveyed. The 251 unique stream crossings monitored to date as part of this assessment constitute approximately 91 percent of the culverts (excluding bottom-less culverts) recently installed, reinstalled or retrofitted in fish streams on the Tongass National Forest.

Eighty percent of the culverts monitored are green or yellow and have met the acceptable passage criteria established in the juvenile fish passage criteria matrix (Table 1). They are consistent with State of Alaska juvenile fish passage standards and are assumed to provide unimpeded juvenile and adult fish passage. Seven percent of the culverts are Gray and require more comprehensive analysis to determine passage status. The remaining 13 percent are red and are assumed not to provide adequate passage at all desired stream flows. The majority (67 percent) of the 252 stream crossings monitored were installed between 2000 and 2005 (Table 2).

Fifty-five percent of the monitored culverts used stream simulation designs, 12 percent were installed using a SSS design, 2 percent are hydraulic designed or baffled culverts, 19 percent utilized a no-slope design, 1% were retrofits, and 11 percent were incorrectly designed without adequate fish passage considerations. Two percent of the stream simulated designed culverts are red. Of the three red stream simulated designed culverts, two have had a segment of their length completely scoured free of bedload and one was blocked by woody debris. Twenty-one percent of the SSS designed culverts are red due to insufficient bedload accumulation within the culverts or constriction of the channel due to undersized culvert. None of the 47 installed no-slope designed culverts were red. All five of the hydraulic designed culverts require additional more comprehensive analysis to determine passage status. Twenty-eight culverts were installed without discernable fish passage design considerations and as a result 24 (86%) of them are red. Seven of those most likely were not identified as crossings requiring passage at time of installation and therefore were not designed appropriately (Figure 2). It is undetermined why the other seventeen culverts were installed without adequate design considerations.

Photo 2. Survey of culvert conditions

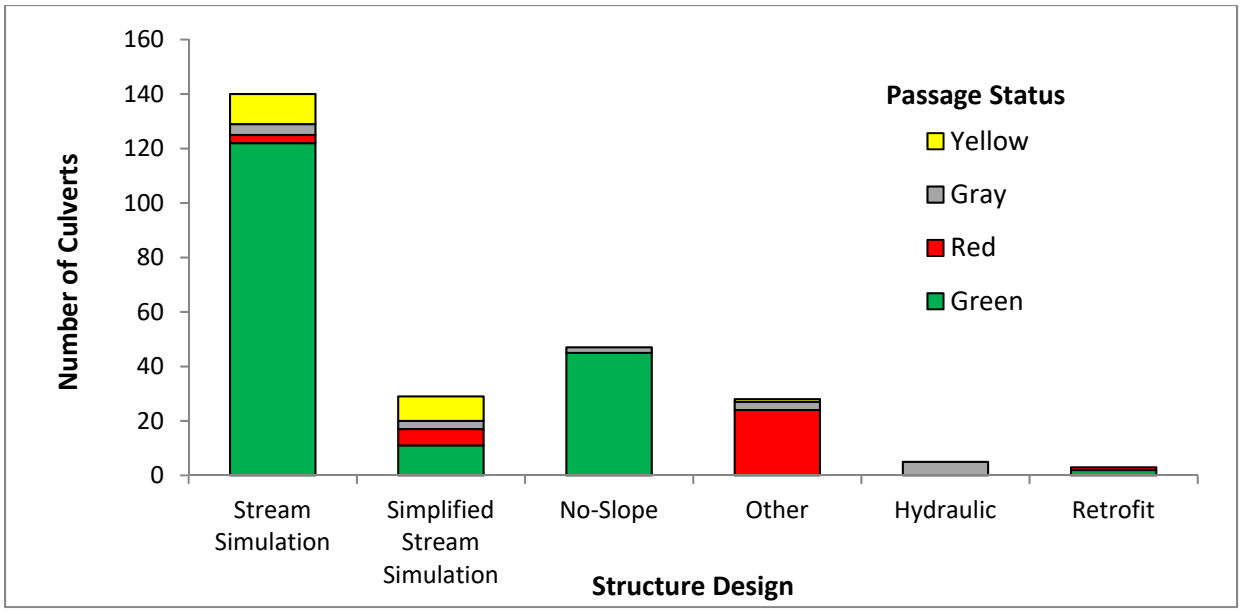

Figure 2. Design type and juvenile fish passage status of monitored culverts.

Of the culverts that were determined to be consistent with passage standards, most were ideal installations. They contained appropriate bedload depth and material, were not blocked with debris, were not perched at the outlet and did not constrict the channel or cause any undesirable channel modifications.

However, some of the crossings determined to be consistent with passage standards had some issues associated with them that required or may require some action. Four of the culverts had woody debris blockages in them but were subsequently cleared. Several of the culverts which have bedload retaining weirs installed in them are not retaining bedload to the desirable amount. This causes slight vertical drops at the weirs and may provide a less than an ideal amount of channel roughness within the culvert. One culvert had a section of subsurface flow within the culvert which was most likely due to an insufficient amount of finer bedload material. However, this stream channel also had a section of naturally occurring interrupted flow directly downstream of the culvert.

Table 2. Monitored Culvert Measurements

District	Road	M.P.	Culvert Type	Design	Install Year	Monitor Year	Culvert Outlet Perch	Percent Culvert Bedload Cover	Ratio Bedload Depth to Culvert Rise	Ratio Stream Bedwidth to Culvert Width	Culvert Gradient to Channel Gradient	Percent Debris Blockage	Juvenile Passage Status
Petersburg	40000	2.492	round	simulation	2002	2009	No perch	100%	0.32	1.41	2.8% : 8%	0%	Green
Petersburg	40000	3.129	round	simulation	2002	2010	No perch	100%	0.4	1.00	4.6% : 7%	0%	Green
Petersburg	40000	3.194	arch	simulation	2002	2010	No perch	100%	0.23	1.31	6.3% : 7%	0%	Green
Petersburg	40000	3.292	round	simulation	2002	2009	No perch	100%	0.38	1.28	4.1% : 6%	0%	Green
Petersburg	40000	3.337	arch	simulation	2002	2009	No perch	100%	0.26	0.97	6.7% : 9%	0%	Green
Petersburg	40000	3.356	round	simulation	2002	2009	No perch	100%	0.37	0.93	5.2% : 7%	0%	Green
Petersburg	40000	3.552	arch	simulation	2002	2010	No perch	100%	0.23	1.62	7.1% : 8%	0%	Green
Petersburg	40000	3.739	round	simulation	2003	2011	No perch	100%	0.47	0.94	6.7% : 12%	0%	Green
Petersburg	40000	5.001	round	hydraulic	2002	2009	No perch	n/a	n/a	n/a[4]	6.9% : 0%	0%[1]	Gray
Petersburg	6235	12.361	round	simulation	2002	2009	No perch	100%	0.35	1.22	5.1% : 7%	0%	Green
Petersburg	6235	12.932	round	simulation	2002	2009	No perch	100%	0.41	1.5	4.7% : 5%	0%	Green
Petersburg	6235	15.45	round	simulation	2003	2009	No perch	100%	0.35	1.27	0.1% : 3%	0%	Green
Petersburg	6235	15.846	round	simulation	2002	2009	No perch	100%	0.42	1.01	1.0% : 2%	0%	Green
Petersburg	6235	17.071	round	simulation	2002	2009	No perch	100%	0.36	1.25	1.4% : 1%	0%	Green
Petersburg	6235	17.579	arch	simulation	2002	2009	No perch	100%	0.41	2.00	2.7% : 1%	0%	Green
Petersburg	6241	3.932	arch	simulation	2000	2005	No perch	100%	0.27	1.04	0.3% : 3%	0%	Green
Petersburg	6245	0.94	arch	simulation	1998	2009	No perch	100%	0.28	0.95	1.6% : 4%	0%	Green
Petersburg	6245	1.256	arch	simulation	2003	2009	No perch	100%	0.5	1.15	8.8% :16%	0%	Green
Petersburg	6245	1.503	round	simulation	2003	2009	No perch	100%	0.23	1.00	5.0% : 7%	0%	Green
						2012	No Perch	100%	0.14	1.00	5.1%: 7%	0%	Green
Petersburg	6245	4.69	round	simulation	2003	2009	No perch	100%	0.43	1.17	1.7% : 5%	0%	Green
Petersburg	6245	4.962	round	simulation	2003	2009	No perch	100%	0.51	1.21	4.8% : 8%	0%	Green
Petersburg	6245	8.562	round	simulation	2003	2009	No perch	100%	0.31	1.14	6.4% :7%	0%	Green
						2012	No Perch	100%	0.31	0.73	6.4% : 7%	0%	Green
Petersburg	40010	0.146	arch	simulation	2001	2009	No perch	100%	0.2	0.76	1.6% : 6%	0%	Green

District	Road	M.P.	Culvert Type	Design	Install Year	Monitor Year	Culvert Outlet Perch	Percent Culvert Bedload Cover	Ratio Bedload Depth to Culvert Rise	Ratio Stream Bedwidth to Culvert Width	Culvert Gradient to Channel Gradient	Percent Debris Blockage	Juvenile Passage Status
						2015	No Perch	100%	0.19	0.76	1.6% : 6%	0%	Yellow
Petersburg	6204	0.318	round	other [13]	2009	2009	No perch	38%	0.04	1.18	1.4% : 4%	0%	Green
						2010	No Perch	100%	0.03	1.33	1.3% : 2%	0%	Red
Petersburg	6204	1.997	round	simulation	2003	2009	No perch	100%	0.49	1.00	2.0% : 9%	0%	Green
Petersburg	6204	8.002	round	simulation	2003	2009	No perch	100%	0.34	1.33	2.0% :3%	0%[1]	Green
Petersburg	6350	4.612	round	no slope [2]	2002	2010	No perch	100%	0.04	1.45	-0.7% : 5%	0%	Green
Petersburg	6350	4.693	round	no slope [2]	2002	2010	No perch	0%	0	1.3	0% : 2%	0%	Green
Petersburg	6350	17.465	plastic	other[7]	2013	2014	0.7 feet	0%	0	0.69	1.1% : 3%	0%	Red
Petersburg	6402	6.387	plastic	other[13]	2015	2015	No perch	0%	0	0.45	1.2% : 3%	0%	Red
Petersburg	6402	6.443	plastic	other[13]	2015	2015	0.3 feet	0%	0	0.36	4.5% : 3%	0%	Red
Petersburg	6402	7.361	plastic	other[7]	2015	2015	1.1 feet	0%	0	n/a[4]	1.3% : 1%	0%	Red
Petersburg	6402	7.872	arch	simulation	2005	2010	No perch	100%	0.27	1.00	0.9% : 3%	0%	Green
Petersburg	6402	11.17	arch	simulation	2005	2010	No perch	100%	0.15	2.22	5.3% : 5%	0%	Yellow
Petersburg	6402	12.211	round	other[7]	2015	2015	0.6 feet	0%	0	0.5	5.5% : 4.5%	0%	Red
Petersburg	6407	1.743	round	simulation	2005	2010	No perch	100%	0.41	1.17	11.4% : 8%	0%	Green
Petersburg	6407	4.526	round	simulation	2005	2010	No perch	100%	0.38	1.28	5.4% : 7%	0%	Green
Petersburg	6407	4.558	arch	simulation	2005	2015	No perch	95%	0.02	0.64	2.6% : 5.5%	0%	Red
Petersburg	6407	6.208	round	simulation	2005	2010	No perch	100%	0.39	1.43	1.4% : 8%	0%	Green
Petersburg	6415	2.339	dual arch[3]	simulation	2000	2010	No perch	100%	0.15	1.00	3.5% : 4%	0%	Green
Petersburg	6415	2.341	dual arch[3]	simulation	2000	2010	No perch	100%	0.22	1.00	3.6% : 4%	0%[1]	Green
Petersburg	6415	2.836	arch	simulation	2000	2010	No perch	100%	0.21	0.78	3.1% : 4%	0%	Green
Petersburg	6415	3.366	arch	simulation	2000	2010	0.3 feet6	100%	0.14	1.14	1.1% : 4%	0%	Yellow
Petersburg	6415	4.223	arch	simulation	2000	2010	No perch	100%	0.43	1.19	4.6% : 3%	0%	Green
Petersburg	6415	7.198	arch	simulation	2000	2010	No perch	100%	0.17	0.9	4.8% : 9%	0%	Yellow
Petersburg	6415	8.772	arch	simulation	1998	2010	No perch	100%	0.12	0.95	0% : 3%	0%	Green
Petersburg	6415	12.729	arch	simulation	2005	2010	No perch	100%	0.26	1.95	4.9% : 6%	0%	Green

District	Road	M.P.	Culvert Type	Design	Install Year	Monitor Year	Culvert Outlet Perch	Percent Culvert Bedload Cover	Ratio Bedload Depth to Culvert Rise	Ratio Stream Bedwidth to Culvert Width	Culvert Gradient to Channel Gradient	Percent Debris Blockage	Juvenile Passage Status
Petersburg	6314S	8.739	round	other[7]	2002	2010	0.1 feet	0%	0	0.61	4.5% : 12%	0%	Red
Petersburg	6314S	8.817	round	no-slope	2002	2010	No perch	100%	0.1	1.09	0.0% : 1%	0%	Green
Petersburg	6314S	8.915	round	no slope [2]	2002	2010	No perch	0%	0	1.04	0.3% : 0%	0%	Green
Petersburg	6314S	8.959	round	no slope [2]	2002	2010	No perch	100%	0.29	0.98	0.3% : 1%	0%	Green
Petersburg	6314S	9.575	round	simulation	2002	2010	No perch	100%	0.2	2.06	5.3% : 10%	0%	Green
Petersburg	6314S	9.699	round	other[7]	2002	2010	0.3 feet	0%	0.01	1.05	3.8% : 8%	0%	Red
Petersburg	6314S	12.535	round	simulation	2002	2010	No perch	100%	0.27	0.96	2.1% : 12%	0%	Green
Petersburg	6314S	13.223	arch	simulation	2002	2010	No perch	100%	0.2	0.81	3.5% : 6%	0%	Green
Petersburg	6314S	13.284	round	other[7]	2002	2010	No perch	0%	0	1.00	2.9% : 4%	0%	Red
Petersburg	45001	0.185	round	simulation	2001	2010	No perch	100%	0.148	1.16	5.5% : 8%	0%	Green
Petersburg	45001	0.485	round	simulation	2001	2010	No perch	100%	0.14	1.52	1.9% : 6%	0%	Yellow
Petersburg	6030	0.512	round	simulation	2001	2010	No perch	100%	0.47	0.92	1.1% : 4%	0%	Green
Petersburg	6031	0.583	round	simulation	2003	2011	No perch	100%	0.22	1.56	0.5% : 2%	0%	Green
Petersburg	6031	0.597	round	simulation	2003	2011	No perch[9]	100%	0.13	1.04	2.6% : 6%	0%	Yellow
Petersburg	6031	3.161	arch	simulation	2003	2011	No perch	93%	0.141	1.02	5.1% : 5%	0%	Red
Petersburg	6031	3.833	round	simulation	2003	2011	No perch	100%	0.32	1.16	3.6% : 5%	0%	Green
Petersburg	6031	4.34	round	no slope[2]	2003	2011	No perch	100%	0.11	0.85	1.8% : 2%	0%	Green
Petersburg	6031	5.84	round	simulation	2003	2011	No perch	100%	0.39	1.43	1.5% : 3%	0%	Green
Petersburg	6031	6.166	round	simulation	2003	2011	No Perch	100%	0.32	1.00	0.9% : 3%	0%	Green
Petersburg	6317	0.043	round	simulation	2003	2004	No perch	100%	0.33	0.67	0.5% : 4%	0%	Green
Petersburg	6319	8.413	round	simulation	2003	2011	No perch	100%	0.4	0.96	4.2% : 4%	0%	Green
Petersburg	6319	10.975	round	simulation	2003	2011	No perch	100%	0.3	1.79	2.9% : 5%	0%	Green
Petersburg	6323	0.162	round	simulation	2003	2011	No perch	100%	0.27	2.17	4.2% : 2%	0%	Green
Petersburg	6256	3.146	arch	simulation	2006	2011	No perch	100%	0.3	n/a[4]	0.2% : 1%	0%	Green
Petersburg	6256	4.499	round	simulation	2006	2011	No perch	100%	0.38	n/a[4]	1.8% : 0%	0%	Green
Petersburg	6256	5.528	round	simulation	2006	2011	No perch	100%	0.42	n/a[4]	0% : 0.6%	20%[11]	Red

District	Road	M.P.	Culvert Type	Design	Install Year	Monitor Year	Culvert Outlet Perch	Percent Culvert Bedload Cover	Ratio Bedload Depth to Culvert Rise	Ratio Stream Bedwidth to Culvert Width	Culvert Gradient to Channel Gradient	Percent Debris Blockage	Juvenile Passage Status
Petersburg	Raven	Trail	round	hydraulic	2015	2016	No perch	100%	0.4	0.69	2.2%: 2%	0%	Gray
Wrangell	6259	2.334	arch	SSS	2014	2014	No perch	100%	0.18	1.21	3.6% : 4%	0%	Yellow
						2015	No perch	100%	0.2	1.21	3.5% : 4%	0%	Green
						2017	No perch	95%	0.16	1.14	2.5% : 4%	0%	Red
Wrangell	6259	2.782	arch	SSS	2014	2014	No perch	95%[12]	0.25	0.63	3.7% : 3%	0%	Green
						2015	No perch	66%[12]	0.22	0.63	3.5% : 3%	0%	Green
						2016	No perch	95%[12]	0.08	0.63	3.8% : 3%	0%	Gray
						2017	No perch	62%[12]	0.07	0.5	3.6% : 3%	0%	Red
Wrangell	6259	2.787	arch	SSS	2014	2014	No perch	70%	0.112	0.84	2.1 : 3%	0%	Green
						2015	No perch	100%	0.112	0.84	-5.8% : 4%	0%	Green
						2017	No perch	66%[12]	0.03	0.87	2.2% : 3%	0%	Yellow
Wrangell	6299	2.263	arch	simulation	2003	2010	No perch	100%	0.29	0.96	5.0% : 9%	0%	Green
Wrangell	6299	2.544	round	retrofit	2003	2010	No perch	70%	0.02	0.63	2.3% : 7%	0%	Red
Wrangell	6299	2.508	round	simulation	2003	2010	No perch	100%	0.33	1.11	3.3% : 5%	0%	Green
Wrangell	6299	2.577	round	simulation	2003	2010	No perch	100%	0.36	0.95	3.8% : 5%	0%	Green
Wrangell	6585	5.127	round	simulation	2005	2012	No perch	100%	0.28	1.14	10.4%:11%	0%	Green
Wrangell	6585	5.285	round	simulation	2005	2012	No perch	100%	0.42	1.04	0.8% : 6%	0%	Green
Wrangell	6585	5.597	round	simulation	2005	2012	No perch	100%	0.41	1.02	7.3% : 10%	0%	Green
Wrangell	6585	11.447	arch	simulation	2005	2012	No perch	100%	0.21	1.17	3.1% : 6%	0%	Green
Wrangell	6590	0.677	arch	no-slope[2]	2014	2014	No perch	100%	0.38	0.83	0.3% : 3%	0%	Green
						2015	No perch	100%	0.32	0.83	0.0% : 3%	0%	Green
Wrangell	6590	1.674	round	other[14]/[2]	2014	2014	No perch	50%	0.12	1.38	1.1% : 2%	0%	Red
						2015	No perch	90%	0.12	1.38	1.1% : 2%	0%	Yellow
Wrangell	6590	4.396	round	other[13]	2007	2014	1"	0%	0	1.2	1.7% : 5%	0%	Red
Wrangell	6590	6.433	arch	simulation	2005	2012	No perch	30%	0.002	0.56	1.8% : 6%	0%	Green
Wrangell	6590	11.197	round	simulation	2005	2012	No perch	100%	0.36	1.1	3.7% : 5%	0%	Green

District	Road	M.P.	Culvert Type	Design	Install Year	Monitor Year	Culvert Outlet Perch	Percent Culvert Bedload Cover	Ratio Bedload Depth to Culvert Rise	Ratio Stream Bedwidth to Culvert Width	Culvert Gradient to Channel Gradient	Percent Debris Blockage	Juvenile Passage Status
Wrangell	6590	11.597	dual arch[3]	simulation	2005	2012	No perch	100%	0.03	0.57	0.8% : 6%	0%	Gray
Wrangell	6590	14.046	round	no-slope	2014	2014	No perch	83%	0.06	1.11	-0.4 : 6%	0%	Green
						2015	No perch	90%	0.06	1.11	-0.3% : 6%	0%	Green
Wrangell	6590	18.55	round	simulation	2005	2012	No perch	100%	0.34	1.00	7.0% : 9%	0%	Green
Wrangell	6590	18.734	round-baffled	hydraulic	2005	2012	No perch	10%	0.12	1.03	10.4% : 9%	0%	Gray
Wrangell	6590	22.056	arch	no-slope	2014	2014	No perch	96%	0.11	0.88	0.2% : 5%	0%	Green
						2015	No perch	100%	0.1	0.88	0.1% :5%	0%	Green
Wrangell	6590	28.661	round	simulation	2005	2012	No perch	100%	0.35	1.17	11.5%:12%	0%	Green
Wrangell	6590	36.018	round	simulation	2005	2012	No perch	100%	0.34	0.98	8.5% : 11%	0%	Green
Wrangell	6590	36.079	round	simulation	2005	2012	No perch	100%	0.38	1.1	9.5% : 12%	0%	Green
Wrangell	50054	0.033	arch	SSS	2014	2014	No perch	0%	0	0.88	2.2% : 5%	0%	Red
						2015	No perch	0%	0	0.88	2.2% : 5%	0%	Red
						2016	No Perch	0%	0	0.88	2.3% : 5%	0%	Red
						2017	No perch	0%	0	0.66	2.2% : 5%	0%	Red
Wrangell	50054	0.063	round	SSS	2014	2014	No perch	100%	0.09	0.8	1.3% : 1%	0%	Yellow
						2015	No perch	100%	0.14	0.8	1.2% : 1%	0%	Yellow
						2016	No perch	80%[12]	0.13	0.8	1.3% : 1%	0%	Yellow
						2017	No perch	80%[12]	0.13	1.5	1.3% : 1%	0%	Yellow
Wrangell	50054	0.086	round	SSS	2014	2014	No perch	100%	0.14	0.95	1.5% : 3%	0%	Yellow
						2015	No perch	100%	0.13	0.95	1.6% : 3%	0%	Yellow
						2016	No perch	100%	0.14	0.95	1.4% : 3%	0%	Yellow
						2017	No perch	100%	0.16	1.11	1.4% : 3%	0%	Yellow
Wrangell	50055	0.031	arch	SSS	2014	2014	No perch	100%	0.07	1.69	2.5% : 2%	0%	Yellow
						2015	No perch	100%	0.07	1.69	2.5% : 2%	0%	Yellow
						2016	No perch	100%	0.06	1.69	2.4% : 2%	0%	Yellow
						2017	No perch	100%	0.08	1.48	2.4% : 2%	0%	Yellow

District	Road	M.P.	Culvert Type	Design	Install Year	Monitor Year	Culvert Outlet Perch	Percent Culvert Bedload Cover	Ratio Bedload Depth to Culvert Rise	Ratio Stream Bedwidth to Culvert Width	Culvert Gradient to Channel Gradient	Percent Debris Blockage	Juvenile Passage Status
Craig	2024200	0.81	round	simulation	1999	2010	No perch	100%	0.182	0.84	1.4%: 4%	0%	Green
Craig	2024300	0.236	round	simulation	1999	2011	No perch	100%	0.23	0.82	3.1% : 4%	0%	Green
Craig	2024300	0.26	round	simulation	1999	2011	No perch	100%	0.5	0.88	0.4% : 4%	0%	Green
Craig	2100000	0.23	round	simulation	2005	2010	No perch	100%	0.42	1.36	3.3% : 4%	0%	Green
Craig	2100000	2.07	round	simulation	2000	2010	No perch	100%	0.18	1.11	0.4% : 7%	0%	Green
Craig	2100000	5.19	arch	simulation	2005	2010	No perch	100%	0.26	1.51	6.0% : 8%	0%	Green
Craig	2100000	5.71	round	no-slope	2004	2013	No perch	5%	0.04	NA	0.4% : 0%	0%	Green
Craig	2120000	0.83	arch	simulation	2005	2010	No perch	100%	0.22	1.15	6.1% : 10%	0%	Green
Craig	2150000	8.87	round	simulation	2005	2010	No perch	100%	0.42	1.29	2.2% : 4%	0%	Green
Craig	2150000	8.92	round	simulation	2005	2010	No perch	100%	0.23	1.58	1.7% : 4%	0%	Green
Thorne Bay	1520000	1.819	round	simulation	2007	2014	No perch	2%	0.07	1.08	0.6% : 2.5%	0%	Gray
Thorne Bay	2000000	102.91	arch	SSS	2012	2012	No perch	100%	0.15	0.94	0.9% : 2%	0%	Red
						2013	No perch	100%	0.21	0.94	0.9% : 2%	0%	Green
						2014	No perch	100%	0.21	0.94	0.9% : 2%	0%	Green
						2015	No perch	100%	0.27	0.94	1.0% : 2%	0%	Green
Thorne Bay	2000000	122.68	arch	SSS	2013	2013	No perch	38%[12]	0.3	1.39	1.7% : 2%	0%	Green
						2014	No perch	40%[12]	0.32	1.39	1.7% : 2%	0%	Green
						2015	No perch	100%	0.17	1.39	1.8% : 2%	0%	Green
Thorne Bay	2000000	125.24	arch	SSS	2013	2013	No perch	86%[12]	0.2	1.09	1.8% : 3%	0%	Green
						2014	No perch	100%	0.18	1.09	1.8% : 3%	0%	Yellow
						2015	No perch	100%	0.17	1.09	3.3% : 3%	0%	Yellow
Thorne Bay	2000000	125.41	arch	no-slope[2]	2012	2014	No perch	0%	0	2.05	-0.3% : 5%	0%	Green
Thorne Bay	2000000	125.43	arch	no-slope[2]	2012	2014	No perch	0%	0	1.38	0.0% : 4%	0%	Green
Thorne Bay	2000440	0.72	round	other[13]	2003	2010	0.4 feet	0%	0	0.93	2.9% : 5%	0%	Red
	2000860	0.659	arch	SSS	2013	2013	No perch	54%[12]	0.27	1.01	2.7% : 4%	0%	Green

District	Road	M.P.	Culvert Type	Design	Install Year	Monitor Year	Culvert Outlet Perch	Percent Culvert Bedload Cover	Ratio Bedload Depth to Culvert Rise	Ratio Stream Bedwidth to Culvert Width	Culvert Gradient to Channel Gradient	Percent Debris Blockage	Juvenile Passage Status
Thorne Bay						2014	No perch	100%	0.3	1.01	2.7% : 4%	0%	Green
						2015	No perch	100%	0.35	1.01	2.8% : 4%	0%	Green
Thorne Bay	2085000	0.944	arch	SSS	2013	2013	No perch	100%	0.28	1.16	3.8% : 5%	0%	Green
						2014	No perch	100%	0.29	1.16	3.7% : 5%	0%	Green
						2015	No perch	100%	0.32	1.16	3.8% : 5%	0%	Green
Thorne Bay	2050000	5.78	arch	SSS	2015	2015	No perch	100%	0.1	0.97	4.7% : 4%	0%	Yellow
						2016	No perch	75%[12]	0.13	1.14	4.2% : 4%	0%	Yellow
						2017	No perch	75%[12]	0.14	1.47	4.4% : 5%	0%	Yellow
Thorne Bay	2050000	6.62	arch	SSS	2015	2015	No perch	100%	0.15	0.81	15.4% : 4%	0%	Yellow
						2016	No perch	100%	0.18	0.82	3.1% : 4%	0%	Yellow
						2017	No perch	100%	0.14	1.43	3.3% : 6%	0%	Yellow
Thorne Bay	2050000	7.76	round	no-slope	2016	2017	No perch	0%	0	n/a[4]	0.7% : 1%	0%	Green
Thorne Bay	2050200	0.22	arch-baffled	SSS	2015	2015	No perch	100%	0.11	0.88	4.8% : 5%	0%	Gray
						2016	No perch	100%	0.09	0.85	4.6% : 5%	0%	Gray
						2017	No perch	100%	0.16	1.19	4.6% : 6%	0%	Gray
Thorne Bay	2054000	2.22	round	simulation	2002	2010	No perch	100%	0.42	1.56	2.8% : 6%	0%	Green
Thorne Bay	2054000	3.56	round	simulation	2002	2010	No perch	100%	0.39	0.71	2.3% : 4%	0%	Green
Thorne Bay	2054000	3.78	round	simulation	2002	2010	No perch	100%	0.34	0.11	2.4% : 4%	0%	Green
Thorne Bay	2054300	0.46	round	simulation	2002	2011	No perch	100%	0.48	n/a[4]	1.0% : 0%	0%	Green
Thorne Bay	2700000	0.71	arch	SSS	2012	2012	No perch	45%[12]	0.15	1.36	3.0% : 2.0%	0%	Green
						2013	No perch	45%[12]	0.15	1.36	3.0% : 2.0%	0%	Green
						2014	No perch	100%	0.26	1.36	2.9% : 2.0%	0%	Green
						2015	No perch	100%	0.33	1.36	3.0 : 2.0%	0%	Green
Thorne Bay	2700000	5.623	round	simulation	2011	2013	No perch	100%	0.34	1.39	0% : 5%	0%	Green

District	Road	M.P.	Culvert Type	Design	Install Year	Monitor Year	Culvert Outlet Perch	Percent Culvert Bedload Cover	Ratio Bedload Depth to Culvert Rise	Ratio Stream Bedwidth to Culvert Width	Culvert Gradient to Channel Gradient	Percent Debris Blockage	Juvenile Passage Status
Thorne Bay	2700000	5.673	round	other	2004	2013	No perch	100%	0	1.2	1.0% : 4%	0%	Gray
						2017	No perch	100%	0.1	0.56	0.9% : 6%	0%	Gray
Thorne Bay	3000000	23.49	arch-baffled	SSS	2015	2015	No perch	100%	0.16	1.06	9.6% : 10%	0%	Red
						2016	No perch	96%	0.16	1.06	9.5% : 10%	0%	Gray
Thorne Bay	3000000	52.24	round	simulation	2003	2010	No perch	100%	0.36	1.16	3.3% : 13%	0%	Green
Thorne Bay	3000000	60.67	round	simulation	2003	2010	No perch	100%	0.33	1.3	9.7% : 15%	0%	Green
Thorne Bay	3000000	62.43	round	simulation	2003	2010	No perch	100%	0.37	0.9	4.8% : 9%	0%	Green
Thorne Bay	3000000	62.52	arch	simulation	2003	2016	0.1 feet	100%	0.2	0.81	6% : 6%	0%	Yellow
Thorne Bay	3000000	64.88	arch	simulation	2003	2010	No perch	100%	0.24	1.05	2.5% : 3%	0%	Green
Thorne Bay	3000000	79.94	round	no-slope	2012	2014	No perch	50%	0	1.14	0.3% : 4%	0%	Green
Thorne Bay	3000000	85.462	round	other[13]	2011	2014	1.1’	0%	0	n/a[4]	2.2% : 2%	0%	Red
Thorne Bay	3000000	89.221	arch	SSS	2013	2013	No perch	54%[12]	0.18	1.19	3.8% : 6.5%	0%	Yellow
						2014	No perch	100%	0.2	1.19	3.8% : 6.5%	0%	Green
						2015	No perch	100%	0.19	1.19	3.7% : 6.5%	0%	Yellow
						2016	No perch	100%	0.2	1.09	3.6% : 6.5%	0%	Green
Thorne Bay	3000000	93.211	round	no-slope	2012	2017	No perch	10%	0	n/a[4]	0.1% : 1%	0%	Green
Thorne Bay	3000330	1.14	round	no-slope	2003	2012	No perch	5%	0.03	n/a[4]	2.7% : 2%	0%	Green
Thorne Bay	3015000	1.773	arch	SSS	2012	2012	No perch	100%	0.11	0.76	3.4% : 10%	0%	Red
						2013	No perch	100%	0.15	0.76	3.4% : 10%	0%	Red
						2014	No perch	98%	0.11	0.76	3.5% : 10%	0%	Red
						2015	No perch	90%	0.06	0.76	3.5% : 10%	0%	Red
						2016	No perch	90%	0.06	0.73	3.5% : 10%	0%	Red
						2017	No perch	90%[12]	0.1	1.04	3.5% : 8%	0%	Yellow

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Thorne Bay	3015000	2.641	arch	simulation	2010	2011	No perch	100%	0.21	0.98	6.6% : 6%	0%	Green
Thorne Bay	3015000	0.344	round	simulation	2010	2011	No perch	100%	0.25	1.67	5.5% : 2%	0%	Green
Thorne Bay	3015000	8.743	arch	SSS	2012	2012	No perch	50%[12]	0.15	1.34	4.2% : 7%	0%	Green
						2013	No perch	58%[12]	0.15	1.34	4.2% : 7%	0%	Green
						2014	No perch	100%	0.41	1.34	4.2% : 7%	0%	Green
						2015	No perch	100%	0.36	1.34	4.1% : 7%	0%	Green
Thorne Bay	3015000	6.83	round	simulation	2010	2011	No perch	100%	0.29	1.22	5.5% : 4%	0%	Green
Thorne Bay	3015250	0.03	round	simulation	2010	2011	No perch	100%	0.39	1.25	4.6% : 5%	0%	Green
Thorne Bay	3030100	0.25	round	SSS	2015	2015	No perch	100%	0.29	0.97	4% : 8%	0%	Green
						2016	No perch	100%	0.23	0.97	3.9% : 8%	0%	Green
Thorne Bay	3030100	0.28	round	SSS	2015	2015	No perch	100%	0.22	0.92	2.9% : 5%	0%	Green
						2016	No perch	95%	0.18	0.92	2.8% : 5%	0%	Yellow
						2017	Np perch	100%	0.25	0.7	3.0% : 7%	0%	Gray
Thorne Bay	3030100	0.38	arch	SSS	2015	2015	No perch	20%	0.13	1.11	1.5% : 10%	0%	Gray
						2017	No perch	50%	0.12	1.08	1.6% : 15%	0%	Yellow
Thorne Bay	3030100	0.75	arch	SSS	2015	2015	No perch	100%	0.1	1.22	1.0% : 1%	0%	Green
						2016	No perch	100%	0.12	0.87[4]	1.0% : 1%	0%	Green
Thorne Bay	3030850	0.27	concrete box	hydraulic	2002	2010	No perch	100%	n/a	n/a[4]	5.0% : 4%	0%[1]	Gray
Thorne Bay	3030850	0.3	round	simulation	2002	2010	No perch	100%	0.34	1.72	6.0% : 7%	0%	Green
Thorne Bay	3030850	0.48	concrete box	hydraulic	2002	2010	No perch	100%	n/a	n/a[4]	0.7% : 3%	0%	Gray
Thorne Bay	3000330	1.14	round	No-slope	2003	2012	No perch	5%	0.03	n/a[4]	0.4% : 0%	0%	Green
Sitka	7520	0.793	arch	retrofit	2000	2000	No perch	100%	0.25	0.94	11% : 0.6%	0%	Green
Sitka	7520	1.143	arch	retrofit	2000	2001	No perch	0%	0.08	0.55	2.3% : 7%	0%	Red
Sitka	7540CB	6.827	arch	simulation	2000	2013	No perch	100%	0.25	1.02	6.1% : 5%	0%	Green

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Sitka	7540CB	6.845	round	simulation	2000	2013	No perch	100%	0.182	0.652	0.3% : 5%	0%	Green
Sitka	7540CB	7.267	round	simulation	2004	2013	No perch	100%	0.41	1.61	Unk : 1%	0%	Green
Sitka	7540CB	7.755	round	simulation	2004	2013	No perch	100%	0.32	1.14	4.1 : 4%	0%	Green
Sitka	7540CB	8.143	round	simulation	2004	2013	No perch	100%	0.39	1.56	4.6% : 3%	0%	Green
Sitka	7540CB	8.184	round	simulation	2004	2013	No perch	100%	0.38	1.72	4.3% : 3%	0%	Green
Sitka	7540CB	8.98	round	simulation	2004	2013	No perch	100%	0.31	0.81	6.1% : 7%	0%	Green
Sitka	7540CB	14.008	round	simulation	2004	2013	No perch	100%	0.37	1.00	5.7% : 6%	0%	Green
Sitka	7541	0.594	round	simulation	2000	2000	No perch	40%	0.08	0.88	0.4% : 9%	0%	Green
Sitka	7542	0.027	arch	simulation	2005	2013	No perch	100%	0.22	0.78	4.5% : 3%	0%	Green
Sitka	7542	0.109	round	simulation	2004	2013	No perch	100%	0.37	1.35	1.7% : 1%	0%	Green
Sitka	7542	0.314	round	simulation	2004	2013	No perch	100%	0.4	0.59	2.3% : 2%	0%	Gray
Sitka	7544	1.03	round	SSS	2015	2015	No perch	15%12	0.39	1.05	1.2% : 4%	0%	Green
						2017	No Perch	20%12	0.52	1.79	1.0% : 4%	0%	Green
Sitka	7544	1.376	round	simulation	2010	2017	No perch	100%	0.46	1.19	0.9% : 2%	0%	Green
Sitka	7544	2.198	round	no-slope	2000	2002	No perch	100%	0.02	n/a[4]	0.5% : 0%	0%	Green
Sitka	7544	2.394	round	no-slope	2000	2002	No perch	0%	0	n/a[4]	-0.3% : 0%	0%	Green
Sitka	7540FI	2.45	round	no-slope	2017	2017	No perch	0%	0	n/a[4]	0.4% : 0%	0%	Green
Sitka	7540FI	2.478	round	no-slope	2017	2017	No perch	0%	0	n/a[4]	-0.2% : 0%	0%	Green
Sitka	7540FI	2.5	round	no-slope	2017	2017	No perch	0%	0	n/a[4]	2.0% : 0%	0%	Green
Sitka	7540FI	4.428	round	SSS	2015	2015	No perch	20%[12]	0.31	1.00	0.7% : 4%	0%	Yellow
						2017	No perch	30%[12]	0.29	1.21	0.6% : 5%	0%	Yellow
Sitka	7540FI	4.48	round	SSS	2015	2015	0.8 feet	40%	0.19	0.73	2.1% : 4%	0%	Red
						2017	No perch	99%	0.09	1.21	2.0% : 5%	0%	Red
Sitka	7540FI	4.554	round	SSS	2015	2015	No perch	15%[12]	0.36	0.73	1.4% : 2%	0%	Green
						2017	No perch	20%[12]	0.37	0.73	1.3% : 3%	0%	Gray

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Sitka	7540FI	6.787	round	SSS	2015	2015	No perch	20%	0.35	1.11	4.8% : 7%	0%	Red
						2017	No perch	20%	0.35	1.11	5.2% : 6%	0%	Red
Sitka	7540FI	11.687	round	other	2000	2002	No perch	50%	0.05	0.54	2.7% : 8%	0%	Red
						2017	No perch	10%	0.05	0.54	3.0% : 6%	0%	Red
Sitka	7551	0.168	round	simulation	2004	2013	No perch	100%	0.36	1.52	1.9% : 2%	0%	Green
Sitka	7590	2.956	arch	simulation	2016	2017	No perch	100%	0.24	1.21	3.2% :	0%	Green
Sitka	7590	3.316	arch	simulation	2016	2017	No perch	100%	0.21	1.33	2.8% : 4%	0%	Green
Ketchikan	8000000	22.413	round	simulation	2010	2013	No perch	100%	0.27	1.13	5.8% : 8%	0%	Green
Ketchikan	8000000	22.493	round	simulation	2010	2013	No perch	100%	0.24	1.08	3.3% : 12%	0%	Green
Ketchikan	8000025	0.22	round	simulation	2000	2015	No perch	100%	0.56	0.78	0.0% : 3.5%	0%	Green
Ketchikan	8040000	1.771	arch	simulation	2010	2013	No perch	100%	0.29	0.91	4.7% : 9%	0%	Green
Ketchikan	8040000	4.187	round	simulation	2010	2013	No perch	100%	0.26	1.32	3.2% : 5%	0%	Green
Ketchikan	8040000	5.134	arch	simulation	2010	2013	No perch	100%	0.25	0.96	4.3% : 5%	0%	Green
Hoonah	8502	0.996	round	no-slope	1998	2004	No perch	100%	0.08	0.75	1.4% : 2%	0%	Green
Hoonah	8504	0.089	round	no-slope	1999	2014	No perch	100%	0.26	0.83	0.5%: 5%	0%	Green
Hoonah	8504	1.169	round	no-slope	1999	2014	No perch	100%	0.21	0.88	-0.3% : 4%	0%	Green
Hoonah	8504	1.181	round	no-slope	1999	2014	No perch	100%	0.13	0.88	0.5% : 4%	0%	Green
Hoonah	8508	11.353	round	no-slope	2000	2006	No perch	100%	0.33	0.91	0.3% : 2%	0%	Green
Hoonah	8508	11.539	round	no-slope	2000	2006	No Perch	100%	0.23	1.04	0.2% : 2%	0%	Green
Hoonah	8508	11.954	round	no-slope	2000	2006	No perch	100%	0.14	0.75	-0.1% : 3%	0%	Green
Hoonah	8508	12.193	round	no-slope	2000	2006	No perch	100%	0.35	1.02	-0.1% : 2%	0%	Green
Hoonah	8508	12.584	round	no-slope	2000	2006	No perch	100%	0.46	1.5	0.1% : 6%	0%	Green
Hoonah	8508	12.754	round	no-slope	2000	2006	No perch	100%	0.57	1.5	-0.8% : 7%	0%	Green
Hoonah	8508	13.547	round	no-slope	2000	2006	No perch	100%	0.53	1.33	-0.2% : 5%	0%	Green
Hoonah	8508	14.016	round	other[14]	2000	2006	No perch	100%	0.07	1.00	2.2% : 4%	0%	Red
Hoonah	8513	0.273	round	other[4]	1999	2014	No perch	15%	0	1.36	7% : 21%	0%	Red

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Hoonah	8513	0.795	round	simulation	2000	2014	No perch	100%	0.34	0.81	0.1% : 10%	0%	Green
Hoonah	8513	0.954	round	no-slope	2000	2014	No perch	100%	0.14	0.84	-0.1% : 14%	0%	Green
Hoonah	8513	1.463	round	no-slope	2000	2014	No perch	100%	0.27	0.92	-0.1% : 9%	0%	Green
Hoonah	8513	1.922	round	other	2000	2014	No perch	100%	0.08	0.61	0.8% : 2%	0%	Yellow
Hoonah	8530	3.09	round	simulation	2005	2015	No perch	100%	0.41	1.04	3.4% : 4%	0%	Green
Hoonah	8530	3.077	round	simulation	2005	2014	No perch	100%	0.35	0.63	1.8% : 2%	0%	Green
Hoonah	8530	4.13	round	simulation	2005	2014	No perch	100%	0.36	1.33	6.4% : 5%	0%	Green
Hoonah	8530	10.912	round	no-slope	2000	2014	No perch	100%	0.48	0.77	-0.1% : 2%	0%	Green
Hoonah	8530	13.092	round	no-slope	2000	2006	No perch	100%	0.49	1.5	0.1% : 7%	0%	Green
Hoonah	8530	13.886	round	other	1999	2014	No perch	100%	0.1	1.4	1.8% : 4%	0%	Yellow
Hoonah	8534	0.397	arch	simulation	2005	2014	No perch	100%	0.2	1.05	4.4% : 6%	0%	Green
Hoonah	8534	1.973	round	no-slope	2000	2006	No perch	100%	0.37	1.2	0.4% : 11%	0%	Green
Hoonah	8534	1.445	round	simulation	2005	2014	No perch	100%	0.36	0.98	7.1% : 9%	0%	Green
Hoonah	8534	1.554	round	other[14]	2000	2014	No perch	100%	0.04	0.78	2.9% : 10%	0%	Red
Hoonah	8534	1.895	round	no-slope	2000	2014	No perch	100%	0.25	0.64	-0.8% : 7%	0%	Gray
Hoonah	8534	3.051	round	simulation	2000	2005	No perch	95%	0.07	0.94	0.7% : 10%	0%	Gray
Hoonah	8576	1.222	arch	simulation	2004	2004	No perch	100%	0.29	1.24	2% : 3%	0%	Green
Hoonah	8576	5.096	round	no-slope	2000	2006	No perch	100%	0.31	1.05	-0.5% : 5%	0%	Green
Hoonah	8578	0.111	round	simulation	2003	2016	No perch	100%	0.38	2.22	6.1% : 14.5%	0%	Green
Hoonah	8578	0.219	round	simulation	2003	2016	No perch	100%	0.38	1.43	5.5% : 5.5%	0%	Green
Hoonah	8578	0.608	round	simulation	2003	2016	No perch	100%	0.44	1.09	10.4% : 13%	0%	Green
Hoonah	8578	3.342	round	simulation	2003	2016	No perch	100%	0.46	1.48	3.9% : 8%	0%	Green
Hoonah	8578	3.386	round	simulation	2003	2016	No perch	100%	0.44	2	8.2% : 11%	0%	Green
Hoonah	8578	3.511	round	simulation	2003	2016	No perch	100%	0.37	1.36	6.6% : 8%	0%	Green
Hoonah	8578	3.532	round	simulation	2003	2016	No perch	100%	0.54	1.15	6.7% : 9%	0%	Green
Hoonah	8578	3.764	round	simulation	2003	2016	No perch	100%	0.38	1.5	3.7% : 5.5%	0%	Green

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Hoonah	8580	0.722	round	no-slope	2000	2015	No perch	100%	0.26	0.95	0.2% : 1.5%	0%	Green
Hoonah	8580	2.035	round	simulation	2000	2015	No perch	100%	0.26	0.85	1.4% : 6%	0%	Green
Hoonah	8580	2.657	round	other[14]	2000	2015	3.6 feet	0%	0	1.11	11% : 4.5%	0%	Red
Hoonah	8580	2.756	round	simulation	2000	2003	No perch	100%	0.11	1.67	4.3% : 18%	0%	Yellow
Hoonah	8580	3.195	round	other[14]	2000	2015	0.7 feet	0%	0.02	0.89	5.5% : 6.5%	0%	Red
Hoonah	8580	3.287	round	other[14]	2000	2015	0.3 feet	0%	0	0.85	5.7% : 3%	0%	Red
Hoonah	8580	3.375	round	other[14]	2000	2015	No perch	0%	0	0.36	3.4% : 3%	0%	Red
Hoonah	8580	4.109	round	simulation	2000	2015	No Perch	100%	0.07	0.83	1.5% : 1.5%	0%	Yellow
Hoonah	8580	4.339	round	no-slope	2000	2015	No perch	100%	0.14	n/a[4]	0.1% : 0%	0%	Green
Hoonah	8580	9.058	round	no-slope	1998	2015	No perch	100%	0.21	n/a[4]	-1.7% : 0%	0%	Green
Hoonah	8580	9.228	round	other[14]	2000	2015	0.5 feet	0%	0.01	0.4	4.6% : 5%	0%	Red
Hoonah	8580	9.492	round	other[14]	2000	2015	1.2 feet	0%	0	0.57	3.7% : 10%	10%	Red
Hoonah	8580	9.838	arch	no-slope	2000	2015	0.2 feet	15%	0.01	0.58	0.5% : 4%	0%	Gray
Hoonah	8580	12.521	round	other[14]	2000	2015	No perch	0%	0	n/a[4]	2.3% : 1%	0%	Red
Hoonah	8582	0.181	round	no-slope	2000	2015	No perch	30%	0	0.33	-0.3% : 1%	0%	Green
Hoonah	8582	1.238	round	no-slope	2000	2001	No perch	100%	0.16	1.25	-.09% : 3%	0%	Green

[1] Culvert was partially blocked by woody debris at initial site visit but was subsequently cleared and fish passage was restored.

[2] Flow is backwatered in the culvert.

[3] There are two culverts installed at this crossing. One is occasionally dewatered at lower flows and acts as an overflow culvert.

[4] Channel is palustrine therefore comparing channel width to culvert width is not as relevant.

[5] At base flows, stream flow through the culvert is subsurface for approximately 60 percent of its length and is most likely due to lack of finer bedload material. Stream flow 50 feet downstream of the culvert has interrupted flow for 5 feet which may naturally also impede fish passage at some flows.

[6] The bedload retaining weirs placed in this culvert have not adequately retained bedload and the retaining weir at the culvert outlet has a 3 inch perch due to an inadequate downstream control. Fifteen feet upstream of the culvert is a 2.7 foot vertical natural fish barrier with a 5 inch jump pool.

[7] Stream crossing structure was not designed to provide fish passage due to it not being identified as a fish stream in the Tongass AOP database prior to installation.

[8] The installed bedload retaining weirs have not retained bedload to the desirable depths and small 0.2 foot vertical drops are present at most weirs.

[9] Furthest downstream rock band in culvert has scoured bedload downstream of it leaving a 0.8 foot drop. Need to potentially raise downstream control and reinsert rock in last several feet of culvert.

[10] No bedload present in upstream 4 feet of culvert however approximately 29 percent bedload depth in remaining section of culvert

[11] Culvert is partially blocked by woody debris and as of report date has not been cleared.

[12] This simplified stream simulation culvert does not have 100 percent bedload cover or does not meet the minimum threshold of 20 percent of bedload depth to culvert rise criteria, however the section without bedload or insufficient bedload depth is backwatered and effective passage is achieved. Bedload material is expected to continue to accumulate in the culvert.

[13] Stream crossing structure was not designed to provide fish passage due to project personnel apparently not aware of fish stream status reported in Tongass AOP database.

[14] Inadequate or unknown fish passage design consideration

Simplified Stream Simulation (SSS) Designed Culverts

In an effort to reduce the significant costs associated with the survey, design and installation of culverts intended to provide fish passage, the Tongass National Forest installed four culverts in 2012, five in 2013, seven in 2014, and thirteen in 2015 using a design coined simplified stream simulation (SSS) previously known as minimally engineered aquatic organism passage (MEAOP).

Photo 3. SSS designed culvert with surcharge material upstream of culvert

This approach strives to produce stream conditions, overtime, in the culvert that are reasonably similar to that found in the natural stream. Similar to stream simulated designed culverts, the goal is to create fish passage conditions in the culvert which reasonably mirror that of the natural channel by attempting to match stream gradient, width and bedload roughness. The general process involves embedding a properly sized culvert and depositing (surcharging) bedload material, sized to be capable of mobilizing at high flows, in the channel immediately upstream of the culvert (Photo 3). The expectation was that the material will mobilize, be deposited and retained in the embedded culvert. Subsequent monitoring found that this technique did not work in all cases. Problems arose when surcharged material wasn't the correct size and did not move at high flows, was placed too high on the bank for the stream to wash into the culvert, and when the material was taking too long to work its way into the pipe. There is also a question of whether the surcharged material has the potential to block fish passage upstream. Due to these results, it is now recommended to mechanically place bedload material directly into the pipe instead of surcharging upstream.

The SSS design contrasts with stream simulation design in a few important ways. Stream simulation design typically entails a more comprehensive stream survey and engineering analysis which potentially reduces the risk of adverse effects. The most noticeable visual difference is an improved matching of the natural channels, roughness, bedform, diversity of stream velocities, depths and widths due to the greater attention to bedload size selection and placement within the culvert of a steam simulated designed structure.

The SSS design is an experimental design concept and monitoring is conducted annually by Tongass personnel on installations that are yellow, red, or have been green for only one year. Fourteen SSS designed culverts were monitored in 2016 and 18 were monitored in 2017 (Table 2).

During 2014 the 9 SSS culverts installed in 2012 and 2013 were also evaluated by the Forest Service's Washington Office Virtual AOP Design Assistance Team (Gubernick and Weinhold 2015). The intent of this review was to look at how well the structures were performing and gain insight on how subsequent SSS installations might be modified in the following years. Some of the recommendations from the review have already been incorporated into several 2015 MEAOP installations.

SSS- 2015 Installations

Road 2050000 milepost 5.780 (photo 4)

Design specifications required that 6" minus surcharged material be placed in the channel upstream of the culvert. The installation was found to be Yellow and adequate for fish passage (table 3). No surcharged material remains upstream of the culvert following a high flow. The middle part of the culvert is lacking bedload cover but is backwatered in the area with no bedload. In the 2016 and 2017 pictures, sediment can be seen at the upstream end of the culvert that has yet to work it's way towards the middle of the culvert. It is recommended to continue to monitor this culvert until bedload has established throughout the culvert.

Table 3. Road 2050000 milepost 5.780; culvert specifications

Size	46" x 60" x 30'
Culvert gradient/natural channel gradient	4.5 percent / 5.0 percent
Percent of culvert length with bedload material	2015: 100 percent 2016 & 2017: 75%
Bedload depth to culvert rise proportion at inlet/outlet	2015: 0.06 / 0.14 2016: 0.09/0.17 2017: 0.11/0.17
Bedload particle size in culvert/natural channel	Cobble Gravel Sand / Cobble Gravel
Culvert width to channel bedwidth proportion	2015: 0.97 2016: 1.14 2017: 1.47
Outlet perch present	No
Backwatered flow conditions	2015: 80 percent of length 2017: 60 percent of length
Headcutting evident	No
Debris blockage present	No

Photo 4. SSS designed culvert, road 2050000 milepost 5.780

Culvert outlet, looking upstream

Culvert inlet, looking downstream 2017

Culvert barrel looking upstream

Culvert barrel looking downstream 2015

Culvert barrel looking upstream

Culvert barrel looking downstream 2016

Culvert barrel looking upstream

Culvert barrel looking downstream 2017

Road 2050000 milepost 6.620 (Photo 5)

Approximately 6” minus surcharged material was placed in the channel upstream of the culvert. The installation was found to be Yellow and adequate for fish passage (table 4). No surcharged material remains upstream of the culvert following a high flow. The culvert is too short resulting in road fill spilling into the creek. Boulder grade controls upstream of culvert are very big and placed at a steep grade, more gradual steps over a longer distance is preferred. It is recommended to continue to monitor this culvert until bedload has established throughout the culvert.

Table 4. Road 2050000 milepost 6.620; culvert specifications

Size	46” x 60” x 30’
Culvert gradient/natural channel gradient	3.3 percent / 6.0 percent
Percent of culvert length with bedload material	100 percent
Bedload depth to culvert rise proportion at inlet/outlet	2015: 0.17 / 0.13 2016: 0.22/0.14 2017:0.14/0.14
Bedload particle size in culvert/natural channel	Gravel Sand Cobble / Sand Gravel
Culvert width to channel bedwidth proportion	2015: 0.81 2016: 0.82 2017: 1.43
Outlet perch present	No
Backwatered flow conditions	2015: 30 percent of length 2016 & 2017: 25%
Headcutting evident	No
Debris blockage present	No

Photo 5. SSS designed culvert, road 205000 milepost 6.620

Culvert outlet, looking upstream 2015

Culvert inlet, looking downstream 2015

Culvert barrel, looking upstream 2015

Culvert barrel, looking downstream 2015

Road 2050200 milepost 0.220 (Photo 6)

Approximately 6” minus surcharged material was placed in the channel upstream of the culvert. This culvert has 5 baffles installed that alternate sides creating a sinuous channel in the culvert and helping to retain bedload. No surcharged material remains upstream of the culvert following a high flow. There is bedrock present just upstream of the culvert and the upstream grade control was placed on top of that bedrock. This grade control was not needed since there was already a natural stable bedrock control. The installation was found to be Gray since it has baffles but it assumed to be adequate for fish passage (table 5).

Table 5. Road 2050200 milepost 0.220; culvert specifications

Size	55” x 73” x 64’
Culvert gradient/natural channel gradient	4.6 percent / 6.0 percent
Percent of culvert length with bedload material	100 percent
Bedload depth to culvert rise proportion at inlet/outlet	2015: 0.01 / 0.21 2016: 0.01/0.19 2017: 0.11/0.21
Bedload particle size in culvert/natural channel	Cobble Gravel / Cobble Gravel
Culvert width to channel bedwidth proportion	2015: 0.88 2016: 0.85 2017: 1.19
Outlet perch present	No
Backwatered flow conditions	40 percent of length
Headcutting evident	No
Debris blockage present	No

Photo 6. SSS designed culvert, road 2050200 milepost 0.220

Culvert outlet, looking upstream 2017

Culvert inlet, looking downstream 2015

Culvert barrel, looking upstream 2017

Culvert barrel, looking downstream 2015

Road 3000000 milepost 23.490 (Photo 7)

This culvert has baffles installed that are notched on alternating sides to create sinuous flow and to help retain bedload since the gradient of the culvert is so high (table 6). The installation is automatically Gray because it has baffles. Bedload is lacking at the outlet as shown in the picture below. A grade control on the downstream of the pipe might help to raise the grade and backwatered the outlet. The culvert is shorter then what was needed resulting in road fill spilling into the stream on the inlet side.

Table 6. Road 3000000 milepost 23.490; culvert specifications

Size	60” x 60” x 43’
Culvert gradient/natural channel gradient	9.6 percent / 10.0 percent
Percent of culvert length with bedload material	2015: 100 percent 2016: 96%
Bedload depth to culvert rise proportion at inlet/outlet	2015: 0.32/0.00 2016: 0.36/0.00
Bedload particle size in culvert/natural channel	Cobble Gravel / Gravel Sand
Culvert width to channel bedwidth proportion	1.06
Outlet perch present	No
Backwatered flow conditions	0 percent of length
Headcutting evident	No
Debris blockage present	No

Photo 7. SSS designed culvert, road 3000000 milepost 23.490

Culvert outlet, looking upstream 2017

Culvert inlet, looking downstream 2017

Culvert barrel, looking upstream 2015

Culvert barrel, looking downstream 2015

Road 3030100 milepost 0.250 (Photo 8)

Approximately 3” minus surcharged material was placed in the channel upstream of the culvert. The installation was found to be Green and adequate for fish passage (table 7).

Table 7. Road 3030100 milepost 0.250; culvert specifications

Size	36” x 36” x 30’
Culvert gradient/natural channel gradient	4.0 percent / 8.0 percent
Percent of culvert length with bedload material	100 percent
Bedload depth to culvert rise proportion at inlet/outlet	2015: 0.22 / 0.36 2016: 0.17/0.30
Bedload particle size in culvert/natural channel	Gravel Cobble / Gravel Cobble Sand
Culvert width to channel bedwidth proportion	0.97
Outlet perch present	No
Backwatered flow conditions	0 percent of length
Headcutting evident	No
Debris blockage present	No

Photo 8. SSS designed culvert, road 3030100 milepost 0.250

Culvert outlet, looking upstream 2015

Culvert inlet, looking downstream 2015

Road 3030100 milepost 0.280 (Photo 9)

No surcharge was placed at the inlet of this stream. The installation was found to be Gray for fish passage due to constriction (table 8). It was noted that the culvert could have also been countersunk to a deeper depth. The widest part of the culvert has not been taken advantage of and is out of the water as shown in the picture of the barrel below. This is a new crossing at this location and was installed to improve drainage and realign flow. This road was originally constructed with a minimal number of culverts and a large berm on the outboard side of the road resulted in 700 meters of water diverted to the ditch. Fish were present in the ditch before this culvert was put in so the crossing is assumed to be a fish crossing. It is now connected to an old abandoned channel downstream.

Table 8. Road 3030100 milepost 0.280; culvert specifications

Size	60” x 60” x 40’
Culvert gradient/natural channel gradient	2.9 percent / 7.0 percent
Percent of culvert length with bedload material	2015: 100 percent 2016: 95% 2017: 100%
Bedload depth to culvert rise proportion at inlet/outlet	2015: 0.22 / 0.21 2016: 0.13/0.22 2017: 0.13/0.18
Bedload particle size in culvert/natural channel	Cobble Gravel / Cobble Gravel
Culvert width to channel bedwidth proportion	2015 & 2016: 0.92 2017: 0.7
Outlet perch present	No
Backwatered flow conditions	2015: 60 percent of length 2016 % 2017: 30%
Headcutting evident	No
Debris blockage present	No

Photo 9. SSS designed culvert, road 3030100 milepost 0.280

Culvert outlet, looking upstream 2015

Culvert inlet, looking downstream 2015

Culvert inlet, looking downstream 2017

Culvert barrel, looking upstream 2017

Road 3030100 milepost 0.380 (Photo 10)

No surcharge was placed at the inlet of this culvert. The installation was found to be Yellow and adequate for fish passage (table 9) but needs to be monitored on a frequent basis due to insufficient bedload cover. Bedload increased from 20% to 50% between 2015 and 2017. During monitoring it was noted that the culvert could have been countersunk further down due to the widest part of the culvert not being taken advantage. This is a new crossing and was installed to improve drainage and realign flow. This road was originally constructed with a minimal number of culverts and a large berm on the outboard side of the road which resulted in 700 meters of water diverted to the ditch. Fish were present in the ditch before this culvert was put in so the crossing is assumed to be a fish crossing. It is now connected to an abandoned channel downstream.

Table 9. Road 3030100 milepost 0.380; culvert specifications

Size	30” x 40” x 35’
Culvert gradient/natural channel gradient	1.5 percent / 15.0 percent
Percent of culvert length with bedload material	2015: 20 percent 2017: 50%
Bedload depth to culvert rise proportion at inlet/outlet	2015: 0.06 / 0.20 2017: 0.08 / 0.16
Bedload particle size in culvert/natural channel	Gravel Organic / Cobble Gravel

Culvert width to channel bedwidth proportion	2015: 1.11 2017: 1.08
Outlet perch present	No
Backwatered flow conditions	50 percent of length
Headcutting evident	No
Debris blockage present	No

Photo 10. SSS designed culvert, road 3030100 milepost 0.380

Culvert barrel, looking downstream 2017

Culvert barrel, looking upstream 2017

Culvert inlet, looking downstream 2017

Culvert outlet, looking upstream 2017

Road 3030100 milepost 0.750 (Photo 11)

No surcharge was placed at the inlet of this culvert. The installation was monitored in 2016 and was found to be Green and adequate for fish passage (table 10).

Table 10. Road 3030100 milepost 0.750; culvert specifications

Size	70” x 90” x 45’
Culvert gradient/natural channel gradient	1.0 percent / 1.0 percent
Percent of culvert length with bedload material	100 percent

Bedload depth to culvert rise proportion at inlet/outlet	2015: 0.07 / 0.13 2016: 0.07 / 0.16
Bedload particle size in culvert/natural channel	Gravel Sand/ Gravel Sand Cobble
Culvert width to channel bedwidth proportion	2015: 1.22 2016: 0.87
Outlet perch present	No
Backwatered flow conditions	100 percent of length
Headcutting evident	No
Debris blockage present	No

Photo 11. SSS designed culvert, road 3030100 milepost 0.750

Culvert outlet, looking upstream 2016

Culvert inlet, looking downstream 2015

SSS – Sitka 2015 Installations

Five SSS culverts were installed on the Sitka District in 2015 on the False Island road system. Monitoring occurred in 2015 and 2017. The designs for all five of these sites had the same skew on the culvert, stream location, and surcharge locations. It appears that no stream surveys were conducted on any of these sites prior to the culverts being designed which resulted in two Red sites and one Gray site. Several of the sites had surcharge placed on the inlet side of the culvert in areas where it will never get washed into the culvert. Additionally 4 of the 5 culverts did not have bedload cover throughout the culvert. The infilled bedload at the inlet and outlet has remained where placed due to the lack of stream power to mobilize the sediment through the culvert.

Road 7540FI milepost 4.428 (Photo 12)

This culvert is placed perpendicular to stream flow to catch ditch flow that is entering from the left side. Cobble surcharge was placed directly across from the inlet of this culvert and will not enter the culvert due to the placement location that does not get flow (Photo 11). Stream location on design drawings for this site does not match what is on the ground nor does the surcharge location. The same typical was used for all 2015 installations on the 7540FI and 7544 roads which depicts a stream that does not match what is on the ground. The design called for infill to be placed 6 feet from each end of the culvert. As of 2017, bedload has not moved and remains where it was placed during installation. The culvert is backwatered in the area without bedload due to height of the bedload at outlet and inlet which is creating backwater conditions in the middle of the culvert. The installation was found to be Yellow and adequate for fish passage (table 13) due to it being backwatered where there is no bedload. Continued monitoring is needed

to ensure that bedload moves through the culvert It is apparent from looking at the design that no stream survey took place at this site prior to the design. Although the installation is adequate for fish passage, more attention needs to put towards quality designs with surveys that depict what is actually on the ground.

Table 11. Road 7540FI milepost 4.428; culvert specifications

Size	48” x 48” x 29’
Culvert gradient/natural channel gradient	0.6 percent / 5.0 percent
Percent of culvert length with bedload material	2015: 20 percent 2017: 30%
Bedload depth to culvert rise proportion at inlet/outlet	2015: 0.32 / 0.30 2017: 0.30/0.29
Bedload particle size in culvert/natural channel	Gravel Sand / Sand Organic
Culvert width to channel bedwidth proportion	1.21
Outlet perch present	No
Backwatered flow conditions	80 percent of length
Headcutting evident	No
Debris blockage present	No

Photo 12. SSS designed culvert, road 7540FI milepost 4.428

Culvert outlet, looking upstream, 2015

Culvert inlet, looking downstream, 2017

Culvert barrel, looking upstream 2017

Culvert inlet looking up, surcharge location, 2017

Road 7540FI milepost 4.480 (Photo 13)

The installation was found to be Red and not adequate for fish passage due to insufficient bedload at the outlet (table 12). The culvert is misaligned to the stream due to the stream running in the ditch. The outlet of the culvert is too long and could have been skewed more to use up some of the length and align with the stream more. The design stream location does not match what is on the ground.

Table 12. Road 7540FI milepost 4.480; culvert specifications

Size	48” x 48” x 44’
Culvert gradient/natural channel gradient	2.0 percent / 5.0 percent
Percent of culvert length with bedload material	99 percent
Bedload depth to culvert rise proportion at inlet/outlet	2015: 0.21 / 0.16 2017: 0.19 / 0.00
Bedload particle size in culvert/natural channel	Cobble Gravel / Gravel Cobble
Culvert width to channel bedwidth proportion	2015: 0.73 2017: 1.21
Outlet perch present	No
Backwatered flow conditions	0 percent of length
Headcutting evident	No
Debris blockage present	No

Photo 13. SSS designed culvert road 7540FI milepost 4.480

Culvert outlet, looking upstream, 2015

Culvert inlet, looking downstream, 2015

Culvert outlet, downstream 2017

Culvert outlet, looking upstream 2017

Road 7540FI milepost 4.554 (Photo 14)

The stream at this culvert runs along the ditch for approximately 400 feet before entering the culvert. Cobble surcharge was placed across from the culvert and will likely remain there instead of entering the culvert due to the placement location. The culvert is misaligned to stream due to the stream flowing in ditch. Surcharge that was infilled in the inlet and outlet of the pipe still remain where placed and none has moved to the middle of the pipe which is bare but backwatered. The design stream location does not match what is on the ground. The installation was found to be Gray for fish passage (table 13) due to constriction.

Table 13. Road 7540FI milepost 4.554; culvert specifications

Size	48” x 48” x 36’
Culvert gradient/natural channel gradient	1.3 percent / 3.0 percent
Percent of culvert length with bedload material	2015: 15% 2017: 20 percent
Bedload depth to culvert rise proportion at inlet/outlet	2015: 0.37 / 0.36 2017: 0.40 / 0.34
Bedload particle size in culvert/natural channel	Gravel Cobble Sand / Cobble Gravel Sand
Culvert width to channel bedwidth proportion	0.73
Outlet perch present	No
Backwatered flow conditions	85 percent of length
Headcutting evident	No
Debris blockage present	No

Photo 14. SSS designed culvert, road 7540FI milepost 4.554

Culvert outlet, looking upstream 2015

Culvert inlet, looking downstream 2017

Culvert barrel, looking upstream 2017

Culvert inlet, looking upstream 2017

Road 7540FI milepost 6.787 (Photo 15)

The infill placed at the inlet and outlet remains where placed and none has moved towards the middle of the culvert which is currently bare but backwatered. The infill has created a berm that could block fish at some flows due to its height and subsurface flow that is occurring through it. The culvert is also poorly aligned to the stream. The installation was found to be Red and not adequate for fish passage due infill causing a berm and subsurface flow at the inlet and outlet (table 14). Additional work at this site could remediate the problem. The infill at the inlet needs to be pushed further in the culvert. Since the stream comes in to this culvert at a 90 degree angle and there is a high bank present, heavy equipment could not be used to push the sediment through. It is recommended that a hand crew push sediment further into the culvert using hand tools.

Table 14. Road 7540FI milepost 6.787; culvert specifications

Size	48” x 48” x 40’
Culvert gradient/natural channel gradient	5.2 percent / 6.0 percent
Percent of culvert length with bedload material	20 percent
Bedload depth to culvert rise proportion at inlet/outlet	2015: 0.35 / 0.35 2017: 0.36/0.33
Bedload particle size in culvert/natural channel	Cobble / Gravel
Culvert width to channel bedwidth proportion	1.11
Outlet perch present	No
Backwatered flow conditions	2015: 0 percent of length 2017: 80%
Headcutting evident	No
Debris blockage present	No

Photo 15. SSS designed culvert, road 7540FI milepost 6.787

Culvert outlet, looking upstream 2015

Culvert inlet, looking downstream 2015

Culvert barrel, looking upstream 2017

Culvert inlet, looking upstream 2017

Road 7544 milepost 1.030 (Photo 16)

The installation was found to be Green and adequate for fish passage (table 15). No placed surcharge is remaining at the inlet. The culvert is backwatered due to placed bedload at the inlet and outlet. A grade control log was placed upstream of this installation but was not buried to an adequate depth so has been scoured underneath rendering it non-functional.

Table 15. Road 7544 milepost 1.030; culvert specifications

Size	60” x 60” x 35’
Culvert gradient/natural channel gradient	1.0 percent / 4.0 percent
Percent of culvert length with bedload material	2015: 15 percent 2017: 20%
Bedload depth to culvert rise proportion at inlet/outlet	2015: 0.39 / 0.39 2017: 0.54 / 0.49
Bedload particle size in culvert/natural channel	Gravel Sand / Gravel Sand
Culvert width to channel bedwidth proportion	1.79
Outlet perch present	No
Backwatered flow conditions	2015: 95 percent of length 2017:90%
Headcutting evident	No
Debris blockage present	No

Photo 16. SSS designed culvert, road 7544 milepost 1.030

Culvert outlet, looking upstream 2015

Culvert inlet, looking downstream 2015

Culvert barrel, looking upstream 2017

Culvert barrel, looking downstream 2017

SSS – 2014 Installations

The Seven 2014 SSS installed culverts were monitored in 2014, 2015, and 2017. Five were monitored in 2016.

Road 6259 milepost 2.334 (Photo 17)

Approximately 6 inch minus surcharged material was placed in the channel upstream of the culvert. Finer surcharge material is evident downstream of culvert. The installation was found to be Red and not be adequate for fish passage (Table 16) in 2017 because of lack of substrate depth at the inlet and no backwater in the area without bedload.

Table 16. Road 6259 milepost 2.334; culvert specifications

Size	60” x 90” x 42’
Culvert gradient/natural channel gradient	2.5 percent / 4.0 percent
Percent of culvert length with bedload material	2014 & 2015: 100 percent 2017: 95%
Bedload depth to culvert rise proportion at inlet/outlet	2014: 0.06 / 0.32 2015: 0.04/0.36 2017: 0.02 / 0.30
Bedload particle size in culvert/natural channel	Cobble Boulder / Gravel Sand Cobble
Culvert width to channel bedwidth proportion	1.14

Outlet perch present	No
Backwatered flow conditions	0 percent of length
Headcutting evident	No
Debris blockage present	No

Photo 17. SSS designed culvert road 6259 milepost 2.334

Culvert outlet, looking downstream, 2014

Culvert outlet looking downstream, 2015

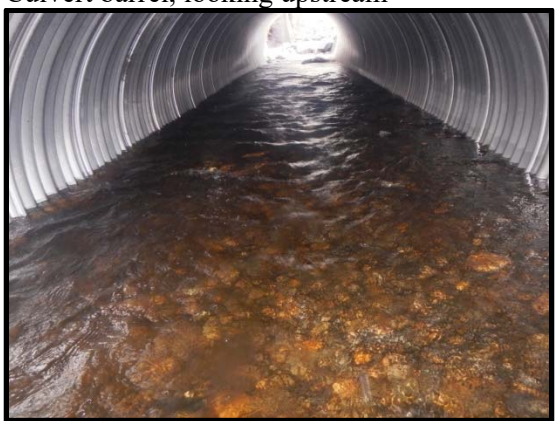
Culvert inlet, looking downstream

2014

2015

2017

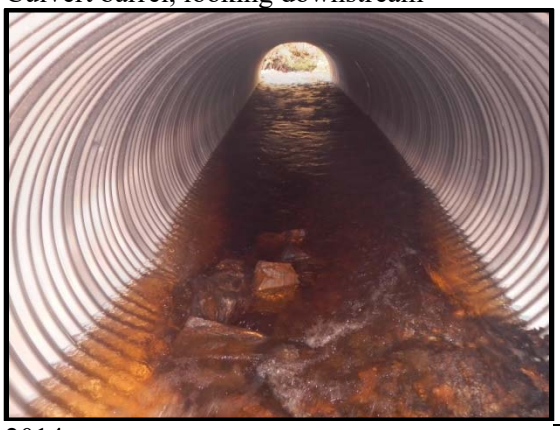
Culvert barrel, looking upstream



2014

2017

Culvert barrel, looking downstream



2014

2017

Road 6259 milepost 2.782 (Photo 18)

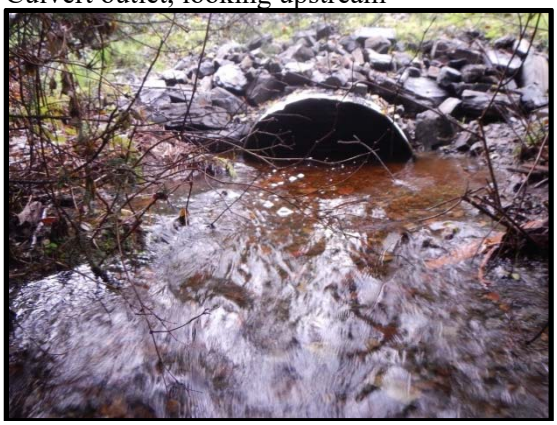
Design specifications required that 1.5” minus surcharged material be placed in the channel upstream of the culvert. The installation was found to be Red and not adequate for fish passage in 2017 due to constriction (table 17). The constriction is creating a wedge of sediment at the inlet of the culvert. The inlet is also poorly armoured. Less than 1 cubic yard of the surcharged material remains upstream of the culvert following a high flow. The majority of the surcharge in the culvert is native. Bedload coverage decreased from the previous year.

Table 17. Road 6259 milepost 2.782; culvert specifications

Size	43”x52”x38’
Culvert gradient/natural channel gradient	3.6%/3.0%
Percent of culvert length with bedload material	2014: 100% 2015: 66% 2016: 95% 2017: 62%
Bedload depth to culvert rise proportion at inlet/outlet	2014: 0.11/0.39 2015: 0.11/0.33 2016: 0.08 / 0.08 2017: 0.14 / 0.00
Bedload particle size in culvert/natural channel	Cobble Gravel /Gravel, Cobble
Culvert width to channel bedwidth proportion	0.05
Outlet perch present	No
Backwatered flow conditions	2014: 98% of length 2015: 95% 2016: 90% 2017: 100%
Headcutting evident	Yes
Debris blockage present	No

Photo 18. SSS designed culvert, road 6259 milepost 2.782

Culvert outlet, looking upstream



2014

2015

Culvert inlet, looking downstream

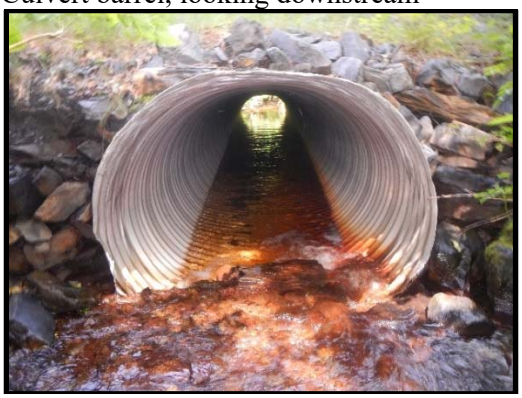
2014

2015

Culvert barrel, looking downstream

2014

Culvert barrel, looking downstream



2017

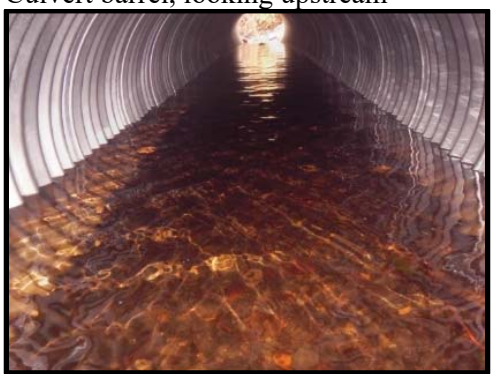
Road 6259 milepost 2.787 (Photo 19)

Design specifications required that 1.5 inches minus surcharged material be placed in the channel upstream of the culvert. The installation was found to be Yellow and adequate for fish passage because area without bedload is backwatered (Table 18). Bedload has become more concentrated in the middle of the pipe with the edges of the pipe becoming bare. Approximately 2 cubic yards of the surcharged material remains upstream of the culvert following a high flow.

Table 18. Road 6259 milepost 2.787; culvert specifications

Size	44” x 51” x 40’
Culvert gradient/natural channel gradient	2.2 percent / 3.0 percent
Percent of culvert length with bedload material	2014: 70 percent 2015: 95 percent 2017: 66%
Bedload depth to culvert rise proportion at inlet/outlet	2014: 0.0/0.26 2015: 0.0/0.21 2017: 0.00 / 0.10
Bedload particle size in culvert/natural channel	Gravel Sand / Gravel Cobble Organic
Culvert width to channel bedwidth proportion	0.87
Outlet perch present	No
Backwatered flow conditions	100 percent of length
Headcutting evident	No
Debris blockage present	No

Culvert barrel, looking upstream



2014

2017

Photo 19. SSS designed culvert, Road 6259 milepost 2.787

Culvert barrel, looking downstream

2014

2017

Road 50054 milepost 0.033 (Photo 20)

Design specifications required that 1.5 inches minus surcharged material be placed in the channel

upstream of the culvert. The installation was found to be Red and not to be adequate for fish passage due to lack of bedload (Table 19). A headcut is present upstream. There is deposition downstream of the culvert due to the previous undersized culvert. Culvert is poorly aligned to the stream and a small stream joins the main stream right at the inlet. The headcut upstream is caused by buildup up of past logging debris and the sediment wedge that was removed during culvert installation.

Table 19. Road 50054 milepost 0.033; culvert specifications

Size	44” x 53” x 33’
Culvert gradient/natural channel gradient	2.2 percent / 9.0 percent
Percent of culvert length with bedload material	0 percent
Bedload depth to culvert rise proportion at inlet/outlet	2014: 0.07 / 0.12 2015, 2016 & 2017: 0.0 / 0.0
Bedload particle size in culvert/natural channel	None / Gravel, Cobble, Organic
Culvert width to channel bedwidth proportion	0.66
Outlet perch present	No
Backwatered flow conditions	50 percent of length
Headcutting evident	Yes
Debris blockage present	No

Culvert outlet, looking upstream

2014

2015

2016

Culvert inlet, looking downstream

2014

2015

2017

Culvert barrel, looking upstream

December 16, 2019

The Honorable Sonny Perdue
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave., S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20250

Ms. Vicki Christiansen
U.S. Forest Service
1400 Independence Ave., S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20250

Dear Secretary Perdue and Ms. Christiansen,

We are outfitters and guides, tour operators, gear manufacturers and retailers, sportsmen organizations, and conservation groups that value and depend on the Tongass National Forest. We employ hundreds of southeast Alaskans, have tens-of-thousands of Alaskan supporters, and cater to customers that travel to the Tongass for its world-class fish and wildlife, recreation values, subsistence resources, and for the economic opportunities roadless areas provide. The proposed Alaska Roadless Rule and decisions about how to manage the Tongass have a direct and profound impact on us, our customers, and our members.

The proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, which would fully exempt the Tongass, is a huge leap backward and risks undoing much of the progress gained through hard compromise and collaboration in recent years. It turns its back to the region's economic strengths, fishing, tourism and outdoor recreation, which now account for 26% of regional employment and $2 billion to the local economy, and short changes the values that make the Tongass so unique and valuable to local residents and visitors alike. Exempting the Tongass from the Roadless Rule unnecessarily courts conflict and empowers the most extreme voices while obstructing more productive and mutually beneficial pathways to the future. The Forest Service should abandon its proposed exemption and, instead, maintain protections for roadless areas within the Tongass.

Many of us work directly with the Forest Service, either through special use permits to operate on the Tongass, as project partners, or as visitors, hunters, anglers, and subsistence users. Our ability to fulfill our missions and meet the needs of our customers, and the Forest Service's ability to meet the needs of the public, are directly tied to one another. Either we succeed as stewards of our public lands together with the Forest Service, or we standby as turmoil over management decisions grows and forest values are degraded.

Many of the undersigned parties have long supported efforts by the Forest Service to transition the Tongass from unsustainable old-growth logging to management focused on fish and wildlife, tourism and recreation, and a sustainable young-growth forest products industry. We cheered the original transition announcement in 2010, worked tirelessly in support of the 2016 amendment to the Tongass Land Management Plan, and have supported its implementation since. Although compromise can be difficult, the need to move beyond the persistent conflict that has clouded the Tongass for decades is paramount.

Roadless areas on the Tongass are some of the best and most valuable lands on the forest. Many of the most important salmon streams are in roadless areas. Increasingly scarce winter deer range and prime bear habitat is often found in low elevation roadless areas. Roadless areas offer the right combination of beautiful scenery, wild landscapes, fish and wildlife, and access that our growing tourism and recreation industry demands. The Roadless Rule's protections for these unique values give our businesses and organizations a level of certainty upon which we base our business investments and hiring decisions.

The Tongass is a paradise—not just for Alaskans, but for all Americans. Roadless areas in the Tongass contain much of the region's most productive wildlife habitat, quality salmon habitat and clean water, and recreation opportunity. Any durable and long-lasting solution to the persistent land-management challenges on the Tongass must be based on collaboration and care for the important fish, wildlife, recreation, subsistence and scenic values that make the Tongass unique among our public lands. The proposed Alaska Roadless Rule fails on this measure. We encourage the Forest Service to listen to the overwhelming weight of public comment, the needs of businesses and organizations like ours, and to not exempt the Tongass from the Roadless Rule.

Sincerely,

Above and Beyond Alaska
Becky Janes, Owner
Juneau, AK

Hatch Outdoors Inc
Andrew Dickinson, General Manager
Vista, CA

Alaska Charter Service
Travis Peterson, Owner
Sitka, AK

Alaska Fly Fishing Goods
Brad Elfers, Owner
Juneau, AK

Alaska Fly Out Travel
Cory Luoma, Owner
Columbia Falls, MT

Alaska Kenai Fishing For Fun
Brad Kirr, Owner & Guide
Soldotna, AK

Allen Fly Fishing
A.J. Gottschalk, Vice President
Southlake, TX

American Fly Fishing Trade Association
Ben Bulis, President and CEO
Bozeman, MT

Angler Action Foundation
Brett Fitzgerald, CEO
Lake Worth Beach, FL

August Island Pictures
Mark Titus, Writer and Director
Seattle, WA

Backcountry Hunters & Anglers
John Gale, Conservation Director
Missoula, MT

Baranof Wilderness Lodge
Mike & Sally Trotter, Owners
Sitka, AK

Bear Creek Outfitters
Arne Johnson, Owner
Juneau, AK

Cascadia Guide, Inc
Eric Neufeld, Co-Owner
Spokane, WA

Lakeview Outfitters
TJ Dawson & Phil Hilbruner, Owners & Guides
Cooper Landing, AK

Lindblad Expeditions
Craig Moylan, Director of Expedition
Development, North and South America
Seattle, WA

Loon Outdoors
Brett Zundel, Owner / Director of Sales
Boise, ID

Maven Outdoor Equipment Company
Brendon Weaver, Co-owner/Design/Marketing
Lander, WY

Mossy's Fly Shop
Mike Brown, Owner
Anchorage, AK

National Deer Alliance
Nick Pinizzotto, President and CEO
Indiana, PA

National Outdoor Leadership School
Chris Brauneis, Alaska Branch Director
Palmer, AK

Nautilus Reels
Kristen Mustad, Owner
Miami, FL

Orvis
Simon Perkins, COO
Sunderland, VT

Pioneer Studios
Ben Hamilton, Owner
San Antonio, Texas

Pybus Point Lodge
Scott Jorgenson, Owner
Pybus Bay, AK

Quality Deer Management Association
Kip Adams, Director of Conservation
Bogart, GA

C.F. Burkheimer Fly Rod Company
Carl “Kerry” Burkheimer, President
Washougal, WA

Chrome Chasers
Rick Matney, Owner
Wrangell, AK

Chugach Backcountry Fishing
Corey Hetrick, Owner
Moose Pass, AK

Coastal Alaska Adventures
Keegan McCarthy, Owner
Douglas, AK

Coastal Alaska Safaris
Chad Poppe, Owner
Wrangell, AK

Custom Alaska Cruises
Keegan McCarthy, Owner
Douglas, AK

Chota Outdoor Gear
Mark Brown, General Manager
Knoxville, TN

Cooper Landing Fishing Guide, LLC
David Lisi, Owner & Guide
Cooper Landing, AK

The Drake
Tom Bie, Owner
Denver, CO

DRYFT
Nick Satushek, President
Bellingham, WA

Eva’s Wild
Mark Titus, Owner
Seattle, WA

Expedition Broker
Greg Schlacter, Owner
Haines, AK

Raging River Sales
Eric Neufeld, Owner
North Bend, WA

Rajeff Sports / ECHO Flyfishing
James Lemon, Marketing
Vancouver, WA

Redington
Jay Beebe, Community Manager
Bainbridge Island, WA

Red’s Fly Shop
Joe Rotter, Partner
Ellensburg, WA

RIO Products
Simon Gawesworth, Brand Manager
Idaho Falls, ID

Sage Fly Fishing
David Lantz, Marketing Manager
Bainbridge Island, WA

Sawyer Paddles and Oars
Derek Young, Northern US Territory Manager
Gold Hill, OR

Scientific Anglers
Brad Befus, President
Midland,MI

Scott Fly Rod Company
Jim Bartschi, President
Montrose, CO

Seek Outside
Angie Timm, Founder and Co-owner
Grand Junction, CO

Simms Fishing Products
K.C. Walsh, Executive Chairman
Casey Sheahan, CEO
Diane Bristol, Sr. Director of Community Engagement
Bozeman, MT

El Capitan Lodge
Scott Van Valin, Owner
Craig, AK

Far Bank Enterprises
Tag Kleiner, VP of Marketing
Bainbridge Island, WA

First Lite
Ford Van Fossan, Conservation, Content and Digital Merchandising Manager
Ketchum, ID

Fishpond, INC
Ben Kurtz, President
John Land Le Coq, Founder and CEO
Denver, CO

Fly Fishers International
Dave Peterson, Chair Conservation Committee
Livingston, MT

The Flyfish Journal
Jeff Galbraith, Publisher
Bellingham, WA

The Fly Fishing Show
Ben Furimsky, President/CEO
Somerset, PA

The Fly Shop
Pat Pendergast, Director of International Travel
Redding, CA

Fly Water Travel
Ken Morrish, Director of Travel Sales
Ashland, OR

Frontiers International Travel
Mike Fitzgerald, President
Wexford, PA

Gastineau Guiding
Sierra Gadaire, Operations Manager
Juneau, AK

Sitka Conservation Society
Andrew Thoms, Executive Director
Sitka, AK

Sitka Fish Outfitters
Jamie Steinson, Owner
Sitka, AK

Sitka Gear
Thaddeus Kaczmarek, Consumer Experience Leader
Bozeman, MT

SpeyCo Fly Reels
Tim Pantzlaff, Owner
Green Bay, WI

Stanley-PMI
Michelle Flemming, Marketing Manager
Seattle, WA

TFO, LLC
Rick Pope, Chairman
Dallas, TX

Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership
Joel Webster, Center for Western Lands Director
Missoula, MT

Thomas and Thomas
Joe Goodspeed, Product Development Manager
Greenfield, MA

Treasure Hunter Lodge
Kurt Whitehead and Trina Nation, Owners
Klawock, AK

Trout Unlimited
Austin Williams, Alaska Director of Law and Policy
Anchorage, AK

Umpqua Feather Merchants
Russell Miller, Director of Marketing
Louisville, CO

Uncruise Adventures
Dan Blanchard, Owner
Juneau, AK

Glacier Guides, Inc.
Alisha “Mutts” and Zach Decker, Owners
Glacier Bay, AK

goHUNT
Chris Porter, COO
Las Vegas, NV

Harper Studios
Earl Harper, Owner
Seattle, WA

Hatch Magazine
Chad Shmukler, Editor
Philadelphia, PA

Vortex Optics
Mark Boardman, Director of Marketing
Barneveld, WI

Wildlife Forever
Pat Conzemius, President & CEO
White Bear Lake, MN

Yellow Dog Flyfishing Adventures
Jim Klug, Director of Operations
Bozeman, MT

Poll Findings:
Alaska Tongass Forest

Presented by: Kiel Brunner
Tulchin Research
May 21, 2019

Methodology

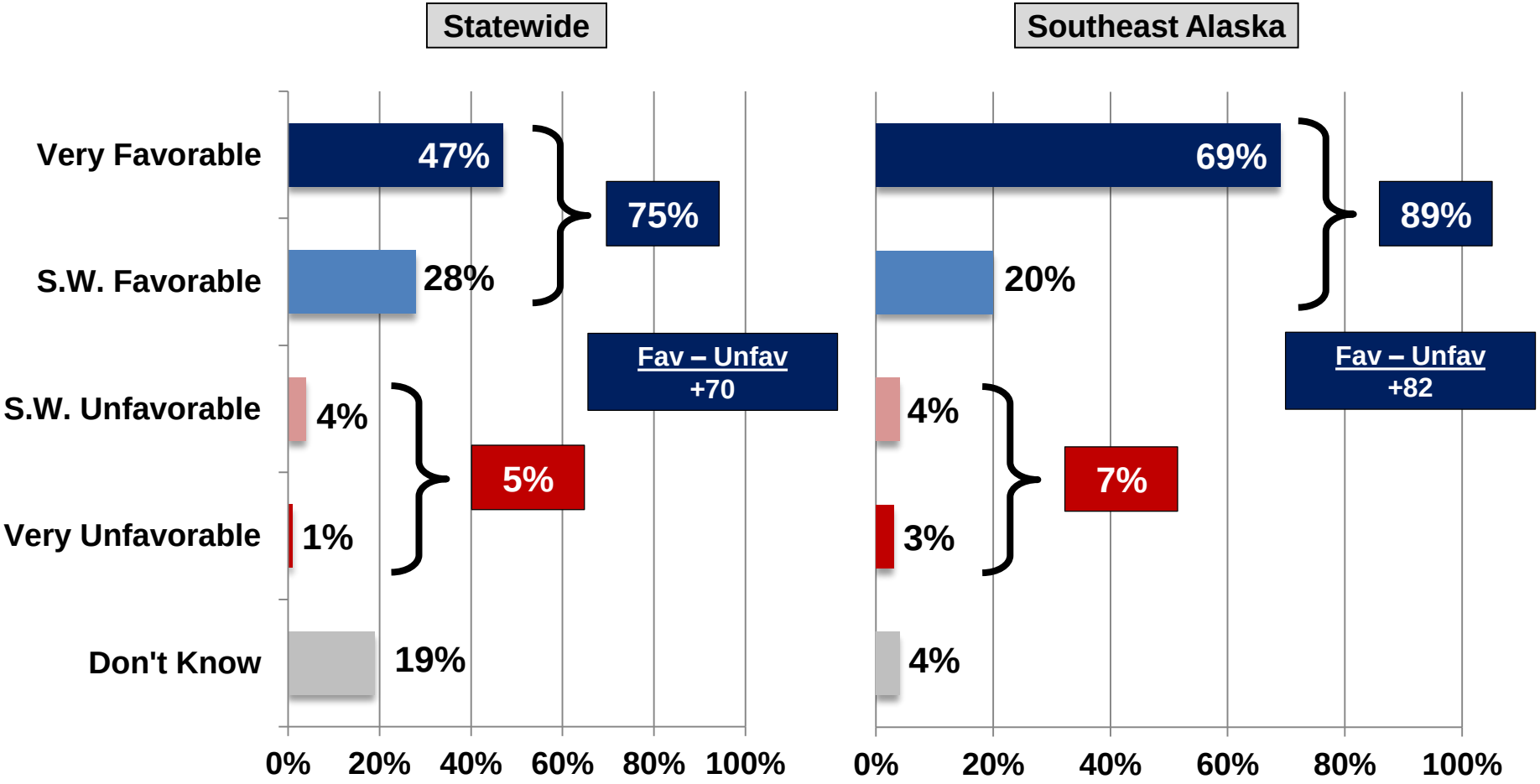
- **Statewide survey in Alaska with an oversample in Southeast Alaska**
  - **Alaska Statewide: n400 Likely Voters**
    - **The margin of error for the base sample is ± 4.9%.**
  - **Southeast Alaska: n172 Likely Voters**
    - **n150 Oversample and n22 from Base sample**
    - **The margin of error for the oversample of SE Alaskans is ± 7.46%**

- **Multi-Modal:**
  - **Live phone interviews conducted by professional callers dialing both landlines and cell phones as well as interviewing a portion of respondents online through e-mails from the voter file.**

- **Fielded April 19-28, 2019.**

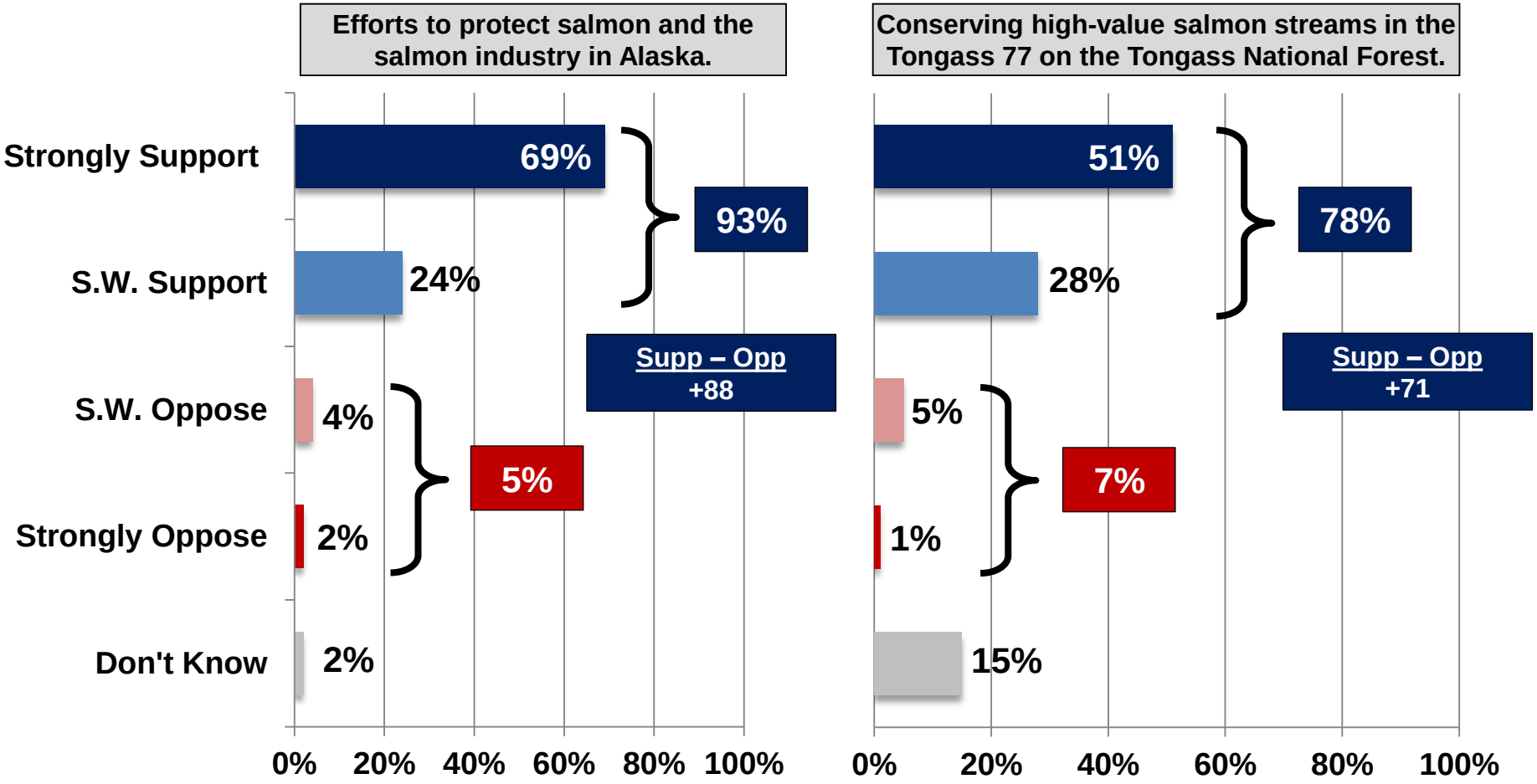
Voters Statewide and in Southeast Alaska Strongly Value the Tongass National Forest

Please indicate if you have a generally favorable or generally unfavorable opinion of each of the following. If you've never heard of that person or group, please indicate so: ***The Tongass National Forest***



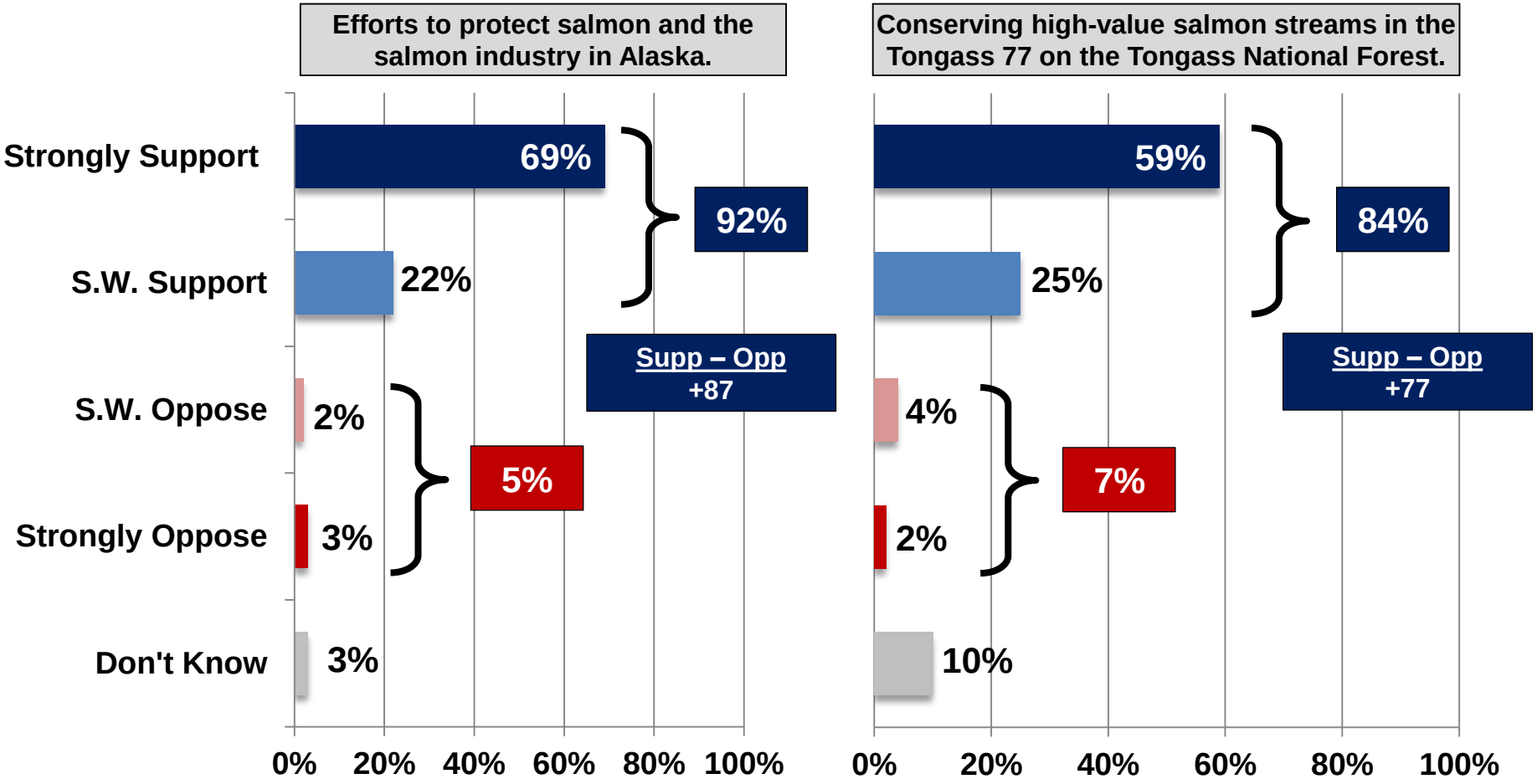
Statewide: Alaskans Strongly Support Salmon Conservation Generally and in the Tongass 77

Here is a list of issues in Alaska. Please indicated whether you strongly support, somewhat support, somewhat oppose or strongly oppose the issue.



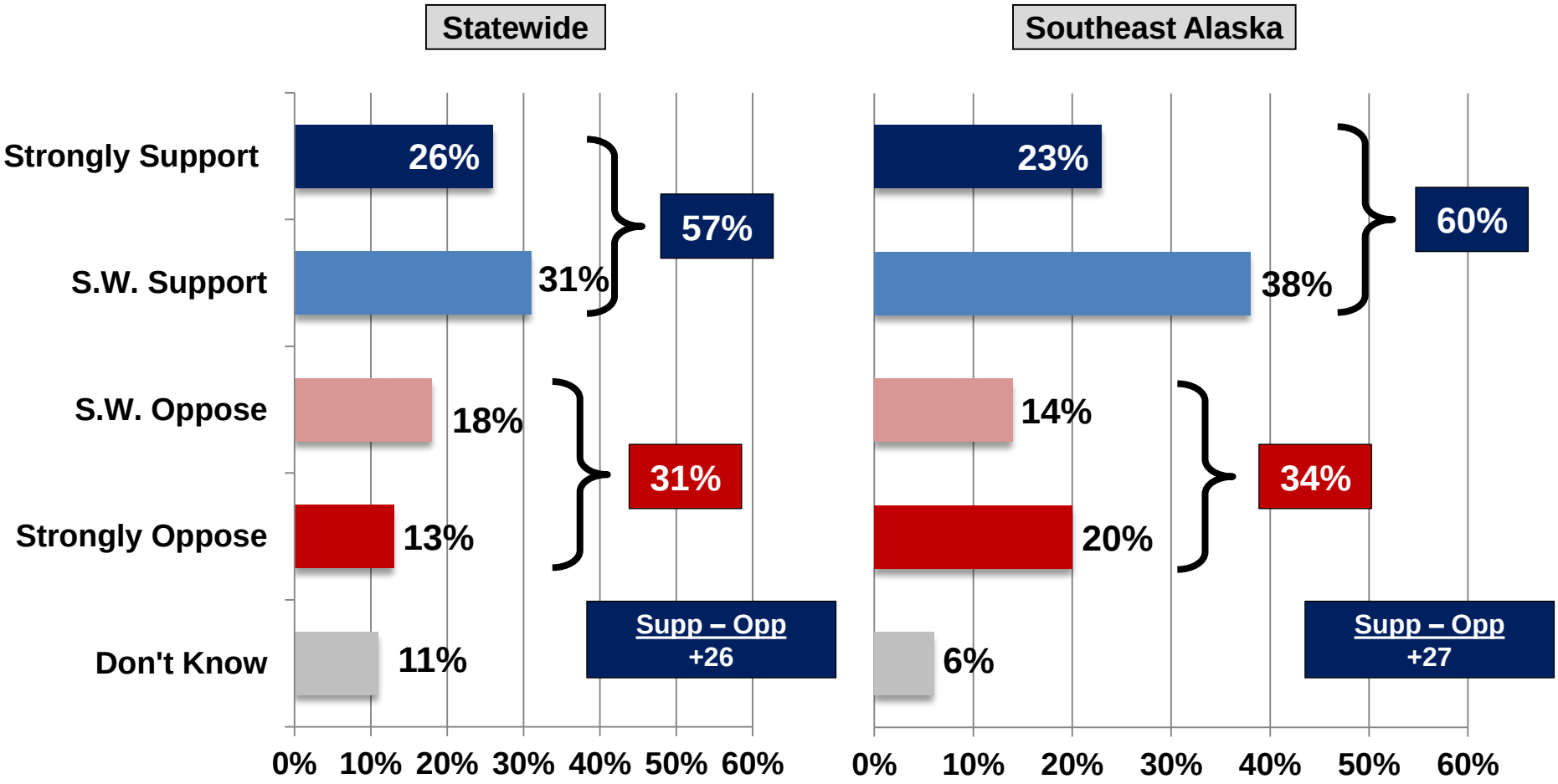
Southeast Alaska: Strong Support for Salmon Conservation

Here is a list of issues in Alaska. Please indicated whether you strongly support, somewhat support, somewhat oppose or strongly oppose the issue.



Alaskans Strongly Support the "Roadless Rule" for the Tongass National Forest

The Roadless Rule conserves undeveloped lands on National Forests by limiting new commercial logging and construction of new logging roads. It allows forest health projects, tree harvest for personal use, transportation highways, and other development activities. Do you strongly support, somewhat support, somewhat oppose or strongly oppose the Roadless Rule for the Tongass National Forest



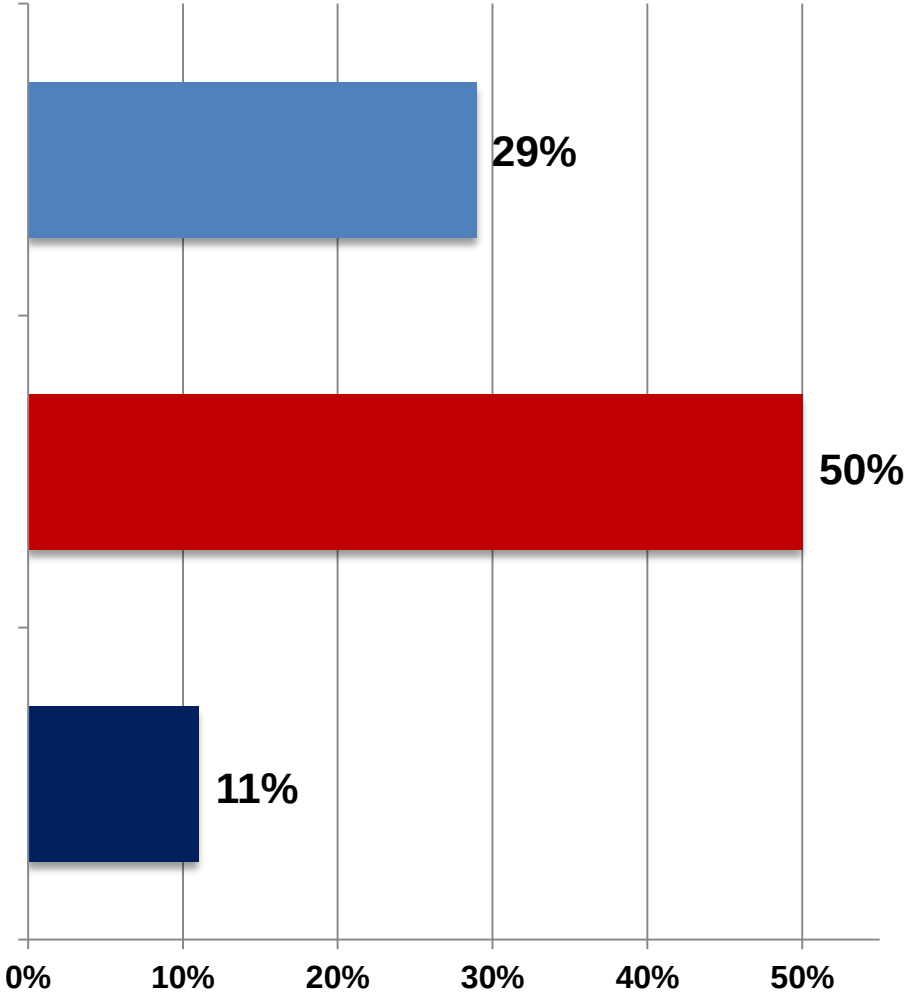
Alaskans Prefer Creating New Protections for Fish and Wildlife if Changes to Roadless Rule

Here are options for the Roadless Rule that the Federal and State government are considering. Please indicate which is closer to your opinion.

Take no action, which means undeveloped portions of the Tongass National Forest will remain protected from commercial logging and logging roads.

Make limited changes to the Roadless Rule that may allow logging and logging roads in places that already have some roads while also creating new protections for important fish and wildlife areas that are now open to logging.

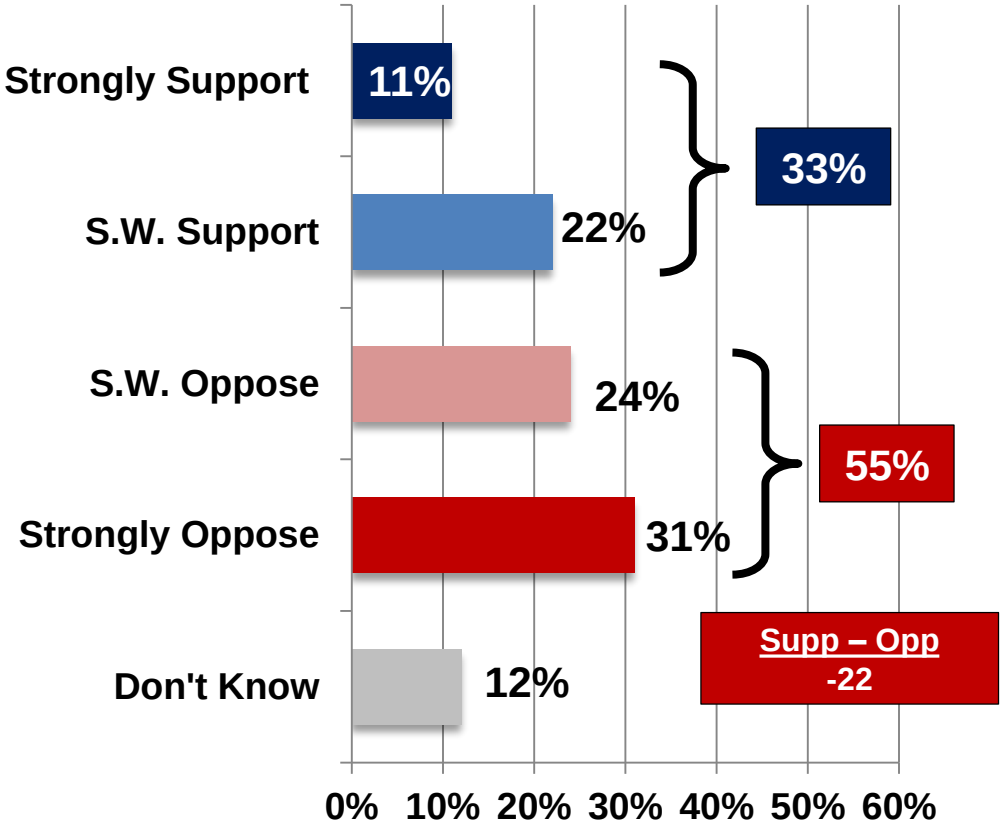
Exempt all of the Tongass National Forest from the Roadless Rule to expand clear cutting of old-growth timber and build new roads in undeveloped portions of the Tongass National Forest.



Alaskans Oppose Clear-Cut Logging of Old-Growth Timber

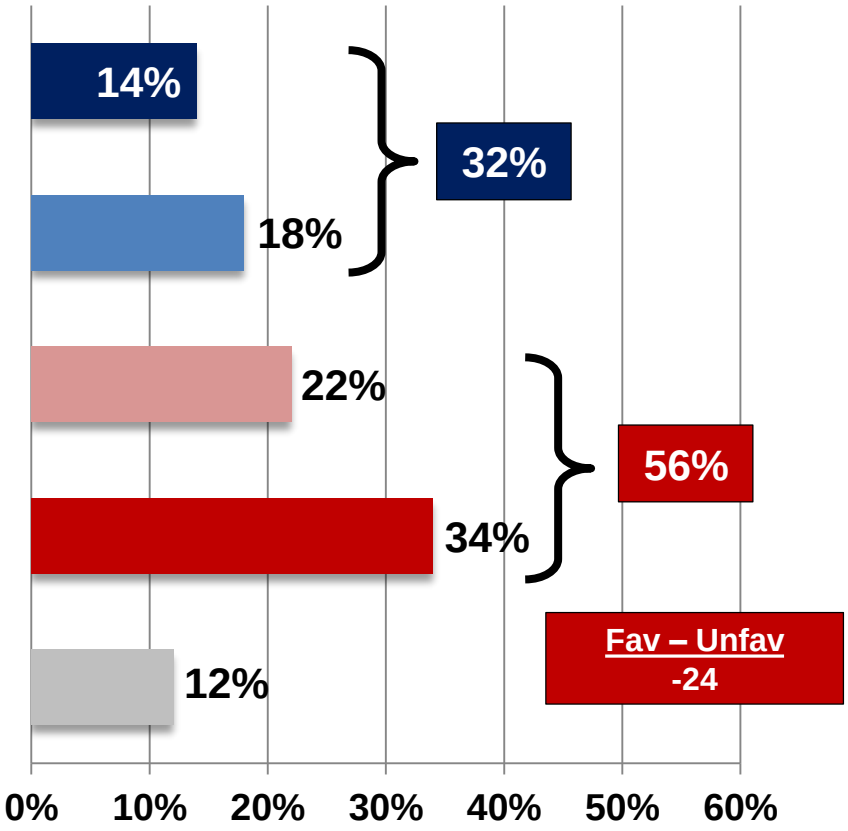
Please indicated whether you strongly support, somewhat support, somewhat oppose or strongly oppose the issue.

Expanding Clear-Cut Logging in Tongass



Please indicate if you have a generally favorable or generally unfavorable opinion of each of the following.

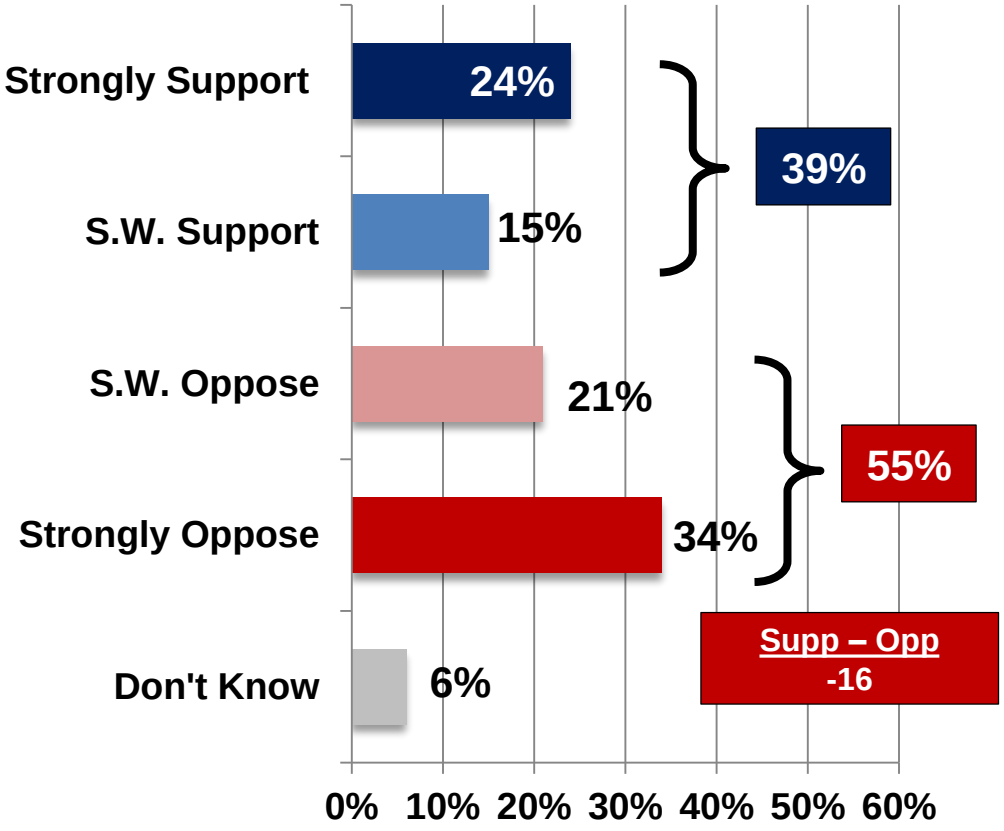
Clear-Cut Logging of Old-Growth Timber



Opposition to Clear-Cut Logging Strong in Southeast Alaska

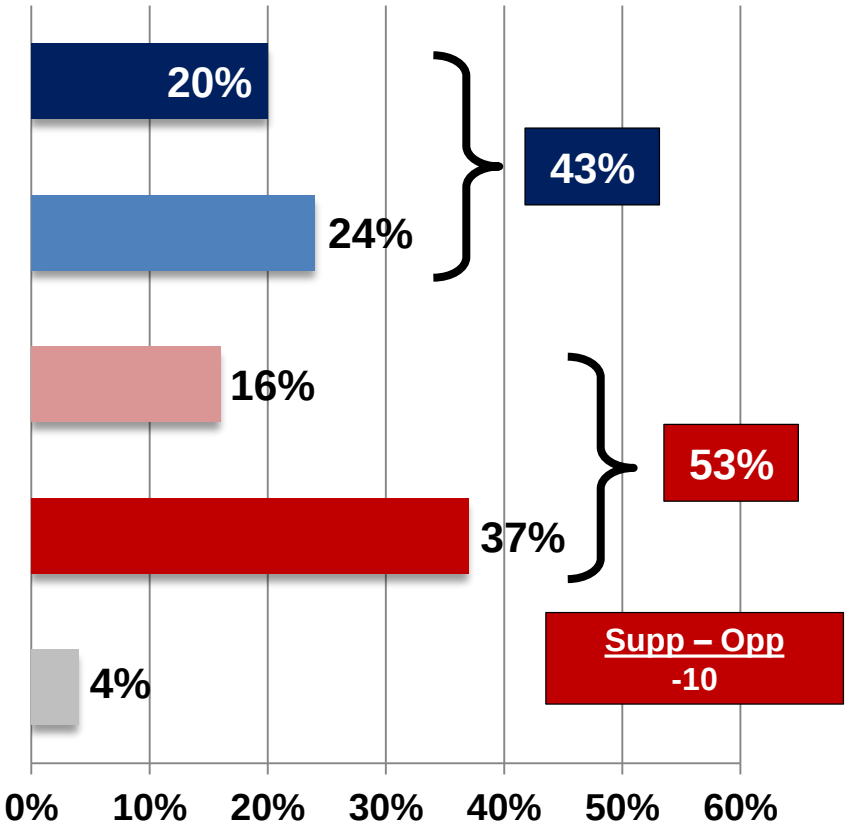
Please indicated whether you strongly support, somewhat support, somewhat oppose or strongly oppose the issue.

Expanding Clear-Cut Logging in Tongass



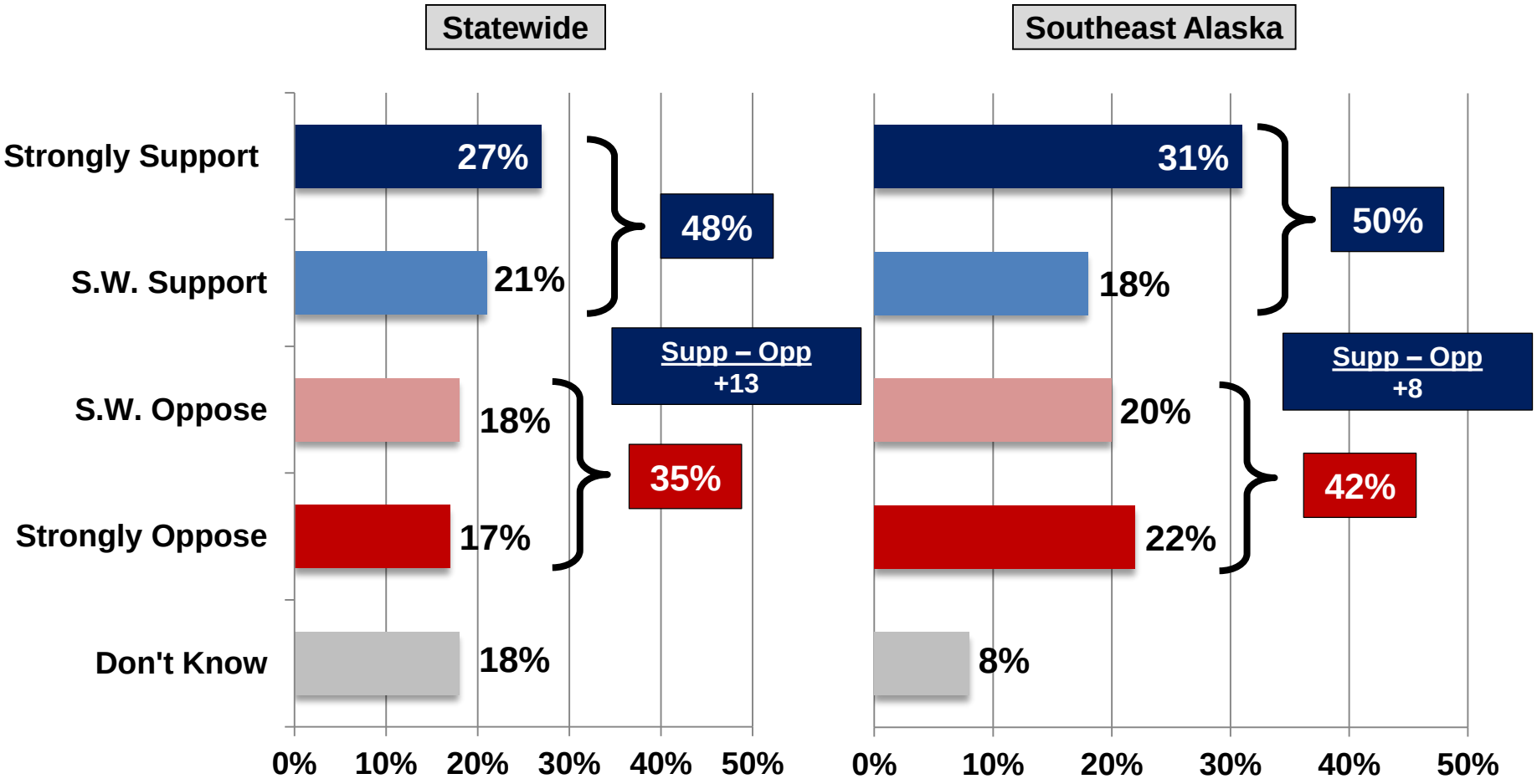
Please indicate if you have a generally favorable or generally unfavorable opinion of each of the following.

Clear-Cut Logging of Old-Growth Timber



Alaskans Favor Ending Clear-Cut Logging in Tongass National Forest

Do you strongly support, somewhat support, somewhat oppose or strongly oppose ending clear-cut logging of old-growth timber in the Tongass National Forest?



For More Information, Contact:

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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

DISTRICT OF ALASKA

ORGANIZED VILLAGE OF KAKE, *et al.*,	)	
Plaintiffs,	)	**1:09-cv-00023 JWS**
vs.	)	
	)	**JUDGMENT IN A CIVIL CASE**
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, et al.,	)	
Defendants,	)	
and	)	
STATE OF ALASKA and ALASKA FOREST ASSOCIATION,	)	
Intervenor-Defendants	)	

By order dated March 4, 2011,[1] the court granted plaintiffs' motion for summary judgment[2] insofar as it sought to vacate the Tongass Exemption to the Roadless Area Conservation Rule and reinstate the Roadless Rule's application to the Tongass. The

[1]Doc. 68.

[2]Doc. 42.

court's order at docket 68 denied plaintiffs' motion without prejudice insofar as it sought an order vacating the Scratching Timber Sale ROD II, and portions of the Iyouktug Timber Sales ROD and Kuiu Timber Sale Area ROD in light of the interim directive issued by the Secretary of Agriculture on May 28, 2010, reserving all decision making on timber sales to the Secretary.

In accordance with the court's decision at docket 68, it is hereby **ORDERED**, **DECLARED**, and **ADJUDGED** that federal defendants' decision to adopt the Tongass Exemption, 68 Fed. Reg. 75,136, 75,146 (Dec. 30, 2003) is **VACATED**, and the Roadless Area Conservation Rule, 66 Fed. Reg. 3244, 3272-73 (Jan. 12, 2001), is **REINSTATED** as to the Tongass National Forest.

Nothing in this judgment shall be construed to prohibit otherwise lawful road construction, road reconstruction, or cutting or removal of timber if and when approved by the U.S. Forest Service to effectuate the following projects:

(1) The Whitman Lake Hydroelectric Project, as licensed by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission on March 17, 2009;

(2) The Kake-Petersburg Intertie, as described in the Notice of Intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement published in the Federal Register on May 7, 2010;

(3) Rainforest Aerial Tram, as described in the Decision Notice and Finding of No Significant Impact issued by the U.S. Forest Service on December 14, 2010;

(4) Greens Creek Exploratory Drilling, as described in the Decision Memo "2011 Surface Exploration Annual Work Plan" issued by the U.S. Forest Service on April 8, 2011;

(5) Greens Creek Geotechnical, as described in the Decision Memo "Geotechnical and Hydrologic Drilling Investigations" issued by the U.S. Forest Service on April 8, 2011;

(6) Greens Creek Tailings Expansion, as described in the Notice of Intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for the project published in the Federal Register on October 5, 2010;

(7) Cascade Point Road/Glacier Highway Extension, as described in the U.S. Forest Service Record of Decision issued on December 22, 1998;

(8) Blue Lake Hydroelectric Expansion, as described in the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Notice of Application Accepted for Filing, Project No. 2230-044, April 8, 2011;

(9) Little Port Walter hydropower project, as described in the application dated April 2, 2008, from the National Marine Fisheries Service to the U.S. Forest Service for a special use authorization;

(10) Swan Tyee Intertie, as described in the U.S. Forest Service Record of Decision issued in August 1997 and the Secretary of Agriculture's August 11, 2010, redelegation memorandum;

(11) Bokan Mountain Exploration Plan, as described in the proposed Plan of Operations dated March 15, 2011, submitted by Rare Earth One, LLC, to the U.S. Forest Service; and

(12) Niblack Mine Exploratory Drilling, as described in the Decision Memorandum issued by the U.S. Forest Service on September 25, 2009.

Nothing in this judgment shall be construed to prohibit otherwise lawful cutting or removal of timber authorized by the U.S. Forest Service in Inventoried Roadless Areas as follows:

(1) Timber for personal use but not for sale, pursuant to 36 C.F.R. § 223.10 (2010);

(2) Dead and/or down wood for sale as firewood, from within 400 yards of roads now existing and constructed consistent with the Roadless Area Conservation Rule, including roads described in 36 C.F.R. §§ 294.13(b)(4) and 294.14(d) (2001), 66 Fed. Reg. at 3273; and

(3) Dead and/or down wood in microsales of no more than 50,000 board feet, from within 400 yards of roads now existing and constructed consistent with the Roadless Area Conservation Rule, including roads described in 36 C.F.R. §§ 294.13(b)(4) and 294.14(d) (2001), 66 Fed. Reg. at 3273.

Nothing in this judgment shall be construed to prohibit any person or entity from seeking, or the U.S. Department of Agriculture from approving, otherwise lawful road construction, road reconstruction, or the cutting or removal of timber for hydroelectric development pursuant to the standards and procedures set forth in the Federal Power Act, 16 U.S.C. §§ 791-823d. Such developments include, but are not limited to:

(1) Takatz Lake Hydroelectric Project, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission No. P-13234;

(2) Schubee Lake Hydroelectric Project, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Preliminary Permit No. P-13645;

(3) Lake Shelokum Hydroelectric Project, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Preliminary Permit No. P-13281;

(4) Soule River Hydroelectric Project, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Nos. P-12615 and P-13528;

(5) Port Frederick Tidal, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Preliminary Permit No. P-13512; and

(6) Cascade Creek Hydroelectric Project, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission No. P-12495.

The list of projects and activities herein is not a judgment that they, or any other projects or activities in the Tongass National Forest, would otherwise violate the terms of the Roadless Area Conservation Rule. Nothing herein shall be construed as a judgment about whether projects and activities not listed herein do or do not violate the Roadless Area Conservation Rule.

Pursuant to the interim directive issued on May 28, 2010, by the Secretary of Agriculture reserving all decision making on timber sales to the Secretary, nothing herein shall be construed as a judgment as to the Scratching Timber Sale ROD II, and portions of the Iyouktug Timber Sales ROD and Kuiu Timber Sale Area ROD.

DATED this 24th day of May 2011.

/s/ JOHN W. SEDWICK
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

United States Department of Agriculture

Forest Service

Frequently Asked Questions Regarding Inventoried Roadless Areas

U.S. Forest Service Alaska Region
January 2018

Please Note: The Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals recently upheld the United States District Court for District of Alaska's 2011 reinstatement of the Roadless Rule on the Tongass National Forest. Consequently, the Roadless Rule remains in effect in Alaska and the Forest Service continues to apply the Rule to the Tongass and Chugach National Forests. In September 2017, the D.C. District Court issued a favorable ruling in a second case involving the Roadless Rule, which the State of Alaska appealed in November 2017. The Forest Service will comply with all court orders.

Purpose

This document answers commonly asked questions about how the Roadless Area Conservation Rule (Roadless Rule) applies to National Forest System (NFS) lands in Alaska. Since its adoption in 2001, the Roadless Rule has been the subject of litigation concerning how it is to be applied to the Tongass and Chugach National Forests. Stakeholders with an interest in these lands, such as utility companies, timber and mining interests, and local communities, have raised questions about how the Roadless Rule will affect permits, contracts and other special uses involving access, road construction and road maintenance in inventoried roadless areas within Alaska's National Forests. This document responds to these queries within the context of currently applicable law, which holds that the Roadless Rule applies to NFS lands in Alaska.

Background

The Roadless Rule was adopted in January 2001 to protect the social and ecological values and characteristics of inventoried roadless areas from road construction and reconstruction and certain timber harvest activities. Inventoried roadless areas provide large, relatively undisturbed blocks of important habitat for a variety of terrestrial and aquatic wildlife and plants; contribute to healthy watersheds and clean drinking water; and provide extensive opportunities for outdoor recreation and tourism. Protection of these roadless areas on both the Tongass and Chugach National Forests is of local and national importance.

The State of Alaska in 2001 filed a complaint in the United States District Court, District of Alaska, challenging the application of the Roadless Rule to the Chugach and Tongass National Forests. The Forest Service and the State of Alaska reached a settlement in 2003, and the Forest Service subsequently issued a rule temporarily exempting the Tongass National Forest from the Roadless Rule. In 2011, the District Court set aside the 2003 Tongass Exemption and reinstated the 2001 Roadless Rule with respect to the Tongass. A March 2014 ruling by the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals reversed that decision. The Ninth Circuit subsequently granted a petition for rehearing en banc, held in December 2014 before an eleven judge panel. On July 29, 2015, a six judge majority of the en banc panel held that USDA's justification for the Tongass Exemption was inadequate under the Administrative Procedure Act, holding it did not provide a reasoned explanation for contradicting the findings in the 2001 Record of Decision for the Roadless Rule. The majority upheld the District Court's reinstatement of the Roadless Rule. Consequently, the Roadless Rule remains in effect in Alaska and the Forest Service continues to apply the Rule to the Tongass and Chugach National Forests.

In another court case, the State of Alaska has challenged the Roadless Rule in the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia. On September 20, 2017, the D.C. District Court dismissed the State's challenge to the Roadless Rule, finding that the State had failed to show violation of any federal statute in the USDA's promulgation of the Roadless Rule. The State of Alaska appealed the district court's decision on November 28, 2017, and the case remains pending before the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia.

Inventoried roadless areas in the Alaska Region include 9.5 million acres (57 percent) of the Tongass National Forest and 5.4 million acres (99 percent) of the Chugach National Forest. The majority of the Tongass inventoried roadless areas (7.4 million acres) are allocated to non-development land use designations in the current forest plan. Including all other non-development land use designations, a total of 13.3 million acres (80 percent of the Tongass) is generally off-limits to road construction and timber harvest activities.

Q1. Where can I find a copy of the Roadless Rule?

A copy of the Roadless Rule can be found online at http://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprdb5050459.pdf

Q2. Does the Roadless Rule apply to National Forests in Alaska?

Yes, the Roadless Rule applies to the Chugach National Forest as well as to the Tongass National Forest pursuant to the ruling of the U.S. District Court for the District of Alaska in *Organized Village of Kake v. USDA,* No. 1:09-cv-00023 (March 4, 2011) (upheld on appeal). The district court's final judgment, *Organized Village of Kake v. USDA*, No. 1:09-cv-00023 (May 24, 2011), makes special provision for certain projects and activities, including:

- road construction and timber cutting for listed projects;
- personal timber use, firewood, and certain roadside microsales; and
- hydroelectric development.

The Forest Service regards these projects and activities identified in the District Court's May 24, 2011 final judgment as exempt from the prohibitions of the 2001 Roadless Rule under the terms of the final judgment.

Q3. Does the most recent 9th Circuit Court of Appeals Decision mean that the Roadless Rule applies to the Tongass National Forest?

On July 29, 2015, a six judge majority of the en banc panel held that USDA's justification for the Tongass Exemption was inadequate under the Administrative Procedure Act, holding it did not provide a reasoned explanation for contradicting the findings in the 2001 Record of Decision for the Roadless Rule. The majority upheld the Alaska District Court's reinstatement of the Roadless Rule. Consequently, the Roadless Rule remains in effect in Alaska and the Forest Service continues to apply the Rule to the Tongass and Chugach National Forests.

Q4. How do I know if my proposed project is in an inventoried roadless area?

Inventoried roadless areas are shown on the Forest Service Roadless Area Conservation website at http://www.fs.usda.gov/roadmain/roadless/home. The maps for Alaska can be reached by following this link: http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/roadless/2001roadlessrule/maps/statemaps/?cid=fsm8_037699.

Always ask your local Forest Service Ranger District Office as they will have the most detailed and up-to-date maps.

Q5. Does the Roadless Rule prohibit all road construction in inventoried roadless areas?

The Roadless Rule generally prohibits construction or reconstruction of roads in inventoried roadless areas of the National Forest System, but with some exceptions. The Roadless Rule allows the Forest Service Line Officer to authorize construction or reconstruction of a road in an inventoried roadless area if he or she determines it is needed for one of the following reasons:

- To protect public health and safety;
- To conduct environmental response under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) or to conduct a restoration action under CERCLA, the Clean Water Act, or the Oil Pollution Act;
- To allow for reserved or outstanding rights or as provided for by statute or treaty;
- To prevent irreparable resource damage under certain circumstances;
- To implement a road safety improvement project under certain circumstances;
- When the Secretary of Agriculture has determined that a Federal Aid Highway project is in the public interest or is consistent with the purposes for which the land was reserved or acquired and no other reasonable and prudent alternative exists; or
- When a road is needed in conjunction with mineral leases on lands that were under lease as of January 12, 2001 and were immediately extended upon the expiration of the leases.

For additional information concerning road construction and reconstruction in inventoried roadless areas in the National Forest System, see the Roadless Rule regulations at 36 CFR §294.12.

Q6: Does the Roadless Rule prohibit all timber cutting in inventoried roadless areas?

The Roadless Rule generally prohibits the cutting, selling, or removal of timber in inventoried roadless areas of the National Forest System, but with some exceptions. The Roadless Rule allows the Forest Service Line Officer to authorize these activities in the following circumstances:

- The cutting, sale, or removal of generally small diameter timber is needed for one of the following purposes and will maintain or improve roadless area characteristics;
  - To improve endangered, proposed, or sensitive species habitat; or

- To maintain or restore the characteristics of the ecosystem.
- The cutting, sale, or removal of timber is incidental to another activity that is not otherwise prohibited;
- The cutting, sale or removal of timber is needed and appropriate for personal or administrative use; or
- The roadless characteristics of the area have already been substantially altered by road construction and timber cutting within certain parameters described in the Roadless Rule.

For additional information concerning timber harvesting in inventoried roadless areas in the National Forest System, see the Roadless Rule regulations at 36 CFR §294.13.

Q7. For activities that are permissible in inventoried roadless areas in Alaska, what process must be followed to authorize road construction or reconstruction or removal of timber?

Initially, applicants should contact the District Ranger to discuss a proposed project to determine what type of permit and review process is appropriate. The Chief of the Forest Service continues to review certain activities planned in inventoried roadless areas to ensure the Forest Service is applying a nationally consistent approach to implementation of the Roadless Rule and that the agency is complying with its mandate to protect roadless area characteristics. The Chief's May 31, 2012 letter outlining the types of projects requiring the Chief's review can be found at http://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprdb5373645.pdf.

Generally, the Chief's review will be completed within other, concurrent review processes, such as an environmental review process under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). More detailed information can be found on the National Forest Service Roadless Area Conservation website at http://www.fs.usda.gov/roadmain/roadless/home.

The Chief also identified activities that may be reviewed by Regional Foresters. In general, line officers in the Alaska Region, with appropriate review by the Regional Forester, have the authority to approve timber cutting or removal in certain situations such as:

- emergencies;
- incidental to implementation of an existing special use authorization; or
- cutting, sale, or removal of generally small diameter timber for specified purposes, such as wildlife habitat improvement and administrative and personal use.

Line officers also have the authority to approve free use of timber to Alaskan settlers, miners, residents and prospectors. Such use should occur in inventoried roadless areas only when needs cannot be met in the roaded land base. When personal use timber is collected from inventoried roadless areas, it shall be done in a manner that maximizes the protection of the roadless character and wildlife habitat, recreation and other values associated with inventoried roadless areas.

Q8. What types of activities have been approved to take place in inventoried roadless areas in Alaska?

As of January 2018, 55 projects within roadless areas in Alaska have been submitted for Secretarial or Chief's review and all have been approved. Projects that have been approved include:

- 36 mining projects;
- 10 hydropower or intertie projects;
- a road re-alignment;
- a timber sale;
- a U.S. Coast Guard Differential Global Positioning System Antenna;
- re-delegation of the authority to issue free use permits to include free use of timber to Alaskan settlers, miners, residents and prospectors;
- an aerial tram;
- a special use permit to the Alaska Army National Guard for training activities;
- a geothermal lease;
- a road reconstruction project; and
- the issuance of a road easement to the State of Alaska.

Under the current review process, most projects are approved by the Chief of the Forest Service within a month of submission.

Q9. How does the Roadless Rule apply to mining activities in Alaska?

The 1872 Mining Law gives a statutory right of reasonable and necessary access related to the exploration and development of mineral properties. This statutory right is subject to reasonable regulation for the protection of surface resources. If the inventoried roadless area is open to mineral entry, locatable mineral mining, including certain activities ancillary to the mining, may be approved. Exploration and development of leasable minerals, such as oil and gas or geothermal resources, are not prohibited under the Roadless Rule. A road needed in conjunction with the continuation, extension, or renewal of a mineral lease originally issued prior to January 12, 2001 may be permitted. The Roadless Rule anticipates a number of permissible activities, including certain special uses, that do not involve "road construction or reconstruction" (see response to Q10, below). The Forest Service will work with the project proponent to determine the permissible activities during NEPA analysis of a proposed project.

Q10. How does the Roadless Rule apply to the construction and maintenance of transmission lines in Alaska?

The Roadless Rule does not prohibit construction of power lines or oil and gas transmission lines in inventoried roadless areas. The Roadless Rule anticipates a multitude of permissible activities, including authorized special uses, that do not involve "road construction or reconstruction" as defined in 36 CFR §294.2 (66 Fed. Reg. 3272).

The Roadless Rule defines the term "road" as "[a] motor vehicle travelway over 50 inches wide, unless designated and managed as a trail" (66 Fed. Reg. 3272). Under the Rule, temporary or permanent roads are not permitted in inventoried roadless areas, except as otherwise noted. In contrast, a necessary "linear construction zone" may be temporarily authorized where anticipated activities do not include road construction or reconstruction. See Wilderness Workshop v. US BLM, 531 F.3d 1220 (10th Cir. 2008). The Forest Service will work with project applicants to determine responsibilities and obligations concerning such special use applications.

Q11. What process must be followed to approve hydroelectric development in an inventoried roadless area?

The Federal Power Act (FPA) grants the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) the authority to issue and administer licenses for hydropower projects. For projects located on National Forest System lands, section 4(e) of the FPA requires FERC to determine whether the project is consistent with the purposes of the forest reservation. Section 4(e) also gives the Forest Service authority to impose mandatory conditions in the FERC license to ensure the adequate protection and utilization of a forest reservation.

To learn more about how to apply for a FERC hydropower license, go to: www.ferc.gov/industries/hydropower/gen-info/licensing.

When an applicant applies to FERC for a preliminary permit in an inventoried roadless area, they should meet with the Forest Service district to discuss the special use permit needed to conduct the work to be carried out under the preliminary permit. When an applicant applies to FERC for a license, the Forest Service will work with the applicant and FERC to coordinate terms and conditions necessary to ensure the adequate protection and utilization of the forest reservation. The Forest Service transmits the terms and conditions to be included in the license to FERC, in accordance with section 4(e) of the FPA.

The Alaska District Court's judgment in *Organized Village of Kake, et al., v. USDA, et al.* states:

> Nothing in this judgment shall be construed to prohibit any person or entity from seeking, or the USDA from approving, otherwise lawful road construction, road reconstruction, or the cutting or removal of timber for hydroelectric development pursuant to the standards and procedures set forth in the Federal Power Act.

Q12: Will the Tongass Forest Plan amendment address hydropower development?

The Forest Service proposes to amend the Tongass Forest Plan. Among other things, the amendment will address whether changes are needed to provide for the development of hydropower.

For more information contact your local Forest Service Office:

Chugach National Forest:

Chugach National Forest Supervisor's Office
161 East 1st Avenue, Door 8
Anchorage, AK 99501
(907) 743-9500

Cordova Ranger District
P.O. Box 280
Cordova, AK 99574-0280
(907) 424-7661

Glacier Ranger District
P.O. Box 129
145 Forest Station Road
Girdwood, AK 99587-0129
(907) 783-3242

Seward Ranger District
P.O. Box 390
334 Fourth Avenue
Seward, AK 99664-3374
(907) 224-3374

Tongass National Forest:

Tongass National Forest
648 Mission Street
Federal Building
Ketchikan, AK 99901-6591
(907) 225-3101

Petersburg Supervisor's Office
123 Scow Bay Loop Road
P.O. Box 309
Petersburg, AK 99833-0309

Sitka Supervisor's Office
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Craig Ranger District
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Trump pushes to allow new logging in Alaska's Tongass National Forest

Juliet Eilperin

President Trump has instructed Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue to exempt Alaska's 16.7-million-acre Tongass National Forest from logging restrictions imposed nearly 20 years ago, according to three people briefed on the issue, after privately discussing the matter with the state's governor aboard Air Force One.

The move would affect more than half of the world's largest intact temperate rainforest, opening it to potential logging, energy and mining projects. It would undercut a sweeping Clinton administration policy known as the "roadless rule," which has survived a decades-long legal assault.

Trump has taken a personal interest in "forest management," a term he told a group of lawmakers last year he has "redefined" since taking office.

Politicians have tussled for years over the fate of the Tongass, a massive stretch of southeastern Alaska replete with old-growth spruce, hemlock and cedar, rivers running with salmon, and dramatic fjords. President Bill Clinton put more than half of it off limits to logging just days before leaving office in 2001, when he barred the construction of roads in 58.5 million acres of undeveloped national forest across the country. President George W. Bush sought to reverse that policy, holding a handful of timber sales in the Tongass before a federal judge reinstated the Clinton rule.

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President Trump stated July 8 that his administration's concentration on job growth and the economy is the solution to funding for a healthy

environment. (Reuters)

Trump's decision to weigh in, at a time when Forest Service officials had planned much more modest changes to managing the agency's single largest holding, revives a battle that the previous administration had aimed to settle.

In 2016, the agency finalized a plan to phase out old-growth logging in the Tongass within a decade. Congress has designated more than 5.7 million acres of the forest as wilderness, which must remain undeveloped under any circumstances. If Trump's plan succeeds, it could affect 9.5 million acres.

Timber provides a small fraction of southeastern Alaska's jobs — just under 1 percent, according to the regional development organization Southeast Conference, compared with seafood processing's 8 percent and tourism's 17 percent.

But Alaskans, including Gov. Mike Dunleavy (R) and Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R), have pressed Trump to exempt their state from the rule, which does not allow roads except when the Forest Service approves specific projects. It bars commercial logging.

In a statement, Murkowski said Alaska's entire congressional delegation and the governor have sought to block the roadless rule.

"It should never have been applied to our state, and it is harming our ability to develop a sustainable, year-round economy for the Southeast region, where less than one percent of the land is privately held," she said. "The timber industry has declined precipitously, and it is astonishing that the few remaining mills in our nation's largest national forest have to constantly worry about running out of supply."

Alaskan leaders have found a powerful ally in the president. Speaking to reporters on June 26, after meeting with Trump during a refueling stop at Elmendorf Air Force Base, Dunleavy said of the president, "He really believes in the opportunities here in Alaska, and he's done everything he can to work with us on our mining concerns, timber concerns; we talked about tariffs as well. We're working on a whole bunch of things together, but the president does care very much about the state of Alaska."

Trump expressed support for exempting the Tongass from the roadless rule during that conversation with Dunleavy, according to three people who spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss internal deliberations. Earlier this month, Trump told Perdue to issue a plan to that effect this fall, these individuals said.

It is unclear how much logging would take place in the Tongass if federal restrictions were lifted because the Forest Service would have to amend its management plan to hold a new timber sale. The 2016 plan identified 962,000 acres as suitable for commercial timber and suggested no more than 568,000 acres of that should be logged.

John Schoen, a retired wildlife ecologist who worked in the Tongass for the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, co-authored a 2013 research paper finding that roughly half of the forest's large old-growth trees had been logged last century. The remaining big trees provide critical habitat for brown bears, Sitka black-tailed deer, a bird of prey called the Northern Goshawk and other species, he added.

Trump has frequently talked with his advisers about how to manage the nation's forests and signed an executive order last year aimed at increasing logging by

streamlining federal environmental reviews of these projects. The president was widely ridiculed after suggesting during a visit to Paradise, the California community devastated by a 2018 wildfire, that the United States could curb such disasters by following Finland's model, claiming that nation spends "a lot of time on raking and cleaning and doing things, and they don't have any problem."

The president has peppered Perdue with questions about forest management and has indicated that he wants to weigh in on any major forestry decision, according to current and former aides. Trump wanted to deprive California of federal funds in retaliation for the way officials managed the state's forests, but he did not follow up on the plan.

One former Trump staffer, who spoke on the condition of anonymity to avoid retaliation, said forest policy has become "an obsession of his."

White House and Agriculture Department officials referred questions this week to the Forest Service, which declined to comment. But the three people who spoke on the condition of anonymity said it was forging ahead with an exemption at Perdue's instructions.

Chris Wood, president of the environmental group Trout Unlimited, joined with local business owners and conservation and outdoors organizations in urging federal officials to make more limited changes to the rule. He said the shift could jeopardize the region's commercial, sport and subsistence salmon fishing industry.

About 40 percent of wild salmon that make their way down the West Coast spawn in the Tongass: The Forest Service estimates that the salmon industry generates $986 million annually. Returning salmon bring nutrients that sustain forest growth, while intact stands of trees keep streams cool and trap sediment.

Wood, who worked on the Clinton rule while at the Forest Service, said that in recent years, agency officials have "realized the golden goose is the salmon, not the trees."

"They need to keep the trees standing in order to keep the fish in the creeks," Wood said.

The question of what sort of roads should be built in the United States' remaining wild forests sparked intense battles in the 1990s, culminating in the 2001 rule affecting a third of the Forest Service's holdings in a dozen states. Some Western governors, including in Idaho and Wyoming, challenged the restrictions.

In some cases, conservationists and developers have forged compromises. A decade ago, Idaho officials opened up roughly 400,000 acres of roadless areas to ease operations for a phosphate mine while protecting 8.9 million acres in exchange.

But in Alaska, consensus has been more elusive, with many state officials arguing that the limits have hampered development.

The Forest Service has approved at least 55 projects in roadless areas, according to the agency, including 36 for mining and 10 related to the power sector. Most win approval "within a month of submission," according to an agency fact sheet.

But Robert Venables, executive director of the Southeast Conference, said permitting for some projects has taken years and made them too costly to complete. A proposal

that would have lowered electricity costs in the Alaskan community of Kake by connecting its supply to neighboring Petersburg, he said, won approval only after a lengthy review, which imposed requirements that boosted the price tag into the tens of millions.

"The roadless rule has shown itself to be very arbitrary and cumbersome," Venables said in a phone interview. "Many projects have proven to be uneconomic because of the constraints here."

A number of businesses operating in the region back the current restrictions, arguing that the forest's rugged landscapes, abundant wildlife and pristine terrain draw visitors.

Dan Blanchard, owner and CEO of the adventure travel firm UnCruise Adventures , said in an interview that when he was working as a boat captain in the 1980s, "we had a difficult time avoiding clear cuts in southeast Alaska."

"The forest has come back," said Blanchard, who has 350 employees and brings 7,000 guests to Alaska each year. "The demand for wilderness and uncut areas have just dramatically increased. Our view here is, there are very few places in the world that are wild. Here we have one, in southeast Alaska, and it's being put at risk."

Tongass Advisory Committee Final Recommendations

December 2015

Acknowledgements

The TAC received guidance and support from:

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Cover Photo Credit: Sitka Conservation Society

Executive Summary

The Tongass Advisory Committee (TAC) was federally chartered in the winter of 2014 to advise the Secretary of Agriculture on developing an ecologically, socially, and economically sustainable forest management strategy for the Tongass National Forest. They were specifically tasked with developing recommendations about how to transition within 10 to 15 years from old growth to predominantly young growth timber management in a way that is economically viable for the existing industry, while recognizing and balancing the other unique and equally important resource values of the Tongass.

The TAC was comprised of fifteen members from the timber industry, conservation community, Native interests, government, and "other" interests. The TAC members were selected because of their deep knowledge and their willingness to work collaboratively on new approaches, practices, and responses to historically contentious management challenges. They did so with diligence, respect, and honesty during nine meetings between August 2014 and December 2015. (All meeting materials, summaries, and background documents are available on the Committee website: www.merid.org/tongassadvisorycommittee.) Early in the process, they all agreed on a common vision:

"Southeast Alaska is comprised of prosperous, resilient communities that have the opportunity to predictably use and benefit from the diversity of forest resources to achieve the cultural, social, economic, and ecological health of the region for current and future generations."

With that vision in mind, and through extensive modeling of young growth availability, literature review, and consideration of public comments, the TAC achieved consensus on a comprehensive package of recommendations for analysis purposes. Following release of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement and proposed Forest Plan, the TAC reviewed the analysis finalized its recommendations with very few substantive changes. Their work offers the possibility of a regionally focused, collaborative path toward an innovative opportunity for a viable young growth timber industry while honoring the suite of economic, ecological, social, and cultural values inherent in the Forest.

Forest Plan Amendment Recommendations

The TAC's analysis revealed that the current Forest Plan would most likely not achieve the transition to young growth within the 10-15 year timeframe set out in their Charter. Recognizing that a different approach is required, the TAC recommended employing a "co-intent" mandate in the Forest Plan Amendment to improve habitat conditions and long–term ecological function in young growth stands while producing timber volume from those areas. This will enable the Forest to move out of old growth as quickly as possible and accelerate the transition while sustaining an economically viable timber industry.

To implement the co-intent approach, the TAC recommends that the Forest Service:

a) **Maximize the use of flexibilities designed to replace old growth harvest with young growth harvest on a one-to-one volumetric basis**. For the purposes of the recommended flexibilities in young growth management, the overall transition period is defined by the TAC as a period not to exceed 15 years from the date of the Amendment's Record of Decision (ROD). The TAC is making these recommendations to apply to young growth timber only and would not apply them to old growth timber.
b) **Provide more flexibility and opportunities in the existing timber management areas for young growth.**
c) **Use specific treatments for young growth harvest in areas that are not currently designated as "suitable" for harvest during the transition period, provided the original objective of the particular Land Use Designation (LUD) and/or standards and guidelines (S&Gs) is respected**. The TAC recognized the high ecological value of the non-suitable lands. However, many of those stands of young growth forest do not provide the full ecological function that they would have in the un-harvested state. Habitat treatments that improve ecological conditions will benefit wildlife and game populations while also improving the ecological functioning of the larger landscape, and will increase the understanding of effective habitat restoration treatments and allow operators to become more effective at habitat restoration activities.
d) **Aggressively monitor the outcomes of management activities resulting from the transition and apply adaptive management to improve outcomes**. Review the recommended flexibilities made by the TAC for all LUDs and S&Gs at least every five years. At the conclusion of the transition, a full review process should be conducted to evaluate continuity in whole, part, or expanded form.
e) **Fully utilize currently allowed prescriptions in beach buffer, Old Growth Reserves, and Riparian Management Areas (outside of Tongass Timber Reform Act buffers) that improve fish and wildlife habitat and create a commercial byproduct.** Further, the TAC believes that young growth volume produced from these treatments should be counted towards the Potential Timber Sale Quantity.
f) **Identify where young growth timber projects, during the period of the transition, intersect with certain high-value fish watersheds.** In these areas of intersection, conduct a timely scientific review to determine likely impacts to fish and wildlife habitat from timber harvest. If harvest is proposed in one of these watersheds, the Forest Service may apply additional standards or guidelines to mitigate risk to fish habitat.
g) **Maintain the existing suitable land base for young growth timber (i.e., no net loss of young growth acres).** If suitable young growth acres are removed from the timber base as a result of review, an equal number of acres should be added to the young growth timber base.
h) **Engage stakeholders, such as conservation interests, timber operations, permitted user groups, and other interested parties in multi-party planning using an integrated resource management planning framework** to: best design and

implement projects to meet ecological, social, and economic goals; provide best practices for producing timber volume from treatments; and develop management prescriptions and identify areas where co-intent prescriptions are best applied. Monitor the response of the timber industry and assist in their transition by investing in infrastructure and market development.

i) **Overhaul administrative practices for timber sales to improve timeliness, lower costs, and strengthen supply consistency** required in an industry dependent on predominantly young growth.

Old Growth Bridge Strategy

By bringing more young growth forward sooner in the transition period, the Forest can reduce old growth harvest earlier. For every unit of young growth volume brought forward into the transition solution, there should be an equal unit less of old growth. Ultimately this will result in transitioning from old growth to young growth in less than 15 years by making more young growth available for harvest and substituting young growth for old growth on a one-to-one volumetric basis, using the annual timber demand, which will be held constant during the transition period.

To provide a more accurate prediction of available young growth during the transition, the TAC recommends a thorough analysis of young growth inventory at the stand level in the first three years of the transition. Based on this information, the Forest should plan and produce sufficient young growth volume to ensure the required volume through the transition that meets the determined demand. Because the young growth volume is not sufficient to meet demand during the transition period, the Forest should develop a unit pool[1] for bridge timber volume within a specified timeframe to meet the volume demand that cannot be met by young growth during the transition.

Following the transition period, the TAC recommends that the Forest maintain a post-transition annual old growth timber harvest that will meet the long-term demand of small- and micro-sale programs.

Implementing the Transition

The TAC concluded that cultural and operational changes in how the Forest conducts its business are mandatory for the success of the transition. The Forest Service must play a pivotal role in leading, fostering, and supporting the societal and institutional learning the transition will require. Openness, transparency, and collaboration both within the Forest and with external parties will be essential. The TAC's detailed implementation recommendations provide guidance on crucial elements for success and identify critical opportunities by which the TAC,

[1] A unit pool refers to a stand or polygon within a project area, within which landscape objectives could be considered.

Agency, and greater community will share ownership of the transition strategy and embrace its successful implementation.

The recommendations include the following transformative steps:

- Pursue partnerships and collaboration;
- Improve internal Forest Service coordination;
- Support and encourage leadership at the District Ranger level;
- Revamp the sale planning and assessment process;
- Maximize the use of stewardship contracts and agreements; and
- Address incentives and feasibility for operators, and domestic processing and consumption.

In addition, the transition to young growth must provide economically and financially viable opportunities for industry, and meaningful economic and employment benefits to local communities. The TAC provided detailed recommendations for targeted investment, financial assistance, and financing mechanisms for stand inventory, research, infrastructure, and retooling. These investments are intended to help communities and businesses successfully transition to, and thrive within, a new young growth economy.

Monitoring and Research

The TAC's commitment to creating conditions for Tongass communities to thrive is reflected in recommendations for robust and active monitoring and adaptive management:

a) **Convene a Forest-wide collaborative group** as the mechanism by which stakeholders support and help hold themselves and the Forest accountable to the goals of the transition.
b) **Contract an appropriate organization to conduct a baseline socioeconomic benefits analysis** as soon as possible. Key "dashboard" metrics to be included in the analysis are listed in the recommendations report.
c) **Conduct ongoing benefits analyses** at regular intervals for the life of the current plan to demonstrate changes over time in the relationship between planning and implementation of timber and stewardship work and community wellbeing.

In summary, the TAC's recommended actions represent a new paradigm for the Tongass National Forest, and situate the Forest at the leading edge of forest management in the United States. We look forward to the Agency and stakeholders taking on the challenge together of adopting and implementing this paradigm.

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Introduction

Background

The Tongass National Forest (Tongass or Forest) is the largest National Forest in the Nation. The Tongass is comprised of 16.7 million acres and covers the great majority of Southeast Alaska, with the Forest Service (USFS) by far the largest landowner in this part of Alaska. There are 3.4 million acres of Development Land Use Designations (LUDs) allowing commercial timber harvesting, with the remaining 13.3 million acres designated as Wilderness (5.9 million acres) and Natural Setting (7.4 million acres).[2] Only a little over 400,000 acres of timber has actually been harvested to date. This proposal focuses on the 360,000 acres of young growth available to meet the goals of the transition.

There are dozens of communities, including many longstanding Native villages, that exist within the region covered by the Tongass. These communities use and depend on the resources of the Tongass. As a consequence, management decisions and actions of the Tongass National Forest have a great deal of influence on these communities. A multitude of resources and activities produced from the Forest fuel the economies, livelihoods, and way-of-life for the people who live there. The Tongass is also one of the largest temperate rainforests in the world, containing large tracts of intact ecosystems critical to preserving biodiversity and capturing carbon to help mitigate the effects of climate change.

The Tongass is a Native place, home of the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian people, whose cultural identities and traditional way of life are rooted in and tied to the land and waters of Southeast Alaska. Alaska Natives have continuously inhabited the Forest for more than 10,000 years and today are dependent on subsistence hunting and fishing, and utilization of all Tongass resources to sustain their bodies, as well as their traditions, cultures, and livelihoods.

The Forest is a productive landscape that sustains robust fish stocks for subsistence, personal use, and commercial and sport fisheries. Maintaining the habitat diversity and connections among watersheds is essential to the continued productivity of the Forest's salmon fisheries. Land managers are increasingly aware of the economic and social contributions of activities that sustain all these important fisheries.

The Tongass is also home to a vibrant and growing tourism industry. Tourism, from large cruise ships to small and independent tours, plays an important role in the economies of

[2] A chart of acreages is located within the Tongass National Forest 2008 Land and Resource Management Plan, available at: https://fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprdb5367422.pdf.

communities throughout Southeast Alaska. Additionally, the Tongass provides many communities with lake-tap hydropower and presents many opportunities for renewable energy. Then, of course, the Tongass is home to a variety of wildlife and birds; all of which enrich the lives of those who live in and/or visit the Tongass.

The Tongass has a renewable timber resource that is managed on a sustainable basis. During the second half of the 20th century, two fifty-year contracts spurred investments and year round jobs in Southeast Alaska. The region experienced a timber boom with Tongass timber supplying two large regional pulp mills, several large sawmills, and numerous small mills and manufacturing businesses. During that time, several hundred thousand acres were harvested. Many of those stands have continued to be managed for various purposes including future timber production. These stands are now known as young growth and constitute the primary focus of this report for purposes of future harvest.

Contentious debate over Tongass management has overshadowed the opportunities for local solutions. The establishment of the Tongass Advisory Committee (TAC) represents a turning point in Tongass management, seeking new approaches, practices, and responses. The TAC offers a regionally focused, collaborative path toward an innovative opportunity for a viable young growth timber industry, while honoring the suite of values – economic, ecological, social and cultural – inherent in the Forest. (See Appendix A, pg. 31, for a list of TAC members.)

This Plan Amendment is being drafted in a time marked by transition. It is the transition away from predominantly old growth timber harvest to young growth harvest. The Secretary of Agriculture has specifically spelled out the terms of this transition when he set up the Charter for the TAC (see Appendix B, pg. 32). This Charter is narrow in scope and does *not* charge the TAC with making overall recommendations in regard to fisheries, recreation, wildlife management, or tourism. This does not mean these values are overlooked. It does mean that the recommendations of the TAC will be timber-centric in accordance to the Charter issued by Secretary Vilsack. It is important to note that these timber-centric recommendations do not comprise the sole direction of the Tongass National Forest and the TAC encourages the USFS to continue and expand their management and investment in other important sectors of Tongass, such as fisheries, the visitor industry, and renewable energy.

In regards to the management of young growth forest-land, the principles of vegetation management for wildlife, patch cuts and ecological restoration will be relied upon. In regards to the harvest of old growth trees, the principle employed is to replace old growth harvest with young growth harvest within 10-15 years, except for small operators dependent on low-volume, niche markets. The 2016 Plan Amendment should provide the flexibility for USFS staff, partners, and collaborators to succeed in transitioning the Southeast Alaska timber industry from predominantly old growth to young growth. Additionally, the TAC aims to encourage local processing and other economic benefits for local communities and villages.

A critical component for this Plan Amendment to succeed is USFS management embracing the concept of co-intent as outlined in the recommendations of the TAC on page 6.[3] The TAC believes that co-intent creates the space for the USFS to be flexible, adaptive, creative, transparent, and innovative. These traits will be necessary to implement balanced recommendations that foster community well-being, and recognize the priorities of the larger American public.

Purpose

The purpose and need for this Forest Plan Amendment is to respond to the Secretary of Agriculture's July 2nd, 2013 memorandum that directs the USFS to transition timber harvest on the Tongass away from a predominately old growth timber harvest to the utilization of young growth timber resources.[4] This Plan is being amended specifically to accommodate a strategy for the transition that creates opportunities in young growth management and the utilization of forest products in a manner that enhances the economic vitality of the region and the resilience of local communities. The Amendment will evaluate the lands available for young growth timber harvest and provide the guidance for young growth land management activities on the Tongass. This Amendment also considers maximizing the opportunities for social and economic returns from other economic sectors that depend on the Forest.

Vision

Early in the process, the members of the TAC all agreed on a common vision to serve as a touchstone for their deliberations and to help guide the development of the recommendations that follow.

"Southeast Alaska is comprised of prosperous, resilient communities that have the opportunity to predictably use and benefit from the diversity of forest resources to achieve the cultural, social, economic, and ecological health of the region for current and future generations."

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[3] The TAC defines co-intent as: A mandate to maintain the primary intent and objectives of each Land Use Designation and standard and guideline while developing and applying forest management activities that will accelerate the transition to young growth management in the Tongass National Forest.

[4] *Secretary's Memorandum 1044-009: Addressing Sustainable Forestry in Southeast Alaska* is available online through the following link: http://www.merid.org/en/TongassAdvisoryCommittee/~/media/Files/Projects/tongass/August%20meeting/Secretarys%20Directive.pdf.

Recommendations and Action Plan

Rationale

The TAC learned that the current Tongass Land & Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan) would most likely not achieve the transition to young growth within the 10-15 year time frame set out in the Charter as defined by the Secretary of Agriculture. In order to reach the ultimate goal to move out of old growth as quickly as possible and accelerate the transition while sustaining an economically viable timber industry, the TAC recognized that changes in the Forest Plan will be necessary. The TAC discovered that there were opportunities to accelerate the transition to young growth, reduce the commensurate harvest of old growth, and maintain a more reliable timber supply in Southeast Alaska through the transition period. The most effective way to meet these goals is to bring forward and provide advanced age young growth through some time-limited relaxations in standards and guidelines (S&Gs).

The TAC recognizes the high ecological value of the non-suitable lands. However, many of those stands of young growth forest do not provide the full ecological function that they would have in the un-harvested state. Habitat treatments that improve ecological conditions will benefit wildlife and game populations while also improving the ecological functioning of the larger landscape. This work will increase our understanding of effective habitat restoration treatments and will allow operators to become more effective at habitat restoration activities.

Overarching Principles

Throughout the discussion, the TAC returned to several overarching principles that permeated throughout all the recommendations that follow:

1. During the transition, young growth in the suitable land base is not sufficient for a viable timber industry. Therefore, the TAC included recommendations for approaches in non-suitable lands, and suggested changes to S&Gs, for young growth during the transition period.
2. By bringing more young growth forward sooner in the transition period, the USFS can reduce old growth earlier. For every unit of young growth volume brought forward into the transition solution, there should be an equal unit less of old growth.
3. Due to uncertainties in young growth inventory data and often significant differences in on the ground operational outcomes, independent monitoring is essential to achieve the dual objective of reducing old growth sooner and providing for a viable timber industry.
4. Co-intent occurs on all suitable and non-suitable acres, and with proper S&Gs can work to meet multiple uses associated with the Forest.
5. Bringing multi-disciplinary input and stakeholder involvement forward into the project planning process is essential to the success of co-intent.

6. Change in the culture of the USFS is mandatory.
7. The establishment of a forest collaborative is critical to the success of the recommendations.[5] (See Monitoring and Research, pg. 27). Reviews will be conducted at the end of five and ten years to measure the effectiveness of the flexibilities in meeting co-intent goals.
8. In order to maintain a viable young growth timber industry in the future, the existing suitable land base for young growth timber should be maintained (i.e., no net loss of young growth acres). If suitable young growth acres are removed from the timber base as a result of the review process, an equal number of acres should be added to the young growth timber base. Operational and geographic considerations (i.e., close proximity to other young growth acres) should be given priority. The process for this acreage replacement will be determined at the ten year review by a forest collaborative, through consultation at Gate 1, Initial Planning of a Timber Sale Project, and beyond, with a focus on comparable achievement[6].
9. At five and ten year reviews, the USFS, with a forest collaborative and other stakeholders, shall study, identify, and adopt methodology for supply that is tied to future sustained yield from the young growth land base. This new orientation will provide opportunities for the growth and development of an integrated industry focused on community and ecosystem health.

Approach

The TAC approached its work in the following order:

1. Prioritized LUDs and S&Gs where it believed the opportunity to capture more young growth volume in the near-term is the greatest and the risk to the environment would be least.
2. Quantified opportunities and social acceptability of adding additional young growth volume into the transition period, within each LUD and S&G by running several modeling scenarios through Tetra-Tech and Mason, Bruce & Girard (contractors for the Forest Plan Amendment options analysis work).
3. Reviewed and incorporated literature and science related to young growth timber and all public comments provided to the Committee.

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[5] The TAC defines a "forest collaborative" as a balanced, multi-stakeholder group formed and operating to support the USFS in completing a successful transition from old growth to young growth harvest on the Tongass National Forest. Typically, the USFS or other agencies' staff join forest collaboratives as equal members. See Appendix E for a draft memorandum of understanding that provides an example of how the Forest Service might interact with such a forest collaborative.

[6] The current Forest Plan uses the approach of comparable achievement to adjust Old Growth Reserves, provided that alternative reserves provide comparable achievement of the old growth habitat goals and objectives. The Tongass National Forest 2008 Land and Resource Management Plan is available at: https://fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprdb5367422.pdf. See Appendix K of the Forest Plan for additional information.

4. Indexed the social and ecological sensitivity of each LUD and S&G identified in activity 2 above.
5. Defined the concept of co-intent for both suitable and non-suitable lands. Developed goals and potential operating actions within specific and identified LUDs and S&Gs to achieve co-intent, which emphasizes recognizing and balancing the other unique and important resource values on the Forest.
6. Conducted thorough discussions on social acceptance pertaining to the modification of LUDs and S&Gs to fine-tune its Amendment option alternative and prepare a recommendation to include with USFS alternatives for review in draft in later meetings.
7. Emphasized and identified key implementation, investment, monitoring, and research elements required of the USFS in parallel with developing recommended treatment options.

Recommendations for Land Use Designations and Standards and Guidelines

The primary objective of the TAC was to reduce the amount of old growth timber harvest on the Tongass National Forest and accelerate the transition to a young growth based timber program. After evaluating the sensitivity of various LUDs, the TAC recommends the USFS does *not* seek young growth volume or change S&Gs in the following areas:

- Roadless Areas;
- Tongass Timber Reform Act (TTRA) Buffers;
- High vulnerability karst;
- Steep slopes;
- Municipal Watersheds;
- Wild, Scenic, and Recreational Rivers;
- Semi-Remote Recreation;
- Remote Recreation;
- Special Interest Areas;
- Wilderness Areas and National Monuments;
- LUD II; and
- Special Interest Areas.

Further, the TAC recommends the USFS identify where young growth timber projects, during the period of the transition, intersect with certain "high-value fish watersheds" (identified in Appendix C, pg. 37). In these areas of intersection, conduct a timely (during the first five years after the Record of Decision (ROD)) internal scientific review in collaboration with a forest collaborative and other stakeholders to determine likely impacts to fish and wildlife habitat from timber harvest. If harvest is proposed in one of these watersheds, the USFS may apply additional standards or guidelines to mitigate risk to fish habitat, or apply the "no net loss" concept outlined in the TAC's overarching principals.

The following Plan adjustments are considered with the co-intent of shifting harvest activities away from old growth harvest, providing alternative young growth volume, and improving habitat conditions for wildlife and fish and stand function in places that would benefit from restoration work. The TAC defines the broad concept of co-intent as follows:

A mandate to maintain the primary intent and objectives of each LUD and S&G while developing and applying forest management activities that will accelerate the transition to young growth management in the Tongass National Forest.

For the purposes of the recommended flexibilities in young growth management, the overall transition period is defined by the TAC as a period not to exceed 15 years from the date of this Amendment's ROD.

Recommendations

The TAC recommends that in order to achieve these objectives, the USFS:

a) Strive to maximize the volume of young growth timber in planning and ultimately offered for sale.
b) Maximize the use of flexibilities designed to replace old growth harvest with young growth harvest on a one-to-one volumetric basis.
c) Provide more flexibility and opportunities in the existing timber management areas for young growth.
d) Use specific treatments, designed for a one-time entry, for young growth harvest in specified areas that are not currently designated as suitable for harvest during the transition period, provided the original objectives of the particular LUD and/or S&Gs are respected.
e) Aggressively monitor the outcomes of management activities resulting from the transition and apply adaptive management to improve outcomes. Follow the aforementioned review process for the recommended flexibilities made by the TAC for all LUDs and S&Gs. At the culmination of the transition, a full review process should be conducted to evaluate continuity in whole, part, or expanded form to perpetuate and refine prescriptions that improve habitat while providing timber volume where they successfully meet the co-intent objectives. (See Monitoring and Research, pg. 27.)
f) Fully utilize currently allowed prescriptions in beach buffer, Old Growth Reserves, and Riparian Management Areas (RMAs)(outside of TTRA) that improve fish and wildlife habitat and create a commercial by-product. Further, young growth volume produced from these treatments should be counted toward the Projected Timber Sale Quantity (PTSQ).
g) Engage stakeholders, such as conservation interests, timber operations, permitted user groups, and other interested parties, in multi-party planning using an integrated resource management (IRM) planning framework to best design and implement projects to meet ecological, social, and economic goals; to provide best practices for producing timber volume from treatments; and to develop management prescriptions and identify areas where co-intent prescriptions are best applied.

h) Monitor the response of the timber industry and assist in their transition by investing in infrastructure and market development. (See Transition Economics and Investment, pg. 23.)
i) Overhaul administrative practices for timber sales to improve timeliness, lower costs and strengthen supply consistency required in an industry dependent on predominantly young growth. (See Implementation Strategy, pg. 14.)

The TAC is making these recommendations to apply to young growth timber only and would not apply them to old growth timber. (See Old Growth Bridge Strategy, pg. 13.) The TAC recommends that the USFS exercise flexibility within the following areas, LUDs, and S&Gs to increase young growth volumes for the period of the transition as defined above. These areas are listed in order of priority of most return and least environmental risk:

1. Timber management;
2. Modified landscape;
3. Scenic viewshed;
4. Beach buffer;
5. Old Growth Reserves (OGRs); and
6. RMAs outside of TTRA buffers.

Currently Suitable Land Base

The suitable land base refers to the LUDs in the current Plan specifically zoned for timber production: the Timber Management LUD (TM), Modified Landscape LUD (ML), and Scenic Viewshed LUD (SV). These LUDs form the core areas of land management where the bulk of timber harvest will occur during and following the transition on the Tongass. The suitable land base contains 273,000 acres out of the total 435,000 acres on which a second generation of timber is growing within the Tongass National Forest. During the transition period, the TAC's recommendations will bring forward young growth timber volume and support an enhanced timber sale program.

Under the suitable land base and associated S&Gs identified below, the objective of co-intent is to maintain emphasis on the production of young growth timber, while actively managing for concurrent values through treatments that enhance timber establishment and growth within viewsheds and habitat corridors. This definition includes active and progressive treatments that will address stem excluded, growth and undergrowth stagnant stands that inhibit forest habitat, as well as negate any timber values. The goal is to bring those lands back into productive forest and fish and wildlife habitat conditions.

Timber Management (TM)

The Timber Management LUD currently contains approximately 186,000 acres of young growth.

Recommendations

a) Maximize young growth harvest and management on the Timber Management LUD with particular emphasis on stands where culmination of mean annual increment (CMAI) relief, from accelerated establishment, and growth and restart prescriptions can make both short- and long-term contributions to the stability of long term young growth supply.
b) Utilize the full authorities provided under the Sealaska Lands Entitlement Act CMAI language in this LUD for even-aged management of young growth stands.
c) The TAC defined the rotation age under CMAI relaxation for the purposes of modeling as when 50% of a stand volume consists of trees that contain two 34-foot logs. This does not preclude market or site opportunities that occur where CMAI relaxation can be defined in a different manner.
d) Consider using flexibility under the Stewardship Contracting Authority to allow longer sale terms (e.g., five to ten years) to provide more certainty, reduce risk, and encourage investment in infrastructure for all timber sales (young growth and old growth).
e) Continue emphasis on additional opportunities for the small and micro-sale programs and show continuity in small old growth sales for these programs beyond the transition period.
f) Integrate methods to maximize timber establishment and growth (e.g., planting, thinning, fertilizing, etc.) to increase volume, species mix, and/or product value with priority on high productivity sites with favorable logistical access options in the region.
g) Consider a measured pace, scale, and variety of projects to match workforce and capacity. (See Implementation Recommendations, pg. 15.)
h) Prioritize pre-commercial thinning (PCT) projects and regimes on stands in this LUD where highest productivity and highest feasibility of operation.
i) Consider projects that could improve wildlife habitat by rehabilitating young growth stands that are in stem exclusion and will have limited contribution to young growth management. Priority stands will be high and/or medium sites with favorable logistical access.
j) Areas that have been previously harvested should be subject to larger landscape Environmental Assessments (EAs) rather than Environmental Impact Statements (EISs), where appropriate.

Modified Landscape & Scenic Viewshed

The Modified Landscape (ML) LUD currently contains approximately 60,000 acres of young growth. The Scenic Viewshed (SV) LUD currently contains approximately 12,000 acres of young growth.

Recommendations

The TAC recommends that young growth on the ML and SV LUDs, be managed in the same way during the transition period under the S&Gs of the ML LUD:

a) Manage using the Very Low Scenery Integrity Objective (SIO), as described by the Scenery Management System.[7]
b) Re-evaluate some of the existing visual priority routes in a multi-party, community-based review process.
c) Consult early and throughout the project planning process with other users to mitigate impacts in higher value scenic watersheds and/or routes, and encourage transparency throughout the process.
d) Areas of harvest may be replanted favoring spruce and cedar to enhance establishment, green-up, and scenic values.
e) Within the 15 year transition period, on a project-by-project basis and where acceptable, allow a second entry. If the second entry impacts SIOs to Unacceptable levels, seek appropriate relief to implement. Encourage leaving lower value timber to improve scenic and wildlife values.
f) Design cutting units with irregular boundaries (i.e., feathering).
g) Emphasize additional opportunities for the small and micro-sale programs (young growth and old growth).
h) Prioritize PCT projects and regimes on stands in this LUD where highest productivity and highest feasibility of operation.

Currently Non-suitable Lands

The non-suitable land base comprises over 120,000 acres of the total 435,000 acres on which young growth timber is growing within the Tongass National Forest. These lands represent areas of high ecological value; however, many of these stands are in stem exclusion, and do not provide their full potential of ecological values. These lands also tend to have a high level of use for subsistence, tourism, recreation, and guided hunting, and are among the most likely areas to have culturally significant historic sites.

The transition to young growth timber and away from old growth can be accelerated by applying co-intent management. With co-intent as a guide, young growth volume from these areas will count towards the PTSQ while fully meeting the existing intent and objectives of the LUDs and S&Gs. Under the non-suitable land base associated S&Gs identified below, the objective of co-intent is to maintain/improve habitat conditions and long-term ecological

[7] For more information, see *Landscape Aesthetics: A Handbook for Scenery Management*, available online at: http://www.fs.fed.us/cdt/carrying_capacity/landscape_aesthetics_handbook_701_no_append.pdf.

function in young growth stands, while producing timber volume that will count towards the PTSQ, and fully meeting the intent and objectives of the existing LUDs and S&Gs.

The TAC believes the greatest positive impact to both improving fish and wildlife habitat and to increasing the short-term young growth timber supply in the non-suitable lands will be realized by using a one-time only entry into each of the young growth stands that warrant management actions. Additional entries are supported where best available science and active review by a forest collaborative agree that two or more entries are (a) warranted; and (b) meet the LUD objectives. Significant habitat improvement and the total allowed young growth removal would be accomplished in one pass while keeping within the full intent of the LUDs and/or S&G. As a general principle, the TAC recommends providing discretion and flexibility to land managers in order to meet the goal of speeding the shift to young growth and using the co-intent mandate in these areas during the transition period.

It is important to note that the TAC is *not* recommending harvest of any old growth in non-suitable lands and it fully recognizes the importance of these lands for the overall Tongass conservation strategy. Further, the non-suitable lands will not become part of the long-term timber base and are being accessed for a limited period of time to ensure a successful transition.

Old Growth Reserves, Riparian Management Areas Outside of TTRA, and Beach Buffers

Recommendations

The TAC recommends the following activities during the transition period for young growth management in OGRs, RMAs outside of TTRA buffers, and beach buffers:

a) Examine young growth within those OGRs, RMAs, and beach buffers that are now in young growth (early seral stage) and are of sufficient maturity to advance the transition to determine the opportunities for habitat improvement. If active adaptive management would likely facilitate a more rapid recovery of late successional forest characteristics than would leaving it alone, the TAC recommends co-intent management activities that advance the seral stages toward Tongass old growth conditions, while creating commercial timber by-products.
b) Treatments in any of the non-suitable lands would include a maximum opening size of 10 acres and maximum removal of up to 35% of acres. Treatments should be designed on a project-by-project basis with the co-intent objectives listed in (a).

c) The USFS should prioritize utilizing OGR modification processes to capture additional young growth acres within OGRs, putting particular emphasis on adjacent landscapes, where a net gain of productive old growth habitat is possible, while maintaining and enhancing landscape connectivity.[8]
d) Where OGR boundaries cannot be modified, the USFS should use the co-intent mandate on young growth stands in OGRs and implement treatments where non-timber values are not compromised, and particularly where adjacent stands of young growth exist and can be integrated into the project scope.
e) The USFS and involved stakeholders are encouraged to be creative and innovative in developing projects that advance old growth characteristics in young growth stands within non-suitable lands. Emphasis should be on emulating the natural scale and distribution of disturbance patterns on the Tongass (e.g., wind-thrown timber that creates gaps and patches, landslides that create corridors and gaps, mortality that naturally thins stand, etc.) that correspond with silvicultural treatments such as gaps, corridors, variable retention harvest, and variable density thinning.
f) Treatments within beach buffers must maintain a minimum 200 foot buffer starting at the high tide line. USFS staff may consider expanding the buffer in sensitive areas, (e.g., such as in proximity to estuaries). Wildlife treatment enhancements and openings for access purposes may be allowed within those 200 foot buffers.
g) The USFS should prioritize projects that improve habitat and forest function, increase accessibility for recreation and tourism, and provide young growth volume in support of transition goals.
h) The USFS should consider prescriptively planting within two seasons of harvest to accelerate both establishment and growth of successive forest cover to meet the habitat and/or scenic objectives.
i) The USFS should review permits and current usages within proposed project areas in the non-suitable lands (including operators who hold tourism and guiding permits) to avoid conflict (analyze impacts) and seek mutually beneficial opportunities. Permit holders, local users, and user groups should be consulted and integrated in planning in the development of any management activity.
j) To the extent possible, these projects should also provide outputs such as recreational infrastructure and improved access.

[8] The current Forest Plan uses the approach of comparable achievement to adjust Old Growth Reserves, provided that alternative reserves provide comparable achievement of the old growth habitat goals and objectives. The Tongass National Forest 2008 Land and Resource Management Plan is available at: https://fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprdb5367422.pdf. See Appendix K of the Forest Plan for additional information.

Old Growth Bridge Strategy

The TAC agrees that the USFS should:

- Complete a thorough analysis of young growth inventory at the stand level in the first three years of the transition to more accurately predict the young growth timing and supply to complete the transition;
- Develop the unit pool for bridge timber volume to meet the timeline goals set below (1 and 2);
- Plan and produce sufficient young growth volume to ensure the required volume through the transition meets the determined demand;
- Transition from old growth to young growth in less than 15 years by making more young growth available for harvest and substituting young growth for old growth on a one to one volumetric basis, using the annual timber demand;
- During the transition period, hold the timber demand number constant. (Subject to review of the DEIS, the TAC will recommend a number to hold consistent through transition period.[9]);
- Maintain a post transition annual old growth timber harvest that will meet the long term demand of the small and micro-sale programs; and
- Limit the old growth timber base to the current definition of Phase 1 lands outside of The Nature Conservancy (TNC)/Audubon conservation priority areas, Tongass 77 (T77) watersheds and Inventoried Roadless Areas. (See Appendix D, pg. 38, for a map of the conservation priority areas and T77 watersheds.)

Goals for planning the unit pool for the old growth bridge timber volume from the defined land base development:

1. All timber pool volume is through Gate 1 by year two through extensive collaboration with other landowners and stakeholders.
2. All timber pool volume is through Gate 2 (National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) cleared) by end of year five.

At the end of five years from the ROD of this Plan Amendment, there will be more experience and knowledge because:

- A forest collaborative will have completed a review of USFS performance on planning timber sales;
- There will be five years of experience in planning young growth timber sales aligned with the TAC recommendations that will improve the understanding of actual project net-downs and allow for more accurate predictions of young growth harvest timing and flow; and

[9] The TAC expected to see an analysis by the USFS of the effects of two different annual volume targets. After reviewing the DEIS, which did not include an analysis of two volume targets, the TAC was unable to reach consensus on an annual volume target. The range of annual volumes supported by individual TAC members for analysis remains at 46MMBF – 70MMBF. The TAC did *not* agree to a specific annual target.

- The improved inventory information will be available and integrated into the forecast of both the timing and volume of young growth during the remaining period of the transition and set a target timeline for old growth harvest to complete the transition.

Implementation Strategy

Purpose

The Forest Plan Amendment is but one piece of the transition to a young growth forest management program. The other major piece is for the USFS to transition to a more flexible, responsive timber program tooled for young growth. The recommendations above should increase the certainty of young growth supply. The implementation steps below will ensure that projects are available and delivered in a manner that leads to a viable industry while not diminishing other values of the forest.

These implementation recommendations provide guidance on crucial elements for success. They also identify critical opportunities by which the Committee, Agency, and greater community will share ownership of the transition strategy and embrace its successful implementation. While much of the economic success of the transition will depend upon the willingness and ability of communities, businesses, other landowners, and the forest products industry to learn, adapt, and innovate, the TAC believes that the USFS must play a pivotal role in leading, fostering, and supporting the societal and institutional learning a successful transition will require. The USFS will, of necessity, be in transition itself.

In the absence of Agency transformation, the TAC remains extremely concerned that the collaborative efforts of the TAC will be in vain.

Essentials of the Transformation:
Leadership and a Culture of Collaboration and Transparency

Agency Leadership

Any and all transitions come with risk and uncertainty. Agency leadership will be challenged to provide clarity of purpose and consistency of direction to all staff of the Tongass National Forest. Likewise, all stakeholders, users, and user groups will look to Agency leadership for clear commitments in terms of budgets, staffing, planning, and implementation in order to make their own adjustments to changing conditions. The next 15 years will be a learning process, but action must take place immediately. Leadership must foster a culture of flexibility, transparency, creativity, and innovation, as well as new institutional practices to successfully meet the Secretary's young growth direction, institutionalize learning, and manage risk throughout the transition period, while still meeting the high demands of accountability and compliance with existing laws and regulations.

Recommendation

a) The TAC expects Forest Service line officers and leadership at every level to encourage and support the development of a multi-stakeholder forest collaborative to help maintain the vision of the Amendment, provide resources to the Agency for the implementation steps described herein, and improve and compliment the monitoring efforts necessary for accountability and learning. (See Monitoring and Research, pg. 27). The agency's support for such a group should include both participation and funding. (A suggested draft memorandum of understanding (MOU) can be found in Appendix E, pg. 39.)

It is the intent of the TAC that stakeholders, stakeholder groups, and the Forest Service seek to increase efficiency and effectiveness during and beyond the transition period. We acknowledge the tension caused by the need for collaboration and the pressing desire for action. We consider this a mutual challenge.

Collaboration and Transparency

The TAC has succeeded because its members agreed at the outset to collaborate (i.e., to work together towards a common goal) and to do so with respect, honesty, and transparency. The TAC has taken great pains to access the knowledge base and values of many stakeholders, explain the process used to reach decisions, and detail the rationale for those decisions. We likewise went to lengths to explain the innovative concepts of co-intent and co-products expected from young growth management. This agreement to manage for multiple purposes, including fish and wildlife enhancement while developing timber supply, is challenging. It brings opportunity for new styles of conservation and silviculture to the Tongass which will require the utmost collaboration and transparency. The Forest needs to commit to these values in implementing the transition if the hard won agreements we have achieved are to endure.

Collaboration and transparency mean frequent engagement *and* taking action with partners, sometimes with risks where all parties learn. Risk *management*, as opposed to risk *aversion*, by Agency leadership will create the space for flexibility, creativity, and innovation among the Forest staff and stakeholders. Collaboration and transparency are the best risk mitigation tools the Agency has at its disposal to navigate what will be a difficult period and to take advantage of new opportunities. Risk sharing by all stakeholders, and most importantly the Agency, will speed the transition and make sure the private sector is not assuming a disproportionate degree of risk.

Implementation Recommendations

The USFS has already expressed its commitment and made important investments in the shift to a young growth-based forest management program and an IRM approach.

Building on that commitment and those investments, the TAC recommends the following transformative steps for successful future young growth forest management:

1. Pursue partnerships and collaboration;
2. Support internal USFS Coordination;
3. Encourage leadership at the District Ranger level commensurate with their authority;
4. Revamp the sale planning and assessment process;
5. Maximize the use of stewardship contracts and agreements; and
6. Address incentives and feasibility for operators and domestic processing/consumption.

Partnerships and Collaboration

Community-based partners and stakeholders can lead and support creative work by building mutually beneficial agreements and working relationships, facilitating collaborative processes, and ensuring projects achieve local benefits.

Recommendation

a) Line officer performance evaluation must include metrics for partnerships, collaboration, and transparency (self-reported and stakeholder-reported).

Partnerships will be needed to achieve the social and economic outcomes envisioned by the TAC and enabled by the 2016 Amendment. These include:

Planning for Young Growth Projects
The TAC expects the Agency to move to true collaborative planning for young growth projects. Collaborative planning has the advantage of using the knowledge of industry to design projects that will work economically, and the knowledge of the scientific and conservation communities to design projects that will achieve the desired habitat objectives, and of local communities and/or user groups to identify areas critical to community development. It provides the opportunity for mutual learning through the assessment and analysis stages of planning. It produces the commitment of willing partners in the implementation of the Amendment ROD.

Recommendation

a) Give clear direction to staff that collaborating early and often in the Gate 1 process and in other ways, with stakeholders, including industry, is expected for all projects in the Five Year Plan.

Workforce Training and Development
There is an opportunity to work with local governments, tribes, non-profits, businesses, and the State to create a local, multi-skilled, cross-trained workforce to perform all facets of young growth forest management, habitat restoration, and local utilization.

Recommendations

a) Utilize the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) or similar hiring authorities, and agreements or MOUs with partners, adjacent landowners,

and business owners, to provide training opportunities and continuity of work for a local workforce.

b) Implement vocational-technical training programs in coordination with local high schools and regional universities. Integrate training with current vocational-technical training in marine services and fisheries. With local partners, consider a program to develop USFS internships for local students, to complement the youth conservation corps and other existing programs.

c) In response to a directive in the recent Farm Bill addressing disease and infestation, the USFS is seeking new methods of utilizing yellow cedar. Explore the opportunity to work with local Native carvers who use the wood for their products.

Coordination with Other Landowners

There are unrealized opportunities for cost savings through coordination among adjacent or nearby landowners. These include: sharing the costs of road building crews, log transfer facilities, ships or shipping companies, helicopter logging companies, survey contractors, thinning crews, marketing experts, and/or other strategies. In addition, project-level cumulative effects analyses conducted for watershed and island-to-island linkages should be improved through coordination with adjacent landowners.

It will require an intentional effort by the USFS to initiate dialogue with other landowners when creating future silviculture and harvest plans to encourage coordination across ownership boundaries. This will incentivize mobilization, create economies of scale, and help ensure continuity of supply for existing and emerging businesses.

Recommendations

a) Increase participation in the All Lands Council and/or establish a new group with similar objectives.
b) Collaborate and/or consult with area landowners on the Five Year Plan.
c) Execute agreements for shared infrastructure among landowners.
d) Provide shared database access to young growth models for other landowners.
e) Work with researchers to take an all-lands approach to research projects in the region.
f) Begin working together on the Kosciusko landscape.

Improved Public Outreach and Messaging

In addition to planning, an emergent forest collaborative and other stakeholders can help with public outreach, messaging, transparency, monitoring, and shared learning.

Recommendations

a) Utilize the networks established by local and regional forest and landscape collaboratives, Communicate with the greater public through national and local media and via regular community briefings, open houses, and non-NEPA required

meetings. Use existing public forums to engage in dialogue regarding the progress of the transition.

b) Working with stakeholders and working group(s) that emerge from forest collaborative(s), prepare pre- and post-project reports to the public about what was planned and what happened with the project or activity. Highlight positive results, such as collaborative planning, restoration, workforce development, jobs, and injection of capital into the economy, and identify areas not meeting expected outcomes in order to address options through future efforts.

Inclusion, Transparency, and Shared Learning

As mentioned, the TAC expects the Agency to move to true collaborative planning for all timber projects.

Recommendations

a) Give clear direction to staff that collaborating early and often with stakeholders, including industry, is expected for all projects in the Five Year Plan.

b) Design and implement a simple after-action review with project collaborators for the purpose of identifying opportunities to make the projects achieve better outcomes in terms of efficiency and effectiveness. Document and share. (See Monitoring and Research, pg. 27.)

Internal USFS Coordination

Collaboration across the Forest is an essential ingredient for a successful transition, starting with clear direction from leadership that internal collaboration and cross-district communication is the expected norm. At times in the past, some attempts at internal coordination have lost their impact because of the inability of staff to escape the traditional programmatic areas, budgets, and targets. The current primary purpose approach to resource allocation, which constrains already limited resources to achieving a single objective, is one of the barriers. The co-intent concept the TAC recommends necessitates resource allocation across internal boundaries and requires very different internal budget and target systems. Interdisciplinary teams (IDTs) on co-intent projects will be collectively resourced and held to clear processes and timelines on deliverables by the Tongass Leadership Team (TLT) and a forest collaborative if present. These conditions make each team member equally responsible, balances power, and leads to IRM as envisioned.

Recommendations

a) Explore the use of Integrated Resource Restoration-like budgeting.

b) Create an internal environment that invites collaboration among USFS staff and team members – including office space, co-location, etc.

Support and Encouragement for District-Level Leadership

The TAC has taken risks in suggesting more proactive adaptive treatments to accommodate a quicker transition, including reduction of old growth harvest. If the TAC's recommendations are to have any value or impact, District Rangers must be empowered to use all their existing authorities to expedite projects and collaboration in order to generate additional young growth timber sales. This runs counter to the current culture in which District Rangers, in order to be safe and not take any risk, simply layer on IDT suggestions for protection, without paying attention to redundancies. This pattern too often leads to a collision of restrictions that result in low volume and non-economic projects without any real additional resource protection, or extinguishes projects altogether.

Recommendations

a) Give District Rangers strong direction and support from above to fully exercise their authority to implement projects that are balanced, timely, effective, and efficient.
b) Give District Rangers strong direction and support to take into account collaborative partner input in designing and implementing projects. Partner work should be considered a value to the process, rather than an imposition.
c) Give District Rangers clear performance measures that include not only accomplishments but also multi-party evaluations of the skill sets associated with successful internal and external collaboration.
d) Define entry points for collaborative input and engagement pre-and post-season and pre-NEPA.

Sale Planning and Assessment Process

The Five Year Timber Plan

The Five Year Plan should become a reliable strategic document which allows stakeholders to understand the projected ramp-down of old growth and the ramp-up of young growth sales, including the small and micro-sales of both old growth and young growth. These projections must become credible and reliable through a deliberate process by the Agency. Credibility is established through 1) strict adherence to schedules; and 2) continuity of supply insured by a "pipeline" or inventory of shovel-ready projects to allow for unexpected interruptions.

Recommendations

a) To help with transparency and clarity, the Five Year Plan must differentiate between old growth, young growth, small sales, and micro-sales.
b) Provide a clear definition of small and micro-sales, and if there is a difference in implementation of old growth versus young growth small and micro-sales, this needs to be clearly outlined and communicated.

c) Provide inventory analysis and reliable volume and harvest data for each project to provide industry with some certainty.
d) Involve industry in consultation, up-front and early, without precluding ability to bid.

Supply/Demand Planning Methodologies

At present, demand and target numbers (MMBF) are calculated through a few different political, regulatory, and legal processes. This layered authority creates uncertainty for stakeholders.

Recommendation

a) At five and ten year reviews, the USFS with a forest collaborative, if present, and other stakeholders shall study, identify, and adopt methodology for supply that is tied to future sustained yield from the young growth land base. This new orientation will provide opportunities for the growth and development of an integrated industry focused on community and ecosystem health.

Cross-District Coordination and Strategic Planning

Young growth timber that will be available in the near-term is scattered across the Forest; yet a scattershot approach to planning sales is not cost effective. Stronger coordination across districts, and between districts and programs, will be critical to meeting young growth benchmarks.

Recommendation

a) Implement a strategic process for the scale, size, and scheduling of projects – for both young growth and old growth – to assist businesses struggling with small profit margins so they have time and incentive to invest in new markets and products.

Small Sale Program

The purpose of small sales is to provide opportunity for small operators to access timber for local product manufacturing. Often, small operations represent the best opportunity to encourage more value-added production and local consumption of wood products. However, following the initial NEPA review and pooling, small sales often get lost or delayed, leaving businesses that depend on those sales with limited or no supply. There is a need for more dedicated staff involvement in the timber sale preparation process for small sales from existing NEPA pools.

Recommendation

a) Establish one or more dedicated small-sale teams, specifically tasked with small sales, micro-sales, salvage sales, personal use, and other non-traditional timber sale opportunities, where this is its only function. This will sustain small businesses, and foster and encourage innovation. The team must be provided with the requisite

resources and support, able and encouraged to do NEPA and/or pre-sale work as needed, and be subject to accountability mechanisms and incentives.

Programmatic Environmental Assessments

Recommendation

a) Sales of young growth in areas that have been previously harvested should be subject to larger landscape Environmental Assessments (EAs) rather than Environmental Impact Statements (EISs), which are appropriate for the size and scope of these projects.

Maximize Stewardship Contracts and Agreements including Tribal Stewardship Authority

In many cases, especially in the projects designed with co-intent, stewardship contracts and agreements will be the best tool available to ensure co-intent is met. The requirements and opportunities of stewardship contracts and agreements are particularly useful, and include:

- The requirement for collaboratively planned projects, allowing the Agency to continue to avail themselves of the knowledge of conservation and scientific communities, industry, local communities, traditional communities, and other stakeholders at the project-level.
- The authority to use "designation by description" and "designation by prescription" allows the Agency to lower costs and encourages the development of a highly skilled private sector workforce to meet the intent of the Amendment.
- The authority to award a stewardship contract up to 10 years in length can give industry the continuity of work it needs to justify investment in retooling.
- The opportunity for pooled "retained receipts" (as piloted by the Tongass Collaborative Stewardship Group) allows the Agency to provide dedicated funds for off-project stewardship and restoration work.
- The emphasis on "Best Value" criteria for awarding contracts (as opposed to low-bid) allows the Agency and stewardship collaborative to define best value and set scoring – in terms of the goals of the Amendment (e.g., meeting co-intent, maximizing local benefit, providing job training, etc.).
- The authority to allow a stewardship collaborative representative to be on IDTs and review teams for contract award deepens collaborative relationships.
- The monitoring requirement will help the Agency and collaborators institutionalize learning.

Recommendations

a) Take full advantage of the stewardship contracting authority for all the preceding reasons.

b) The TAC requests that a special dedicated Fish and Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Fund be established within the retained receipts pool, to be used for projects sponsored by non-governmental organizations (NGOs), identified and prioritized through a collaborative process. We further recommend that the 20 percent match required by current USFS agreements be waived, or significantly reduced, for this body of work.

Incentives and Feasibility for Timber Operators

Risks, Costs, and Process

This section provides recommendations for reducing risk, reducing costs, and simplifying processes in order to incentivize the participation of timber operators and increase the economic feasibility of the young growth program.

In order to effectively utilize various tools (whether grants, agreements, or contract provisions), a shared vision and clarity of purpose across the Agency, and with partners, will be key. It is essential that Agency leadership and staff communicate and understand the range of authorities available, and interpret and implement with consistency across the Forest.

Recommendations

a) In year one of the transition, meet with a forest collaborative, or working group thereof, to develop effective collaborative practices and procedures for the Gate 1 process and old growth timber pool volume.
b) Consider changes to reduce cost in scaling and harvesting of young growth stands.
c) Revise the residual-value appraisal system through a Forest-wide, multi-stakeholder evaluation process to establish stumpage rates that accurately reflect the profit and risk margins in young growth sales.
d) Remove bid bonds for predominantly young growth small and medium-sized sales, and consider reducing bid bonds for small old growth sales.
e) Consider reducing performance bonds for small and medium sized sales that are predominantly young growth.
f) Coordinate with road engineers, planners, and transport planners on open roads to avoid closures before all sales are complete, as well as with other landowners.
g) Use the knowledge of potential contractors in initial sale design for projects with restoration intent in order to maximize economic feasibility and communicate desired restoration outcomes.
h) Meet at least annually with collaborative members and contractors to identify additional strategies to reduce costs.

Incentives and Feasibility for Increased Domestic Processing and Consumption

Recommendations

a) Increase the use of local processing credits in young growth sales, regardless of size or location, to capture as much economic opportunity as possible and reduce economic leakage.
b) Award some long-term stewardship contracts to provide continuity of supply to reduce retooling investment risk.
c) Offer sales with volumes appropriate to the scale of existing and emerging local processors.
d) Encourage the USFS to look first at locally produced Tongass forest products for all USFS projects in the region.[10] Work with USFS engineering and design personnel, as well as procurement, to set up the process. Engage the USFS Forest Products Lab in any questions regarding grade and quality.

Transition Economics and Investment

Introduction

The transition to young growth must provide economically and financially viable opportunities for industry, and meaningful economic and employment benefits to local communities. Targeted investment, financial assistance, and financing mechanisms are needed to help the communities and businesses successfully transition to and thrive within a new young growth economy.

The TAC categorized the investment recommendations into the following five categories:

1. Inventory;
2. Research;
3. Infrastructure;
4. Retooling; and
5. Financing Mechanisms.

[10] In Ketchikan, local bus shelters were constructed using locally sourced wood. Similarly, in Sitka, the University of Alaska Southeast (UAS) used local wood products to build a visitors' kiosk for the Convention and Visitors' Bureau. Young growth wood has also been sourced for a bike shelter, high school vocational training projects, and local home construction projects. While these examples are not specific to USFS projects, they offer example of local consumption of Tongass timber.

Investment Recommendations

Inventory Investment

Young growth resource data evaluated by the TAC carries a very high margin of uncertainty in regard to the reliability and accuracy of information. The TAC recommends investment in stand-level field work to: 1) ground-proof and refine inventory and growth data; 2) improve inventory accuracy; and 3) increase reliability of forecast projections for future resource management and investment activities.

Recommendations:
Improve Stand Level Young Growth Forest Inventory:

a) Update and expand stand exams and inventory.
b) Update and expand growth and yield studies.
c) Provide additional focus on information for cedar and alder.
d) Include integrated resource inventory.

USFS, State, and private sector forestry experts believe a budget of $5,000,000 would be necessary to improve accuracy of data and geographic information system (GIS) layers to levels needed to support responsible resource management decision-making.

Research Investments

There is limited information available on growing, managing, harvesting, processing, manufacturing, and marketing of young growth timber within Southeast Alaska. Additional research regarding young growth silviculture and operability is necessary to support a viable transition. Research activities should include significant and meaningful private sector engagement, guidance, and leadership to assure that deliverables are beneficial to industry.

Recommendations:

a) Invest strategically in the following research areas:
   i. New harvest techniques
   ii. Small log manufacturing processes
   iii. Site-specific use of wood biomass
   iv. Silviculture
      - Consider tree planting for species manipulation and speeding harvest rotations.
      - Evaluate effectiveness of different stand thinning treatments.
      - For stem excluded, stagnant stands consider, conversion to a new stand.
      - Evaluate site preparation (e.g., slash treatments, mounding, etc.)
      - Review current forest research on fertilization and genetics and determine applicability to Southeast Alaska.
   v. Product and market development

- Transitioning to a young growth resource requires existing businesses to adapt their business model and develop new products and markets. As part of the USFS commitment to the transition and commitment to provide assistance to communities and businesses, world market analysis and products demand analysis may help encourage business transition, enhance local livelihoods, and maintain economically viable communities.

b) The USFS should fully utilize local wood products in their own projects thereby providing a showcase for local businesses and Tongass wood.

Infrastructure Development Investments

Affordable planning, harvesting, transportation and manufacturing will be critical to establishing an economically viable and globally competitive young growth timber industry in Southeast Alaska. At present, the region is significantly disadvantaged due to lack of critical infrastructure, including roads, affordable energy sources, and marine infrastructure.

Recommendations:

a) Connect critical road systems (e.g., Ketchikan Saddle Lakes), and designate utility corridors for future renewable energy and hydropower infrastructure.
b) Establish adequate docks and log transfer facilities within five logistic "working circle" areas: Hoonah, Kake, Wrangell, Klawock, and Ketchikan.
c) Establish adequate land- and water-based log storage facilities within these five "working circles."
d) Assure adequate marine logistical service infrastructure (e.g., ship and barge moorage systems), within these five "working circles."
e) Assure affordable energy in "working circle" communities:
   - Ensure that access to renewable energy, including hydropower, is assured via the Forest Plan.
   - Provide loan or grant funding mechanisms.
   - Provide energy subsidies, tax credits, and/or other cost offsets for young growth manufacturers.

Retooling Investments

Businesses have expressed interest in opportunities created through increased availability of young growth. However, retooling costs associated with transitioning to a young growth-based timber economy are significant, and beyond the means of most of the limited, remaining industry. Strategic investments that enable businesses to retool could make the difference between prosperity and business closure.

Recommendations:

a) Manufacturing facilities for small logs.
b) New harvesting equipment:
   - Small log cable yarding systems; and
   - Low ground pressure logging machines.
c) Biomass facilities utilizing young growth.

Financing Mechanisms

Uncertainty associated with supply of older-age young growth and old growth timber supplied by the USFS is a tremendous impediment to raising capital for timber sector business activities. There will likely be lower profit margins associated with young growth, as industry transitions through trial and error, and as market demand for young growth projects is gradually created. The following financing mechanisms and incentives will help mitigate those factors, and make it possible for businesses to survive through the transition and beyond.

Recommendations:

a) **Federal loan guarantees,** which will ensure repayment of lenders in the event the USFS is unable to provide suitable volumes of timber. This will ensure that private sector businesses and lenders are protected and can recover their investment in the event that a business fails due to reasons associated with the USFS.
b) **Federally-purchased risk insurance**, which will assure repayment of lenders in the event the USFS is unable to provide suitable volumes of timber. This will ensure that private sector businesses and lenders are protected and can recover their investment in the event that a business fails due to reasons associated with the USFS.
c) **Increased profitability:** Increase the allowable profit percentage in the young growth appraisal process. This will help encourage, incentivize, and reward new investment in the young growth industry, while providing addition room for trial and error, which will surely occur throughout the transition process.
d) **Cost Recovery Relief ("Buy-out")**: It is anticipated that the changes created through new federal policy within the Tongass may prevent some harvesting and manufacturing operations from maintaining economically viable operations, and from recovering their existing investment. The federal government should offer an option to buy-out these businesses' existing assets at fair market value, as a means of compensating these businesses for the new economic hardship and obsolescence imposed upon them. This manner of economic relief has precedence under ANILCA. The TAC recognizes this type of relief as a last resort; however, it will likely be necessary to offset the economic harm associated with new federal policy within the Tongass.

- **Economic Hardship Relief:** Loss of businesses and associated employment will cause economic harm to Southeast Alaska communities. Communities should be compensated for direct and indirect economic harm which they may be subject to due to the federal government's new young growth strategy within the Tongass (e.g., lost employment, tax revenue, population out-migration, etc.). This could be achieved through a formula-based funding mechanism.
- **Hardship Relief and Increased Competitiveness through Access to Renewables.** Relief to communities can also be provided by ensuring that the Forest Plan guarantees increased access to new renewable energy and hydropower resources within the Tongass. This will allow communities to enjoy more affordable energy for current purposes and future growth, while also supporting the growth and prosperity of a new young growth manufacturing industry through more affordable renewable energy.

Monitoring and Research

Monitoring Principals (*Why*)

- The TAC's commitment to creating conditions for Tongass communities to thrive is reflected in its recommendations toward robust and active monitoring and adaptive management.
- The following monitoring recommendations are designed to improve and complement with existing monitoring efforts and those under development in spring 2016.
- Measuring and telling the story of socioeconomic impacts of Forest policy and practice can build support for sustained investments on the Tongass.
- The recommended actions represent a new paradigm for monitoring on the Tongass, and situate the forest at the leading edge of active and adaptive management in the U.S. The TAC expects the Agency and stakeholders to take on the challenge of adopting this paradigm.

Monitoring Recommendations (*How*)

Recommendations

a) **Support an emergent forest collaborative:** The TAC recommends that the USFS encourage and support the development of a multi-stakeholder collaborative to help maintain the vision of the Amendment. The TAC further recommends that the Tongass National Forest and the emergent collaborative enter into an MOU to formalize their exchange of information and sense of responsibility to a successful transition. (A suggested draft MOU can be found in Appendix E.)

The TAC believes a useful emergent forest collaborative will, for the duration of the transition:

- Embody, and help the USFS fulfill responsibility to, the types of shared learning and feedback required by the 2012 Planning Rule (36 CFR 219.4(a), 219.5(a), and 219.12(c)(3));
- Improve and complement traditional, implementation, and effectiveness monitoring at project- and Forest-levels (see recommendations (b) and (c) in this section);
- Be available to the USFS to provide recommendations on project-level decisions (with a focus on innovation, risk, and benefits to local communities), especially through after-action reviews and Gate 1 consultations on important or precedent-setting projects;[11]
    - All multi-stakeholder after-action reviews should:
        - Identify what worked well;
        - Identify what worked poorly; and
        - Develop a plan for how to transfer these learning outcomes to future projects. Transfer must happen across ranger districts, must have individual point people identified, and should identify what future projects are targeted, where possible.
- Have the resources to support social science and applied research activities necessary to conduct implementation and effectiveness monitoring that complements the agency's, and facilitate collaboration in low-capacity communities;
- Develop a practice of regular, formalized check-ins with the full TLT, RLT, and WO; and
- Steward the values associated with action items of the transition, including but not limited to, co-intent projects on non-suitable lands, support of a viable forest products industry, and USFS transformation and leadership.

b) **Vastly improve metrics tracking the flow of benefits to communities in the TNF monitoring plan:** The TAC recommends the USFS integrate the key metrics identified as "dashboard" (listed below) and full social benefits metrics (outlined and described in Appendix F) into the monitoring plan under development in spring 2016, and change other Agency practices as needed to fully engage these metrics. Any contracts for monitoring should be awarded in-region, in-state, or relocated to an in-state institution after expert development. The TAC understands this

[11] Post-project effectiveness monitoring on the Heceta project, where State and the USFS conducted second growth commercial thinning and harvest using a range of techniques and approaches, could offer an insightful case study. For example, effectiveness monitoring could explore: how did this work and how could a similar project work better? The group should examine contracts, operability, soils, deer browse, other habitat needs, coordination between landowners, impact on workers' communities, and other values.

recommendation dovetails with the requirements of the 2012 Planning Rule, 219.12(c)(3).

c) **Maintain a transparent and timely exchange of information about monitoring and implementation with an emergent forest collaborative and the public:** The TAC recommends that the Agency maintain open and transparent planning, implementation, and monitoring practices to facilitate complementary implementation and effectiveness monitoring by a forest collaborative. Ongoing monitoring by the Agency and any external groups should demonstrate changes over time in the relationship between (x) planning and implementation of timber and stewardship work on the Tongass, and (y) community well-being. The TAC understands this recommendation dovetails with the requirements of the 2012 Planning Rule, 219.12(c)(3).

Dashboard Metrics (*What*)

Arrows reflect the direction of change the TAC expects to see during the transition; some metrics do not have expected trends. The Forest and a forest collaborative should coordinate reporting to keep the RLT and WO up to date on progress of the transition and make information public in a timely and accessible way.

- Number and volume of timber sales planned, offered, and sold; split out to show the following at each project stage or gate:
  - Number and volume of young growth ↑;
  - Number and volume of old growth ↓; and
  - Number and volume of small and micro-sales ↑.
- Number and outputs of co-intent projects planned, offered, and under contract; split out to show quantity and quality of projects on suitable versus non-suitable lands, and including:
  - Type, scale, and quality/effectiveness of habitat improvement, including understory vegetation response, deer populations, connectivity effects for key species, and additional biophysical metrics as needed, to be decided by multi-party planning at the project level ↑;
  - Volume of commercial wood products;
  - Use of commercial wood products;
  - Cost of habitat improvement planning and implementation; and
  - Number and names of parties monitoring project(s) for socioeconomic and ecological effectiveness.
- Number and value of private sector jobs (direct, indirect, and induced) associated with the transition—publicly or privately employed or contracted—and percentage of those jobs hired or held by local (census area or borough) residents; split out to show,
  - Number and value associated with timber sale preparation;
  - Number and value associated with harvest;
  - Number and value associated with wood products processing; and
  - Number and value associated with co-intent projects.

- Number of public construction and maintenance projects using Tongass wood products and estimated value contribution of the wood. Includes USFS, local governments, and special districts (e.g., school districts, soil and water conservation district etc.).↑
- Number and scale of biomass projects in Southeast Alaska (operating and newly constructed). Consult with appropriate agencies or organizations already tracking this metric.
- Number and value contribution (cash and in-kind) of stakeholders involved in transition and habitat improvement planning, implementation, and monitoring; split out to show:
    - Collaborative planning processes, including but not limited to, stewardship contract design and award ↑;
    - Grants and agreements;
    - Project implementation;
    - After-action reviews ↑;
    - Multi-party monitoring ↑; and
    - Pooled receipts application and awards process, and project implementation ↑.

Appendix A: Tongass Advisory Committee Members

Federally Recognized Tribes, Alaska Native Organizations, and/or Alaska Native Corporation representatives

Jaeleen Araujo – Juneau, AK

Richard Peterson – Kasaan, AK

Woody Widmark – Sitka, AK

Alternate: Robert Mills – Kake, AK

National or regional environmental and/or conservation organization representatives

Brian McNitt – Sitka, AK

Keith Rush – Juneau, AK

Andrew Thoms – Sitka, AK

Alternate: Chris Rose – Sutton, AK

Timber industry representatives

Les Cronk – Ketchikan, AK

Eric Nichols – Ketchikan, AK

Wade Zammit – East Sound, WA

Resigned: Philip Hyatt – Thorne Bay, AK

Federal, State, and local government representatives

Chris Maisch – Fairbanks, AK

Carol Rushmore – Wrangell, AK

Kate Troll – Juneau, AK

Resigned: Wayne Benner – Thorne Bay, AK

Other commercial users, those holding land use permits, or the public at large

Lynn Jungwirth – Hayfork, CA

Kirk Hardcastle – Juneau, AK

Erin Steinkruger – Portland, OR and Coffman Cove, AK

Alternate: Jason Custer – Ketchikan, AK

Appendix B: TAC Charter

United States Department of Agriculture

USFS, Tongass National Forest

Alaska Region

CHARTER

1. Committee's Official Designation

Tongass Advisory Committee

2. Authority

The Charter for the Tongass Advisory Committee (Committee) is hereby established under the authority of the Secretary of Agriculture in accordance with the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) as amended, 5 U.S.C. App. 2.

3. Objectives and Scope of Activities

The Committee will advise the Secretary of Agriculture, through the Chief of the USFS, by providing advice and recommendations for developing an ecologically, socially, and economically sustainable forest management strategy on the Tongass National Forest. Recommendations and advice may inform the modification of the 2008 Tongass Land Management Plan.

This forest management strategy will emphasize a shift to young growth management. The rationale for shifting to a predominantly young growth-based forest management program is explained in the January, 2013 Leader's Intent Paper, providing overall direction for the Committee. The 5-Year Tongass Integrated Plan (TIP), released in May 2013, identified old growth timber sales that can provide a bridge to support a transition within 10 to 15 years in a way that is economically viable for the existing industry. The Secretary's July 2, 2013 Memorandum Addressing Sustainable Forestry in Southeast Alaska also directed the identification of young growth and restoration projects that could be completed over the next five years, as well as shifts in staff and financial resources towards young growth management. Planning, integration and funding of that program of work will be driven and guided by work on key projects with collaborative partners.

4. Description of Duties

The Committee will be solely advisory in nature. All activities of the Committee will be conducted in an open, transparent, and accessible manner. The Committee will be

asked to perform the following duties or other requests made by the Secretary or Chief:

a) As necessary and appropriate, identify the key elements to be considered for a potential Forest Plan modification assuming young growth is the focus of vegetation management in the future, while recognizing and balancing the other unique and equally important resource values of the Tongass, such as tourism, recreation, fishing, subsistence, and renewable energy.
b) Offer recommendations on the suitable and available land base for developing an ecologically, socially and economically sustainable forest management program on the Tongass National Forest with emphasis on young growth management. Considerations include standards and guides and land use designations for a future modification of the Tongass Land Management Plan.
c) Provide advice on how to speed the shift from predominately old growth management to predominately young growth management, in a way that is economically viable for the existing industry. This may include consideration of options for managing stands.
d) Offer advice on opportunities to work cooperatively with other landowners on an all lands young growth forest management strategy.

5. Agency or Official to Whom the Committee Reports

The Committee will report to the Secretary of Agriculture, through the Chief of the USFS.

6. Support

Clerical and administrative support will be provided by the USFS. The Tongass National Forest and Alaska Region will also provide significant technical support to the committee to ensure members have access to appropriate and relevant data as needed.

7. Estimated Annual Operating Costs and Staff Years

Members of the Committee will serve without compensation. In performance of their duties away from the homes or regular places of business, Committee members may be allowed reimbursement for travel expenses in accordance with Federal per diem rates for attendance at meetings as authorized by 5 U.S.C. 5703. All expenses will be subject to approval of the Designated Federal Officer (DFO).

Estimated annual operating costs for the committee is $980,000 including; travel, lodging and per diem, committee facilitation, administrative support expenses, and Federal staff support (estimated as four full time equivalents staff per year). Committee expenses will be covered through the annual budget of the USDA USFS.

8. Designated Federal Officer

A permanent Federal employee will be appointed in accordance with agency procedures and will serve as the Designated Federal Officer (DFO). The DFO will approve or call the advisory committee and subcommittees' meetings, prepare and approve all meeting agendas, attend all committee and subcommittee meetings, adjourn any meeting when the DFO determines adjournment to be in the public interest, and chair meetings when directed to do so by the official to whom the advisory committee reports.

The Forest Supervisor for the Tongass National Forest will serve as the DFO. The Deputy Forest Supervisor for the Tongass National Forest will serve as the Acting DFO.

9. Number and Frequency of Meetings

The Committee will meet as often as necessary to complete its work, perhaps as frequently as every month. A quorum of 10 members of the 15 member committee must be present to constitute an official meeting. The committee shall not hold any meetings except at the call of, or with the advance approval of, the DFO. Attendance may be in-person, by telephone, or by other electronic means.

10. Duration

Continuing.

The Committee will be up to 2 years in duration, but the majority of the work is expected to be accomplished between March 1, 2014 and December 30, 2014.

11. Termination

The Committee will expire 2 years after the date of filing unless prior to that date, it is renewed accordance with FACA, Section 14. The Committee will not meet or take any action without a valid current charter.

12. Membership and Designation

12a. The Committee will be fairly balanced in its membership in terms of the points of view represented and the functions to be performed. The Committee will be comprised of not more than 15 members. The members appointed to the Committee will be knowledgeable of ecological, social, and economic issues impacting Southeast Alaska, while providing a balanced and broad representation within the following interests:

i. Federally Recognized Tribes, Alaska Native Organizations and/or Alaska Native Corporation representatives;
ii. National or regional environmental and/or conservation organizations;
iii. Timber industry representatives

iv. Federal, State and local government representatives; and
v. Other commercial users, those holding land use permits or the public at large.

Committee members must have a demonstrated commitment to working collaboratively and finding solutions that meet multiple stakeholder values.

Committee advice and recommendations must be approved by consensus of the groups represented (2 out of 3 within each interest group) but not consensus of all participants.

One substitute (alternate) will be selected for each interest group.

Nominees will be sought through an open and public process that includes, but is not limited to, nominees submitted by Alaska Native Organizations, local and State governments, community based/non-governmental organizations, environmental and conservation groups, and individuals who represent the interests of the public served by National Forest System programs and land resources.

12b. Equal opportunity practices in accordance with USDA policies will be followed in all appointments to the Committee. To ensure that the recommendations of the Committee have taken into account the needs of the diverse groups served by USDA, membership will include to the extent possible, individuals with demonstrated ability to represent minorities, women and persons with disabilities.

12c. The USDA prohibits discrimination in all of its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, political beliefs, genetic information, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program.

12d. Of these members, one person who is recognized for his or her ability to lead a group in a fair and focused manner, and who has been briefed on the mission of this Committee will be designated by the Secretary to be the Chairperson. A co-Chairperson may be assigned, especially to facilitate his or her transition to become the Chairperson in the future.

12e. Ethics Statement

To maintain the highest levels of honesty, integrity and ethical conduct, no Committee or subcommittee member shall participate in any “specific party matters” (i.e., matters are narrowly focused and typically involve specific transactions between identified parties) such as a lease, license, permit, contract, claim, grant, agreement, or related litigation with the Department in which the member has a direct or indirect financial interest. This includes the requirement for Committee or Subcommittee members to immediately disclose to the DFO (for discussion with USDA’s Office of Ethics) any specific party matter in which the member’s immediate family, relatives, business partners or employer would be directly seeking

to financially benefit from the Committee's recommendations. Members of the Committee shall be required to disclose their direct or indirect interest in leases, licenses, permits, contracts, claims, grants, or agreements that involve lands or resources administered by the USFS, or in any litigation related thereto. For purposes of this paragraph, indirect interest includes holdings of a spouse or a dependent child.

All members will receive ethics training to identify and avoid any actions that would cause the public to question the integrity of the Committee's advice and recommendations. Members who are appointed as "Representatives" are not subject to Federal ethics laws because such appointment allows them to represent the point(s) of view of a particular group, business sector, or segment of the public.

Members appointed as "Special Government Employees" (SGEs) are considered intermittent Federal employees and are subject to Federal ethics laws. SGE's are appointed due to their personal knowledge, academic scholarship, background or expertise. No SGE may participate in any activity in which the member has a prohibited financial interest. Appointees who are SGEs are required to complete and submit a Confidential Financial Disclosure Report (OGE-450 form) and, upon request, USDA will assist SGEs in preparing these financial reports. To ensure the highest level of compliance with applicable ethical standards USDA will provide ethics training to SGEs on an annual basis. The provisions of these paragraphs are not meant to exhaustively cover all Federal ethics laws and do not affect any other statutory or regulatory obligations to which advisory committee members are subject.

13. Subcommittees

The USFS has the authority to create subcommittees. Subcommittees must report back to the parent committee, and must not provide advice or work products directly to the Agency.

14. Recordkeeping

The records of this Committee, formally and informally established subcommittees, or other subgroups of the committee, shall be handled in accordance with General Records Schedule 26, Item 2 or other approved agency records disposition schedule. These records shall be available for public inspection and copying, subject to the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. 552.

15. Filing Date

FEB 10 2014

Appendix C: High-Value Fish Watersheds

Watershed Name	VCU #
Appleton Cove	2930
Fish Bay	2870
Irish Lakes	4290
Kadake Cr	4210
Mosman Inlet	4670
Bradfield River	5140
Nakwasina River	2990
Neka Bay	2010
Port Camden	4200
Rodman Bay	2920
Security Bay	4000
Sitkoh Bay	2430
Sitkoh Lake	2440
Situk River	3660
Sweetwater Lake	5730
Thoms Lake	4790

Appendix D: Map of Phase 1 Lands, T77 Watersheds, and TNC/Audubon Core Conservation Areas

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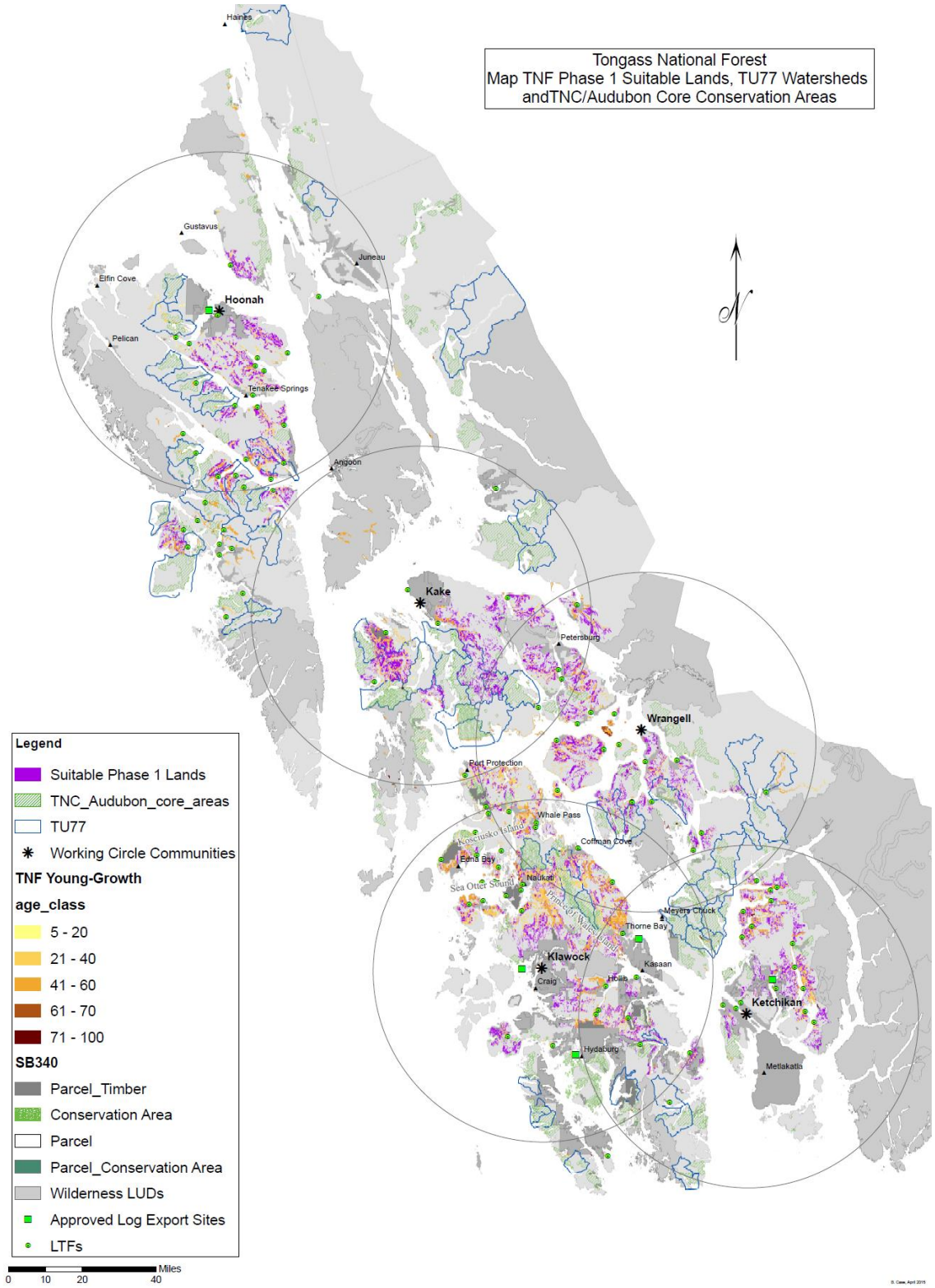

Appendix E: *Suggested Draft* Memorandum of Understanding Between Forest Collaborative Stakeholder Group Representatives And The U.S. Forest Service Tongass National Forest

Suggested Draft
Memorandum of Understanding
Between Forest Collaborative
Stakeholder Group Representatives
And The
U.S. Forest Service
Tongass National Forest

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is hereby made and entered into by and between a Forest Collaborative (Collaborative) and the U.S. Forest Service, Tongass National Forest (TNF).

Whereas, the 16.7 million acre Tongass National Forest is managed for a variety of interests, with management directive to transition its timber program from old growth to predominantly young growth harvest;

Whereas, the 2016 Plan Amendment is being drafted—and will be implemented—in a time marked by transition. The Tongass Advisory Committee (TAC) has paved a path for multi-stakeholder collaboration in the region by reaching consensus within the sideboards of its 2014 Charter. This Charter was narrow in scope and did *not* charge the TAC with making overall recommendations in regard to fisheries, recreation, wildlife management, or tourism. This does not mean these values are overlooked. It is necessary, however, to recognize the full suite of challenges and opportunities associated with implementing a successful transition, and the range of forest values that will be positively affected by successful implementation;

Whereas, the Collaborative shares the following vision: *"Southeast Alaska is comprised of prosperous, resilient communities that have the opportunity to predictably use and benefit from the diversity of forest resources to achieve the cultural, social, economic, and ecological health of the region for current and future generations";*

Whereas, the consensus recommendations by the TAC for the Forest Plan Amendment and transition more generally represent an unprecedented opportunity that must be acted upon more comprehensively and as soon as possible;

Whereas, innovative collaboration can provide the U.S. Forest Service with better information, a more comprehensive and science-based planning process, better planning integration, conflict mitigation, improved fact-finding, increased social capitol, more effective implementation, enhanced environmental stewardship, and reduced litigation. The Council on Environmental

Quality (CEQ) 2007 publication, "Collaboration in NEPA: A Handbook for NEPA Practitioners," provides instructive guidance for collaboration throughout the NEPA process;

Whereas, transition implementation can and should occur in an ecologically sustainable, resilient manner that is economically and socially viable. This document describes the intentions of the U.S. Forest Service and members of the Collaborative as they work together towards transition implementation and monitoring on the Forest;

Whereas, members of the Collaborative have entered into an agreement (the Collaborative Stakeholder Charter) describing their mutual participation in a collaborative group with the goal of reaching consensus recommendations to guide implementation and monitoring of the Tongass transition;

Whereas, *(mediation and staffing clause)*;

Whereas, a great deal of effort has been invested in accelerating the transition on the ground to meet the Secretary's directive, via innovative planning and stakeholder deliberation. The TAC's recommendations represent a foundational document for comprehensive transition that genuinely supports forest-dependent communities adjacent to the Tongass. The U.S. Forest Service recognizes the importance of the TAC's deliberative work to guide the transition and will consider the recommendations document, finalized December 2015, along with all other public comments and recommendations in a public process before reaching a particular decision. TAC members and other stakeholders feel a sense of responsibility to steward the values associated with the transition well beyond the life of the 2016 Amendment planning process;

Whereas, implementation of the transition is embodied by the following goals: 1) to actively model the types of sharing and feedback required by the 2012 Planning Rule; 2) to improve and complement monitoring at project and Forest levels; 3) to facilitate collaboration in low-capacity, forest-dependent communities; and 4) to steward the values associated with the TAC's transition recommendations.

Now therefore, the U.S. Forest Service and members of the Collaborative agree to work together towards appropriate and timely implementation and monitoring on the Tongass transition;

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this MOU is to document a framework of collaboration by all parties involved and interested in the implementation and monitoring of the Tongass transition directive, and the cooperative relationship among the parties to complete a successful transition.

The MOU defines the relationship between the U.S. Forest Service and the Collaborative. These Parties, along with the public at large, will work together at multiple stages prior to, during, and following the NEPA process to actively implement and monitor transition-related

management actions, subject to/consistent with applicable federal laws, regulations, land management plans, and other management direction.

II. STATEMENT OF MUTUAL BENEFIT AND INTERESTS

The U.S. Forest Service and the Collaborative enter this MOU to learn and work together to steward the values associated with the TAC's transition recommendations. The Parties expect that implementation, monitoring, and active adaptive management of the TAC's recommendations will support prosperity and resiliency in forest-dependent communities adjacent to the Tongass National Forest.

In consideration of the above premises, the parties agree as follows:

III. THE COLLABORATIVE SHALL

a. Steward the values associated with the TAC's transition recommendations, using this focus as its north star when determining where to direct its resources;
b. Develop agreement-based recommendations that are intended to inform and express diverse support for transition-related implementation and monitoring activities;
c. Provide input to the U.S. Forest Service in a timely manner that matches the needs of an efficient NEPA and implementation timeline;
d. Maintain communication with the U.S. Forest Service in order to track ongoing processes and upcoming scoping so that the group can provide timely input;
e. Maintain capacity to discuss, evaluate, and support implementation and monitoring of innovative planning, project planning and implementation, administration, science integration, and adaptive management strategies;
f. Support agreement-based recommendations in the face of external challenges;
g. Develop, share, and apply scientific and technical information intended to significantly bolster adaptive transition implementation;

IV. THE U.S. FOREST SERVICE SHALL

a. Work directly with parties at all phases of the NEPA process, seeking their input and agreement on: the purpose and need statement, alternatives, collection and use of data, impact analysis, development of a preferred alternative, and/or recommendations regarding mitigation of environmental impacts (CEQ Handbook, p. 13);
b. Work directly with parties to develop and/or amend optional plan components, including the TNF Monitoring Plan pursuant to the 2012 Planning Rule;
c. Strive to accommodate the agreement-based outcomes and products of the collaborative process within the Collaborative, recognizing that translation of such agreement greatly enhances chances for success, and reduces the risk of conflict;
d. Communicate with the Collaborative and the general public the Agency decisions and management direction that are pending, both before and after development of associated timelines, as soon as possible;

e. Line and/or Staff Officers or their designee will participate in Collaborative meetings, consistent with requirements in federal law;

V. IT IS MUTALLY UNDERSTOOD AND AGREED BY AND BETWEEN THE PARTIES THAT

a. The Collaborative is inclusive; new members may join at any time, and the public at large has the same rights and opportunities for access to information and input into the process whether a member or not of the Collaborative;
b. This MOU does not grant cooperating agency status to any member of the Collaborative;
c. The U.S. Forest Service and the Collaborative will work together through all phases of the NEPA process potentially including the framing of the issues, the development of a range of reasonable alternatives, the analysis of impacts, and the identification of the preferred alternative—up to, not including, the agency's final decisions made by the relevant Line Officer (CEQ Handbook, p. 13);
d. The U.S. Forest Service and the Collaborative will work together to develop, discuss, evaluate, and implement innovative planning, project preparation, treatment, science integration, monitoring and adaptive management strategies;
e. The U.S. Forest Service and the Collaborative will work together to identify strategies for implementation, monitoring, and adaptive management that are efficient and effective, toward prosperous and resilient local communities and a more socially, ecologically, and economically viable transition;
f. The U.S. Forest Service and the Collaborative will work together to develop a regular process and means to keep the Alaskan Congressional Delegation, appropriate state officials, and high-level Forest Service or USDA officials informed of activities that occur under this MOU;
g. The U.S. Forest Service and the Collaborative will work together to identify efficiencies in utilization and contracting strategies, grants and agreements, and use of volunteers. This is exclusive of the contracting design, awarding, and administration processes;
h. All documents developed and submitted to the U.S. Forest Service from the Collaborative will become public documents;
i. Once the U.S. Forest Service formally initiates the NEPA process, specific timelines for advancing that analysis will be established. The Collaborative will provide input to the U.S. Forest Service in accordance to these timelines in order to be considered;

(this section also includes technical components to be developed by Grants and Agreements; see similar Memorandums for model)

Appendix F: Outline for Socioeconomic Analyses

The recommended analyses address the Forest Plan Amendment and transition strategy, including old and young growth timber sales, co-intent projects, restoration and stewardship projects, workforce and business capacity development efforts, and other key transition components. The recommended plan is nested geographically, with measures by borough/census area (correlated with ranger districts and working circles as possible) and Forest-wide. [12]

A range of types, scales, and levels of participation in monitoring are possible (see Figure1). Most notably, the Agency's 2016 monitoring plan, developed pursuant to the 2012 planning rule, presents a robust approach to implementation monitoring (i.e., did we do what we said we were going to do?). [13, 14] The TAC's recommendations supplement ongoing implementation monitoring with verification/validation and effectiveness monitoring, which ask if (1) completed actions led to expected outcomes; and (2) if completed actions are contributing to objectives. In order to help our communities thrive, monitoring must measure outcomes as well as outputs.

Figure 1: Types, Scales, and Levels of Participation in Monitoring[15]

		Focus
Types	Biophysical; economic; social/cultural; legal/administrative	Input; output; outcome
Scales	Project; program; community, island, or ranger district; region; state/country	Implementation; verification/validation; effectiveness
Participation	Single-party; third-party; multiparty	

[12] For census area/borough boundaries, visit the Alaska Department of Labor and workforce Development Research and Analysis, available at: http://labor.alaska.gov/research/census/maps.htm

[13] Tongass National Forest Draft Plan Monitoring Program, available at: http://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprd3827408.pdf.

[14] Monitoring Requirements under the 2012 Planning Rule are listed on the Tongass National Forest Monitoring Reports page, available at: http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/tongass/landmanagement/planning/. The full text of the 2012 Planning Rule is available at: http://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprdb5362536.pdf.

[15] Adapted from Multiparty Monitoring for Sustainable Natural Resource Management, available through the University of Oregon Ecosystem Workforce Program at: http://ewp.uoregon.edu/resources/community-guidebook/.

The recommended analyses should have four (or more) thematic emphases and eight (or more) questions; Figure 2 outlines the monitoring questions and measures.

Figure 2: Monitoring questions and measures [16]

Theme	*Question addressed*	*Measures/metrics*	*Scale reported*
A. Context and trends	a. What are the socioeconomic conditions and context in the borough/census area in which the transition is being implemented?	Employment by sector	Census area or borough
		Unemployment	Census area or borough
		Poverty	Census area or borough
		Number of students eligible for free and reduced lunch	Census area or borough and school
		School enrollment	Census area or borough
		Median age	Census area or borough
B. Employment and economic impacts	a. What are the employment effects in the communities around National Forests from co-intent projects, restoration projects, and timber sales?	Private sector jobs (direct, indirect, induced) associated with: • Restoration service contracts and stewardship • Timber sale harvesting and processing and transport of wood products	Ranger District or zone and Forest-wide
	b. What are the personal income effects in the communities around National Forests from co-intent projects, restoration projects, and timber sales?	Private sector labor income (direct, indirect, induced) associated with: • Restoration service contracts and stewardship • Timber sale harvesting and processing and transport of wood products	Ranger District or zone and Forest-wide
	c. What is the	Business output (direct,	Ranger District or

[16] Adapted from Ecosystem Workforce Program Working Paper Number 52: Socioeconomic Monitoring Plan for the U.S. Forest Service's Eastside Restoration Efforts, available at: http://ewp.uoregon.edu/sites/ewp.uoregon.edu/files/WP_52.pdf

	economic activity resulting, in the communities around National Forests from co-intent projects, restoration projects, and timber sales?	indirect, and induced) associated with: • Restoration service contracts and stewardship • Timber sale harvesting and processing and transport of wood products	zone and Forest-wide
C. Business health and impacts	a. What are the effects of transition implementation on the health of wood products *businesses*?	Businesses reporting good health as indicated by: • Workforce maintained or hired	Ranger District or zone and Forest-wide
	b. What are the effects of transition implementation on the health of the regional wood products *industry*?	Proportion of business type and workforce maintained or hired	Ranger District or zone and region-wide
	c. How much co-intent work/sales, restoration work, and timber sales are local and regional businesses capturing?	• Percent of service contracts and timber sales captured by businesses local to a Forest annually • Total value of contracts and timber sales captured locally annually • Primary types of work captured locally/not captured locally	Ranger District or zone and region-wide
D. Collaborative capacity	a. What is the capacity of collaborative groups to undertake an accelerated transition via co-intent projects in both suitable and non-suitable LUDs?	Guided self-evaluation rankings for: • Spatial scales at which they are working • Timelines at which they are working • Levels of ecological/social complexity of projects • Level of trust	Ranger District or zone, across Districts/zones (by group), and region-wide
		Number of matching funds and in-kind contributions from non-Agency partners for project planning, implementation, and monitoring	Ranger District or zone, across Districts/zones (by project), and region-wide

Acronyms and Abbreviations

Agency	United States Forest Service
CMAI	Culmination of Mean Annual Increment
Committee	Tongass Advisory Committee
DEIS	Draft Environmental Impact Statement
Department	United States Department of Agriculture
FEIS	Final Environmental Impact Statement
Forest	Tongass National Forest
Forest Plan	Tongass Land & Resource Management Plan
GIS	Geographic Information System
IDT	Interdisciplinary Team
IRM	Integrated Resource Management
LUD	Land Use Designation
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NGO	Non-governmental Organization
PCT	Pre-commercial Thinning
PTSQ	Projected Timber Sale Quantity
RLT	Regional Leadership Team
ROD	Record of Decision
RMA	Riparian Management Area
S&Gs	Standards and Guidelines
SIO	Scenery Integrity Objective
TAC	Tongass Advisory Committee
TLT	Tongass Leadership Team
Tongass	Tongass National Forest
TTRA	Tongass Timber Reform Act
USDA	United States Department of Agriculture
USFS	United States Forest Service
WO	Washington Office

About Meridian Institute

Meridian Institute is a not-for-profit organization whose mission is to help people solve problems, make informed decisions, and find solutions to some of society's most complex and controversial issues. Meridian's mission is accomplished through applying collaborative problem-solving approaches including facilitation, mediation, and other strategic consultation services. Meridian works at the local, national and international levels and focuses on a wide range of issues related to natural resources and environment, science and technology, agriculture and food security, sustainability, global stability and health. For more information, please visit **www.merid.org**.

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Meridian Institute
Connecting People to Solve Problems

http://merid.org/tongassadvisorycommittee

THE TONGASS 77

Protecting Southeast Alaska's Best Salmon Watersheds

At nearly 17 million acres, the Tongass National Forest in Southeast Alaska is our country's largest national forest. This magnificent landscape of western hemlock, Sitka spruce, western red cedar and yellow cedar is part of the world's largest remaining intact temperate rainforest. The Tongass comprises thousands of mist-covered islands, deep fjords, tidewater glaciers and soggy muskegs that host some of the rarest ecosystems on the planet. It is ideal habitat for a vast array of plant and animal species—including all five species of North American Pacific salmon, steelhead and resident trout, brown and black bear, Sitka black-tailed deer, bald eagles, and wolves, among many others. The Tongass includes more than 15,700 miles of clean, undammed streams and 4,100 lakes and ponds that provide optimal spawning and rearing conditions for the region's abundant wild salmon and trout.

Each year as hundreds of millions of wild salmon return to Tongass streams to spawn and die, they bring nutrients from the North Pacific Ocean to the forest. Enriched by this annual salmon return, the Tongass literally is a

Heather Hardcastle

Ashley Hegewald

Mark Kaelke

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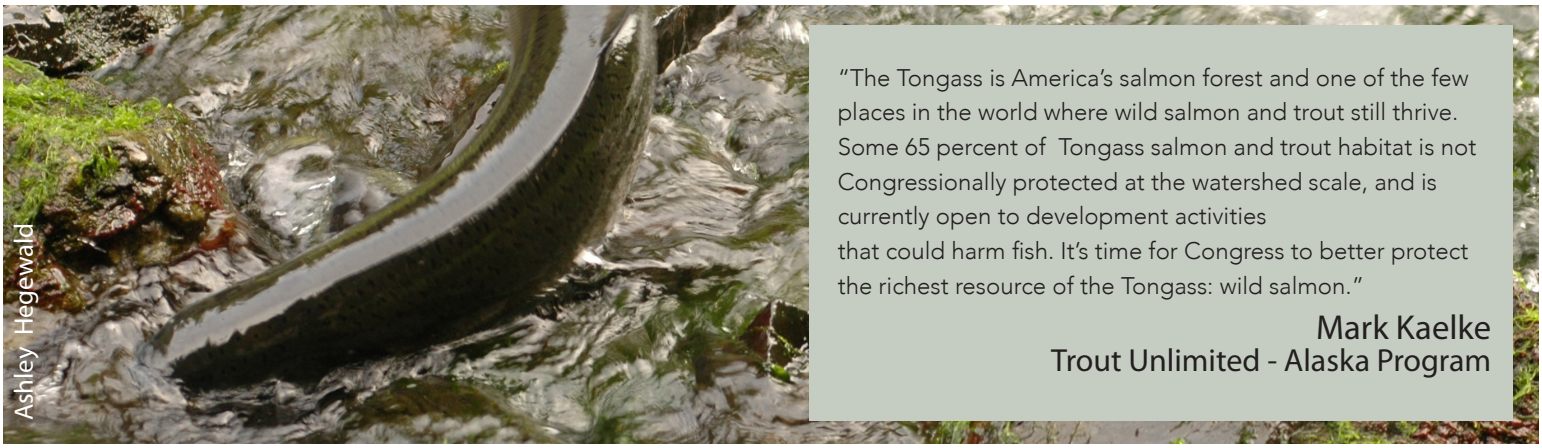
AmericanSalmonForest.org


Ashley Hegewald

"The Tongass is America's salmon forest and one of the few places in the world where wild salmon and trout still thrive. Some 65 percent of Tongass salmon and trout habitat is not Congressionally protected at the watershed scale, and is currently open to development activities that could harm fish. It's time for Congress to better protect the richest resource of the Tongass: wild salmon."

Mark Kaelke
Trout Unlimited - Alaska Program

"salmon forest" with unique ecosystems found nowhere else on Earth. Despite its stature as an internationally significant forest, 65-percent of the Tongass' salmon and trout habitat is not protected at the watershed scale. This means millions of acres of temperate Alaska rainforest are open to development activities that could permanently harm important fish and wildlife habitat.

Culture and Economics

Salmon and trout not only sustain the plant and animal communities of the Tongass, but they also serve as the foundation for local cultures and communities. Virtually all of the roughly 75,000 people who call Southeast Alaska home depend on Tongass salmon and trout for income and employment, for cultural and ceremonial purposes, or for nutrition and recreation. For the three coastal tribes that have populated the region for many thousands of years, salmon underpin their traditional gathering practices and form a major part of their culture.

Renee Warr

Salmon fishing—including commercial, sport and subsistence fishing—provides nearly 11-percent of the region's jobs and contributes $1 billion annually to the local economy. For each of the past three years, Southeast Alaska has produced the largest salmon harvest in the state, with fishermen hauling in up to 100 million salmon worth more than $200 million a year. Tongass salmon comprise 79-percent of the annual salmon harvest from Southeast Alaska, 28-percent of the overall salmon catch for all of Alaska, and 25-percent of all salmon harvested from the North American Pacific coast—including all of Alaska, Canada, Washington, Oregon and California.

Threats

While most salmon and trout populations in the Tongass are healthy and abundant, their future is uncertain. Industrial-scale logging and road building, new mining developments, dozens of hydroelectric dam projects, and various proposals to privatize large swathes of the most productive and valuable portions of the Tongass threaten permanent damage to the region's most valuable resource: salmon. While 35-percent of Tongass salmon and trout habitat is protected at the watershed scale, many of the most important salmon streams remain vulnerable to industrial development that can cause serious harm to the long-term

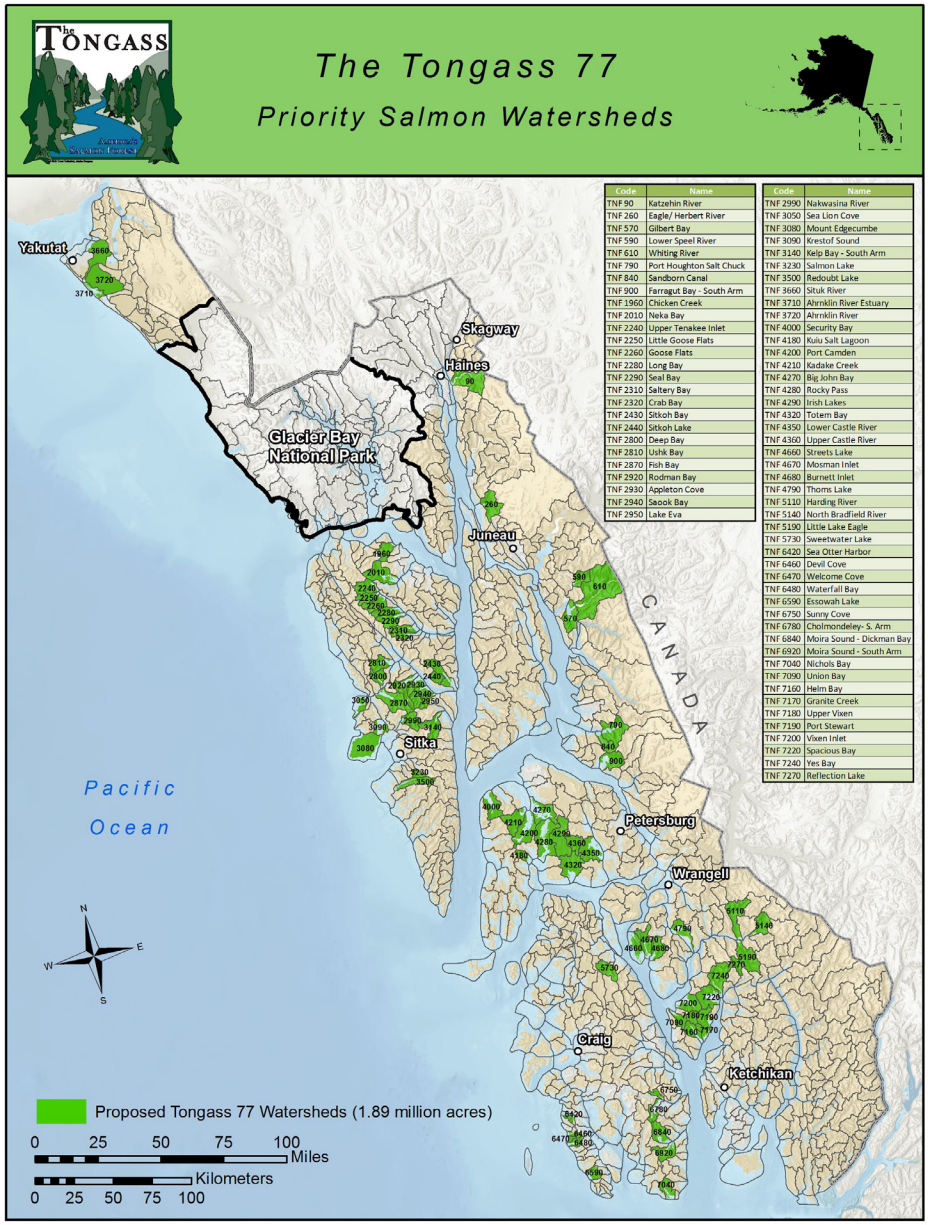
productivity of fish habitat. Climate change impacts and reduced funding for research and restoration programs also are becoming more common.

The troubled history of salmon in the Pacific Northwest and California, where wild salmon runs once rivaled Alaska's, foreshadows what could occur in Southeast Alaska unless lawmakers, government agencies and the public act to make habitat conservation and restoration top priorities. In the Tongass, we still have the opportunity to ensure salmon and trout, and the people who depend on them, enjoy a healthier and more stable future.

Solution

Salmon and trout—and the communities, cultures and economies they sustain—require clean, healthy watersheds for spawning, rearing and migrating. Researchers from the Alaska offices of the Audubon Society, The Nature Conservancy and Trout Unlimited used state-of-the-art GIS and conservation planning software to identify the "best of the best" from the thousands of salmon and trout watersheds on the Tongass that currently lack watershed-scale protection. After consulting with federal and state biologists and various community and business stakeholder groups, the list was narrowed down to 77 high-value watersheds (since reduced to 73 by intervening legislation) comprising 1.9 million acres that form the backbone of Southeast Alaska's salmon fishery and the local economy. Based on the outstanding fish habitat in these watersheds and their contributions to local communities and economies, the highest and best use of the "Tongass 77" is for salmon and trout production.

Federal legislation to permanently protect the Tongass 77 is necessary to ensure the long-term productivity of these important salmon watersheds. Maintaining natural salmon production and the health and function of fish and wildlife habitat should be the top management priorities.



Code	Name
TNF 90	Katzehin River
TNF 260	Eagle/ Herbert River
TNF 570	Gilbert Bay
TNF 590	Lower Speel River
TNF 610	Whiting River
TNF 790	Port Houghton Salt Chuck
TNF 840	Sandborn Canal
TNF 900	Farragut Bay - South Arm
TNF 1960	Chicken Creek
TNF 2010	Neka Bay
TNF 2240	Upper Tenakee Inlet
TNF 2250	Little Goose Flats
TNF 2260	Goose Flats
TNF 2280	Long Bay
TNF 2290	Seal Bay
TNF 2310	Saltery Bay
TNF 2320	Crab Bay
TNF 2430	Sitkoh Bay
TNF 2440	Sitkoh Lake
TNF 2800	Deep Bay
TNF 2810	Ushk Bay
TNF 2870	Fish Bay
TNF 2920	Rodman Bay
TNF 2930	Appleton Cove
TNF 2940	Saook Bay
TNF 2950	Lake Eva

Code	Name
TNF 2990	Nakwasina River
TNF 3050	Sea Lion Cove
TNF 3080	Mount Edgecumbe
TNF 3090	Krestof Sound
TNF 3140	Kelp Bay - South Arm
TNF 3230	Salmon Lake
TNF 3500	Redoubt Lake
TNF 3660	Situk River
TNF 3710	Ahrnklin River Estuary
TNF 3720	Ahrnklin River
TNF 4000	Security Bay
TNF 4180	Kuiu Salt Lagoon
TNF 4200	Port Camden
TNF 4210	Kadake Creek
TNF 4270	Big John Bay
TNF 4280	Rocky Pass
TNF 4290	Irish Lakes
TNF 4320	Totem Bay
TNF 4350	Lower Castle River
TNF 4360	Upper Castle River
TNF 4660	Streets Lake
TNF 4670	Mosman Inlet
TNF 4680	Burnett Inlet
TNF 4790	Thoms Lake
TNF 5110	Harding River
TNF 5140	North Bradfield River
TNF 5190	Little Lake Eagle
TNF 5730	Sweetwater Lake
TNF 6420	Sea Otter Harbor
TNF 6460	Devil Cove
TNF 6470	Welcome Cove
TNF 6480	Waterfall Bay
TNF 6590	Essowah Lake
TNF 6750	Sunny Cove
TNF 6780	Cholmondeley- S. Arm
TNF 6840	Moira Sound - Dickman Bay
TNF 6920	Moira Sound - South Arm
TNF 7040	Nichols Bay
TNF 7090	Union Bay
TNF 7160	Helm Bay
TNF 7170	Granite Creek
TNF 7180	Upper Vixen
TNF 7190	Port Stewart
TNF 7200	Vixen Inlet
TNF 7220	Spacious Bay
TNF 7240	Yes Bay
TNF 7270	Reflection Lake

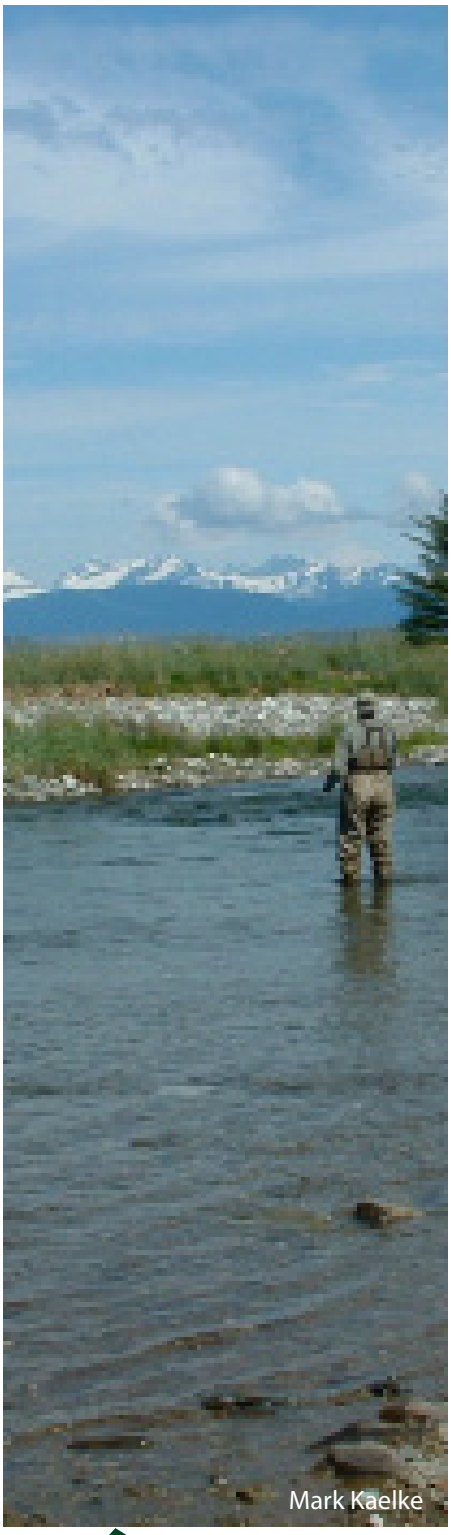
Mark Kaelke

Additionally, by prohibiting commercial logging, new road building and new mining developments within the Tongass 77, we can help ensure Southeast Alaska's abundant wild salmon return for generations to come and continue to fuel the region's communities and economy.

Scientific & Public Support

Prevailing scientific and public opinion support protecting the Tongass 77. Trout Unlimited's Alaska Program has compiled an 88-page literature review that documents the ever-expanding rationale for why conserving entire salmon watersheds from ridge tops to river mouths makes sound scientific sense. The report shows that full-scale watershed protection is the best way to preserve both habitat diversity and natural processes so critical to salmon and trout.

The Nature Conservancy polled Alaskans and found a majority of them overwhelmingly support policies that protect salmon habitat across Alaska. Ninety-six percent of Alaskans surveyed said salmon are essential to the Alaskan way of life, and 97-percent said salmon are an important part of the Alaskan economy. Statewide, 89-percent of Alaskans stated that even in tough economic times it is important to maintain funding for salmon conservation. More at www.americansalmonforest.org/science.


Mark Kaelke

YOU CAN HELP

Whether you fish for salmon and trout, eat them or just like knowing they're out there, you can be part of the solution.

CONTACT YOUR LEGISLATOR.

✓ Congress needs to know you support "The Tongass 77." Please sign our open letter to Congress at AmericanSalmonForest.org/sign-on

TROUT UNLIMITED

Alaska Program

We work to conserve, protect and restore wild salmon and trout populations throughout Alaska. TU's vision for the Tongass National Forest includes permanent conservation designations for high-value salmon and trout watersheds, as well as the implementation of a comprehensive plan for restoring fish passage and impacted watersheds throughout the region. These actions will sustain and enrich the vital economic and social contributions of salmon and trout to Southeast Alaska.

Contact Us

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AmericanSalmonForest.org

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Bonnie
Last name: Williams
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Bonnie Williams and I live in Warrensburg, Missouri.

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, Bonnie Williams

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Brent
Last name: Williams
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, Brent Williams

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Bruce
Last name: Williams
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC5379

U.S. Forest Service Alaska Roadless Rule Committee:

As a former Alaska resident, retired USFS employee of the Chugach National Forest, and avid fisherman, I oppose changing the Roadless Rule in Alaska. In 2001 I worked on the Roadless Rule along with many other dedicated people while employed with the US Forest Service. The Roadless Rule has been instrumental in conserving the Chugach and Tongass National Forest (and across the National Forest System) and in supporting their associated fish and wildlife-based industries for more than 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,

Bruce Williams

Bandon, OR 97411

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Caitlin
Last name: Williams
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, Caitlin Williams

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/5/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Cameron
Last name: Williams
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): 12/15/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Carol
Last name: Williams
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Carol Williams and I live in Indiana, PA. I am writing a comment on the Alaska Roadless Rule DEIS because I am concerned with how the Rule and the proposed full exemption will affect the Tongass National Forest and the Chugach National Forest.

Our National Parks are treasures that should be protected from greedy corporations who think profit is worth more than natural beauty.

I urge the Forest Service to select Alternative 1, the no action alternative, for the final decision on the Alaska Roadless Rule. This alternative protects the inventoried roadless areas in Alaska that are full of pristine wilderness and provide important fish and wildlife habitat, and already allows for important community and economic development projects. As an American citizen, I value the Tongass National Forest and the Chugach National Forest for its status as America's best natural solution to climate change and its sequestering of millions of metric tons of carbon and mitigating climate change, its wild salmon populations and the world-class fishing opportunities, its huge swaths of intact ecosystems and all the biodiversity it contains, its status as the largest intact temperate rainforest in the world, the recreational opportunities it provides, the high density of incredible wildlife it contains, to keep public lands wild for future generations, its status as a national and global treasure, the lifestyles of the indigenous communities that the forest supports. A full exemption does not protect these priorities, nor does it effectively balance economic development with the countless other benefits provided by roadless areas. I would like the Forest Service to manage roadless areas for low-impact recreation (camping, hiking, hunting, foraging, etc), passive/active watershed restoration (stream and habitat) to improve/maintain roadless characteristics (culvert removal/replacement, improve fish passage, wildlife thinning, etc). It is important to me that high-value intact habitat including the T77 watersheds and the TNC conservation priority areas retain their roadless protections in any alternative selected.

The Forest Service is wasting taxpayers' valuable time and money by trying to prop up a failing timber industry in Southeast Alaska. The nonpartisan, independent taxpayer watchdog Taxpayers for Common Sense reported that the Tongass timber program has losses of over $600 million of taxpayers money in the past 20 years. I would rather see my taxpayer dollars used to restore salmon habitat that was hurt by past logging practices, perform restorative actions that support wildlife populations on previously degraded landscapes that support wildlife populations, establish the economic value of the carbon stored in the Tongass. We need to stop subsidizing the clearcutting of old growth on the Tongass through taxpayer funded roadbuilding. If a full exemption were chosen, it would not create opportunities and would instead prioritize the special interests of one industry over the interests of the entire American public.

The Tongass is Americas homegrown natural solution to climate change. The forest sequesters 8% of the carbon stored in forests throughout the contiguous US states, some 3 billion metric tons of it. We must take action to mitigate and adapt to climate change, and maintaining the Tongass in a roadless state is critical for a sustainable future.

I urge the Forest Service to listen to the voices of the American people and prioritize them over corporate interests. The Forest Service should strengthen public involvement in developing land management policy and focus on broadly supported work rather than allowing special corporate interests to guide policy changes. Attempting to exempt inventoried roadless areas on the Chugach National Forest from the Alaska Roadless

Rule adds further insult to injury, and this proposal has not received any sufficient environmental impact analysis or public input. Choosing a full exemption will not create a long lasting, durable solution for roadless areas in Alaska it will only increase the legal challenges, uncertainty for businesses, and conflict over these forests going forward.

We must preserve these beautiful natural areas for future generations .

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Carole
Last name: Williams
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, Carole Williams

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Carole
Last name: Williams
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.

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Regards, Carole Williams

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Carole
Last name: Williams
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Carole Williams and I live in Morgantown, West Virginia.

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, Carole Williams

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Cassandra
Last name: Williams
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Cassandra Williams and I live in Brawley, 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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Cassandra Williams

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Catherine
Last name: Williams
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, Catherine Williams

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Catherine
Last name: Williams
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Catherine Williams and I live in Tucson, Arizona.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Catherine Williams

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/10/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Cathi
Last name: Williams
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Cathi Williams and I live in Mckean, Pennsylvania.

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, Cathi Williams

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/13/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Charlie
Last name: Williams
Organization: Valley Paint Center, Inc.
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support Alternative 6

Restoring the ability to build roads in the Tongass allows us to create the necessary infrastructure to develop mining and timber, build roads to connect communities, to develop hydropower energy, and foster access for all Southeast Alaska residents.

If all acres in the Tongass Forest Management plan were to be developed for logging and mining, the total acres of development would comprise approximately 2-3% of the 16.9 million acres in the Tongass. Clear headed thinking reveals that this is insignificant and non-impactful.

Many with an opposing viewpoint like to charge their opposition to Alternative 6 with emotional statements about how opening the Tongass to road development will have an enormous impact on fishing, hunting, and peaceful enjoyment of the "forest". Yet, many of these individuals rely on roads to get to their favorite "wilderness experiences". I believe that developing roads will create more access to enjoy the wilderness! Roads and enjoyment of the forest are not mutually exclusive terms.

Many of these same commenters also make the statement that we shouldn't exempt the Tongass because of the greed of large corporations. This is a baseless claim. Certainly, some corporations will benefit - but so will the Southeast Alaska population! Just as the residents and corporations in the lower 48 states have benefited from the access building roads has created.

Under any scenario, all development activity in the Tongass must undergo a significant permitting process, let's let existing science-based regulations be allowed to work as they are designed. The Tongass is nationally owned, access for all should be one of the main goals of managing this 16.9-million-acre forest.

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Chelsi
Last name: Williams
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Chelsi Williams and I live in Fredericksburg, Virginia.

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, Chelsi Williams

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Chris
Last name: Williams
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Chris Williams and I live in Denver, Colorado.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Chris Williams

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: CHRISTINA
Last name: WILLIAMS
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is CHRISTINA WILLIAMS and I live in Arnoldsville, Georgia.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, CHRISTINA WILLIAMS

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: CHRISTINA
Last name: WILLIAMS
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is CHRISTINA WILLIAMS and I live in Arnoldsville, Georgia.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, CHRISTINA WILLIAMS

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Christopher
Last name: Williams
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
To whom it may concern,

I am strongly opposed to opening up any more of the Tongass Rainforest to logging and development. It's extremely short sighted to ransack the largest old growth forest left in the US for what would ultimately be short term gain. We already have sustainable industries in tourism and fishing. There is no such thing as sustainable logging. The town I live in (Skagway, Alaska) was logged extensively during the Klondike Gold Rush, and has yet to completely recover. The Klondike Gold Rush was 120 years ago.

Thank You

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/11/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Christopher
Last name: Williams
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): 10/21/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Clay
Last name: Williams
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Please dont log the Tongass. Leave the roadless rule just the way it is. Thank you.

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/10/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Cynthia
Last name: Williams
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Cynthia Williams and I live in El Cerrito, California.

Please dont roll back protections for the Tongass National Forest.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Cynthia Williams

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Dan
Last name: Williams
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, Dan Williams

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: David
Last name: Williams
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is David Williams and I live in Highland Park, Michigan.

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, David Williams

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: DAVID
Last name: Williams
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is DAVID Williams and I live in Elkmont, Alabama.

Destroying public lands for short term private gains enriches the few while impoverishing the many. Once destroyed, habitats cannot be rebuilt. The seemingly insignificant species we destroy in our greed might have held the key to our own survival. Assaulting nature is assaulting the future of mankind.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.

Regards, DAVID Williams

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/12/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: David
Last name: Williams
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): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Deb
Last name: WILLIAMS
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Deb WILLIAMS and I live in Westbrook, Maine.

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, Deb WILLIAMS

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/12/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: debbie
Last name: williams
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is debbie williams and I live in Menifee, 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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, debbie williams

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Deborah
Last name: Williams
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Deborah Williams and I live in Aurora, Colorado.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Deborah Williams

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Dennis
Last name: Williams
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, Dennis Williams

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Derek
Last name: Williams
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC5778

Dear U.S. Forest Service,

CC: Alaska Congressional Delegation and Federal Administration

I support the no-action alternative to leave the 2001 Roadless Rule in place on the Tongass National Forest. We must continue to phase out old-growth clear-cut logging and instead prioritize restoring degraded watersheds and fish streams that contribute to the growing fisheries and tourism-based economies of Southeast. To that end, please conserve the Tongass 77 and TNC priority areas in the final Roadless Rule.

Sincerely,

Comments: *(Eg: list locations you recreate, or why you value Tongass fish & wildlife)* [Text italicized for emphasis]

[Box unchecked] I would like to get more involved in the campaign!

*By taking this action, you are consenting to receive future communications via phone, text message, email, or mail from Sitka Conservation Society and its partners working to protect the Tongass. * [Text italicized for emphasis]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Diane
Last name: Williams
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Diane Williams and I live in Wellsboro, Pennsylvania.

Mother nature bats last. I oppose clearcutting in the Tongass National Forest.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Diane Williams

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/10/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Dianne
Last name: Williams
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Dianne Williams and I live in Chesapeake, Virginia.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Dianne Williams

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Dianne
Last name: Williams
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Dianne Williams and I live in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina.

These protections must NOT be removed but rather strengthened so that future generations cannot remove those protections.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.

Regards, Dianne Williams

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Dolph
Last name: Williams
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Dolph Williams and I live in Glenview, Illinois.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Dolph Williams

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Donna
Last name: Williams
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Donna Williams and I live in Los Angeles, California.

There is not a public mandate for this action.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Donna Williams

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Donna
Last name: Williams
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, Donna Williams

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Donna Glee
Last name: Williams
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Please do not allow our childrens patrimony to be frittered away by short-sighted, quick-profit interests. Protect roadless lands. We are begging you. (And we vote.)

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Doug
Last name: Williams
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.

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Regards, Doug Williams

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/10/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Earl
Last name: Williams
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Earl Jr and I live in Sitka, AK. I was born and raised in Southeast Alaska. Sitka is where I call home. im trying to live here as long as possible. everything about the Tongass National Forrest I depend on. from Clean Air to Clean Water it provides. it is vital to the World. why because I don't want to be like the Amazon and have everything burn down and it go to shit. im here to waste your time. because I shouldn't have to fight for my right to live. fuck your short term profits. trying to fight climate change with Tongass National Forrest is what im here to do I am writing a comment on the Alaska Roadless Rule DEIS because I am concerned with how the Rule and the proposed full exemption will impact my fishing hunting subsistence harvesting foraging for wild foods the peace and solitude I find in nature recreating practicing my culture the status of the Tongass as a national and global treasure the forest's ability to sequester carbon and mitigate climate change impacts the conservation of resources for future generations .

Out of the alternatives described in the AKRR DEIS I support alternative 1: no action. It protects important fish and wildlife habitat from clearcutting and roadbuilding. I depend on roadless areas in the Tongass National Forest for economic livelihood healthy fish habitat deer habitat and subsistence hunting foraging and gathering wild foods practicing my culture recreating and enjoying nature carbon sequestration and local climate change mitigation viewing wildlife keeping public lands wild for future generations fiscal responsibility and saving taxpayer dollars . A full exemption does not protect these values, nor does it effectively balance economic development and conservation of roadless area characteristics. A full exemption from the Roadless Rule and increased logging and roadbuilding will negatively impact the Tongass and what I and many others use and depend on the forest to provide for us.

The Roadless areas on the Tongass that are especially important to me are those on or around Baranof Island Chichagof Island Admiralty Island the northern mainland above Port Snettisham (around Juneau) the central mainland from Hobart Bay to Stikine River the southern mainland from Bradfield Canal to Dixon Entrance Kupreanof Island Kuiu Island Wrangell and Etolin Islands Revillagigedo Island (near Ketchikan) Prince of Wales Island Yakutat forelands all of the inventoried roadless areas on the Tongass. I want the roadless areas in these locations to stay in roadless status in any alternative selected by the Forest Service, and be managed to provide for the uses and activities I listed above. It is important to me that the T77 and the TNC conservation priority areas retain their roadless protections.

I do not support the Forest Services preferred alternative of a full exemption. A full exemption is not in the interests of Southeast Alaskans who live in and use the Tongass National Forest, because No Action. Keep Tongass National Forrest intact. The State of Alaska says that a full exemption is needed for rural economic development opportunities. However, a full exemption would not help create more rural economic development

opportunities, it would instead harm our existing rural economies that are based on the visitor industry and commercial fishing industry.

It would further harm rural economic opportunities because pursuing the same outdated economic model of old growth clearcut harvesting for export stifles innovation and possibility in other sectors, such as mariculture, sustainable young growth harvest, and rural agriculture. If the Forest Service wants to support rural economic development, they should improve and streamline existing permitting processes for important community projects rather than rehashing old conflicts.

I haven't stopped spreading this vital info in order to protect Southeast Alaska, I don't care who im up against. I hope to continue to waste your time with other comments that are heading your way. do a fucking better job. No Action keep Tongass in tact Clean Air and Clean Water is vital to everybody if you don't get that I feel sorry for you

I urge the Forest Service to prioritize the voices of Southeast Alaskans over those of our political representation and corporate interests. Choosing a full exemption will not create a long lasting, durable solution for roadless areas on the Tongass. It will only increase the legal challenges, uncertainty for businesses, and conflict on the Tongass going forward.

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/3/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Earl
Last name: Williams
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Earl Williams and I live in Sitka, Alaska.

i Live in Southeast Alaska. Sitka to be exact. Leave Tongass National Forest Alone do nothing!

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.

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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, Earl Williams

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Elaine
Last name: Williams
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, Elaine Williams

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Elaine
Last name: Williams
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.

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Regards, Elaine Williams

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/17/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Elizabeth
Last name: Williams
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Elizabeth Williams and I live in St. Michaels, MD
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, Elizabeth Williams

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Elizabeth K
Last name: Williams
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Please do not permit roads and logging in the Tsongas Roadless Area.

Undisturbed ancient forests, like Tsongas. are essential in order to preserve ecological health of ecosystem, biodiversity and avoid mass species extinction. The forests also are imortant part of countering climate change.

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Gerry
Last name: Williams
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Gerry Williams and I live in Thousand Oaks, California.

We; need to do everything we possibly can to dampen the heating climate due to carbon build-up in the air caused by humans!

I am writing to express EXTREMELY 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, Gerry Williams

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Glen
Last name: Williams
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, Glen Williams

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/20/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Grey
Last name: Williams
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Please don't do this. Once this land is given up, it's gone forever and it opens the door that much wider fir further corporate-funded land grabs.

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Griffen
Last name: Williams
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Alternative one

To whom it concerns,

I would like to support Alternative One, i do not want renewed road building or logging in the Tongass National Forest.

Thank you,

Griffen Williams

Griffen Williams

M.Ed. Outdoor Education

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Hank
Last name: Williams
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.

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Regards, Hank Williams

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Hank
Last name: Williams
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.

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Regards, Hank Williams

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Hank
Last name: Williams
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
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Regards, Hank Williams

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Hank
Last name: Williams
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Hank Williams and I live in Big Sky, Montana.

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, Hank Williams

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/5/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Harry
Last name: Williams
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I oppose opening the Wildness area to logging and the making of roads or highways in the Tonga area,

Thank you for your consideration

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Jack
Last name: Williams
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC3409

U.S. Forest Service Alaska Roadless Rule

Comment Period

Comment Period Alaska Roadless Rule:

The Roadless Rule has been instrumental in conserving the Tongass National Forest and in supporting its 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. 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,

Jack Williams

Medford, OR 97501

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/25/2019 11:17:48 AM
First name: Jack
Last name: Williams
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Comments to oppose modification to the Roadless Rule

Dear U.S. Forest Service,

The Tongass National Forest is a national treasure. Water and fish flow in great abundance from its watersheds. There are many reasons to protect remaining roadless areas on the Tongass.

First, these watersheds provide abundant fisheries that are critical to the recreational and commercial economies of the region.

Second, if left intact, roadless watersheds support a great variety of native wildlife and ecological processes that are important to the region.

Third, water quality is becoming a significant issue and unroaded watersheds provide higher quality water supplies than to logged forests.

Fourth, restoration of these watersheds, once logged, is very difficult, time consuming and expensive.

It is time to stop opening more and more acres to the timber industry and instead bolster protections to the old-growth forests and wild areas on the Tongass. I urge you to select the "No Action" Alternative (Alternative 1) and allow the Roadless Rule to remain intact on the Tongass National Forest.

Sincerely,
Jack Williams
Medford, OR 97501

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 1/1/0001 12:00:00 AM
First name: Jack
Last name: Williams
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
3409

U.S. Forest Service Alaska Roadless Rule
Comment Period

Comment Period Alaska Roadless Rule:

The Roadless Rule has been instrumental in conserving the Tongass National Forest and in supporting its 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. 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,
Jack Williams
Medford, OR 97501

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: JAMES
Last name: WILLIAMS
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is JAMES WILLIAMS and I live in South Glens Falls, New York.

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, JAMES WILLIAMS

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/22/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: James
Last name: Williams
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I do not believe the Tongass should be logged at all. These old growth forests are so few now we should treat them as cathedrals and preserve them for future generations. There is not a single good reason this forest should be logged.

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/7/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: James
Last name: Williams
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): 12/11/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: James
Last name: Williams
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.
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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): 11/16/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Jane
Last name: Williams
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Jane Williams and I live in California.

Twenty years ago I fought to keep roads out of our nations public lands. Now, I am writing to you for the same reason. We must keep roads away from public lands if we are to ensure habitat for the future. We need to leave vast stretches of our lands untouched if we are to survive as a species.

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, Jane Williams

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Janet
Last name: Williams
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Janet Williams and I live in Searsport, Maine.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Janet Williams

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Jason
Last name: Williams
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, Jason Williams

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: jesse
Last name: williams
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is jesse williams and I live in North College Hill, Ohio.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, jesse williams

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Jesse
Last name: Williams
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Jesse Williams and I live in North College Hill, Ohio.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Jesse Williams

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/14/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Jesse
Last name: Williams
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Jesse Williams and I live in North College Hill, Ohio.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Jesse Williams

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/11/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Jessica
Last name: Williams
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Jessica Williams and I live in Seattle, WA. I am writing a comment on the Alaska Roadless Rule DEIS because I am concerned with how the Rule and the proposed full exemption will affect the Tongass National Forest and the Chugach National Forest.

The Tongass National forest is one of the last remaining temperate rain forest in the world. We must protect the roadless rule so as not to decimate this extremely important national resource. Many animals depend on healthy forests including bear, wolves, deer, and moose. Also the salmon population directly effects and is effected by the forest health which in turn effects the orca population. Clear cutting both old and second froth forests negatively effects the plants and animals as well as our green house gasses. Ive worked in southeast Alaska in boats for the last 8 years and a healthy Tongass National Forest is extremely important to the health of our planet

I urge the Forest Service to select Alternative 1, the no action alternative, for the final decision on the Alaska Roadless Rule. This alternative protects the inventoried roadless areas in Alaska that are full of pristine wilderness and provide important fish and wildlife habitat, and already allows for important community and economic development projects. As an American citizen, I value the Tongass National Forest and the Chugach National Forest for its status as Americau2019s best natural solution to climate change and its sequestering of millions of metric tons of carbon and mitigating climate change its wild salmon populations and the world-class fishing opportunities its huge swaths of intact ecosystems and all the biodiversity it contains its status as the largest intact temperate rainforest in the world the recreational opportunities it provides the high density of incredible wildlife it contains to keep public lands wild for future generations its status as a national and global treasure the lifestyles of the indigenous communities that the forest supports. A full exemption does not protect these priorities, nor does it effectively balance economic development with the countless other benefits provided by roadless areas. I would like the Forest Service to manage roadless areas for low-impact recreation (camping hiking hunting foraging etc) medium-impact recreation (FS cabins trails mooring buoys 3-sided shelters) passiveactive watershed restoration (stream and habitat) to improvemaintain roadless characteristics (culvert removalreplacement improve fish passage wildlife thinning etc) . It is important to me that high-value intact habitat including the T77 watersheds and the TNC conservation priority areas retain their roadless protections in any alternative selected.

The Forest Service is wasting taxpayers' valuable time and money by trying to prop up a failing timber industry in Southeast Alaska. The nonpartisan, independent taxpayer watchdog Taxpayers for Common Sense reported that the Tongass timber program has losses of over $600 million of taxpayers money in the past 20 years. I would rather see my taxpayer dollars used to restore salmon habitat that was hurt by past logging practices perform restorative actions that support wildlife populations on previously degraded landscapes that support wildlife populations develop more recreational opportunities like trails and cabins support small-scale sustainable logging establish the economic value of the carbon stored in the Tongass . We need to stop subsidizing the clearcutting of old growth on the Tongass through taxpayer funded roadbuilding. If a full exemption were chosen, it would not create opportunities and would instead prioritize the special interests of one industry over the interests of the entire American public.

The Tongass is Americas homegrown natural solution to climate change. The forest sequesters 8% of the carbon stored in forests throughout the contiguous US states, some 3 billion metric tons of it. We must take action to mitigate and adapt to climate change, and maintaining the Tongass in a roadless state is critical for a sustainable future.

I urge the Forest Service to listen to the voices of the American people and prioritize them over corporate interests. The Forest Service should strengthen public involvement in developing land management policy and focus on broadly supported work rather than allowing special corporate interests to guide policy changes. Attempting to exempt inventoried roadless areas on the Chugach National Forest from the Alaska Roadless Rule adds further insult to injury, and this proposal has not received any sufficient environmental impact analysis or public input. Choosing a full exemption will not create a long lasting, durable solution for roadless areas in Alaska it will only increase the legal challenges, uncertainty for businesses, and conflict over these forests going forward.

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/13/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Jill
Last name: Williams
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC582

Dear Secretary Perdue and Senator Murkowski, [text bolded for emphasis]

I am currently on a boat cruise off the coast of Kruzof Island. On this cruise, I am exploring and learning about the natural habitat of this area that is so special to local Sitkans, including the intertidal area on the shore of Kruzof island.

Only 10 miles west of Sitka, Kruzof is widely used as a place for locals to fish, hunt, forage and recreate. From Sea Lion Bay to Shelikof, North Beach to Shoals Point, the Forest Service manages extensive recreation infrastructure such as cabins, trails, and the existing road system for our enjoyment. Sitka black-tailed deer are plentiful, as are chum and pink salmon that run through the numerous stream systems on the island. Kruzof Island contains productive, intact fish habitat, with three Tongass 77 and four TNC 'conservation priority areas' identified on the island. Mt. Edgecumbe volcano is an incredible day hike, and only a piece of the island's fascinating geologic activity.

The intertidal zone of Kruzof is replete with life: black seaweed and mussels are harvested off these shores. Sea anemones and starfish populate the rocks. Crabs and fish hide in the bright-green eel grass. Lucky visitors may even spot an octopus hiding beneath a crevice. The intertidal area of Kruzof depends on healthy forests. Clearcut logging leads to sedimentation of rivers and estuaries, and endangers the prolific ecosystems like the one I am visiting today.

Our use and enjoyment of Kruzof Island depends entirely on the health of its forests and ecosystems. Currently, Kruzof Island is protected from old-growth clearcutting and road building under the 2001 Roadless Rule. As it stands, the 2001 Roadless Rule safeguards our recreation and subsistence activities on Kruzof. *It is important to me that the 2001 Roadless Rule remains in place on Kruzof Island, and throughout the Tongass National Forest.* [text bolded for emphasis] Opening up this area to more clearcutting and roadbuilding will jeopardize my way of life, and will sacrifice the spirit of Sitka that brings so many people to this special place. I do not want to see the 2001 Roadless Rule repealed on Kruzof, or anywhere else in the Tongass. Please protect this land for future generations to enjoy in perpetuity.

Personal Comments: [text bolded for emphasis] I am not interested in learning more!

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Joanne
Last name: Williams
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Joanne Williams and I live in Highland Park, New Jersey.

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, Joanne Williams

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Jonathan
Last name: Williams
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
NOLS public comments

NOLS Alaska

Palmer, AK 99645

December 17th, 2019

RE: Special Areas; Roadless Area Conservation; National Forest System Lands in Alaska

Dear Forest Service Land Managers,

Thank you for hearing NOLS public comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on the proposed rulemaking impacting the Tongass and Chugach National Forests. NOLS recognizes and appreciates the hard work of the Forest Service (F.S.) to serve the diverse needs of Alaska residents while maintaining high environmental protection for the resources its charged to manage. NOLS values the long-standing positive relationship that we have maintained with the Forest Service and look forward to that continuing into the future.

NOLS is a non-profit that offers services in expeditions, risk management, wilderness medicine, and custom education. In fiscal year 2018 we educated approximately 29,000 students globally with over 17,000 user days in Alaska. The Tongass and Chugach have functioned as important operating areas for the school where our students learn outdoor skills, leave no trace ethics, leadership, and environmental studies. Countless times these individuals also report a strong connection to place and positive life transformation.

The NOLS business model, like that of many guides and outfitters, is linked to providing an authentic wilderness experience. Many of our clientele inhabit places where it is impossible to escape the sounds, smells and noises of an urban environment which factors into their enrollment decision and expectations to see abundant wildlife and tracks of lands without significant human impact. Further, in an era marred by climate change, NOLS places high value on intact ecosystems for both their intrinsic value and the vast amount of ecosystem services they provide. NOLS maintains reservations that changing or removing outright the Roadless Rule as it applies to the Chugach and Tongass National Forests prioritizes the normative values for state control over the numerous benefits in conservation, outdoor recreation and tourism, and the long-term viability of these pristine Alaska landscapes, as is presently enjoyed by current statute.

First, NOLS is concerned with the ambiguity presented in the administrative correction and modification of inventoried roadless areas (IRAs) on the Chugach National Forest, and we request significant modification and or the complete removal of this provision. NOLS is less concerned for the proposed remedy for clerical errors, mapping errors, etc, as this could increase efficiency and further enable the Forest Service to best manage the National Forest. However, there is considerable administrative discretion granted to the Regional Forester granting him/her/them the ability to make administrative modifications to the classifications and boundaries of IRAS in the Chugach, as written.

The DEIS described the rationale as to, "align with other states that have state-specific roadless rules (Idaho and Colorado)". Regardless of perceived similarity to the practice of other states, this section as written could result in considerable environmental impact in the Chugach, at the discretion of the regional forester. The DEIS has failed thus far to be properly analyze those impacts. NOLS values the bottom-up management style of the Forest Service, and believes this managerial method yields positive outcomes, but neither Colorado nor Idaho granted complete administrative modification discretion to their Regional Foresters without seriously considering its impacts as outlined in the National Environmental Policy Act. Likewise, Idaho granted deference to the Chief of the Forest Service rather than the Regional Forester (36 C.F.R. [sect]294.27).

Second, NOLS opposes the preferred alternative as written in the DEIS, as it opens up the Tongass to significantly more development, industry, and road development. The preferred alternative completely removes

9.2 million acres of IRAs from consideration in the Tongass. Thus, the existing land management plan is meant to be the primary tool for Forest Management and conservation; however, the preferred action opens 185,000 acres to industry immediately. This vastly exceeds the efforts of other states. For instance, Idaho created new designations based on different management "themes": Primitive, Wild-Land Recreation, Special Areas of Historic or Tribal Significance and so forth (36 C.F.R. [sect] 294.23), instead of simply removing the rule from having any application. Thus, they did not violate the substantial intent of the Roadless Area Conservation Final Rule; instead, they created an Idaho specific rule that modified how forests were categorized to better serve the State's unique needs.

NOLS hopes that the Land Managers at the Forest Service seriously reconsider moving forward with the proposed rulemaking as written. The action needlessly removes protections that provides significant long-term benefits for the economy, the natural environment, and the people of Alaska. As written, the preferred action vastly exceeds the efforts of other states and violates the original intention of the Roadless Area Conservation Rule. NOLS interests would be better served by continuing with the status quo, or engaging in various categories of IRAs that are more nuanced than a complete removal. Thank you for your serious consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,

Chris Brauneis

NOLS Alaska Program Director

--

JONATHAN WILLIAMS "J.W."

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP COORDINATOR

HE/HIM/HIS

NOLS WORLD HEADQUARTERS

LANDER WY, 82520

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/13/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Jonathan
Last name: Williams
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Chugach ammendment

Ken Tu,

I am concerned with the Alaska Amendment on the Roadless rule in the Tongass NF and am seeking clarification as to how it will relate to the Chugach.

According to the Federal Registrar, the following statement is ambiguous on the scope of the 'administrative modifications to classifications and boundaries' in section 2. I interpret this statement as having no substantive boundaries on the Regional Forester abilities to modify roadless rule boundaries or classifications, minus providing a 45-day public comment. As written, protections in the Chugach may be subject to the discretion of the regional forester.

Could you please clarify this concern?

[sect] 294.51 Chugach National Forest.

(a) Administrative correction or modification of inventoried roadless area designations on the Chugach National Forest may be made as follows:

(1) Administrative corrections to boundaries. The Regional Forester for the Alaska Region may issue administrative corrections to the boundaries of an Inventoried Roadless Area after a 30-day public notice and opportunity to comment period. Administrative corrections are limited to adjustments that remedy clerical errors, typographical errors, mapping errors, improvements in mapping technology, conformance to statutory or regulatory changes, or incorporation of changes due to land exchanges.

(2) Administrative modifications to Classifications and Boundaries. The Regional Forester for the Alaska Region may issue modifications to the classifications and boundaries of an Inventoried Roadless Area after a 45-day public notice and opportunity to comment period.

Thank you,

-Jonathan Williams

--

JONATHAN WILLIAMS "J.W."

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP COORDINATOR

HE/HIM/HIS

NOLS WORLD HEADQUARTERS

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Julian
Last name: Williams
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Julian Williams and I live in Atlanta, Georgia.

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, Julian Williams

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Julie
Last name: Williams
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Julie Williams and I live in Kailua, Hawaii.

Wake up and take care of our planet!!!

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Julie Williams

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Karen
Last name: Williams
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Karen Williams and I live in Bellingham, Washington.

It's crazy to take chances with climate change, even if you believe disaster is unlikely! The costs of taking climate change seriously are chump change compared to the possible costs of NOT taking it seriously.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.

Regards, Karen Williams

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Kathleen
Last name: Williams
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Kathleen Williams and I live in Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

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, Kathleen Williams

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Kathleen
Last name: Williams
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Kathleen Williams and I live in Hillsdale, New York.

I am writing to express my opposition to the proposed rolling back of the Roadless Area Conservation Rule in Alaska or elsewhere. The Roadless Rule was implemented with overwhelming public support to protect some pristine public lands, including large parts of the Tongass National Forest. This land needs to be protected for Alaskans, indigenous peoples, wildlife, visitors in need of respite and recovery-- and to preserve the trees! We need to save what remains of our forests which can help to alleviate climate change. Alaska is already experiencing alarming rising temperatures.

And, the tourism industry results in an economic benefit to the area over that of the forest industry.

Please choose to preserve this wilderness for the future of populations to come, and take no action on reducing the Roadless Rule.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Regards, Kathleen Williams

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Kathryn
Last name: williams
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Kathryn williams and I live in San Diego, California.

Please consider the earth and our future generations. This is our only home.

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, Kathryn williams

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Katie
Last name: Williams
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
"The Tongass National Forest in Alaska is our largest national forest, home to some of the oldest trees in the United States, fragile ecosystems and protected species. Do not allow dangerous road building and old growth harvesting in the Tongass."

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/5/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Kelli
Last name: Williams
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Kelli Williams and I live in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

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, Kelli Williams

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/10/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Kimberly
Last name: Williams
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Kimberly Williams and I live in Worth, Illinois.

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, Kimberly Williams

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/18/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Koko
Last name: Williams
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Dear Secretary Perdue:

I am a New York resident and teacher. I see what's going on around the world, the growing number of people who are fleeing their homes, people who are unable to continue their livelihoods or live peacefully because of the crisis of unstable weather. I and another seven million of my generation are terrified to think about not doing anything. Now, we need our forests more than ever. Regardless of claims made in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement, that your current preferred alternative would bring "minimal impact" to the wildlife and habitats of the Tongass, I and my fellow American's who've learned about this issue know in our hearts that repealing any aspects of the Roadless Rule would inevitably bring forward logging of our Tongass National Rainforest. To even consider bringing forward logging of this vital carbon sink is incredible. We need to be finding ways to strengthen and grow more forests, not jeopardize those that are still recovering from previous logging.

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, which exists within the traditional territories of the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples. The Tongass is the world's largest intact temperate rainforest and has been called "America's Climate Forest" as it is the single most important national forest for carbon sequestration and climate change mitigation in the United States.

Globally, deforestation (8-15%) and forest degradation (6-13%) contribute more greenhouse gas pollution than the world's entire transportation network, which is why countries, including the U.S., must commit to reducing emissions and protecting forest carbon sinks, like the Tongass National Forest.

During the original rulemaking process, more than 1.5 million Americans voiced support for the Roadless Rule, which followed decades of clear-cutting that had a destructive and lasting impact on the Tongass. The rule continues to receive overwhelming support, with a 2019 poll finding three-fourths of the general public in support of the Roadless Rule.

If Alaska is exempt from the Roadless Rule, it will open up the forest to further industrial scale logging. Deforestation of the Tongass will threaten the health of Alaskan salmon by polluting rivers and streams, harm cultural and sacred sites of great importance to Indigenous communities, jeopardize local economies based on tourism and fisheries, and continue to cost taxpayers money. New budget data revealed that the US Forest Service could end up losing more than $180 million in the Tongass over the next four years.

Additionally, many Indigenous communities have stated they are not interested in exempting the Tongass from the Roadless Rule. In October, The Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, which represents 57 tribal governments, passed a resolution in support of the Roadless Rule in Alaska. If the Tongass is made exempt from the Roadless Rule, it will not only destroy the forest and our global climate but the exemption will actively contribute to the ongoing genocide of Indigenous Peoples whose identities, cultures, and livelihoods are integral to the forest.

I urge you and the Forest Service to protect over 9 million acres of forest, defend our global climate, and stand with Indigenous and local communities by keeping the National Roadless rule intact and selecting the no-action alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative 1.

Sincerely,

Koko

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Kristen
Last name: Williams
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Comments to oppose modification to the Roadless Rule

Dear U.S. Forest Service,

The Roadless Rule protects old-growth habitat for many species of wildlife: including birds like the Prince of Wales Spruce Grouse and the Northern Goshawk, and large mammals like wolves and deer. In addition, old-growth forests are strongholds of climate resilience.

All of the action alternatives in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement would allow more roadbuilding and logging across the Tongass National Forest. Logging roads and timber operations cost tens of millions of taxpayer dollars every year, with zero return on investment. Meanwhile, these destructive activities degrade the naturally sustainable wealth of salmon, wildlife watching, and tourism opportunities.

I oppose opening more acres to the timber industry, at the expense of the wildlife and communities that depend on old-growth forests. I urge you to select the "No Action" Alternative (Alternative 1), and keep the Roadless Rule in place for the Tongass National Forest.

Sincerely,

Kristen Williams

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Kristine
Last name: Williams
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, Kristine Williams

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Kyenne
Last name: Williams
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Kyenne Williams and I live in Portland, Oregon.

Enough: let the wilderness be. Find something else to destroy.

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, Kyenne Williams

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 1/1/0001 12:00:00 AM
First name: Lana
Last name: Williams
Organization:
Title:
Comments:

Dear Secretary Perdue,

I live and work on the lands and waters of the Tongass National Forest. The health of the Tongass National Forest is critical to sustaining my way of life in this rugged region. From hunting and fishing, to hiking and camping, to our tourism and commercial fishing-based economies, we rely on the intact habitat that the roadless areas of the Tongass contain. That is why it is important to me that the 2001 Roadless Rule remain in place on the Tongass National Forest. A no-action alternative is the best option for Southeast Alaska.

Prioritizing one antiquated industry over private sectors is bad business, and bad for Southeast Alaska. I support the Tongass Transition and I would like the Forest Service to continue phasing out old growth clearcutting. Please prioritize conservation of the T77 and TNC conservation priority areas in any new Alaska Roadless Rule. This forest is a salmon forest, and the Forest Service should focus on restoring degraded watersheds and fish streams.

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Lana
Last name: Williams
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC1118

Dear Secretary Perdue,

I live and work on the lands and waters of the Tongass National Forest. The health of the Tongass National Forest is critical to sustaining my way of life in this rugged region. From hunting and fishing, to hiking and camping, to our tourism and commercial fishing-based economies, we rely on the intact habitat that the roadless areas of the Tongass contain. That is why it is important to me that the 2001 Roadless Rule remain in place on the Tongass National Forest. A no-action alternative is the best option for Southeast Alaska.

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Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 1/1/0001 12:00:00 AM
First name: Lana
Last name: Williams
Organization:
Title:
Comments:

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Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 1/1/0001 12:00:00 AM
First name: Lana
Last name: Williams
Organization:
Title:
Comments:

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Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 1/1/0001 12:00:00 AM
First name: Lana
Last name: Williams
Organization:
Title:
Comments:

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Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Lauren
Last name: Williams
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, Lauren Williams

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Linda
Last name: Williams
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Linda Williams and I live in [@advCity], New Jersey.

People care. Just stop!

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, Linda Williams

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Lori
Last name: Williams
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Lori Williams and I live in Roanoke, Virginia.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Lori Williams

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Lori
Last name: Williams
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Lori Williams and I live in Roanoke, Virginia.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Lori Williams

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/9/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: LynnMeta
Last name: Williams
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is LynnMeta Williams and I live in Wakefield, Virginia.

Don't take the legacy from us of our forest of hundred year old trees just to get a quick buck, which is soon gone. Short sighted, and robbing the whole country of priceless treasure so that so few can get so little.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.

Regards, LynnMeta Williams

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/15/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Mamie
Last name: Williams
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing in to add my voice to support the Roadless Rule remaining in tact.

I am in opposition of opening up the Tongass Forest for deforestation.

Since time immemorial time before memory our way of life has been lived in lingit Aani . Always respect of all things . You Want respect you show respect . The Land animals the people we lived as one not one above the other . For thousands years we survived by our resilience adaptivness we followed the seasons . The Land taught us how live off land . Our food is our medicine working one land and water feeds your mind body spirit your soul. Everything thats exists in this world has a spirit rain wind fog air sun trees plants . The tree people give their spirit for us in many ways . Highest honor thank you to tree people giving spirit to preserve who we are totempoles long houses n screens headdresses baskets. our history the love of our people animals .. I great love and respect for tree people my family in my history of my clan kaagwaantaan alder tree house because of there strength love they lead the way back home haa shagoon aani . Thank you since time immemorial tree people gave there lives i know who i am where i come from. From one generation to next

we taught always take care of what you have to give next generation for we are only barrowing this land from our children one day we are going have give it back what condition are we giving it back in. Mother earth is the mother of us all she connects us all . We are all stewards of the land . Climate change looks different in alaska its like watching your family die . Living in a concrete world its hard see it . Mother earth is screaming for our help love and respect . We cant undue the damage we've dont but we can pull together and take care what we have .

Gunalch[eacute]esh (thank you) hearing my voice in speaking for my family the tree people .

Aas Khw[aacute]ani.

[See attachment of screenshot of a text message conversation about the roadless rule and climate change]

[Position]

[See attachment of screenshot of a text message conversation about the roadless rule and climate change]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/14/2019 3:07:59 PM
First name: Mamie
Last name: Williams
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing in to add my voice to support the Roadless Rule remaining in tact.
I am in opposition of opening up the Tongass Forest for deforestation.
Yaa kaa shuna nei

Since time immemorial time before memory our way of life has been lived in lingit Aani . Always respect of all things . You Want respect you show respect . The Land animals the people we lived as one not one above the other . For thousands years we survived by our resilience adaptivness we followed the seasons . The Land taught us how live off land . Our food is our medicine working one land and water feeds your mind body spirit your soul. Everything thats exists in this world has a spirit rain wind fog air sun trees plants . The tree people give their spirit for us in many ways . Highest honor thank you to tree people giving spirit to preserve who we are totempoles long houses n screens headdresses baskets. our history the love of our people animals .. I great love and respect for tree people my family in my history of my clan kaagwaantaan alder tree house because of there strength love they lead the way back home haa shagoon aani . Thank you since time immemorial tree people gave there lives i know who i am where i come from. From one generation to next we taught always take care of what you have to give next generation for we are only barrowing this land from our children one day we are going have give it back what condition are we giving it back in. Mother earth is the mother of us all she connects us all . We are all stewards of the land . Climate change looks different in alaska its like watching your family die . Living in a concrete world its hard see it . Mother earth is screaming for our help love and respect . We cant undue the damage we've dont but we can pull together and take care what we have .
Gunalchéesh (thank you) hearing my voice in speaking for my family the tree people .
Aas Khwáani.

3:54 41%

Caiti

Aas Khwáani.

beautiful

"Climate change looks different in alaska its like watching your family die "

powerful

Really

It would be cool to make a video about the roadless rule

jake made a whole album inspired by GlacierBay, we could use it as background music

1

I thinking about video mamie k at my zen spot the tu

Aa

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Mark
Last name: Williams
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Mark Williams and I live in Charlotte, North Carolina.

The Tongass Forest is a NATIONAL forest, not a private source of materials. Don't let private interests get access and cause damage that will take generations to restore!

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, Mark Williams

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/21/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: mary
Last name: williams
Organization: None
Title:
Comments:
NO!! Leave the forest alone!

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/21/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Mary
Last name: Williams
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Keep 'Roadless Rule' Protections for the Tongass National Forest

Dear U.S. Forest Service,

I strongly oppose the Forest Service's plan to eliminate "Roadless Rule" protections for the Tongass National Forest and urge you to select the "no action" alternative instead.

We are facing a global emergency with the climate crisis and global warming. This is an all-hands-on-deck moment and these trees are needed to do their part to sequester carbon.

Please - think of future generations by selecting the "no action" alternative to maintain "Roadless Rule" protections for the Tongass and Chugach.

Sincerely,

Mary Williams

San Jose, CA 95130

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: mary
Last name: williams
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is mary williams and I live in Tucson, Arizona.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, mary williams

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Matt
Last name: Williams
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC1134

Dear Secretary Perdue,

I live and work on the lands and waters of the Tongass National Forest. The health of the Tongass National Forest is critical to sustaining my way of life in this rugged region. From hunting and fishing, to hiking and camping, to our tourism and commercial fishing-based economies, we rely on the intact habitat that the roadless areas of the Tongass contain. That is why it is important to me that the 2001 Roadless Rule remain in place on the Tongass National Forest. A no-action alternative is the best option for Southeast Alaska.

Prioritizing one antiquated industry over private sectors is bad business, and bad for Southeast Alaska. I support the Tongass Transition and I would like the Forest Service to continue phasing out old growth clearcutting. Please prioritize conservation of the T77 and TNC conservation priority areas in any new Alaska Roadless Rule. This forest is a salmon forest, and the Forest Service should focus on restoring degraded watersheds and fish streams.

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 1/1/0001 12:00:00 AM
First name: Matt
Last name: Williams
Organization:
Title:
Comments:

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First name: Matt
Last name: Williams
Organization:
Title:
Comments:

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Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 1/1/0001 12:00:00 AM
First name: Matt
Last name: Williams
Organization:
Title:
Comments:

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Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 1/1/0001 12:00:00 AM
First name: Matt
Last name: Williams
Organization:
Title:
Comments:

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Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/17/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Melissa
Last name: Williams
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Melissa Williams and I live in Louisville, Kentucky.

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, Melissa Williams

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/20/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Michael
Last name: Williams
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Tongass National Forest cannot be made exempt of the Roadless Act. Since it is national land, strong reason and fact must be shown to the American people that there is a greater benefit to the people t do this than to leave it inits current condition. The lumber industry has sufficient land to work from and if not, then impartial studies must be undertaken to show the need for more land. As for the Alaskan people, it would be better that our nation support the region with grants to promote and develop tourism and less invasive development that would benefit a greater range of the public. Don't make this change to the standing law of the land. The people dont want it or need it.

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Mikayla
Last name: Williams
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, Mikayla Williams

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: mike
Last name: williams
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is mike williams and I live in Mill Valley, 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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, mike williams

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Mike
Last name: Williams
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.

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Regards, Mike Williams

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Mike
Last name: Williams
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
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Regards, Mike Williams

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Mimi
Last name: Williams
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC5418

U.S. Forest Service Alaska Roadless Rule Committee:

Please consider the long term ramifications of clear-cut logging of old growth timber and not just the immediate profit.

I am writing in support of the 'no action' alternative to leave the Roadless Rule unchanged in Alaska. I am concerned that changes to the rule would lead to greatly expand clear-cut logging of old growth timber and costly road building in undeveloped, wild areas of both the Tongass and Chugach Forests. These activities increase sedimentation, hurt water quality, often block salmon migration, and add to an already large backlog of needed road maintenance and restoration.

Our fisheries and wild forests are critical to the economy of Alaska. To grow these sectors of our economy, we need intact habitat. Please leave the Alaska Roadless Rule in place.

Sincerely,

Mimi Williams

High Point, NC 27262

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Mitch
Last name: Williams
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
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Regards, Mitch Williams

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Morris
Last name: Williams
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
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Regards, Morris Williams

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Nathaniel
Last name: Williams
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Nathaniel Williams and I live in New York, New York.

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, Nathaniel Williams

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Nelli
Last name: Williams
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Alaska Roadless Rule = No Action Alternative

Dear Comment Period Alaska Roadless Rule,

The Tongass and Chugach National Forests are special to many Alaskans and are the gateway to our state for hundreds of thousands of visitors. I've lived near, worked on, fished, hiked, boated and other-wised explored and enjoyed these unique assets to our state. My family spends most weekends on the Chugach and I was lucky enough to live on Prince of Wales Island for several summers. Keeping the Roadless Rule intact is essential to keeping our fish and wildlife populations thriving, our communities and economies healthy, and my family (and thousands like ours) enjoying the recreation opportunities that inspired us to move and stay here. The recent Tongass Forest Plan Amendment process demonstrated that there are community supported ways to address land management challenges and protect important places like the T77 and other important fish and wildlife areas -- the push to reverse the Roadless Rule is the opposite of community supported decision making and completely out of touch with how a majority of Alaskans envision the future. The nearly overwhelming opposition to weakening the roadless rule at community hearings is evidence of this. Please uphold the Rule's protections for important fish and wildlife areas, including the Tongass 77, by selecting the 'no action' alternative.

Sincerely,

Nelli Williams

Anchorage, AK 99515

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/10/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: nicholas
Last name: williams
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is nicholas williams and I live in Lancaster, 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, nicholas williams

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/7/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Nicholas
Last name: Williams
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): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Norman
Last name: Williams
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Norman Williams and I live in Austin, Texas.

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, Norman Williams

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Octavia
Last name: Williams
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Octavia Williams and I live in Charlottesville, Virginia.

I love my home in Hawaii, as everyone loves (hopefully) where they live. We all have the right to healthy water and food, so I ask that you please do your part to keep poisons out of our lives by restricting the use of these toxic chemicals. Remember, what you put out, comes back to you. What you do unto others, will be done unto you (in some way). Thank you

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, Octavia Williams

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Pamela
Last name: Williams
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Pamela Williams and I live in Plainfield, New Jersey.

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, Pamela Williams

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Pamela
Last name: Williams
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Pamela Williams and I live in Plainfield, New Jersey.

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, Pamela Williams

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Patricia
Last name: Williams
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Patricia Williams and I live in Jamestown, New York.

Save Tongras.

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, Patricia Williams

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Patty
Last name: Williams
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Patty Williams and I live in Mesa, Arizona.

Clearcutting old growth forests is unconscionable! Common sense would tell you this is a huge mistake! These trees are necessary to stabilize the ecosystems that depend on it. And that is important to the survival and health of our planet.

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, Patty Williams

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Paul
Last name: Williams
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Paul Williams and I live in Winston-salem, North Carolina.

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, Paul Williams

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Paul
Last name: Williams
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, Paul Williams

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Paul
Last name: Williams
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Paul Williams and I live in Toms River, New Jersey.

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, Paul Williams

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Peggy
Last name: Williams
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Peggy Williams and I live in Lima, Ohio.

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, Peggy Williams

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Phil
Last name: Williams
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Phil Williams and I live in Bozeman, Montana.

Tongass National Forest cannot be opened to clearcutting corporate interests to devastate hundred-year old trees

As a concerned US citizen and voter, 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, Phil Williams

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: R
Last name: Williams
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is R Williams and I live in Indianapolis, Indiana.

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, R Williams

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/26/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: R.
Last name: Williams
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC277

Nov. 13, 2019

Attn: USDA Forest Service,

I would like to specify that you make Alternative 1; *NO ACTION* [text underlined for emphasis] be taken to change the roadless rule, your policy in the Tongass National Forest.

Please preserve & protect these sacred + pristine places.

Thank you

[Signature]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/13/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: R.Terra
Last name: Williams
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Keep Alaska Roadless Rule making #54511

Roadless Rulemaking,

RE: Alaska Roadless DEIS Comment

Dear Secretary Perdue:

My family of six adults and three smart teens is counting on you to do the right thing and support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1.

Our family strongly urges you to keep the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. It is a proven fact that the Tongass is a carbon sink containing 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.

For all these reasons, our family joins millions of other Americans in calling on you to keep the federal Roadless Rule intact and current protections in place for national forests in Alaska.

In addition, our family strongly objects to your plans to reduce and remove protections from all of our national forest's roadless areas. Again, it is a well-known fact that 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.

Our family takes the strongest possible stand against changing the existing Roadless Rule, and we are counting on you to do the same!

Thank you for considering our comments.

R.Terra Williams

GRASS VALLEY, California 95945

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/11/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Rachel
Last name: Williams
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): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Reed
Last name: Williams
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Reed Williams and I live in Denver, Colorado.

Stop extinction!

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, Reed Williams

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/27/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Reid
Last name: Williams
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Please keep our wild natural areas wild for all of us Americans. We all value the outdoors and we should keep them in their natural states as close to possible.

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Rich
Last name: Williams
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Rich Williams and I live in Maryland Heights, Missouri.

Do What's Right

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, Rich Williams

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Richard
Last name: Williams
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, Richard Williams

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Robert
Last name: Williams
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Robert Williams and I live in Nederland, Colorado.

The USFS must uphold the will of the majority of Americans with respect to maintaining roadless areas and abstaining from clear-cutting old growth forests, like the Tongass. These forests are critical to combatting climate change. The only parties in favor of clear-cutting old growth forests are large corporations and those being hired to do the work. These stakeholders are the overwhelming minority and should not be allowed to dictate USFS policy. As the name implies, National Forests are for everyone -- and that includes the many species of plants and animals that call these forests home.

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, Robert Williams

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/5/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Ryan
Last name: Williams
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): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: S.
Last name: Williams
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is S. Williams and I live in Stafford, Texas.

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, S. Williams

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/11/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Sabine
Last name: Williams
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Sabine Williams and I live in Killeen, Texas.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Sabine Williams

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Sabine
Last name: Williams
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, Sabine Williams

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Sandi
Last name: Williams
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, Sandi Williams

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Sandy
Last name: Williams
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, Sandy Williams

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Sandy
Last name: Williams
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Sandy Williams and I live in Covina, 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, Sandy Williams

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Sandy
Last name: Williams
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, Sandy Williams

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Sarah
Last name: Williams
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, Sarah Williams

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Sarah
Last name: Williams
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC6448

Dear Alaska Roadless Rule Planning Committee,

I live and work on the lands and waters of the Tongass National Forest. From hunting and fishing, to hiking and camping, to our tourism and commercial fishing-based economies, Southeast Alaskans rely on the intact habitat that the roadless areas of the Tongass National Forest contain. *That is why I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule.* [text bolded for emphasis]

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 strongly oppose any efforts to weaken protections for Roadless areas in the Tongass National Forest and the Chugach National Forest.

The Forest Service needs to continue phasing out old-growth clearcutting. Please prioritize conservation of the T77 and TNC conservation priority areas in any new Alaska Roadless Rule. The Forest Service should focus on restoring degraded watershed and fish streams and carbon sequestration.

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Sarah
Last name: Williams
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Sarah Williams and I live in Englewood, Ohio.

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, Sarah Williams

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Sean
Last name: Williams
Organization: Hoonah Indian Association
Title:
Comments:
I do not support any of the proposed alternatives to the Roadless Area Conservation Rule applicable to National Forest system lands in Alaska, herein referred to as the Alaska roadless rule. The reasoning behind the 2001 Roadless Rule suggests that an expansion of the roadless areas and strengthening of the policy regarding environmental, ecological, and socio-cultural themes listed below would be more appropriate than a reduction in its scope. As such, The US Forest Service has not offered a fair spectrum of choices, as there is no option that reflects the popular reasoning that brought wide-ranging support that confirmed the rule in the 2001 (listed below). Rather we are offered only a choice between reduction in the scope of the roadless rule and or no action. I advocate for a new public comment period in which a full spectrum of alternatives to the roadless rule are explored, including policy options that reference the reasoning behind the 2001 Final Rule (listed below). These new alternatives would include policy changes to reflect the broad themes referenced in support of the 2001 roadless rule.

I wish to see alternative options that reflect the reasoning behind the broad themes listed in support of the 2001 roadless rule, such as: the existing rule does not inhibit community development and economic growth, the Tongass national forest is of greater benefit to Alaskans as an intact ecosystem, the Tongass national forest is important to climate stabilization, the Tongass national forest has cultural value to Alaska Native communities and should be respected as an anthropological world heritage site, road construction and resource extraction are destructive to habitat, and the 2001 roadless rule supports many industries such as tourism and fisheries. It is imperative the forest service offer options that will offer a fair public input process. The current alternatives for action are biased and unfair, and do not represent a full suite of options.

The no action alternative is preferable among the proposed Alaska roadless rule changes, however, even this option does not fit my desires. Please re-enter the public comment period with more inclusive options.

[Attachment is a PDF version of the same comment above.]

[Position]

[Attachment is a PDF version of the same comment above.]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Sean
Last name: Williams
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.

I do not support any of the proposed alternatives to the Roadless Area Conservation Rule applicable to National Forest system lands in Alaska, herein referred to as the Alaska roadless rule. The reasoning behind the 2001 Roadless Rule suggests that an expansion of the roadless areas and strengthening of the policy regarding environmental, ecological, and socio-cultural themes listed below would be more appropriate than a reduction in its scope. As such, The US Forest Service has not offered a fair spectrum of choices, as there is no option that reflects the popular reasoning that brought wide-ranging support that confirmed the rule in the 2001 (listed below). Rather we are offered only a choice between reduction in the scope of the roadless rule and or no action. I advocate for a new public comment period in which a full spectrum of alternatives to the roadless rule are explored, including policy options that reference the reasoning behind the 2001 Final Rule (listed below). These new alternatives would include policy changes to reflect the broad themes referenced in support of the 2001 roadless rule.

I wish to see alternative options that reflect the reasoning behind the broad themes listed in support of the 2001 roadless rule, such as: the existing rule does not inhibit community development and economic growth, the Tongass national forest is of greater benefit to Alaskans as an intact ecosystem, the Tongass national forest is important to climate stabilization, the Tongass national forest has cultural value to Alaska Native communities and should be respected as an anthropological world heritage site, road construction and resource extraction are destructive to habitat, and the 2001 roadless rule supports many industries such as tourism and fisheries. It is imperative the forest service offer options that will offer a fair public input process. The current alternatives for action are biased and unfair, and do not represent a full suite of options.

The no action alternative is preferable among the proposed Alaska roadless rule changes, however, even this option does not fit my desires. Please re-enter the public comment period with more inclusive options.

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Sharon
Last name: Williams
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, Sharon Williams

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Sheryl
Last name: Williams
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Sheryl Williams and I live in Louisville, Kentucky.

Once gone, it cannot be undone.

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, Sheryl Williams

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Stephania
Last name: Williams
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Stephania Williams and I live in Paradise Valley, Arizona.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Stephania Williams

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Steve
Last name: Williams
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Steve Williams and I live in Tacoma, Washington.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Steve Williams

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/13/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Steven
Last name: Williams
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Pls. keep Virginia wilderness truly wild and really roadless. There is so little left therefore protecting the affected parcel is critical!!

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Tamara
Last name: Williams
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, Tamara Williams

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Terrie
Last name: Williams
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Terrie Williams and I live in Vidor, Texas.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Terrie Williams

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Thomas
Last name: Williams
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.

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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, Thomas Williams

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: thomas
Last name: williams
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is thomas williams and I live in Ida, Michigan.

We cannot survive the future if these chemicals are allowed!

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, thomas williams

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Todd
Last name: Williams
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Todd Williams and I live in Elm Grove, Wisconsin.

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.

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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, Todd Williams

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Twayn
Last name: Williams
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, Twayn Williams

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/10/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Weldon
Last name: Williams
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Weldon Williams and I live in Owasso, Oklahoma.

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, Weldon Williams

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/7/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Zachary
Last name: Williams
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): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Zack
Last name: Williams
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC3412

U.S. Forest Service Alaska Roadless Rule

Comment Period

Comment Period Alaska Roadless Rule:

The Roadless Rule has been instrumental in conserving the Tongass National Forest and in supporting its 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. 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,

Zack Williams

Missoula, MT 59803

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 1/1/0001 12:00:00 AM
First name: Zack
Last name: Williams
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
3412

U.S. Forest Service Alaska Roadless Rule
Comment Period

Comment Period Alaska Roadless Rule:

The Roadless Rule has been instrumental in conserving the Tongass National Forest and in supporting its 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. 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,
Zack Williams
Missoula, MT 59803

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Linda
Last name: Williams Morris
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC5727

Dear U.S. Forest Service,

CC: Alaska Congressional Delegation and Federal Administration

I support the no-action alternative to leave the 2001 Roadless Rule in place on the Tongass National Forest. We must continue to phase out old-growth clear-cut logging and instead prioritize restoring degraded watersheds and fish streams that contribute to the growing fisheries and tourism-based economies of Southeast. To that end, please conserve the Tongass 77 and TNC priority areas in the final Roadless Rule.

Sincerely,

Comments: *(Eg: list locations you recreate, or why you value Tongass fish & wildlife)* [Text italicized for emphasis]

[Box unchecked] I would like to get more involved in the campaign!

*By taking this action, you are consenting to receive future communications via phone, text message, email, or mail from Sitka Conservation Society and its partners working to protect the Tongass. * [Text italicized for emphasis]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/21/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Scott
Last name: Williams-Riseng
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Tongass National Park

Dear Alaska Forest Service,

I am writing about the proposed law change to The Tongass National Park, to change to Roadless Rule to allow roads and logging development there. I oppose this change.

In the age of Climate change and a world population of over 7 billion humans, I am disgraced, disgusted and ashamed that any human living today would willingly cut down such beautiful, pristine and rare forests. But the Department of Agriculture "prefers" Alternative 6, which would open this pristine wilderness including 165,000 acres of old growth forest, to logging and road development, a nail in the coffin of the state of the nature there now.

In Brazil today, the new president wants to develop the Amazon for economic gain, and it's been on fire, and we're seen the horrific images of the Amazon forest, home to some of the greatest diverse ecology on the planet and literally the lungs of the planet. Just because someone is from Brazil, does that give them the right to destroy it for personal profit at the cost of the entire human population? I would say no. The same I feel is true of the Tongass National Forest, and Alaskans. It is your responsibility to protect this natural environment.

Right here in Ohio, over the last 20 years, I have witnessed the continued development and destruction of open areas, forests and open lands. What used to be farmland is now a residential development, or a big box store (with a larger parking lot). As an Ohioan, I have learned that less than 5% of the old growth forests in Ohio remain. Five percent. They destroyed almost all of it in the last few generations in the name of development and economy. It seemed impossible back then, when Ohio was almost all forested, that it could all be gone. But there it is. The same can, and will, happen to Alaska with reckless and selfish actions like logging it's national forests.

Please, think about your grandchildren, support Alternative One, no change to the Roadless Rule, for Tongass National Park. Don't give way to corporate greed and short-term profits. The world needs old growth forest to support the sensitive and important wildlife that needs this habitat. Like the panda that needs the eucalyptus. If we don't act now to save our planet, if we don't act with restraint and continue the same old way of economic growth at the behest of our environment, we are doomed to a future void of diversity, environment, hope or life.

Sincerely,

Scott Williams-Riseng, Lakewood, OH 44107

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/26/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Scott
Last name: Williams-Riseng
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC174

Dear USDA Forest Service,

I am writing about the proposed law change to The Tongass National Park, to change to Roadless Rule to allow roads and logging development there. I oppose this change.

In the age of Climate change and a world population of over 7 billion humans, I am disgraced, disgusted and ashamed that any human living today would willingly cut down such beautiful, pristine and rare forests. But the Department of Agriculture "prefers" Alternative 6, which would open this pristine wilderness including 165,00 acres of old growth forest, to logging and road development, a nail in the coffin of the state of the nature there now.

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Sincerely,

[Signature]

Scott Williams-Rinseng, Lakewood, OH 44107

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Barbara
Last name: Williamson
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, Barbara Williamson

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/23/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Beth
Last name: Williamson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Beth Williamson and I live in East Providence, Rhode Island.

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, Beth Williamson

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Bridget
Last name: Williamson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Bridget Williamson and I live in Aurora, Colorado.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Bridget Williamson

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Bruce
Last name: Williamson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Bruce Williamson and I live in Camp Hill, Pennsylvania.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Bruce Williamson

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Eric
Last name: Williamson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Tongass forest

Please choose Alternative One and protect our old growth forests.

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Gay
Last name: Williamson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Gay Williamson and I live in Cincinnati, Ohio.

My God, under Trump, everything is for sale. This is a very bad idea. We need to fight climate change, not abet it. Use your brains, if God gave you any, which I am beginning to doubt.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.

Regards, Gay Williamson

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Guy
Last name: Williamson
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, Guy Williamson

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/10/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Jesse
Last name: Williamson
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): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Larry
Last name: Williamson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Larry Williamson and I live in Taylors, South Carolina.

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.

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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, Larry Williamson

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/23/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Laura
Last name: Williamson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Laura Williamson and I live in Chattanooga, Tennessee.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Laura Williamson

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Lee
Last name: Williamson
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, Lee Williamson

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Linda
Last name: Williamson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Linda Williamson and I live in Hastings, New York.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Linda Williamson

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: lonnie
Last name: williamson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is lonnie williamson and I live in Medon, Tennessee.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, lonnie williamson

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Margaret
Last name: Williamson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Margaret Williamson and I live in Nashville, Tennessee.

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, Margaret Williamson

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Mark
Last name: WILLIAMSON
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC3434

U.S. Forest Service Alaska Roadless Rule Committee:

My wife and I travel to southeast Alaska every summer to fish for salmon. This trip is very important to us and our family and friends who have joined us over the past 15 years. Please do not risk the destruction of the habitat that is needed for quality salmon reproduction.

I am writing in support of the 'no action' alternative to leave the Roadless Rule unchanged in Alaska. I am concerned that changes to the rule would lead to greatly expand clear-cut logging of old growth timber and costly road building in undeveloped, wild areas of both the Tongass and Chugach Forests. These activities increase sedimentation, hurt water quality, often block salmon migration, and add to an already large backlog of needed road maintenance and restoration.

Our fisheries and wild forests are critical to the economy of Alaska. To grow these sectors of our economy, we need intact habitat. Please leave the Alaska Roadless Rule in place.

Sincerely,

Mark WILLIAMSON

Britton, SD 57430

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 1/1/0001 12:00:00 AM
First name: Mark
Last name: WILLIAMSON
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
3434

U.S. Forest Service Alaska Roadless Rule Committee:

My wife and I travel to southeast Alaska every summer to fish for salmon. This trip is very important to us and our family and friends who have joined us over the past 15 years. Please do not risk the destruction of the habitat that is needed for quality salmon reproduction.

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Our fisheries and wild forests are critical to the economy of Alaska. To grow these sectors of our economy, we need intact habitat. Please leave the Alaska Roadless Rule in place.

Sincerely,
Mark WILLIAMSON
Britton, SD 57430

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Mary
Last name: Williamson
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, Mary Williamson

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/2/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Megan
Last name: Williamson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Don't exempt the Tongass from the Roadless Rule

U.S. Forest Service

RE: Don't exempt the Tongass from the Roadless Rule

null

Docket Number: FS-2019-0023

Secretary Perdue

Keep the Tongass National Forest road free!

This is important and pristine land. Developing it shouldn't even be up for debate.

Sincerely,

Sincerely,

Megan Williamson

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Nancy
Last name: Williamson
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.

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Regards, Nancy Williamson

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/25/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Patricia
Last name: Williamson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Patricia Williamson and I live in Mount Arlington, New Jersey.

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, Patricia Williamson

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/25/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Patricia
Last name: Williamson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Patricia Williamson and I live in Mount Arlington, New Jersey.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Patricia Williamson

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/7/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Peter
Last name: Williamson
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): 11/8/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: REBEKAH
Last name: WILLIAMSON
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is REBEKAH WILLIAMSON and I live in Topeka, Kansas.

GROW HEMP AND USE IT FOR CONSUMER PRODUCTS AND QUIT LOGGING OUR FORESTS!! Hemp is regenerative, grows quicker and is so much more sustainable! Please stop destroying our Earth in the name of consumerism!!

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, REBEKAH WILLIAMSON

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Terrell
Last name: Williamson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to express my opinion about the proposed Alaska Roadless Rulemaking #54511. This express my opinion that the National Forestry Service should choose the no action alternative in this instance. Having read about this issue for what seems like over an entire year. I have not seen any legitimate public preference for revoking the Roadless Rule in Tongass National Forest. The economic benefit from tourism to Alaska far outweighs any economic benefit from the dying timber industry. The Native Peoples of Alaska and other Alaskans oppose this proposed rulemaking for good reason. It will undermine the environment further, detract from tourism by further destroying the temperate rain forest of the Tongass, all for the economic benefit a primarily one sawmill owner.

I would like the opportunity one day to visit this beautiful, special place. Please do not destroy it before I and multitudes of people like me have that opportunity.

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/10/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Tessa
Last name: Williamson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Tessa Williamson and I live in Arlington Heights, Illinois.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Tessa Williamson

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Michael
Last name: Williamsonn
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I'm simply asking the Forest Service to do the right thing in this situation. To think outside of politics and short-sighted feats and look at the long-term implications of opening this pristine land to development. Please consider the long-term viability of Alaskan tourism and industry and its dependence on wildland. Do what's best for the people of Alaska for their remaining lives, not just the next couple of decades for specific industries. Make a decision that you'll be proud to tell your grandchildren and their children. Do the right thing and protect this land before the Forest Service falls down the dangerous, slippery slope as so many others have in the past.

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Marissa
Last name: Williford
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, Marissa Williford

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: rick
Last name: willing
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is rick willing and I live in Terlingua, Texas.

The practice of clearcutting old growth forests for corporate profits must be stopped.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, rick willing

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Carol
Last name: Willinger
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.

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Regards, Carol Willinger

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Kyle
Last name: Willingham
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC6252

Dear U.S. Forest Service:

The Roadless Rule has been instrumental in conserving the Tongass National Forest and in supporting its fish and wildlife-based industries for more than 20 years. *Please uphold the Rule's protections for important fish and wildlife areas, including the Tongass 77.* [Text bolded for emphasis] 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 are protection for habitat that our irreplaceable fish and wildlife populations need to survive.* [Text bolded for emphasis]

Customize your comment by listing reasons the Tongass is important to you or why you value Alaska Roadless areas: (ex: specific locations you recreate, activities you do, or why you value fish & wildlife) [Text italicized]

Healthy forests equal healthy salmon habitat. Pretty simple. Please do the right thing. [smilely face drawing]

Sincerely,

Would you like to volunteer with TU Alaska to Help America's Salmon Forest?

Yes No

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Allan
Last name: Willis
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.

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Regards, Allan Willis

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Allan
Last name: Willis
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Allan Willis and I live in Haverhill, New Hampshire.

Clearcutting is just wanton destruction of the environment

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, Allan Willis

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Carolyn
Last name: Willis
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Carolyn Willis and I live in Bellevue, Washington.

Please stop destroying Americas national parks!

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Carolyn Willis

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Chris
Last name: Willis
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
You need to leave this alone. We sit and watch the global warming issues amd everyone wants to say how do we stop all this. We come up with more stringent climate policies thru the EPA and other agencies yet we still want to log.

Some will say this is just a small portion of logs but where does it stop? At what point do we say no..

In true American fashion if we allow this logging it will lead to much more logging up there and by the time we realize what we are doing it will be to late.

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Christy
Last name: Willis
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC1463

Dear Chief Christiansen,

I live and work on the lands and waters of the Tongass National Forest. The health of the Tongass National Forest is critical to sustaining my way of life in this rugged region. From hunting and fishing, to hiking and camping, to our tourism and commercial fishing-based economies, we rely on the intact habitat that the roadless areas of the Tongass contain. That is why it is important to me that the 2001 Roadless Rule remain in place on the Tongass National Forest. A no-action alternative is the best option for Southeast Alaska.

Prioritizing one antiquated industry over private sectors is bad business, and bad for Southeast Alaska. I support the Tongass Transition and I would like the Forest Service to continue phasing out old growth clearcutting. Please prioritize conservation of the T77 and TNC conservation priority areas in any new Alaska Roadless Rule. This forest is a salmon forest, and the Forest Service should focus on restoring degraded watersheds and fish streams.

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Dave
Last name: Willis
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.

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Regards, Dave Willis

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Dave
Last name: Willis
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
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Regards, Dave Willis

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Deborah
Last name: Willis
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am against loosening restrictions on logging in the Tongass National Forest. The Tongass stores more carbon removed from the atmosphere than any other national forest in the United States. Removing these logging protections will surely worsen the harmful effects of climate change. It will also cause longterm damage to Alaskan fishery and tourism industries, so the economic benefits are not clear. Tribal governments in Alaska also oppose lifting protections against logging. Once the restrictions are gone, there will be no going back. The science is clear: old growth forests need protection now more than ever.

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Elinor
Last name: Willis
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Elinor Willis and I live in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

We should protect America's wilderness areas! Especially when they are so important to counteract climate change.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.

Regards, Elinor Willis

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/21/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Elizabeth
Last name: Willis
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I have spent time in the Tongass National Forest. It is a national treasure, and a global treasure. It is an intact ecosystem that still functions because it is intact. I am writing to urge you to keep this area roadless, so that it will continue to exist into the future instead of being sacrificed to short term timber profits.

The salmon fisheries, recreational fishing, tourism and other important economic industries depend on this ecosystem functioning in a healthy way, which it will not do with roads and clearcutting.

Keep this area designated Roadless.

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Erin
Last name: Willis
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC5610

Dear U.S. Forest Service,

CC: Alaska Congressional Delegation and Federal Administration

I support the no-action alternative to leave the 2001 Roadless Rule in place on the Tongass National Forest. We must continue to phase out old-growth clear-cut logging and instead prioritize restoring degraded watersheds and fish streams that contribute to the growing fisheries and tourism-based economies of Southeast. To that end, please conserve the Tongass 77 and TNC priority areas in the final Roadless Rule.

Sincerely,

Comments: *(Eg: list locations you recreate, or why you value Tongass fish & wildlife)* [Text italicized for emphasis]

[Box unchecked] I would like to get more involved in the campaign!

*By taking this action, you are consenting to receive future communications via phone, text message, email, or mail from Sitka Conservation Society and its partners working to protect the Tongass. * [Text italicized for emphasis]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Feuben
Last name: Willis
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC5683

Dear U.S. Forest Service,

CC: Alaska Congressional Delegation and Federal Administration

I support the no-action alternative to leave the 2001 Roadless Rule in place on the Tongass National Forest. We must continue to phase out old-growth clear-cut logging and instead prioritize restoring degraded watersheds and fish streams that contribute to the growing fisheries and tourism-based economies of Southeast. To that end, please conserve the Tongass 77 and TNC priority areas in the final Roadless Rule.

Sincerely,

Comments: *(Eg: list locations you recreate, or why you value Tongass fish & wildlife)* [Text italicized for emphasis]

[Box checked] I would like to get more involved in the campaign!

*By taking this action, you are consenting to receive future communications via phone, text message, email, or mail from Sitka Conservation Society and its partners working to protect the Tongass. * [Text italicized for emphasis]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/21/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: g.
Last name: willis
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Pleaes do not carve up our national forests for the benefit and greed of the few. Our natural forests should and must remain free of roads and infrastructure that will destroy these national treasures.

thank you.

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Karen
Last name: Willis
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Karen Willis and I live in Durham, North Carolina.

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, Karen Willis

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/10/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Luke
Last name: Willis
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Luke Willis and I live in Denver, Colorado.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Luke Willis

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/28/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Michael
Last name: Willis
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Concerns

To whom it may concern,

I would like to express my displeasure with the proposed plans to construct roads in the Tongass National Forest. This forest is one of the few remaining forests in the world that has been left relatively unscathed by the hands of man. Changing this would be a a mistake for a few reasons. First and foremost, the flora and fauna that reside in this forest live a peaceful existence and should be allowed to continue doing so. Humans have destroyed habitats around the world on an increasing scale as our population increases and the continuation of this process would be a mistake on the behalf of the United States Federal Government. The United States is supposed to set an example for the rest of the world as it did when establishing the first National Parks under the leadership of Teddy Roosevelt. If the U.S. decides that the importance of untouched forests is no longer greater than the increased wealth of a few companies then we have failed to set the right example for other nations. Secondly, it is well known that medical and other technological advances have been drawn from the worlds forests. By destroying natural habitats, humans decrease the opportunity to discover valuable resources that remain undiscovered. Finally, the pristine nature of this forest is what draws so many tourists to the region. By changing this the Forest Service will damage the local economy by making the Tongass National Forest no different than any other forest in the world. I support Alternative 1.

Thank you,

Alaskan Resident Michael Willis

Sent from my iPhone

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/10/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Randy
Last name: Willis
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Randy Willis and I live in Durango, Colorado.

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, Randy Willis

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/12/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Steven
Last name: Willis
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): 12/2/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Susan
Last name: Willis
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
This issue is very important to me. We need to preserve large areas of wilderness for the sake of wilderness itself. Why is it we teach our children about the wonder of the natural world and the majesty of wildlife only to forsake this as adults? It's hypocritical. We must do better.

'Things' have value even if they aren't actively generating revenue. Wildlife and wild lands are a wealth that we must treasure and protect. That is the important role of government, because corporations don't work for the PUBLIC good.

Thank you for considering my heartfelt comments.

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Tania
Last name: Willis
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Tania Willis and I live in Portland, Oregon.

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, Tania Willis

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Tracy
Last name: Willis
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, Tracy Willis

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: William
Last name: Willis
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is William Willis and I live in Mercersburg, Pennsylvania.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, William Willis

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: William
Last name: Willis
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is William Willis and I live in Fallbrook, 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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, William Willis

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Dana
Last name: Willis-Jick
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Dana Willis-Jick and I live in Red Wing, Minnesota.

I can only hope things change in 2020!

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Dana Willis-Jick

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Terrence
Last name: Willitts
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Terrence Willitts and I live in Deltona, Florida.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Terrence Willitts

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Diana
Last name: Willliams
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Diana Willliams and I live in Lacey, Washington.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Diana Willliams

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Sally
Last name: Willliams
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, Sally Willliams

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Andrew
Last name: Willman
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Andrew Willman and I live in Maple Grove, Minnesota.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Andrew Willman

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Sandra
Last name: Willmon
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Sandra Willmon and I live in Grand Junction, Colorado.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Sandra Willmon

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Randolph
Last name: Willoby
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Randolph Willoby and I live in Webster, Texas.

We need these trees.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Randolph Willoby

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Randolph
Last name: Willoby
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, Randolph Willoby

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Gary
Last name: Willochell
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.

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Regards, Gary Willochell

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/21/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: alison
Last name: willocks
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Please protect the wonderous trees in Tongass National Forest

Dear U.S. Forest Service,

I worked in Alaska and know so many residents value its wild spaces, as I do. With so few left in the country, please do everything in your power to protect Tongass, and do not open the forest for logging and road building,

Sincerely,

alison willocks

Milford, DE 19963

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Caralea
Last name: Willoughby
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.

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Regards, Caralea Willoughby

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Judith
Last name: Willour
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
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Regards, Judith Willour

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: kurt
Last name: willow
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, kurt willow

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Deborah
Last name: Wills
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Deborah Wills and I live in Trenton, New Jersey.

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, Deborah Wills

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Emilie
Last name: Wills
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Emilie Wills and I live in Mount Sterling, Kentucky.

Please consider what is the best course of action for all of the world's inhabitants rather than the bank accounts of a few.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.

Regards, Emilie Wills

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Oceana
Last name: Wills
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
To the United States Forest Service,

I am a Bristol Bay fisherman deeply concerned with the rollback of protections for the Tongass National Forest as promoted by the Trump administration. Clearcutting would pose threat to salmon habitat and the health of the ecosystem that supports much wildlife and an important fishery. With so many Alaskan fisheries stressed by climate change, warming waters, and under threat from controversial mining projects like Pebble, protecting South East's salmon runs should be priority over short term logging gains.

My greatest concern with opening the Tongass to clearcutting is the loss of a critical carbon sink in a time where climate change is accelerating exponentially. Alaska has felt the effects of climate change faster than the rest of the country. Right now long-sequestered emmissions are being released through thawing permafrost in alarming amounts; the loss of old growth rainforest would be a huge mistake for the planet's future.

There are many other projects the USFS could undertake that would enhance this region's abundant resources: restoring salmon habitat, low impact recreational opportunities, even sustainable small scale logging, but to open the door to massive clearcutting is short sighted, harmful, and irreversible.

The USFS should not bend to an administration that unsustainably seeks short term financial gains at the expense of ecological health and diversity, taxpayers, fishermen, Alaskan residents, and all those who live on this warming planet.

Thank you for your time.

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/10/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Ty
Last name: Wills
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Ty Wills and I live in Castle Rock, Colorado.

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, Ty Wills

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Victoria
Last name: Wills
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, Victoria Wills

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: ian
Last name: willson
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, ian willson

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: loren
Last name: willson
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, loren willson

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Loren
Last name: Willson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Loren Willson and I live in Puyallup, Washington.

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, Loren Willson

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/22/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Mary
Last name: Willson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
comments

The Tongass should be kept 'roadless' and not exposed to roadbuilding through existing oldgrowth and mature forest. The wildlife of the forest is one of the big tourist attractions here and that should not be spoiled. Roads of course increase access by hunters, dogs, ATVs etc, creating ecological damage on top of the devastating logging activities that would use the roads to destroy much needed and very important habitat (namely oldgrowth and mature forest). The proposal to exploit second-growth timber had much to recommend it, and the FS has already invested a lot of time and effort in it. Keep the Tongass roadless! That is the ecologically sound way to go.

Mary F. Willson, Juneau

Ecologist

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/23/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Sara
Last name: Willson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
The Tongass National Forest is so important to many aspects of life in Southeast Alaska. From salmon, subsistence and tourism, the list could be continued.

I strongly recommend that the Roadless Rule be continued - Alternative 1.

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/14/2019 3:14:05 AM
First name: Brianna
Last name: Willyard
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Brianna Willyard and I live in Livonia, MI. I am writing a comment on the Alaska Roadless Rule DEIS because I am concerned with how the Rule and the proposed full exemption will affect the Tongass National Forest and the Chugach National Forest.

The trees have always been a big part of my recovery from depression and other mental illnesses. I have adopted a life of sustainability with goals of preserving this perfect planet. I am committed to protecting wildlife at any cost.

I urge the Forest Service to select Alternative 1, the no action alternative, for the final decision on the Alaska Roadless Rule. This alternative protects the inventoried roadless areas in Alaska that are full of pristine wilderness and provide important fish and wildlife habitat, and already allows for important community and economic development projects. As an American citizen, I value the Tongass National Forest and the Chugach National Forest for its status as America's best natural solution to climate change and its sequestering of millions of metric tons of carbon and mitigating climate change, its wild salmon populations and the world-class fishing opportunities, its huge swaths of intact ecosystems and all the biodiversity it contains, its status as the largest intact temperate rainforest in the world, the recreational opportunities it provides, the high density of incredible wildlife it contains, to keep public lands wild for future generations, its status as a national and global treasure, the lifestyles of the indigenous communities that the forest supports. A full exemption does not protect these priorities, nor does it effectively balance economic development with the countless other benefits provided by roadless areas. I would like the Forest Service to manage roadless areas for low-impact recreation (camping, hiking, hunting, foraging, etc). It is important to me that high-value intact habitat including the T77 watersheds and the TNC conservation priority areas retain their roadless protections in any alternative selected.

The Forest Service is wasting taxpayers' valuable time and money by trying to prop up a failing timber industry in Southeast Alaska. The nonpartisan, independent taxpayer watchdog Taxpayers for Common Sense reported that the Tongass timber program has losses of over $600 million of taxpayers money in the past 20 years. I would rather see my taxpayer dollars used to restore salmon habitat that was hurt by past logging practices, perform restorative actions that support wildlife populations on previously degraded landscapes that support wildlife populations, support small-scale, sustainable logging, establish the economic value of the carbon stored in the Tongass. We need to stop subsidizing the clearcutting of old growth on the Tongass through taxpayer funded roadbuilding. If a full exemption were chosen, it would not create opportunities and would instead prioritize the special interests of one industry over the interests of the entire American public.

The Tongass is Americas homegrown natural solution to climate change. The forest sequesters 8% of the carbon stored in forests throughout the contiguous US states, some 3 billion metric tons of it. We must take action to mitigate and adapt to climate change, and maintaining the Tongass in a roadless state is critical for a sustainable future.

I urge the Forest Service to listen to the voices of the American people and prioritize them over corporate interests. The Forest Service should strengthen public involvement in developing land management policy and focus on broadly supported work rather than allowing special corporate interests to guide policy changes. Attempting to exempt inventoried roadless areas on the Chugach National Forest from the Alaska Roadless Rule adds further insult to injury, and this proposal has not received any sufficient environmental impact analysis or public input. Choosing a full exemption will not create a long lasting, durable solution for roadless areas in Alaska it will only increase the legal challenges, uncertainty for businesses, and conflict over these forests going forward.

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: ML
Last name: Wilm
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is ML Wilm and I live in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

I've been sending these messages for years because trees are oxygen!!! I recently heard from Ralph Froelich, Director of UMN Forestry that we need to plant 134 trees per person to have a chance to slow global warming. So let's not cut down the trees we have.

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, ML Wilm

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Peter
Last name: Wilmerding
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, Peter Wilmerding

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Cheyenne
Last name: Wilmers
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Cheyenne Wilmers and I live in Marcellus, Michigan.

Please don't sacrifice our beautiful lands!

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Cheyenne Wilmers

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Norm
Last name: Wilmes
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Norm Wilmes and I live in Yuba City, 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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Norm Wilmes

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/27/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Ben
Last name: Wilmot
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
These national forests and resources we hold as a collective public should not be given away to private corporations to reap the benefits and profits from.

Ideally I'd like to see national forests stay completely removed from use by private companies, if roads are to be built for access by the public such as hunters or hikers or scientists studying these environments then so be it. I could even see it acceptable that the government do some controlled logging of these forests to supplement wood supply in the country as long as it is the government who profits from the sales and not private companies because at least in that case the profits can be used for the public instead of lining the coffers of some single CEO or business man.

All in all though these forests should be left as they are and not disturbed.

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Elliot
Last name: Wilmot
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Elliot Wilmot and I live in Encinitas, 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, Elliot Wilmot

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Charles
Last name: Wilmoth
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, Charles Wilmoth

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Cara
Last name: Wilsey
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, Cara Wilsey

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/10/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Dale
Last name: Wilsey
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): 10/18/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: PETER
Last name: WILSNACK
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Alaska Roadless DEIS Comments

Dear Secretary Perdue,

I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule. I strongly object to your plans to reduce and remove protections from roadless areas on the Tongass National Forest. The Tongass contains some of the last remaining old-growth temperate rainforest in the world, and its value in providing clean water and fish and wildlife habitat 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.

Adopted in 2001, the National Forest Roadless Area Conservation Rule is one of our nation's bedrock conservation protections intended to safeguard more than 58 million acres of national forests. From 1999 to 2001, the Forest Service held over 600 public meetings nationwide, including 28 throughout Washington State. In what was one of the most extensive public participation efforts in the history of federal rulemaking, more than 1.6 million people commented during the rulemaking process, with 95% supporting strong roadless area protection.

The Roadless Rule is one of the most balanced and most popular land management policies the Federal Government has ever adopted. It protects our remaining ancient forests, pristine and unroaded watershed, core wildlife habitat and world class recreational opportunities, while leaving more than half of the national forest system available for sustainable logging and other development.

Sincerely,

Sincerely,

PETER WILSNACK

SEATTLE, WA 98102

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: agnew
Last name: wilson
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, agnew wilson

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/21/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Allan
Last name: Wilson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
The Trump administration Tuesday proposed allowing logging on more than half of Alaska's 16.7 million-acre Tongass National Forest, the largest intact temperate rainforest in North America.

The President instructed federal officials to reverse long-standing limits on tree cutting at the request of Alaska's top elected officials, on the grounds that it will boost the local economy. However, protections under the "roadless rule" are critical to protecting the region's lucrative salmon fishery and tourism operations.

While the Forest Service had initially planned to make more-modest changes to nearly 9.5 million acres where roads are prohibited, the administration's "preferred alternative" is that the entire area would be open for development.

Reversing the limits on tree-cutting would constitute a grave misuse of these virgin public lands. I categorically oppose this plan to expand logging.

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Allen
Last name: Wilson
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, Allen Wilson

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Amy
Last name: Wilson
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, Amy Wilson

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Amy
Last name: Wilson
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, Amy Wilson

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Amy
Last name: Wilson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Amy Wilson and I live in San Mateo, 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, Amy Wilson

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/12/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Andrew
Last name: Wilson
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): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Andrew
Last name: Wilson
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, Andrew Wilson

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Angela
Last name: wilson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Angela wilson and I live in Troutville, Virginia.

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, Angela wilson

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Ann
Last name: Wilson
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, Ann Wilson

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Annette
Last name: Wilson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Annette Wilson and I live in Healdsburg, California.

Forests with old growth trees are vital to our planet. If we cut them, we won't see forests like this for another 800 years. Like Yosemite or the Grand Canyon, these are natural wonders which should be preserved for future generations, and with climate change, we might not even ever see them again. Please retain the protections for these magnificent places.

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, Annette Wilson

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Aubrey
Last name: Wilson
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.

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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, Aubrey Wilson

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/10/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Aubrey
Last name: Wilson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Aubrey Wilson and I live in Greenwood Village, Colorado.

Please save this wild area for future generations.

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, Aubrey Wilson

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Barbara
Last name: Wilson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Alaska Roadless Rule changes

You can't be serious. The proposed Alaska Roadless Rule and Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) is terrible for our environment and I oppose it.

Barbara J Wilson

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Barbara
Last name: Wilson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Barbara Wilson and I live in Port Angeles, Washington.

Do not support loopholes for air polluters!

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Barbara Wilson

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Barbara
Last name: Wilson
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.

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Regards, Barbara Wilson

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Bob
Last name: Wilson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Bob Wilson and I live in Julian, 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, Bob Wilson

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/23/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Brian
Last name: Wilson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Brian Wilson and I live in San Jose, 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, Brian Wilson

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Bridget
Last name: Wilson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Bridget Wilson and I live in Cortland, New York.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Bridget Wilson

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Carla
Last name: Wilson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Carla Wilson and I live in Mitchellville, Iowa.

The Tongass forest is important to our climate. It should not be given over for large corporations to make even more profits!!

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.

Regards, Carla Wilson

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Cecilia
Last name: Wilson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Cecilia Wilson and I live in Las Vegas, Nevada.

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, Cecilia Wilson

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/5/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Cody
Last name: Wilson
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): 11/23/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: colette
Last name: wilson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is colette wilson and I live in Herndon, Virginia.

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, colette wilson

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Colette
Last name: Wilson
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, Colette Wilson

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: colette
Last name: wilson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is colette wilson and I live in Herndon, Virginia.

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, colette wilson

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Crystal
Last name: Wilson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Crystal Wilson and I live in Riverside, Ohio.

Protecting our forests is one of the most important things we can do to combat climate change!

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, Crystal Wilson

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/10/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Curtis
Last name: Wilson
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): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Daniel
Last name: Wilson
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.
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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): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Darla
Last name: Wilson
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, Darla Wilson

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/22/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: David
Last name: Wilson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
In a world where deforestation, fires in South America, and other environmental catastrophes abounds - and in a country where places that maintain the natural beauty that we teach our children our country is built on... opening such an area up to logging would be a travesty. Being the Forest "Service" - don't go forward with this "disservice"

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: David
Last name: Wilson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC5358

U.S. Forest Service Alaska Roadless Rule Committee:

I live on the Siletz River in Oregon. This area is extensively clearcut. The fishery in the Siletz is rapidly declining and the clearcutting is believed to be a major contributor to this decline. Don't let this happen on the Chugach and Tongass.

I am writing in support of the 'no action' alternative to leave the Roadless Rule unchanged in Alaska. I am concerned that changes to the rule would lead to greatly expand clear-cut logging of old growth timber and costly road building in undeveloped, wild areas of both the Tongass and Chugach Forests. These activities increase sedimentation, hurt water quality, often block salmon migration, and add to an already large backlog of needed road maintenance and restoration.

Our fisheries and wild forests are critical to the economy of Alaska. To grow these sectors of our economy, we need intact habitat. Please leave the Alaska Roadless Rule in place.

Sincerely,

David Wilson

Logsden, OR 97357

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Dean
Last name: Wilson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Dean Wilson and I live in Plaquemine, Louisiana.

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, Dean Wilson

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Debra
Last name: Wilson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Debra Wilson and I live in Ashland, Oregon.

Climate change - we need trees to fight climate change.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Debra Wilson

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Denise
Last name: Wilson
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, Denise Wilson

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Don
Last name: Wilson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Don Wilson and I live in Lindenhurst, Illinois.

Life is not about money.

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.

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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, Don Wilson

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Dorothy
Last name: Wilson
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, Dorothy Wilson

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Doug
Last name: Wilson
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, Doug Wilson

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Douglas
Last name: Wilson
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, Douglas Wilson

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Ellen
Last name: Wilson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
GET ON THE RIGHT SIDE OF HISTORY!I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. Keep the current Roadless Rule protections intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps lunatic plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights, not to mention life on earth itself. 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 demand that you keep the federal Roadless Rule intact and current protections in place for national forests in Alaska.
In addition, you are WRONG, WRONG, WRONG in your actions to reduce and remove protections from our national forests roadless areas. The Roadless Rule is one of the most effective 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.GET ON THE RIGHT SIDE OF HISTORY!
Regards, Ellen Wilson

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Eric
Last name: Wilson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
These lands are protected for a reason, and to open protected lands for commerce is disgusting. The trump EPA has already done enough damage to our environment that may be irreversible, no more and no more selling out the American People for profits for the 1%!

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/4/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Eric
Last name: Wilson
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): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Gayle
Last name: Wilson
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.

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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, Gayle Wilson

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Gloria
Last name: Wilson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Gloria Wilson and I live in Auburn, Massachusetts.

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, Gloria Wilson

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Grant
Last name: Wilson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Grant Wilson and I live in Salt Lake City, Utah.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Grant Wilson

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/14/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Grant
Last name: Wilson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Grant Wilson and I live in Louisville, Colorado.

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, Grant Wilson

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/13/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Hannah
Last name: Wilson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Please support the No Action alternative

To the Secretary of Agriculture:

I'm writing to strongly urge you to support the "no action" alternative for the proposed rule exempting the Tongass National Forest from the National Roadless Rule. Both the environmental evidence and the vast majority of Alaskans (and all Americans) advocate the "no action" alternative as the best way to move forward on the Tongass.

As a life-long Alaskan and a Tongass scholar, I am well aware of the conflict that has defined National Forest management in Southeast Alaska since statehood. The animosity raised over forest management practices has been a source of division in communities around the region, and has negatively impacted sustainable community development and empowerment. Since the Roadless Rule was put in place-although controversial at the time--conflict in the Tongass has greatly decreased and industries that provide most of the jobs in the region-namely tourism and fishing-have flourished. This attempt to remove the Roadless Rule has only plunged our communities back in to conflict without benefit. Whether Alaskan political leaders like it or not, Southeast Alaska has moved far beyond timber harvest as a regional economic driver. Exempting the Tongass from the Roadless Rule will not return us to the glory days of the timber industry, but will only squander the diminished forest we have left, without actually creating a significant number of jobs or any real benefit for Southeast Alaskan communities.

It's further important to note that this conflict is deeply unbalanced. As the Forest Service has shared publicly, nearly ALL of the comments on this rule-making have been in support of the no action alternative. Those in favor of exempting the Tongass are a small, if powerful minority. This rule making is NOT an exercise in democratic decision-making, but instead a shameless political power-grab that completely disregards how the American people would like their land to be managed.

Finally, the draft EIS put out by the Forest Service, along with extensive and rigorous scientific research show that opening up the Tongass to more road development will be extremely harmful to the forest ecosystem itself. By allowing more old-growth logging to take place, removal of some of the most effective carbon sequestration tools in North America will only speed us more quickly towards climate disaster. The road buffers required along stream banks have been shown to be insufficient to buffer animals such as brown bears and Sitka black-tailed deer from the negative effects of logging and road building in the forest. And opening the Tongass to development will decrease brown bear numbers and likely deer numbers, negatively affecting tourism as well as the substance and sport hunting lifestyle that is so vital to many Alaskans.

For myriad reasons, every Southeast Alaskan depends on the Tongass as it is: vast, wild, and largely unroaded. This is where we play, we harvest, we make our livelihoods. It is the sacred homeland of the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsmisian people-whose sovereign tribal governments also DO NOT support exemption. An ever-growing cascade of American and international visitors come every year to see the largest temperate rainforest in the world, to see wild brown bears and streams full of salmon, to have a once-in-a-lifetime experience. In turn, the billions of dollars in revenue from those visitors help us keep our communities alive and flourishing. America needs to keep the Tongass protected by the Roadless Rule.

Please do your job and listen to the American people. Please support the no action alternative for the proposed Roadless Rule exemption.

Sincerely,

Hannah Wilson

Juneau, Alaska

99801

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Hannah
Last name: Wilson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC5520

Dear U.S. Forest Service,

CC: Alaska Congressional Delegation and Federal Administration

I support the no-action alternative to leave the 2001 Roadless Rule in place on the Tongass National Forest. We must continue to phase out old-growth clear-cut logging and instead prioritize restoring degraded watersheds and fish streams that contribute to the growing fisheries and tourism-based economies of Southeast. To that end, please conserve the Tongass 77 and TNC priority areas in the final Roadless Rule.

Sincerely,

Hannah Wilson

Juneau, AK 99801

Comments: *(Eg: list locations you recreate, or why you value Tongass fish & wildlife)* [Text italicized for emphasis]

[Box unchecked] I would like to get more involved in the campaign!

*By taking this action, you are consenting to receive future communications via phone, text message, email, or mail from Sitka Conservation Society and its partners working to protect the Tongass. * [Text italicized for emphasis]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Heather
Last name: Wilson
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, Heather Wilson

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 7:40:42 PM
First name: Heidi
Last name: Wilson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Heidi Wilson and I live in Tucson, AZ. I am writing a comment on the Alaska Roadless Rule DEIS because I am concerned with how the Rule and the proposed full exemption will affect the Tongass National Forest and the Chugach National Forest.

I am a human being who breathes air and drinks water. I want to see this earth protected and respected.

I urge the Forest Service to select Alternative 1, the no action alternative, for the final decision on the Alaska Roadless Rule. This alternative protects the inventoried roadless areas in Alaska that are full of pristine wilderness and provide important fish and wildlife habitat, and already allows for important community and economic development projects. As an American citizen, I value the Tongass National Forest and the Chugach National Forest for its status as America's best natural solution to climate change and its sequestering of millions of metric tons of carbon and mitigating climate change, its wild salmon populations and the world-class fishing opportunities, its huge swaths of intact ecosystems and all the biodiversity it contains, its status as the largest intact temperate rainforest in the world, the recreational opportunities it provides, the high density of incredible wildlife it contains, to keep public lands wild for future generations, its status as a national and global treasure, the lifestyles of the indigenous communities that the forest supports. A full exemption does not protect these priorities, nor does it effectively balance economic development with the countless other benefits provided by roadless areas. I would like the Forest Service to manage roadless areas for low-impact recreation (camping, hiking, hunting, foraging, etc), passive/active watershed restoration (stream and habitat) to improve/maintain roadless characteristics (culvert removal/replacement, improve fish passage, wildlife thinning, etc). It is important to me that high-value intact habitat including the T77 watersheds and the TNC conservation priority areas retain their roadless protections in any alternative selected.

The Forest Service is wasting taxpayers' valuable time and money by trying to prop up a failing timber industry in Southeast Alaska. The nonpartisan, independent taxpayer watchdog Taxpayers for Common Sense reported that the Tongass timber program has losses of over $600 million of taxpayers money in the past 20 years. I would rather see my taxpayer dollars used to restore salmon habitat that was hurt by past logging practices, perform restorative actions that support wildlife populations on previously degraded landscapes that support wildlife populations, establish the economic value of the carbon stored in the Tongass. We need to stop subsidizing the clearcutting of old growth on the Tongass through taxpayer funded roadbuilding. If a full exemption were chosen, it would not create opportunities and would instead prioritize the special interests of one industry over the interests of the entire American public.

The Tongass is Americas homegrown natural solution to climate change. The forest sequesters 8% of the carbon stored in forests throughout the contiguous US states, some 3 billion metric tons of it. We must take action to mitigate and adapt to climate change, and maintaining the Tongass in a roadless state is critical for a sustainable future.

I urge the Forest Service to listen to the voices of the American people and prioritize them over corporate interests. The Forest Service should strengthen public involvement in developing land management policy and focus on broadly supported work rather than allowing special corporate interests to guide policy changes. Attempting to exempt inventoried roadless areas on the Chugach National Forest from the Alaska Roadless Rule adds further insult to injury, and this proposal has not received any sufficient environmental impact analysis or public input. Choosing a full exemption will not create a long lasting, durable solution for roadless areas in Alaska it will only increase the legal challenges, uncertainty for businesses, and conflict over these forests going forward.

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Helengene
Last name: Wilson
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, Helengene Wilson

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Holly
Last name: Wilson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Holly Wilson and I live in Lake Worth, Florida.

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, Holly Wilson

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: [illegible]
Last name: Wilson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC5603

Dear U.S. Forest Service,

CC: Alaska Congressional Delegation and Federal Administration

I support the no-action alternative to leave the 2001 Roadless Rule in place on the Tongass National Forest. We must continue to phase out old-growth clear-cut logging and instead prioritize restoring degraded watersheds and fish streams that contribute to the growing fisheries and tourism-based economies of Southeast. To that end, please conserve the Tongass 77 and TNC priority areas in the final Roadless Rule.

Sincerely, [Signature]

Comments: *(Eg: list locations you recreate, or why you value Tongass fish & wildlife)* [Text italicized for emphasis]

[Box unchecked] I would like to get more involved in the campaign!

*By taking this action, you are consenting to receive future communications via phone, text message, email, or mail from Sitka Conservation Society and its partners working to protect the Tongass. * [Text italicized for emphasis]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/10/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: JAB
Last name: Wilson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is JAB Wilson and I live in Destin, Florida.

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, JAB Wilson

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Jackie
Last name: Wilson
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, Jackie Wilson

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/5/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: JAMES
Last name: WILSON
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): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: James
Last name: Wilson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
3334

U.S. Forest Service Alaska Roadless Rule

Comment Period

Comment Period Alaska Roadless Rule:

The Roadless Rule has been instrumental in conserving the Tongass National Forest and in supporting its 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. 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,

James Wilson

Burke, VA 22015

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Jan
Last name: Wilson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Jan Wilson and I live in Asheville, North Carolina.

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, Jan Wilson

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/7/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Jason
Last name: Wilson
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): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Jason
Last name: Wilson
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, Jason Wilson

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Jean
Last name: wilson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Jean wilson and I live in Hendersonville, Tennessee.

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, Jean wilson

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/26/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Jeff
Last name: Wilson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC8

June/July 2019

Dear Forest Service

Please keep the tongass Roadless Rules- UNCHANGED- Let it be! We all worked hard to bring it into existence let it [illegible]! We want the Tongas protected from mass logging!

Jeff Wilson- Juneau, AK

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/21/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Jeffrey
Last name: Wilson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Dear Forest Service, Thank you for the chance to comment on the future of the Alaska Roadless Rule. I understand that the removal of the Roadless Rule you are championing is not only for timber harvest, but it is your management of timber harvesting that is my main concern. I have lived in SE Alaska for over 40 years, worked as a Engineer, raised a family. The Tongass National Forest has and continues to be a very important part of our life. WE watched the destruction of the forest brought my your timber management through the two pulp mills and the vast areas of clear cutting done with little regard to the communities impacted. Very little work was brought to Juneau or the SE Alaska by the contractors. When the timber was cut, the workers left everyone a mess to deal with. Hunting, fishing, recreation, and tourism was all negatively impacted. I really did not see any positive impacts to our communities. The fact that the US Tax payers also heavily subsidized the timber harvest over other viable businesses is also wrong in my mind. Timber should be a free market enterprise and stand on it's two feet like all the rest.

Because of all of this, I am against any changes to the current Roadless Rule and opening the forest up to industrial resource extraction without regard to the impacted communities, wildlife, fishing, recreation, and tourism. I support the "no-action" alternative on the Alaska-specific Roadless Rule and keeping the 2001 National Roadless Rule on the Tongass intact.

Sincerely, Jeffrey Wilson

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Jennifer
Last name: Wilson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Jennifer Wilson and I live in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

We are hoping to show this monument to our kids. Please dont degrade this area before we get the chance.

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, Jennifer Wilson

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Jerry
Last name: Wilson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Jerry Wilson and I live in Vermillion, South Dakota.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Jerry Wilson

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: joan
Last name: wilson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is joan wilson and I live in Ste. Genevieve, Missouri.

Do your job and protect our children from toxic chemicals.

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, joan wilson

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/7/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: John
Last name: Wilson
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): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: John
Last name: Wilson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC5203

U.S. Forest Service Alaska Roadless Rule Committee:

I am a frequent visitor to Alaska for fishing and other outdoor recreation opportunities.

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 more than 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,

John Wilson

Helena, MT 59601

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Joni
Last name: Wilson
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, Joni Wilson

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Joseph
Last name: Wilson
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.

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Regards, Joseph Wilson

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Josh
Last name: Wilson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC4931

Dear U.S. Forest Service,

CC: Alaska Congressional Delegation and Federal Administration

I support the no-action alternative to leave the 2001 Roadless Rule in place on the Tongass National Forest. We must continue to phase out old-growth clear-cut logging and instead prioritize restoring degraded watersheds and fish streams that contribute to the growing fisheries and tourism-based economies of Southeast. To that end, please conserve the Tongass 77 and TNC priority areas in the final Roadless Rule.

Sincerely,

Comments: *(Eg: list locations you recreate, or why you value Tongass fish & wildlife)* [Text italicized for emphasis]

[Box unchecked] I would like to get more involved in the campaign!

*By taking this action, you are consenting to receive future communications via phone, text message, email, or mail from Sitka Conservation Society and its partners working to protect the Tongass. * [Text italicized for emphasis]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Judith
Last name: Wilson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Judith Wilson and I live in Wheatland, Wyoming.

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, Judith Wilson

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Judith
Last name: Wilson
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, Judith Wilson

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Karen
Last name: Wilson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Karen Wilson and I live in Chicago, Illinois.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Karen Wilson

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Karen
Last name: Wilson
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, Karen Wilson

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/26/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Karen
Last name: Wilson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC26

The Tongass is my home and the existing Roadless Rule works to protect it and also allow second growth logging. The current Roadless Rule must stand!

Karen Wilson,

Juneau

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/11/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Karen
Last name: wilson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Karen wilson and I live in Vallejo, California.

Keep Roadless Rule in effect! Chose the no action alternative

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, Karen wilson

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Karen
Last name: Wilson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
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Regards, Karen Wilson

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Karen
Last name: Wilson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
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Regards, Karen Wilson

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/10/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Kasey
Last name: Wilson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Kasey Wilson and I live in Las Vegas, Nevada.

For the sake of our children, we have to start caring for our Earth. My son deserves a future.

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, Kasey Wilson

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Kathleen
Last name: Wilson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Kathleen Wilson and I live in Los Angeles, 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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Kathleen Wilson

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Kathy
Last name: Wilson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Kathy Wilson and I live in Iron Mountain, Michigan.

We can't look at this look strictly for what we can take from it. We have to consider proper stewardship of the earth for plants, animals and future generations.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.

Regards, Kathy Wilson

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/24/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Kelley
Last name: wilson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I say NO to opening tongas wilderness for logging

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Kenneth
Last name: Wilson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Kenneth Wilson and I live in Sun City, Arizona.

We have to save some wilderness for future generations!

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Kenneth Wilson

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Kent
Last name: Wilson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Kent Wilson and I live in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

We do not need to sacrifice the climate any further to the profit of the few.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Kent Wilson

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 1/1/0001 12:00:00 AM
First name: Kim
Last name: Wilson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:

Dear Secretary Perdue,

I live and work on the lands and waters of the Tongass National Forest. The health of the Tongass National Forest is critical to sustaining my way of life in this rugged region. From hunting and fishing, to hiking and camping, to our tourism and commercial fishing-based economies, we rely on the intact habitat that the roadless areas of the Tongass contain. That is why it is important to me that the 2001 Roadless Rule remain in place on the Tongass National Forest. A no-action alternative is the best option for Southeast Alaska.

Prioritizing one antiquated industry over private sectors is bad business, and bad for Southeast Alaska. I support the Tongass Transition and I would like the Forest Service to continue phasing out old growth clearcutting. Please prioritize conservation of the T77 and TNC conservation priority areas in any new Alaska Roadless Rule. This forest is a salmon forest, and the Forest Service should focus on restoring degraded watersheds and fish streams.

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 1/1/0001 12:00:00 AM
First name: Kim
Last name: Wilson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:

Dear Secretary Perdue,

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First name: Kim
Last name: Wilson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:

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Last name: Wilson
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Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Kim
Last name: Wilson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
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Regards, Kim Wilson

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Kim
Last name: Wilson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC1195

Dear Secretary Perdue,

I live and work on the lands and waters of the Tongass National Forest. The health of the Tongass National Forest is critical to sustaining my way of life in this rugged region. From hunting and fishing, to hiking and camping, to our tourism and commercial fishing-based economies, we rely on the intact habitat that the roadless areas of the Tongass contain. That is why it is important to me that the 2001 Roadless Rule remain in place on the Tongass National Forest. A no-action alternative is the best option for Southeast Alaska.

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Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Kjo
Last name: Wilson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Please do not allow this!

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Laurel
Last name: Wilson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Laurel Wilson and I live in Bainbridge Island, Washington.

I write 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, Laurel Wilson

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Leah
Last name: Wilson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Leah Wilson and I live in Saint Charles, Missouri.

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, Leah Wilson

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/26/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Lee
Last name: Wilson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to express strong opposition to efforts to roll back the Roadless Area Conservation Rule (Roadless Rule) in Alaska. The Roadless Rule was implemented with unprecedented public support to protect some of our nation's 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.

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Leland
Last name: Wilson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Leland Wilson and I live in La Verne, 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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Leland Wilson

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/14/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Linda
Last name: Wilson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Linda Wilson and I live in Murdock, Illinois.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Linda Wilson

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Lynn
Last name: Wilson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Lynn Wilson and I live in Hilo, Hawaii.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Lynn Wilson

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: M.
Last name: Wilson
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, M. Wilson

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Margaret
Last name: Wilson
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.

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Regards, Margaret Wilson

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/17/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Margo
Last name: wilson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Margo wilson and I live in Phoenix, Arizona.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Margo wilson

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Marianna
Last name: Wilson
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.

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Regards, Marianna Wilson

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Marissa
Last name: Wilson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Roadless Rule Comment

To Whom It May Concern (Which Should Be All Of Us);

It is a challenge to submit a comment that condenses the complexity of an ecosystem and its philosophy into something succinct and coherent.

I imagine it is also hard to witness, in earnest, the soul of the non-human when the senses are conditioned to register pixels until the mind begs for escape.

Do you ever feel frightfully lost? Trapped and claustrophobic in the boundary of skin that feels like a lie? Like a fly heaving itself against a pane of glass?

Have you ever indulged in empathy for that fly?

Have you mourned your humanity?

Have you immersed yourself into places so wild, so absent modern comfort, that you rediscovered what it means to belong to a body?

Have you ever felt more alive?

There has been a call for comment on a portion of the Earth which is, as we call it, undeveloped. As if it is missing something, incomplete in some kind of inevitable growth.

We discuss, in our English, the experiences of our Senses; the notion of Value; the concept of Culture. Can you feel how insignificant this is? Like that proud berry which glows in the sunshine, alluring in the ripeness of its potential, but dwarfed by the mountainside upon which it grows? Can that berry recognize its irrelevance had not the pollinators come before it? Does it believe that the rain arrives because it is destined to grow? Or is it vulnerable, honored by the nature of its ultimate demise?

The People who speak for this land recognize the limitations of language, and yet transcend its confines through collaborative advocacy and song. The People speak for Our Mother with fragments of her language. The People call for acknowledgment of her sovereignty. The People say no.

I, too, join the chorus and urge you to take no action.

Sincerely,

Marissa Wilson

Interim Executive Director

Alaska Marine Conservation Council

Anchorage, AK 99510

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Mark
Last name: Wilson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Mark Wilson and I live in, San Luis Obispo Ca

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.
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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Mark Wilson

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/14/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Marla
Last name: Wilson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
We have an opportunity to protect over 9.2 million acres of old growth forest, an essential ecosystem for managing climate change, from extraction and development. I support the Roadless Rule.

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Marsha
Last name: Wilson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Marsha Wilson and I live in Halfway, Oregon.

As someone who has both lived and worked in Alaska, I ask that you not approve any further logging in areas previously protected. Alaska and its wild areas are legend. Once destroyed, they will not easily recover - if at all.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.

Regards, Marsha Wilson

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: martha
Last name: Wilson
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, martha Wilson

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Martha
Last name: Wilson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Martha Wilson and I live in Davis, California.

Please continue the protection of the "Roadless Rule" for our limited pristine areas such as Tongass National Forest. Doing so will provide present and future generations of people and wildlife with vital habitat and help the fight against climate change. No paltry profits are worth the irreversible damage that abandonment of the "Roadless Rule" would inflict on Alaskans, their economy and their wildlife.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.

Regards, Martha Wilson

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Marty
Last name: Wilson
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.

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Regards, Marty Wilson

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Mary
Last name: Wilson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Mary Wilson and I live in Naples, Florida.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Mary Wilson

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Merlin
Last name: Wilson
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.

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Regards, Merlin Wilson

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Merlin
Last name: Wilson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Merlin Wilson and I live in Salinas, 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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Merlin Wilson

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Michael
Last name: Wilson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Michael Wilson and I live in Portland, Oregon.

The days of free lumber are over. We have realized the importance of intact, old-growth forests to our survival, and we have sustainable alternatives to wood. It is time to put the giant timber industry out of business.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.

Regards, Michael Wilson

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Mike
Last name: Wilson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC5544

Dear U.S. Forest Service,

CC: Alaska Congressional Delegation and Federal Administration

I support the no-action alternative to leave the 2001 Roadless Rule in place on the Tongass National Forest. We must continue to phase out old-growth clear-cut logging and instead prioritize restoring degraded watersheds and fish streams that contribute to the growing fisheries and tourism-based economies of Southeast. To that end, please conserve the Tongass 77 and TNC priority areas in the final Roadless Rule.

Sincerely,

Comments: *(Eg: list locations you recreate, or why you value Tongass fish & wildlife)* [Text italicized for emphasis]

Fall value salmon

[Box unchecked] I would like to get more involved in the campaign!

*By taking this action, you are consenting to receive future communications via phone, text message, email, or mail from Sitka Conservation Society and its partners working to protect the Tongass. * [Text italicized for emphasis]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/13/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Mike
Last name: Wilson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I have lived and recreated in the Tongass since 1968

I support the Preferred Alternative (Alternative 6) in the DEIS which is a full exemption from the National Roadless Rule.

Despite the numerous concerns heard from various commenters I understand that a vast majority of the Tongass is permanently set aside from timber harvesting.

The main issue with the need for the Roadless Rule exemption for the Tongass is that it will remove a layer of bureaucracy that slows and even halts the permitting process for roads needed for mining, energy development, community development and renewable energy development. If there is any development of any kind in the Tongass, that development is managed by the Forest Plan and must be examined by decision makers and the public through the NEPA process.

Exempting the Tongass from the Roadless Rule will positively affect the socioeconomic climate in Southeast Alaska by providing the few existing small sawmills to access the vital timber they need to continue employment for area families and local economies..

Exempting the Tongass from the Roadless Rule will not harm the region's fisheries. Fish habitat is fully protected in the national forest.

Even though 9.2 million acres of inventoried roadless areas in the Tongass would be freed from the roadless rule under a full exemption, only 168,000 acres would be added to the areas that may be considered for timber harvest. A much smaller portion of this acreage would actually be harvested due to ongoing restrictions, including buffer zones, wildlife preservation corridors, and other set-asides.

The full exemption does not change the projected timber sale quantity or timber demand projections set out in the 2016 Tongass Forest Plan. The Preferred Alternative increases management flexibility for how the forest plan's timber harvest goals can be achieved, but does not fundamentally alter the plan's underlying goals or projected outcomes, including an annual harvest level of 45 million board feet, which is considered very conservative.

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Pam
Last name: Wilson
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, Pam Wilson

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Pamela
Last name: Wilson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Pamela Wilson and I live in Manassas Park, Virginia.

Both of my parents have lived in Alaska and Ive visited several times. It is a beautiful place, to be sure, and critical for our planets survival. Stop tearing it down!!

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.

Regards, Pamela Wilson

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Patricia
Last name: Wilson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Patricia Wilson and I live in Belfair], WA.
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, Patricia Wilson

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Patricia
Last name: Wilson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Patricia Wilson and I live in Riverton, Virginia.

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, Patricia Wilson

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Patricia
Last name: Wilson
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, Patricia Wilson

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/10/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: R E
Last name: Wilson
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): 12/10/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Ramona
Last name: Wilson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I first visited Alaska in 2018. I plan to return because of Alaska's stunning natural resources. It is the last best place. Lifting the Roadless Rule would be a big mistake that chooses a private industry that is already dying. Tourism and fishing are top industries now in Alaska. In addition, climate change is already destroying Alaska. Cutting old growth forests only hastens that destruction. Indigenous people continue to be dependent on natural resources. Do not bend to the short sighted timber companies that are trying to stay in business.

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Reggi
Last name: Wilson
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, Reggi Wilson

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Reggi
Last name: Wilson
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.

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Regards, Reggi Wilson

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Last name: Wilson
Organization:
Title:
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Regards, Reggi Wilson

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Richard
Last name: Wilson
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.

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Regards, Richard Wilson

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Richard
Last name: Wilson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
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Regards, Richard Wilson

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/19/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Riley
Last name: Wilson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
The US Department of Agriculture should choose alternative 1 in response to the question of the magnitude of protection of the Tongass National Forest. Although the economic development of Alaska is important, it should not be prioritized over the protection of such valuable natural resources. The state of Alaska should work to find other ways to reach economic development before exempting the Tongass National Forest from the Roadless Rule.

The Tongass National Forest is important to protect both because of its features and size. The forest is the largest national forest in America and is home to nearly 17 million acres or trees and wildlife. Not only are the trees an important factor in fighting climate change with the amount of oxygen they produce, but national forests such as the Tongass provide drinking water for as many as 180 million Americans annually.

The Tongass National Forest is also its own source of employment and economic prosperity through the growing business of tourism. Tourism brings in roughly 2.2 billion dollars a year in Alaska, a large chunk of which coming from the Tongass. Although this may not completely offset the profit difference compared to if the Tongass was used as suitable timber land, it's still a sizeable enough benefit to justify preserving the Tongass for generations to come.

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Ronald
Last name: Wilson
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.

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Regards, Ronald Wilson

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Rose
Last name: Wilson
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.

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Regards, Rose Wilson

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Rose
Last name: Wilson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
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Regards, Rose Wilson

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Last name: Wilson
Organization:
Title:
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Regards, Rose Wilson

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Comments:
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Regards, Rose Wilson

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Rose
Last name: Wilson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Rose Wilson and I live in Wantagh, New York.

I've never been there, but the photos I've seen of the Tongass Forest take my breath away! To think tha this forest that has existed for thousands of years could be cut down for the fleeting profit of corporate loggers is an outrage! The earth needs its forests. We do NOT need more lumber from forests lie these when there is wood available from sustainable and renewable sources!

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, Rose Wilson

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/5/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Russ
Last name: Wilson
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): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Ryan
Last name: Wilson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Ryan Wilson and I live in Longmont, Colorado. 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, Ryan Wilson

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/12/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Samuel
Last name: Wilson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Samuel Wilson and I live in Webster, Texas.

Old growth forest is a valuable global commodity. TRADING IT FOR MONEY IS A DEATH SENTENCE. Humans depend on a diverse ecosystem, the rate of extinctions is perilous. Southeast Alaska is a unique and important part of the global ecosystem, do not allow permissive "reasonable use" destruction. Save your grandchildren.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.

Regards, Samuel Wilson

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Sandra
Last name: Wilson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Sandra Wilson and I live in Friday Harbor, Washington.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Sandra Wilson

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Sara
Last name: Wilson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Sara Wilson and I live in Merritt Island.

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, Sara Wilson

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Shawna
Last name: Wilson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC4998

Dear U.S. Forest Service:

The Roadless Rule has been instrumental in conserving the Tongass National Forest and in supporting its fish and wildlife-based industries for more than 20 years. *Please uphold the Rule's protections for important fish and wildlife areas, including the Tongass 77.* [Text bolded for emphasis] 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 are protection for habitat that our irreplaceable fish and wildlife populations need to survive.* [Text bolded for emphasis]

Customize your comment by listing reasons the Tongass is important to you or why you value Alaska Roadless areas: (ex: specific locations you recreate, activities you do, or why you value fish & wildlife) [Text italicized]

Sincerely,

Would you like to volunteer with TU Alaska to Help America's Salmon Forest?

Yes *No*[Text circled]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Sherita
Last name: Wilson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Sherita Wilson and I live in Buffalo, New York.

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, Sherita Wilson

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/20/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Spencer
Last name: Wilson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I support Preferred Alternative - Alternative 6, which is a full exemption to the Roadless Rule for the Tongass.

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Stephen
Last name: Wilson
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, Stephen Wilson

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Steve
Last name: Wilson
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, Steve Wilson

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Steve
Last name: Wilson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Steve Wilson and I live in Lincoln City, Oregon.

Fuck greed. Keep the few wild places left on Earth wild.

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, Steve Wilson

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: sue
Last name: wilson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is sue wilson and I live in St. Louis, Missouri.

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, sue wilson

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Thomas
Last name: Wilson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Thomas Wilson and I live in Manitou Springs, Colorado.

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, Thomas Wilson

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: timothy
Last name: wilson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is timothy wilson and I live in Poway, 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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, timothy wilson

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Tina
Last name: Wilson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Tina Wilson and I live in Pahrump, Nevada.

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, Tina Wilson

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Tina
Last name: Wilson
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, Tina Wilson

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Tom
Last name: Wilson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Tom Wilson and I live in Miami, Florida.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Tom Wilson

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Troy
Last name: Wilson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Troy Wilson and I live in Bessemer City, North Carolina.

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, Troy Wilson

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Tyrell
Last name: Wilson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC6077

Dear U.S. Forest Service:

The Roadless Rule has been instrumental in conserving the Tongass National Forest and in supporting its fish and wildlife-based industries for more than 20 years. *Please uphold the Rule's protections for important fish and wildlife areas, including the Tongass 77.* [Text bolded for emphasis] 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 are protection for habitat that our irreplaceable fish and wildlife populations need to survive.* [Text bolded for emphasis]

Customize your comment by listing reasons the Tongass is important to you or why you value Alaska Roadless areas: (ex: specific locations you recreate, activities you do, or why you value fish & wildlife) [Text italicized]

Sincerely,

Would you like to volunteer with TU Alaska to Help America's Salmon Forest?

Yes No

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/12/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Vicki
Last name: Wilson
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): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Walter
Last name: Wilson
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, Walter Wilson

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: william
Last name: wilson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is william wilson and I live in Shady Side, Maryland.

Stay out of the natural wild places! People have done enough damage to the planet. We need to start saving what we have left.

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, william wilson

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: winn
Last name: wilson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is winn wilson and I live in Windham, Connecticut.

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, winn wilson

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/10/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Zachary
Last name: Wilson
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): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Ben
Last name: Wilt
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC3131

U.S. Forest Service Alaska Roadless Rule Committee:

I am an avid outdoor user, a fly fisherman, cyclist, boater, and I care deeply about our publicly owned wild spaces. They are our greatest commons, and an important buffer against species loss and climate change. Please choose no action.

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 more than 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,

Ben Wilt

Salem, OR 97301

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/11/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Ashley
Last name: Wiltfong
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.
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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): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Hannah
Last name: Wilton
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Hannah Wilton and I live in Berkeley, CA. I am writing a comment on the Alaska Roadless Rule DEIS because I am concerned with how the Rule and the proposed full exemption will affect the Tongass National Forest and the Chugach National Forest.

I was born and raised in Northern California and first-hand experienced the importance of living in close connection with the natural world. The nourishment & strength I garnered from the land is a rare gift that keeps on giving in my life. Unlike most people across the country, I was lucky enough to grow up in a place with access to the outdoors.

So, although I am not from Alaska, my heart aches by the possibility of losing yet another wild place to the hands of industry. The Tongass National forest is home to many: spectacular wildlife species, old-growth trees, spawning salmon, locals and Indigenous people. In an era of climate crisis and uncertain futures, for these folks and everyone elsethe young people fighting for their right to a future on Earth, the Haida & Tlingit stewards of the land, fisherfolk across Alaska, and travelers forever changed by these spectacular landscapesthe Tongass MUST remain standing.

One of the last in-tact temperate rainforests left on the planet. A hotspot of biological diversity and wild splendor. A carbon sink and cathedral for some of the last healthy salmon runs in the world. Nothing is worth losing this!!!

I urge the Forest Service to select Alternative 1, the no action alternative, for the final decision on the Alaska Roadless Rule. This alternative protects the inventoried roadless areas in Alaska that are full of pristine wilderness and provide important fish and wildlife habitat, and already allows for important community and economic development projects. As an American citizen, I value the Tongass National Forest and the Chugach National Forest for its status as America's best natural solution to climate change and its sequestering of millions of metric tons of carbon and mitigating climate change, its wild salmon populations and the world-class fishing opportunities, its huge swaths of intact ecosystems and all the biodiversity it contains, its status as the largest intact temperate rainforest in the world, the recreational opportunities it provides, the high density of incredible wildlife it contains, to keep public lands wild for future generations, its status as a national and global treasure, the lifestyles of the indigenous communities that the forest supports. A full exemption does not protect these priorities, nor does it effectively balance economic development with the countless other benefits provided by roadless areas. I would like the Forest Service to manage roadless areas for passive/active watershed restoration (stream and habitat) to improve/maintain roadless characteristics (culvert removal/replacement, improve fish passage, wildlife thinning, etc), low-impact recreation (camping, hiking, hunting, foraging, etc). It is important to me that high-value intact habitat including the T77 watersheds and the TNC conservation priority areas retain their roadless protections in any alternative selected.

The Forest Service is wasting taxpayers' valuable time and money by trying to prop up a failing timber industry in Southeast Alaska. The nonpartisan, independent taxpayer watchdog Taxpayers for Common Sense reported that the Tongass timber program has losses of over $600 million of taxpayers money in the past 20 years. I would rather see my taxpayer dollars used to restore salmon habitat that was hurt by past logging practices, perform restorative actions that support wildlife populations on previously degraded landscapes that support wildlife populations. We need to stop subsidizing the clearcutting of old growth on the Tongass through

taxpayer funded roadbuilding. If a full exemption were chosen, it would not create opportunities and would instead prioritize the special interests of one industry over the interests of the entire American public.

The Tongass is Americas homegrown natural solution to climate change. The forest sequesters 8% of the carbon stored in forests throughout the contiguous US states, some 3 billion metric tons of it. We must take action to mitigate and adapt to climate change, and maintaining the Tongass in a roadless state is critical for a sustainable future.

I urge the Forest Service to listen to the voices of the American people and prioritize them over corporate interests. The Forest Service should strengthen public involvement in developing land management policy and focus on broadly supported work rather than allowing special corporate interests to guide policy changes. Attempting to exempt inventoried roadless areas on the Chugach National Forest from the Alaska Roadless Rule adds further insult to injury, and this proposal has not received any sufficient environmental impact analysis or public input. Choosing a full exemption will not create a long lasting, durable solution for roadless areas in Alaska it will only increase the legal challenges, uncertainty for businesses, and conflict over these forests going forward.

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Liz
Last name: Wilton
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Liz Wilton and I live in Hollywood, Florida.

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, Liz Wilton

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/12/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Hunter
Last name: Wiltshire
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): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Bruce
Last name: Wimberley
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Bruce Wimberley and I live in El Segundo, 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.

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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, Bruce Wimberley

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Blaine
Last name: Wimberly
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Blaine Wimberly and I live in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Blaine Wimberly

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/13/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: T.
Last name: Wimberly
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC343

Dear Chief Christiansen,

I am distressed to hear the proposal to increase logging in the Tongass National Forest. Please protect this important temperate rainforest, the old-growth trees that remain, and the wildlife that depend on them.

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/10/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Christine
Last name: Wimer
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Christine Wimer and I live in Ranson, West Virginia.

We should be adding protections for natural resources like this not removing them.

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, Christine Wimer

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/11/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Katie
Last name: Wimpari
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): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Julia
Last name: Winchell
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, Julia Winchell

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Virginia
Last name: Winchell
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Virginia Winchell and and I live in New Albany, IN.
Protect Our Environment
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, Virginia Winchell

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Linda
Last name: Winchester
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Linda Winchester and I live in Norristown, Pennsylvania.

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, Linda Winchester

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Monika
Last name: Winchester
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Monika Winchester and I live in [@advCity], North Carolina.

It's time to stop clearcutting everywhere. It destroys wildlife habitat and the environment. The Tongass National Forest is a rare temperate rainforest. As we have seen in the Amazon, clearcutting rainforests destroys them. This forest belongs to the American people, not to corporate America to destroy. As a republican, I too care about nature, our national forests and monuments. They belong to us and the future. Clearcutting is mindless greed. Protect our land from it.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.

Regards, Monika Winchester

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Robert
Last name: Winckler
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC3237

U.S. Forest Service Alaska Roadless Rule

Comment Period

Comment Period Alaska Roadless Rule:

The Roadless Rule has been instrumental in conserving the Tongass National Forest and in supporting its 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. 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,

Robert Winckler

Wasilla, AK 99623

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/17/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: ROSALIE
Last name: WIND
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is ROSALIE WIND and I live in Kanab, Utah.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, ROSALIE WIND

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Debbie
Last name: Windauer
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. PROTECT TONGA'S FOR OUR FUTURE. Thank you.
Regards, Debbie Windauer

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/5/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Rebecca
Last name: Windell
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): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: K.
Last name: Winder
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.

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Regards, K. Winder

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Susan
Last name: Winderman
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.

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Regards, Susan Winderman

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Dallas
Last name: Windham
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Dallas Windham and I live in Irving, Texas.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Dallas Windham

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Holly
Last name: Windle
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.

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Regards, Holly Windle

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Ken
Last name: Windrum
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Ken Windrum and I live in Los Angeles, 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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Ken Windrum

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Laura
Last name: Winds
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Laura Winds and I live in Lummi Island, Washington.

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, Laura Winds

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Jared
Last name: Windus
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Jared Windus and I live in Brooklyn, New York.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Jared Windus

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/13/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Joseph
Last name: Windwalker
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Joseph Windwalker and I live in Corning, New York.

Thanks for being so brave against so overwhelming odds

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Joseph Windwalker

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Mary
Last name: Wine
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Mary Wine and I live in Milford Ohio, 45150.

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.
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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Mary Wine

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Kate
Last name: Winell
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, Kate Winell

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Carrie
Last name: Winemiller
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.

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Regards, Carrie Winemiller

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Frank
Last name: Winer
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Frank Winer and I live in Concord, California.

National forests should be managed by the Forest Service.

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.

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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, Frank Winer

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Joshua
Last name: Wines
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Joshua Wines and I live in [@advCity], 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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Joshua Wines

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/20/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Julia
Last name: Winfield
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I support taking NO ACTION. Leave the Tongass in the Roadless Rule.

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Sherri
Last name: Winfrey
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Sherri Winfrey and I live in Raytown, Missouri.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Sherri Winfrey

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/23/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Aaron
Last name: Wing
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Aaron Wing and I live in San Francisco, California.

Mother Earth is sacred. Please preserve our Planet.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Aaron Wing

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Aaron
Last name: Wing
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, Aaron Wing

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Dianne
Last name: Wing
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.

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Regards, Dianne Wing

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Gail
Last name: Wing
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Gail Wing and I live in Derby, Connecticut.

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, Gail Wing

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/13/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Linda
Last name: Wing
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Linda Wing and I live in Chicago, Illinois.

Environmental Protection is your job, not corporate profit protection - stop killing both our planet and people just to give CEOs and friends more money

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.

Regards, Linda Wing

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: martha
Last name: wing
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is martha wing, and I live in oakland, ca.
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.
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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, martha wing

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Pat
Last name: Wing
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, Pat Wing

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/25/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Rob
Last name: Wingard
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.

As a professional wildlife biologist, I understand the importance of roadless areas for wildlife and fisheries. The roads can directly remove habitat and cause wildlife to avoid the area, while increasing silt loads in rivers harming fish populations. The development that follows roads only increases the habitat degradation. In areas with deep winter snow, Sitka Black-tailed Deer require old growth forests as refuges where they can still feed and move. The development, especially logging, can also increase the speed of runoff harming fish populations in multiple ways.

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.

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/7/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Sam
Last name: Wingate
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.
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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): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Liana
Last name: Wingenbach
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Liana Wingenbach and I live in Buffalo, New York.

Please - this is so important.

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, Liana Wingenbach

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/13/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Andy
Last name: Winger
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Andy Winger and I live in Centerton, Arkansas.

Corporations simply have too much of control of our government, Let's give government of, for and by the people one last chance, please.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.

Regards, Andy Winger

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 5:06:31 AM
First name: Kenneth
Last name: Winger
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Kenneth Winger and I live in Sitka, AK. I am writing a comment on the Alaska Roadless Rule DEIS because I am concerned with how the Rule and the proposed full exemption will affect the Tongass National Forest and the Chugach National Forest.

Gov. worker in Sitka, Alaska. Public lands in Public hands.

I urge the Forest Service to select Alternative 1, the no action alternative, for the final decision on the Alaska Roadless Rule. This alternative protects the inventoried roadless areas in Alaska that are full of pristine wilderness and provide important fish and wildlife habitat, and already allows for important community and economic development projects. As an American citizen, I value the Tongass National Forest and the Chugach National Forest for its wild salmon populations and the world-class fishing opportunities, its status as the largest intact temperate rainforest in the world, the recreational opportunities it provides, the high density of incredible wildlife it contains, the lifestyles of the indigenous communities that the forest supports. A full exemption does not protect these priorities, nor does it effectively balance economic development with the countless other benefits provided by roadless areas. I would like the Forest Service to manage roadless areas for low-impact recreation (camping, hiking, hunting, foraging, etc), medium-impact recreation (FS cabins, trails, mooring buoys, 3-sided shelters), hydroelectric development. It is important to me that high-value intact habitat including the T77 watersheds and the TNC conservation priority areas retain their roadless protections in any alternative selected.

The Forest Service is wasting taxpayers' valuable time and money by trying to prop up a failing timber industry in Southeast Alaska. The nonpartisan, independent taxpayer watchdog Taxpayers for Common Sense reported that the Tongass timber program has losses of over $600 million of taxpayers money in the past 20 years. I would rather see my taxpayer dollars used to restore salmon habitat that was hurt by past logging practices, develop more recreational opportunities, like trails and cabins, establish the economic value of the carbon stored in the Tongass. We need to stop subsidizing the clearcutting of old growth on the Tongass through taxpayer funded roadbuilding. If a full exemption were chosen, it would not create opportunities and would instead prioritize the special interests of one industry over the interests of the entire American public.

The Tongass is Americas homegrown natural solution to climate change. The forest sequesters 8% of the carbon stored in forests throughout the contiguous US states, some 3 billion metric tons of it. We must take action to mitigate and adapt to climate change, and maintaining the Tongass in a roadless state is critical for a sustainable future.

I urge the Forest Service to listen to the voices of the American people and prioritize them over corporate interests. The Forest Service should strengthen public involvement in developing land management policy and focus on broadly supported work rather than allowing special corporate interests to guide policy changes. Attempting to exempt inventoried roadless areas on the Chugach National Forest from the Alaska Roadless Rule adds further insult to injury, and this proposal has not received any sufficient environmental impact analysis or public input. Choosing a full exemption will not create a long lasting, durable solution for roadless areas in Alaska it will only increase the legal challenges, uncertainty for businesses, and conflict over these forests going forward.

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/22/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Dennis
Last name: Wingle
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Dennis Wingle and I live in Shoemakersville, Pennsylvania.

I ask that you please leave the entire Tongass National Forest in Alaska alone and that ALL of the trees found within this national forest be spared from logging. This special place is an ecological gem as it has trees which are hundreds of years old and up to two hundred and more feet tall. Such a beautiful place should be forever left as is and NEVER, EVER, EVER BE LOGGED!!! In addition to being a place of great beauty, it is an ecological treasure trove as it contains a large number of species of plants, animals, fungi, etc. Some of these species are rare and threatened and depend on the forest for their homes. In addition, this forest--like all forests--is important in cleaning the air and also in storing water. Perhaps most important of all, this forest--often thought of as the "Amazon Rainforest of the North"--is the largest temperate rainforest in the world and plays an important role in removing carbon dioxide from the air and storing it within its tissues. This very important function is vital in mitigating the effects of human-caused climate change--which is the most serious environmental problems facing our planet today.

Again, I ask that you select the "No Action" alternative in regards to future management of the Tongass National Forest.

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, Dennis Wingle

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: LOUISE
Last name: WINHELD
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, LOUISE WINHELD

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Douglas
Last name: Winiarski
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.

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Regards, Douglas Winiarski

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: susan
Last name: winick
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is susan winick and I live in Los Angeles, 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, susan winick

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: susan
Last name: winick
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.

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Regards, susan winick

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Anne
Last name: Winicki
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Anne Winicki and I live in Rosemary Beach, Florida.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Anne Winicki

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/11/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Fred
Last name: Winik
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Fred Winik and I live in Albany, 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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Fred Winik

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: David
Last name: Winkel
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, David Winkel

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Marguerite
Last name: Winkel
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Marguerite Winkel and I live in Spokane, Washington.

We need old growth forests to continue and enhance the conditions that humans and our fellow plants and animals need to continue to inhabit this planet in any measure of health and well being.

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.

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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, Marguerite Winkel

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Anne
Last name: Winkle
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Anne Winkle and I live in Kenosha, Wisconsin.

Everyday I am appalled at the corporate amoral and immoral greed that has been unleashed in this country. Make another dime profit for the selfish spoiled brats that would willingly destroy this planet instead of take care of it for future generations. a crook in the White House doesn't help.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.

Regards, Anne Winkle

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Celeste
Last name: Winkle
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Celeste Winkle and I live in New York, New York.

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, Celeste Winkle

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Dane
Last name: Winkle
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I, as a taxpaying USA citizen, do not support clear-cutting the Tongass or any other national forest. We must protect the Earth if we want the Earth to protect us. People and nature are more important than profits. Thank you.

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/26/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Debbie
Last name: Winkler
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Debbie Winkler and I live in Lincoln, Nebraska.

The trees are needed. Stop looking at money making as more important.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Debbie Winkler

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/11/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: diane
Last name: winkler
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is diane winkler and I live in Jasper, Indiana.

why would we want to weaken clean air protections we have to stop the climate crisis

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, diane winkler

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: erich
Last name: winkler
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is erich winkler and I live in New York, New York.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, erich winkler

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Erik
Last name: Winkler
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Erik Winkler and I live in Kailua-kona, Hawaii.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Erik Winkler

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Francie
Last name: Winkler
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
please protect the Tongass National Forest. We 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.

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, Francie Winkler

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/12/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Jake
Last name: Winkler
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.

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Last name: Winkler
Organization:
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Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Jeff
Last name: Winkler
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
The forest service would make many multiples in revenue by using these roadless areas solely for recreation and getting them designated as wilderness. We need to be planting trees not cutting down ancient ones. Where is your common sense?

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/18/2019 2:27:56 PM
First name: Joan
Last name: Winkler
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Comments to oppose modification to the Roadless Rule

Dear U.S. Forest Service,

The Roadless Rule helps protect old-growth habitat for birds like the Prince of Wales Spruce Grouse and Northern Goshawk, as well as for mammals like wolves and deer. Opening roadless areas to more logging and roads will fragment the forest and eliminate more of the big old trees that these animals rely on.

Yet, all of the action alternatives in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement allow more roadbuilding and logging across the Tongass National Forest. Logging roads and timber operations cost tens of millions of taxpayer dollars every year, with zero return on investment. Meanwhile, these destructive activities degrade the naturally sustainable wealth of salmon, wildlife watching, and tourism opportunities.

It is time to stop opening more and more acres to the timber industry and instead bolster protections to the old-growth forests and wild areas on the Tongass. I urge you to select the "No Action" Alternative (Alternative 1) and allow the Roadless Rule to remain intact on the Tongass National Forest.

Sincerely,
Joan Winkler
Greenville, SC 29615

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Julie
Last name: Winkler
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, Julie Winkler

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/17/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Kristin
Last name: Winkler
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Kristin Winkler and I live in Brooklyn, New York.

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, Kristin Winkler

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Kristin
Last name: Winkler
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, Kristin Winkler

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Kristin
Last name: Winkler
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.

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Regards, Kristin Winkler

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Patricia
Last name: Winkler
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
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Regards, Patricia Winkler

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/11/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Colleen
Last name: Winn
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Please, do not change the roadless rule on the Tongass! Short term jobs and profit isn't worth environmental destruction to the island and to the ecosystem. I'm a commercial fisherman in Southeast, and I understand how unique and important the health of the Tongass is in the general health of the region

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/22/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Oliver
Last name: Winn
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Comments to oppose modification to the Roadless Rule

Dear U.S. Forest Service,

The Roadless Rule: An assurance to millions of birds and animals that there is a home to return to. Home. What is it's meaning? To a Spruce Grouse, maybe a whole forest full of trees to hide in from predators; to a Goshawk, maybe a bountiful supply of small birds and mammals to hunt; to an American Black Bear, maybe plenty of food to feast on before entering a warm den to hibernate in. All these animals, and millions more, depend on the one and only Tongass National Forest, a haven for creatures that rely on old-growth forests. But in the future, they might not have a home to return to.

The U.S. Forest Service has proposed a new rule that would allow clear cutting to destroy the great Tongass. Imagine that a force beyond our control destroyed all of our cities, burned, drowned and did damage way beyond our repair to civilization. Fortunately for us, history has proven that civilization will jump back to it's former glory. But in this case, we wouldn't be able to build our buildings again, wouldn't be able to survive. This is the life of a resident of Tongass National Forest. But, we can allow them to continue to thrive, if only we take action. So please don't gut forest protections to the great Tongass.

It is time to stop opening more and more acres to the timber industry and instead bolster protections to the old-growth forests and wild areas on the Tongass. I urge you to select the "No Action" Alternative (Alternative 1) and allow the Roadless Rule to remain intact on the Tongass National Forest.

Sincerely,

Oliver Winn

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Yamil
Last name: winn
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Yamil winn and I live in Dade City, Florida.

Please let our trees along they are very important for our clean air as well as the well been of wildlife

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, Yamil winn

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/19/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Barbara
Last name: Winner
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Barbara Winner and I live in Arnold, Maryland.

We have already created a disruption of the balance of nature. We must not continue this process when what we should be doing is planting more trees rather than destroying them. Please put the health of our planet above corporate profits.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Barbara Winner

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First name: Barbara
Last name: Winner
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
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Thank you for considering my comments.

Regards, Barbara Winner

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Tom
Last name: Winner
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.

Allowing access to logging corporations is a government handout. There is no reason to subsidize private corporations at the expense of a long-term national asset. The government should not be choosing winners and losers by subsidizing the logging industry at the expense of tourism, fishing, hunting and other sectors of the economy that will be negatively impacted by road and other disruptions.

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, Tom Winner

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/18/2019 6:34:20 PM
First name: joie
Last name: winnick
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Comments to oppose modification to the Roadless Rule

Dear U.S. Forest Service,

The Roadless Rule helps protect old-growth habitat for birds like the Prince of Wales Spruce Grouse and Northern Goshawk, as well as for mammals like wolves and deer. Opening roadless areas to more logging and roads will fragment the forest and eliminate more of the big old trees that these animals rely on.

Yet, all of the action alternatives in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement allow more roadbuilding and logging across the Tongass National Forest. Logging roads and timber operations cost tens of millions of taxpayer dollars every year, with zero return on investment. Meanwhile, these destructive activities degrade the naturally sustainable wealth of salmon, wildlife watching, and tourism opportunities.

It is time to stop opening more and more acres to the timber industry and instead bolster protections to the old-growth forests and wild areas on the Tongass. I urge you to select the "No Action" Alternative (Alternative 1) and allow the Roadless Rule to remain intact on the Tongass National Forest.

Sincerely,
joie winnick
Sherman Oaks, CA 91423

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: joie
Last name: winnick
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is joie winnick and I live in Los Angeles, 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, joie winnick

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Kristine
Last name: Winnicki
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Kristine Winnicki and I live in Chester, Vermont.

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.

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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, Kristine Winnicki

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Robert
Last name: Winnop
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC3741

U.S. Forest Service Alaska Roadless Rule

Comment Period:

Comment Period Alaska Roadless Rule:

I am writing in support of the 'no action' alternative to leave the Roadless Rule unchanged in Alaska. I am concerned that changes to the rule would lead to greatly expand clear-cut logging of old growth timber and costly road building in undeveloped, wild areas of both the Tongass and Chugach Forests. These activities increase sedimentation, hurt water quality, often block salmon migration, and add to an already large backlog of needed road maintenance and restoration.

Our fisheries and wild forests are critical to the economy of Alaska. To grow these sectors of our economy, we need intact habitat. Please leave the Alaska Roadless Rule in place.

Sincerely,

Robert Winnop

Stsuma, AL 36572

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: karen
Last name: winnubst
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is karen winnubst and I live in Cedar Hill, Texas.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, karen winnubst

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Deborah
Last name: Winograd
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Deborah Winograd and I live in Southbury, Connecticut.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Deborah Winograd

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/18/2019 8:57:49 PM
First name: Deborah
Last name: Winograd
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Comments to oppose modification to the Roadless Rule

Dear U.S. Forest Service,

The Roadless Rule helps protect old-growth habitat for birds like the Prince of Wales Spruce Grouse and Northern Goshawk, as well as for mammals like wolves and deer. Opening roadless areas to more logging and roads will fragment the forest and eliminate more of the big old trees that these animals rely on.

Yet, all of the action alternatives in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement allow more roadbuilding and logging across the Tongass National Forest. Logging roads and timber operations cost tens of millions of taxpayer dollars every year, with zero return on investment. Meanwhile, these destructive activities degrade the naturally sustainable wealth of salmon, wildlife watching, and tourism opportunities.

It is time to stop opening more and more acres to the timber industry and instead bolster protections to the old-growth forests and wild areas on the Tongass. I urge you to select the "No Action" Alternative (Alternative 1) and allow the Roadless Rule to remain intact on the Tongass National Forest.

Sincerely,
Deborah Winograd
Southbury, CT 06488

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/27/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Suzanne
Last name: Winquist
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to encourage that the USDA National Forest Service select Alternative 1, to continue to grant the Tongass National Forest as a roadless area. I do not support any operation to develop new logging areas in the Tongass. As an American citizen I am requesting that the USDA act in the interest of the greatest number of citizens and protect this critical resource that provides protections to our climate, air quality, habitats, and the indigenous people of that land. More people will benefit more significantly from Alternative 1 than any other proposed Alternative. Protect our resources for today and the future. Resist the pressure of short-sighted industry.

Sincerely,

Suzie Winquist

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Julie
Last name: Winsberg
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, Julie Winsberg

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Julie
Last name: Winsberg
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.

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Regards, Julie Winsberg

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Julie
Last name: Winsberg
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Julie Winsberg and I live in Denver, Colorado.

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, Julie Winsberg

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/25/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Tom
Last name: Winsemius
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Tongass National Forest - Roadless Rule

As a former resident of Ketchikan, I speak with conviction on this subject, and can not state too emphatically that the Roadless Rule must be maintained in the Tongass. As a former USCG boat coxswain, I travelled the waters around Ketchikan and came upon many remote areas during search and rescue operations. (often in search of hunters stranded on remote islands due to their own carelessness) These are pristine regions with 150 inches of rainfall every year. To say that the ecosystems here are fragile would probably be an understatement. Have you heard of muskeg?

Please, maintain the Roadless Rule.

Tom Winsemius

Soquel, CA 95073

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Dr
Last name: Winser
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Dr Winser and I live in Anchorage, Alaska.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Dr Winser

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/20/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: M
Last name: Winser
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is M Winser and I live in Dallas, Texas.

This is a life and death matter, not just to humans but also to animals we rely on for food. Do the ethically correct thing to do.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.

Regards, M Winser

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Lee
Last name: Winslow
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Lee Winslow and I live in Mason, Michigan.

No reduction on methane pollution. In fact we want less than there is now.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Lee Winslow

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/24/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Marjorie
Last name: Winslow
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I support Option 1. DO NO Exempt the Tongass from its current Roadless protection status. HARM.

My wish is that our country continue to fully protect this invaluable resource for the health and welfare of the state, the US, continent, and planet.

Marjorie Winslow

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Rebecca
Last name: Winsor
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Rebecca Winsor and I live in San Francisco, California.

Please protect Tongass national forest!!

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Rebecca Winsor

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Elizabeth
Last name: Winstanley
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, Elizabeth Winstanley

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Elizabeth
Last name: Winstanley
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
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Regards, Elizabeth Winstanley

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Karen
Last name: Winstead
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Karen Winstead and I live in Todd, North Carolina.

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, Karen Winstead

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Walter
Last name: Winstead
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.

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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, Walter Winstead

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Martha
Last name: Winsten
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
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Regards, Martha Winsten

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Martha
Last name: Winsten
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Martha Winsten and I live in Gansevoort, New York.

Pristine forests have been proven to absorb more carbon. Future generations will curse us if we don't stop the wanton destruction of the rainforests. They are the earth's lungs.

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, Martha Winsten

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Kathryn
Last name: Winston
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC1048

Dear Secretary Perdue,

I live and work on the lands and waters of the Tongass National Forest. The health of the Tongass National Forest is critical to sustaining my way of life in this rugged region. From hunting and fishing, to hiking and camping, to our tourism and commercial fishing-based economies, we rely on the intact habitat that the roadless areas of the Tongass contain. That is why it is important to me that the 2001 Roadless Rule remain in place on the Tongass National Forest. A no-action alternative is the best option for Southeast Alaska.

Prioritizing one antiquated industry over private sectors is bad business, and bad for Southeast Alaska. I support the Tongass Transition and I would like the Forest Service to continue phasing out old growth clearcutting. Please prioritize conservation of the T77 and TNC conservation priority areas in any new Alaska Roadless Rule. This forest is a salmon forest, and the Forest Service should focus on restoring degraded watersheds and fish streams.

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Leslie
Last name: Winston
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, Leslie Winston

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: SIDNEY
Last name: WINSTON
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is SIDNEY WINSTON and I live in Los Angeles, 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, SIDNEY WINSTON

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Barton
Last name: Winter
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC3436

U.S. Forest Service Alaska Roadless Rule Committee:

I believe that this country needs to maintain roadless, wilderness types of areas for future generations. They represent the essence of primitive America which can be easily despoiled and difficult to restore. We should not place the immediate benefit to a relative few against the legacy of preservation. We do not need to produce timber for China and other growing countries at the cost of our wilderness areas.

I am writing in support of the 'no action' alternative to leave the Roadless Rule unchanged in Alaska. I am concerned that changes to the rule would lead to greatly expand clear-cut logging of old growth timber and costly road building in undeveloped, wild areas of both the Tongass and Chugach Forests. These activities increase sedimentation, hurt water quality, often block salmon migration, and add to an already large backlog of needed road maintenance and restoration.

Our fisheries and wild forests are critical to the economy of Alaska. To grow these sectors of our economy, we need intact habitat. Please leave the Alaska Roadless Rule in place.

Sincerely,

Barton Winter

Saint Paul, MN 55110

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 1/1/0001 12:00:00 AM
First name: Barton
Last name: Winter
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
3436

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Our fisheries and wild forests are critical to the economy of Alaska. To grow these sectors of our economy, we need intact habitat. Please leave the Alaska Roadless Rule in place.

Sincerely,
Barton Winter
Saint Paul, MN 55110

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Charles
Last name: Winter
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
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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.

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Regards, Charles Winter

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Charles
Last name: Winter
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
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Regards, Charles Winter

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Charles
Last name: Winter
Organization:
Title:
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Regards, Charles Winter

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Donna
Last name: Winter
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
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Regards, Donna Winter

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Edward
Last name: Winter
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Edward Winter and I live in Eugene, Oregon.

I lived and worked in Alaska for four years and we need to protect this treasure.

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, Edward Winter

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Holly
Last name: Winter
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Holly Winter and I live in Williamsburg, MI.
Please, we need to preserve and protect out natural areas, to protect all life.
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.
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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Holly Winter

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Jennie
Last name: Winter
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Jennie Winter and I live in Belmont, 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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Jennie Winter

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Mary
Last name: Winter
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
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Regards, Mary Winter

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Shannon
Last name: Winter
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Shannon Winter and I live in Cresaptown, Maryland.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Shannon Winter

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Suzanne
Last name: Winter
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Suzanne Winter and I live in West Bend, Wisconsin.

We need to keep all of our protected land away from chain saws and anything else that would damage them.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Suzanne Winter

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Virginia
Last name: Winter
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Please protect our Tongass National Forest and oppose the exemption of the Roadless Rule.

I am writing a comment on the Alaska Roadless Rule DEIS because I am concerned with how the Rule and the proposed full exemption will impact fishing, hunting, subsistence harvesting, foraging for wild foods, the peace and solitude within and outside the Tongass as a national and global treasure.

Out of the alternatives described in the AKRR DEIS I support alternative 1: no action.

Sincerely,

Virginia L. Winter

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Celeste
Last name: Winterberger
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Celeste Winterberger and I live in Raleigh, North Carolina.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Celeste Winterberger

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Katrin
Last name: Winterer
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Katrin Winterer and I live in Winchester, Massachusetts.

A shameful abuse of the public's land used for profit.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Katrin Winterer

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Alicia
Last name: Winterle
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Alicia Winterle and I live in Pasadena, Texas.

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, Alicia Winterle

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Ann
Last name: Winterman
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Ann Winterman and I live in Oakland, California.

This is a national treasure that makes America great.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Ann Winterman

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Ann
Last name: Winters
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, Ann Winters

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Cary
Last name: Winters
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC3396

U.S. Forest Service Alaska Roadless Rule

Comment Period

Comment Period Alaska Roadless Rule:

The Roadless Rule has been instrumental in conserving the Tongass National Forest and in supporting its 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. 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,

Cary Winters

Aurora, CO 80016

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/25/2019 11:18:34 AM
First name: Jayne
Last name: Winters
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Comments to oppose modification to the Roadless Rule

Dear U.S. Forest Service,

The Roadless Rule helps protect old-growth habitat for a variety of birds, as well as mammals. Opening areas to more roads & logging will fragment the forest & eliminate more of the big trees these animals rely on. Furthermore, intact, ancient forests are strongholds of climate resilience & Tongass is one of the world's largest.

All of the action alternatives in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement allow more road building & logging across the Tongass National Forest. Logging roads & timber operations cost tens of millions of taxpayer dollars every year, with ZERO return on investment. These destructive activities degrade the naturally sustainable wealth of salmon, wildlife watching, & tourism opportunities.

It is time to STOP opening more & more acres to the timber industry. It is time to bolster protections to the old-growth forests & wild areas on the Tongass. I urge you to select the "No Action" Alternative (Alternative 1) & allow the Roadless Rule to remain intact on the Tongass National Forest.

Sincerely,
Jayne Winters
South China, ME 04358

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Lisa
Last name: Winters
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, Lisa Winters

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Paul
Last name: Winters
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Paul Winters and I live in Mcdaniel, Maryland.

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, Paul Winters

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Peggy
Last name: Winters
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Peggy Winters and I live in Bearsville, New York.

Alaska is the precious last frontier it must be protected from corporate raiders & greedy individuals.

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, Peggy Winters

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/10/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Sanford
Last name: Wintersberger
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Sanford Wintersberger and I live in Goshen, Vermont.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Sanford Wintersberger

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/10/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Annette
Last name: Winther
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Annette Winther and I live in [@advCity], Massachusetts.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Annette Winther

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/23/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Claire
Last name: winthrop
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Claire Winthrop and I live in Berkeley, CA. I am writing a comment on the Alaska Roadless Rule DEIS because I am concerned with how the Rule and the proposed full exemption will affect the Tongass National Forest and the Chugach National Forest.

It seems like everything is getting developed everywhere, and we should start stopping that trend. Its best for wildlife, our environment, and our lifestyles!

I urge the Forest Service to select Alternative 1, the no action alternative, for the final decision on the Alaska Roadless Rule. This alternative protects the inventoried roadless areas in Alaska that are full of pristine wilderness and provide important fish and wildlife habitat, and already allows for important community and economic development projects. As an American citizen, I value the Tongass National Forest and the Chugach National Forest for its wild salmon populations and the world-class fishing opportunities, its huge swaths of intact ecosystems and all the biodiversity it contains, the high density of incredible wildlife it contains, to keep public lands wild for future generations, its status as a national and global treasure, the lifestyles of the indigenous communities that the forest supports its status as the largest intact temperate rainforest in the world, the recreational opportunities it provides, its status as America's best natural solution to climate change and its sequestering of millions of metric tons of carbon and mitigating climate change. A full exemption does not protect these priorities, nor does it effectively balance economic development with the countless other benefits provided by roadless areas. I would like the Forest Service to manage roadless areas for low-impact recreation (camping, hiking, hunting, foraging, etc), passive/active watershed restoration (stream and habitat) to improve/maintain roadless characteristics (culvert removal/replacement, improve fish passage, wildlife thinning, etc), hydroelectric development. It is important to me that high-value intact habitat including the T77 watersheds and the TNC conservation priority areas retain their roadless protections in any alternative selected.

The Forest Service is wasting taxpayers' valuable time and money by trying to prop up a failing timber industry in Southeast Alaska. The nonpartisan, independent taxpayer watchdog Taxpayers for Common Sense reported that the Tongass timber program has losses of over $600 million of taxpayers money in the past 20 years. I would rather see my taxpayer dollars used to restore salmon habitat that was hurt by past logging practices, perform restorative actions that support wildlife populations on previously degraded landscapes that support wildlife populations, establish the economic value of the carbon stored in the Tongass. We need to stop subsidizing the clearcutting of old growth on the Tongass through taxpayer funded roadbuilding. If a full exemption were chosen, it would not create opportunities and would instead prioritize the special interests of one industry over the interests of the entire American public.

The Tongass is Americas homegrown natural solution to climate change. The forest sequesters 8% of the carbon stored in forests throughout the contiguous US states, some 3 billion metric tons of it. We must take action to mitigate and adapt to climate change, and maintaining the Tongass in a roadless state is critical for a sustainable future.

I urge the Forest Service to listen to the voices of the American people and prioritize them over corporate interests. The Forest Service should strengthen public involvement in developing land management policy and focus on broadly supported work rather than allowing special corporate interests to guide policy changes.

Attempting to exempt inventoried roadless areas on the Chugach National Forest from the Alaska Roadless Rule adds further insult to injury, and this proposal has not received any sufficient environmental impact analysis or public input. Choosing a full exemption will not create a long lasting, durable solution for roadless areas in Alaska it will only increase the legal challenges, uncertainty for businesses, and conflict over these forests going forward.

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/10/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: David
Last name: Winthrop
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is David Winthrop and I live in Camano, Washington.

We need to preserve our forests in areas like The Tongass. Wildlife needs these unlogged areasfor food and cover . Salmon streams need clean unpolluted water to spawn in . Is losing this fragile ecosystem worth the money from logging ? NO LOGGING IN THE TONGASS !!!!

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, David Winthrop

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: WANDA
Last name: wintin
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is WANDA wintin and I live in Irving, Texas.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, WANDA wintin

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Greg
Last name: Winton
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Greg Winton and I live in Moreno Valley, 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.

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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, Greg Winton

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/21/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Kate
Last name: Winton
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I strongly support Alternative 6 which exempts the Tongass National Forest from the 2001 Roadless Rule and is fully responsive to the State of Alaskas petition. Having hiked in and studied the Tongass Wilderness, I have some sense of how important this land tract is to native species habitats as well as migratory bird populations. In this time of global climate change when threats to our native wilderness are high, we need to be a voice for those elements of that wilderness that have no voice--the trees, under and overstory, the animals, birds, and aquatic life that live within it. Please protect this precious resource!!

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Lisa
Last name: Wiolf
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, Lisa Wiolf

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 4:49:35 PM
First name: Elizabeth
Last name: Wirak
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Elizabeth Wirak and I live in Haines, AK. I moved to Haines, Alaska in 2012 and quickly fell in love with the community, the natural environment, and in tact ecosystem. I work as a career rafting guide. Tourism, a major component of Southeasts economy depends on this in tact environment. I am writing a comment on the Alaska Roadless Rule DEIS because I am concerned with how the Rule and the proposed full exemption will impact my fishing, hunting, subsistence harvesting, foraging for wild foods, recreating, the forest's ability to sequester carbon and mitigate climate change impacts, and the conservation of resources for future generations .

Out of the alternatives described in the AKRR DEIS I support alternative 1: no action. It shows the Forest Service is responding to the needs and voices of Southeast Alaskan communities. I depend on roadless areas in the Tongass National Forest for economic livelihood, healthy fish habitat, deer habitat and subsistence hunting, foraging and gathering wild foods, recreating and enjoying nature, carbon sequestration and local climate change mitigation, viewing wildlife, keeping public lands wild for future generations, fiscal responsibility and saving taxpayer dollars . A full exemption does not protect these values, nor does it effectively balance economic development and conservation of roadless area characteristics. A full exemption from the Roadless Rule and increased logging and roadbuilding will negatively impact the Tongass and what I and many others use and depend on the forest to provide for us.

The Roadless areas on the Tongass that are especially important to me are those on or around the northern mainland above Port Snettisham (around Juneau), all of the inventoried roadless areas on the Tongass Admiralty Island, Baranof Island. I want the roadless areas in these locations to stay in roadless status in any alternative selected by the Forest Service, and be managed to provide for the uses and activities I listed above. It is important to me that the T77 and the TNC conservation priority areas retain their roadless protections.

I do not support the Forest Services preferred alternative of a full exemption. A full exemption is not in the interests of Southeast Alaskans who live in and use the Tongass National Forest, because It will harm the existing economic driver of tourism and it will endanger habitat for fish, bear, dear, etc.. The State of Alaska says that a full exemption is needed for rural economic development opportunities. However, a full exemption would not help create more rural economic development opportunities, it would instead harm our existing rural economies that are based on the visitor industry and commercial fishing industry.

It would further harm rural economic opportunities because pursuing the same outdated economic model of old growth clearcut harvesting for export stifles innovation and possibility in other sectors, such as mariculture, sustainable young growth harvest, and rural agriculture. If the Forest Service wants to support rural economic development, they should devote resources to support our fishing and visitor industries improve and streamline existing permitting processes for important community projects rather than rehashing old conflicts.

I appreciate your time and concern for the people who make their living in Tongass National Forest.

I urge the Forest Service to prioritize the voices of Southeast Alaskans over those of our political representation and corporate interests. Choosing a full exemption will not create a long lasting, durable solution for roadless areas on the Tongass. It will only increase the legal challenges, uncertainty for businesses, and conflict on the Tongass going forward.

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: M
Last name: Wire
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is M Wire and I live in Salina, Kansas.

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, M Wire

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: M
Last name: Wire
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is M Wire and I live in Salina, Kansas.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, M Wire

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Taylor
Last name: Wire
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): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Robert
Last name: Wironen
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, Robert Wironen

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Jennifer
Last name: Wirrig
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Jennifer Wirrig and I live in Shelbyville, Indiana.

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, Jennifer Wirrig

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Terry
Last name: Wirta
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC6401

[Box unchecked] I do not want to receive a copy of the Final Environmental Impact Statement

Dear Roadless Rule Planning Team,

I live in Southeast Alaska, where my lifestyle, the ecology of the forest, and the economy of our communities are all intricately intertwined. I live in this region for the bountiful salmon runs, the beautiful scenery, the clean air and water, and the endless opportunities to recreate in our expansive outdoors. I am one of the 94% of Southeast Alaskans who eat salmon every year. I depend on the Tongass- from the freshwater streams where salmon spawn to the old-growth forests that deer rely on, the Tongass fuels our families and our economy. The health of our economy, which is heavily reliant on the fishing and tourism industries, also depends on the salmon, wildlife, and presence of old-growth forests. A sustainable future for Southeast Alaska requires protecting expansive areas of intact habitat - in short, it requires keeping inventoried roadless areas roadless! I urge the Forest Service and Secretary Perdue to protect important salmon spawning habitat, maintain old growth forests for winter deer habitat, and keep the places I like to recreate free of clearcuts and roadbuilding. A full exemption from the Roadless Rule will not work for the Tongass.

WHO I AM[text bolded for emphasis]: *include your name, where you live, and any relevant biographical information. Do you live or work on the Tongass National Forest? What is your relationship to the Tongass? *[text italicized for emphasis]:

Tenny Wirta, Pelican AK, I've lived here all my life. I'm 63 years old and I love where I live without clear cutting.

ALTERNATIVE[text bolded for emphasis]: *The Forest Service will choose how to proceed from a number of different alternatives. If you want the Roadless Rule to remain on the Tongass , write "Alternative 1, No Action." Why do you support this alternative? *[text italicized for emphasis]:

The alternative I support is: No, I , because it doesn't mess with the place I live in.

Because: I think clear cutting will affect everything around me. I live on the deer and fish I [illegible] from subsistence every year. I also love the [illegible] and mushrooms I harvest for my meals.

AREAS[text bolded for emphasis]: *Are there specific islands, watersheds, or mountains that you care about? It's especially important to specify areas you use for subsistence hunting, fishing, and gathering. Examples include Tenakee Inlet, Nakwasina Sound, Fish Bay, Ushk Bay, Northern Prince of Wales, T77 salmon watershed areas, Audubon/TNC ecological priority areas. *[text italicized for emphasis]

The areas I want to see protected from road building and old growth timber harvest are:

Lisianski Inlet and all the area around it.

USE[text bolded for emphasis]: *what activities do you do on the Tongass? Hunting, fishing, recreation, subsistence, business, tourism, etc *[text italicized for emphasis]

Hunting, fishing, subsistence, business, tourism [text circled]

*Old-growth logging and road building would negatively impact the productivity of the ecosystem that I depend on for the following activities: *[text bolded for emphasis]

SUGGESTION[text bolded for emphasis]: *How should the Forest Service manage the Tongass National Forest? More sustainable alternatives to timber harvest include salmon watershed restoration, conservation,

visitor industry infrastructure, deer habitat enhancement, young growth thinning, and maintenance of recreation infrastructure such as trails and cabins. *[text italicized for emphasis]

The monofocus on increasing timber production in the Tongass is outdated and out of pace with the current economy and lifestyle in Southeast Alaska. Industrial scale harvesting of old-growth forest does not enhance salmon production, visitor industry values, deer habitat, or my recreation experience. I would like the Forest Service to focus on activities that enhance and support our lifestyle of living off the land and the sustainable sectors of our economy. These activities are:

Hunting, fishing, gathgningathering, and some subsistence on all tideline gatherings.

Additional comments for the Forest Service:

Please leave things like they are.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Lyle
Last name: Wirtanen
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, Lyle Wirtanen

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Karl
Last name: Wirtenberger
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Karl Wirtenberger and I live in Buffalo, New York.

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.

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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, Karl Wirtenberger

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/11/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Lisa
Last name: Wirth
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Lisa Wirth and I live in Allentown, Pennsylvania.

How would you feel if an ash pile was in your neighborhood or a loved one developed cancer from toxic byproducts?

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.

Regards, Lisa Wirth

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Mark
Last name: Wirth
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Mark Wirth and I live in Seattle, Washington.

We need to protect our forests because they are what is keeping us alive.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Mark Wirth

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Peter
Last name: Wirth
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
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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, Peter Wirth

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Robert
Last name: Wirth
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Robert Wirth and I live in Gaithersburg, Maryland.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Robert Wirth

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/19/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Roland
Last name: Wirth
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I strongly support "No Action" on the Roadless rule for Alaska. Especially now, in light of growing climate change concerns we need to increase protections for our environment. The few remaining large stands of old growth in the Tongass need to be protected under the roadless rule.

I have lived in Sitka, Alaska for over 29 years. My wife and I have raised two kids in this beautiful town surrounded by the beauty of the Tongass and healthy maritime environment. We would not have chosen to live here had the Sitka pulp mill stayed open because of concerns about air and water quality, and our daily concern for senseless habitat destruction of pristine forest.

The reasons for keeping the roadless rule intact for the Tongass are many. I will highlight a few:

As a commercial fisherman. I fully realize the value of protecting Tongass old growth as the nurseries for our very valuable renewable resource of salmon.

A a subsistence food gather I depend on old growth forest to maintain a healthy deer population so that I am able to provide my family healthy organic meat at affordable prices. Other foods which we collect from the Tongass include goat, berries, mushrooms, and salmon which were reared in its nurseries.

As evident during the first comment period regarding the roadless rule in the Tongass during the post Clinton days, the public is overwhelmingly in support of the roadless rule. Records show it was one of the largest public comments made nationwide with more than 2.5 million comments and something like 95% in support of the roadless rule. The "public servants" of this country need to heed such strong public interests rather than cave to private corporate interests.

One of the main reasons for keeping the Roadless rule is very simple. It comes down to economics. Studies have shown a huge backlog of forest service road maintenance needs. Building and maintaining roads in the Tongass is very expensive and often is done at tax payer expenses. It makes no economic sense.

The Tongass now carries the additional value as a Carbon sink. With climate change now confronting humans and all species with very real likelihood of famine, resource based conflicts and mass extinctions, we need to refocus our energies on every possible positive step toward carbon neutrality. Keeping old growth growing in the Tongass is a sensible first step.

Let us also not forget the huge economic value of the increased visitor and recreational use which the Tongass has seen over recent years. People do not come to the Tongass to see more clearcuts!

As for the economic drivers favoring clearcutting more of the Tongass. Let us remember that the cost of roadbuilding and remote logging in the Tongass often mean that monument trees are being cut down at a taxpayers loss or for very little gain if any. The slow rate of growth of the Tongass forests means that this makes even less economic sense. Let us also remember that most of the forest products harvested in the Tongass are exported in the round which results in far less economic gain than a value added product.

My final reason for keeping the roadless rule intact for the Tongass has less tangible economic benefits but its value is immense. I strongly believe that the human soul has much to gain though visits to old growth forests or through simply knowing they exist.

Again, I strongly urge you to favor "No Action" on the Roadless Rule for Alaska[hellip]. helping protect the few remaining old growth stands of the Tongass.

Sincerely,

Roland Wirth

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/28/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Winifred
Last name: Wirth
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Comments to oppose modification to the Roadless Rule

Dear U.S. Forest Service,

I am very concerned about the integrity of the Tongass National Forest. We have very few old-growth forests left, and they are vital for wildlife. I especially care about bird habitat.

Let lumber companies plant pine plantations for lumber on their own private property, at their private expense, instead of STEALING a national treasure that does not belong to them. That is corporate welfare.

Let them use their own damn resources, not the public's, not the indigenous peoples', not the goshawks' and grouses'!!!

Sincerely,

Winifred Wirth

Columbus, OH 43204

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: David
Last name: Wisbey
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is David Wisbey and I live in Aurora, Colorado.

I am writing to express my 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, David Wisbey

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Judy
Last name: Wisboro
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Judy Wisboro and I live in Worcester, Massachusetts.

We do not need further destruction of our forests no matter what the location please stop the action now. Our planet is getting too warm with out the cooling of the trees and cross wind we get with each storm going either west to east or north to south. Please pass this message along to my representative Mr James PMcGovernand my senators Mr Edward J Markey andMs Elizabeth Warren. We just started with global warming we aren't even close to the height of the natures abilities to change the consistencies of all 3 elements earth, air and water and for our sakes I hope it won't be in rapid movement but in slow and gradual motion. Mother nature has her own ways of straightening out problems let's hope she is gentle with the planet Earth.

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Thank you for considering my comments.

Regards, Judy Wisboro

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Anita
Last name: Wisch
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Anita Wisch and I live in Santa Clarita, 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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Anita Wisch

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Anita Wisch

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Anita
Last name: Wisch
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Anita Wisch and I live in Santa Clarita, 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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Anita Wisch

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/14/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Anita
Last name: Wisch
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Anita Wisch and I live in Santa Clarita, California.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Anita Wisch

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Christine
Last name: Wisch
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
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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, Christine Wisch

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Arthur
Last name: Wiscovitch
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Arthur Wiscovitch and I live in Orlando, Florida.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Arthur Wiscovitch

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Barbara
Last name: Wise
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Barbara Wise and I live in Murray, Utah.

Our environment should never be threatened for the sake of the profits of a single industry.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Barbara Wise

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Barbara
Last name: Wise
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
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Regards, Barbara Wise

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Carol
Last name: Wise
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Carol Wise and I live in St. Louis, Missouri.

We must preserve what is left of our global forests. I cannot believe anyone needs convincing of the critical need for a "hands off" policy.

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, Carol Wise

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Charles
Last name: Wise
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Charles Wise and I live in Blue Bell, Pennsylvania.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Charles Wise

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Daniel
Last name: Wise
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): 11/4/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Daniel
Last name: Wise
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
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Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Helen
Last name: Wise
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Helen Wise] and I live in Northampton, MA.

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, Helen Wise

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Jeffrey
Last name: Wise
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Jeffrey Wise and I live in Red Lodge, Montana.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Jeffrey Wise

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/13/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: John
Last name: Wise
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
The Roadless Rule made if possible for there to be wilderness areas in my state. Although the state of Alaska has many many acres protected under the roadless rule, Virginia and many other states (especially in the east) do not. Allowing the roadless rule to be overturned in Alaska opens the door to the roadless rule to be overturned in other states across the country.

The national forests are 'our land' and need to be managed in a way that allows for all sorts of activities. Wilderness designation is hardly an 'activity' but the ability for Americans to experience nature, without cell towers and hydro facilities, roads and managed landscapes, to experience peace & quiet, to see stars in the sky - especially in the eastern US as our nation's population grows and wild lands decrease - all will be in peril if the Roadless Rule is allowed to be 'broken' if approved in Alaska.

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Leila
Last name: Wise
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Maintain protections for Alaska Roadless Rule

Dear Secretary Secretary Perdue,

You know the world doesn't need us humans, but we need the world. The fish, bears, goats, and trees can't stand up for themselves. Please for the love of the beauty of the world protect this area.

Sincerely,

Ms. Leila Wise

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Patrick
Last name: Wise
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Patrick Wise and I live in Shawnee, Kansas.

Leave the forests alone.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Patrick Wise

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Sally
Last name: Wise
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, Sally Wise

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Sally
Last name: Wise
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Sally Wise and I live in West Bend, Wisconsin.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Sally Wise

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Steve
Last name: Wise
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Steve Wise and I live in Atlanta, Georgia.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Steve Wise

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Elena
Last name: Wisecarver
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
"wilderness isn't a renewable resource"

Tourism far outweighs the logging industry. That is a fact. It was tourism and hunting that brought me to Alaska, where I fell in love with the sheer untouched wilderness. Now I work and live there. Working to be the gateway for others to see and experience the magic i saw in this place.

It's easy to sit in an office and make a decision based on facts and numbers printed on paper that comes from trees. But this is the type of decision that will affect the lives and spirit of an entire countryside. And ecosystem so complex and thriving that to deplete it would be detrimental.

I have first hand seen the aftermath of logged areas. I've walked logging roads with clients. I have also guided hikes on game trails climbing over logs and experiencing the wilderness. The roadless rule will destroy one of the last remaining places we haven't managed to ruin yet. Leave the Tongass untouched.

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Elena
Last name: Wisecarver
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
USFS Docket ID: FS-2019-0023 Alaska Roadless Rule #54511

Dear Secretary:

"wilderness isn't a renewable resource"

Tourism far outweighs the logging industry. That is a fact. It was tourism and hunting that brought me to Alaska, where I fell in love with the sheer untouched wilderness. Now I work and live there. Working to be the gateway for others to see and experience the magic i saw in this place.

It's easy to sit in an office and make a decision based on facts and numbers printed on paper that comes from trees. But this is the type of decision that will affect the lives and spirit of an entire countryside. And ecosystem so complex and thriving that to deplete it would be detrimental.

I have first hand seen the aftermath of logged areas. I've walked logging roads with clients. I have also guided hikes on game trails climbing over logs and experiencing the wilderness. The roadless rule will destroy one of the last remaining places we haven't managed to ruin yet. Leave the Tongass untouched.

Sincerely,

Elena Wisecarver

PO Box 123 Petersburg AK

Petersburg, AK 99833-0123

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Jess
Last name: Wiseley
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): 11/10/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Ann
Last name: Wiseman
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Ann Wiseman and I live in Mansfield, Illinois.

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, Ann Wiseman

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Carol
Last name: Wiseman
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Carol Wiseman and I live in Shingle Springs, 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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Carol Wiseman

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Christina
Last name: Wiseman
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, Christina Wiseman

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Christina
Last name: Wiseman
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Alaska Roadless Rulemaking #54511

Dear Secretary Perdue,

We are facing a climate crisis and need to protect as much carbon sequestering open space as we can. Please support the No-Action Alternative, #1, for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule.

We can not afford to reduce protections for national forest roadless areas.

The Roadless Rule saves taxpayers millions in maintenance costs on environmentally damaging roads for a timber industry that relies on massive federal subsidies. Roadless Areas on our national forests are essential to protect the quality of our drinking water, fish and wildlife habitat and outdoor recreation opportunities.

The Tongass, our largest national forest and a key portion of the largest intact old-growth temperate forest we have, provides clean and cold water for salmon fisheries and other wildlife.

Please keep this crucial area of open space protected, and in turn a continued asset in the fight against climate change. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Christina Wiseman

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Dorothy
Last name: Wiseman
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Dorothy Wiseman and I live in Arvada, Colorado.

We all breathe the same air. Why would anyone want to increase pollution?

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Dorothy Wiseman

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/14/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Elizabeth
Last name: Wiseman
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Please maintain protections for the Tongass and Chugach National Forests

Dear Secretary Sonny Perdue,

The Roadless Rule safeguards National Forests of Alaska. The Tongass include ancient forests, watersheds and important wildlife habitat.

Once our roadless areas are gone, they're gone forever.

I implore you to please maintain protections for our national forests in Alaska.

PLEASE, PLEASE stop the rollback of the important 2001 National Roadless Rule in Alaska and protect our national forests from clear cut logging! It is the responsible thing to do.

Thank you for doing the right thing.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Wiseman

Santa Fe, NM 87505

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Michael
Last name: Wiseman
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, Michael Wiseman

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Wanda
Last name: Wiseman
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.

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Regards, Wanda Wiseman

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/26/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Vicki
Last name: Wisenbaugh
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC265

November 7, 2019

Dear Forest Service Folks,

Yikes! I cannot believe this has come up again. Someone must realize that this is a crazy and costly pursuit. I am 70 years old and have spent over half my life living in Tenakee Springs. My family has been fed well with our subsistence efforts from the waters and shores of this inlet. My husband supported us by commercial fishing in these waters. My daughter, son-in-law, and grandson live here and provide for themselves in the same way with subsistence and commercial fishing. We are three generations of Alaskans living beside the Tongass National Forest.

The Alaska Roadless Rule was an inspired and brilliant move - do no take away this pride of our state, this hard fought for preservation of our wilderness and resources. I beseech you to encourage the Secretary of the Interior to reconsider the movement to exempt Alaska from this "rule" and consider the consequences and shortsightedness of such a drastic measure. The benefits to the general public are very limited by this potential move. Our lives and those of future generations stand to be forever changed if this action takes place.

Obviously, I am a strong proponent of "Alternative 1", no action.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Vicki Wisenbaugh

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Penny
Last name: Wisener
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, Penny Wisener

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Keri
Last name: Wisespirit
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.

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Regards, Keri Wisespirit

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Keri
Last name: Wisespirit
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.

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Regards, Keri Wisespirit

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Mary
Last name: Wisgirda
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.

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Regards, Mary Wisgirda

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Wendy
Last name: Wish
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Wendy Wish and I live in Orlando, Florida.

Retain the beauty and habitats that make Florida Florida, keep our environment clean and le able for today and the future, and keep habitats for other living plants and animals to survive.

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, Wendy Wish

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/7/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Jeff
Last name: Wishau
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): 10/21/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Susan
Last name: Wishner
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Keep 'Roadless Rule' Protections for the Tongass National Forest

Dear U.S. Forest Service,

PLEASE HOLD FIRM AND DENY THIS REQUEST OF THE PRESIDENT AND HIS TEAM.

THEY HAVE DONE NOTHING BUT PUT FORTH PLANS TO EXPLOIT OUR WILDERNESS AREAS.

TAKE A STAND FOR THE ENVIRONMENT - SAY 'NO' TO THIS CRAZY, IRRESPONSIBLE PROPOSED ACTION.

THANK YOU.

SINCERELY,

SUSAN WISHNER

Sincerely,

Susan Wishner

Nipomo, CA

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Mary
Last name: wishnosky
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Mary wishnosky and I live in North Royalton, Ohio.

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, Mary wishnosky

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Marcy
Last name: Wisman
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Marcy Wisman and I live in Coweta, Oklahoma.

Leave the wilderness alone

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Marcy Wisman

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/20/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Aaron
Last name: Wisner
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Im opposed to this rule exemption. These national forests should remain protected by the 2001 rule.

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/5/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Stanley
Last name: Wisneski
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): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Tara
Last name: Wisneski
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, Tara Wisneski

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Tara
Last name: Wisneski
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.

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Regards, Tara Wisneski

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Malgorzata
Last name: Wisniewska
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Malgorzata Wisniewska and I live in Freeport, Illinois.

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, Malgorzata Wisniewska

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Adam
Last name: Wisniewski
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Allowing logging in Tongass, or allowing industry to use public land for personal profit, is absurd. These lands belong to the American people and the only fair policy is to leave them untouched.

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/23/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Brendan
Last name: Wissinger
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Dear US Forest Service

I would be irrehensible to open the Tongrass to logging and road-making national forest because the forest contains more carbon per acre than almost any other forest. It would contribute to climate change in a significant fashion.

Sincerely,

Brendan Wissinger

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Lisa
Last name: Wissinger
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Lisa Wissinger and I live in Tucson, Arizona.

Corporate greed is severely impacting people and wildlife. Clearcutting negatively impacts habitats, creates runoff issues, impacts tourism and is generally problematic. Please do the right thing for Alaska.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.

Regards, Lisa Wissinger

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Frank
Last name: Wissler
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Frank Wissler and I live in Spring Branch, Texas.

Please stop trying to exploit the last truly wild state left in our union. Shameless profit-mongering is essentially unAmerican and I expect our elected officials and their appointees to fulfill their oath by protecting the country and its citizens.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.

Regards, Frank Wissler

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/11/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Christopher
Last name: Wissman
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.
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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): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Paul
Last name: Wistrand
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC5598

Dear U.S. Forest Service,

CC: Alaska Congressional Delegation and Federal Administration

I support the no-action alternative to leave the 2001 Roadless Rule in place on the Tongass National Forest. We must continue to phase out old-growth clear-cut logging and instead prioritize restoring degraded watersheds and fish streams that contribute to the growing fisheries and tourism-based economies of Southeast. To that end, please conserve the Tongass 77 and TNC priority areas in the final Roadless Rule.

Sincerely,

Comments: *(Eg: list locations you recreate, or why you value Tongass fish & wildlife)* [Text italicized for emphasis]

[Box unchecked] I would like to get more involved in the campaign!

*By taking this action, you are consenting to receive future communications via phone, text message, email, or mail from Sitka Conservation Society and its partners working to protect the Tongass. * [Text italicized for emphasis]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Nicole
Last name: Witcher
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Nicole Witcher and I live in Las Vegas, Nevada.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Nicole Witcher

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Lisa
Last name: Witham
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, Lisa Witham

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Lisa
Last name: Witham
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Lisa Witham and I live in Mentor-on-the-lake, Ohio.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Lisa Witham

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Lynell
Last name: Withers
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Lynell Withers and I live in Russellville, Arkansas.

Please save our forests!

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Lynell Withers

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/15/2019 10:50:57 PM
First name: Allycia
Last name: Witherspoon
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Allycia Witherspoon and I live in Sitka, Alaska. I have lived here 5 years. My family subsistence fish and hunt to provide sustainable and safe food for our children. I am writing a comment on the Alaska Roadless Rule DEIS because I am concerned with how the Rule and the proposed full exemption will impact my fishing, hunting, subsistence harvesting, foraging for wild foods, recreating, the status of the Tongass as a national and global treasure, the forest's ability to sequester carbon and mitigate climate change impacts, the conservation of resources for future generations .

Out of the alternatives described in the AKRR DEIS I support alternative 1: no action. It protects important fish and wildlife habitat from clearcutting and roadbuilding. I depend on roadless areas in the Tongass National Forest for economic livelihood, deer habitat and subsistence hunting, healthy fish habitat, foraging and gathering wild foods, recreating and enjoying nature, carbon sequestration and local climate change mitigation, viewing wildlife, keeping public lands wild for future generations, fiscal responsibility and saving taxpayer dollars . A full exemption does not protect these values, nor does it effectively balance economic development and conservation of roadless area characteristics. A full exemption from the Roadless Rule and increased logging and roadbuilding will negatively impact the Tongass and what I and many others use and depend on the forest to provide for us.

The Roadless areas on the Tongass that are especially important to me are those on or around Baranof Island, Wrangell and Etolin Islands, Prince of Wales Island, all of the inventoried roadless areas on the Tongass Yakutat forelands, Revillagigedo Island (near Ketchikan), Kuiu Island, Kupreanof Island, the southern mainland from Bradfield Canal to Dixon Entrance the central mainland from Hobart Bay to Stikine River, the northern mainland above Port Snettisham (around Juneau), Admiralty Island, Chichagof Island. I want the roadless areas in these locations to stay in roadless status in any alternative selected by the Forest Service, and be managed to provide for the uses and activities I listed above. It is important to me that the T77 and the TNC conservation priority areas retain their roadless protections.

I do not support the Forest Services preferred alternative of a full exemption. A full exemption is not in the interests of Southeast Alaskans who live in and use the Tongass National Forest, because Old growth timber is an outdated concept and the people living in Southeast Alaska would like to see a transition to young growth timber.. The State of Alaska says that a full exemption is needed for rural economic development opportunities. However, a full exemption would not help create more rural economic development opportunities, it would instead harm our existing rural economies that are based on the visitor industry and commercial fishing industry.

It would further harm rural economic opportunities because pursuing the same outdated economic model of old growth clearcut harvesting for export stifles innovation and possibility in other sectors, such as mariculture, sustainable young growth harvest, and rural agriculture. If the Forest Service wants to support rural economic development, they should devote resources to support our fishing and visitor industries transition to second growth logging invest in creating and maintaining recreation infrastructure improve and streamline existing permitting processes for important community projects rather than rehashing old conflicts.

I urge the Forest Service to prioritize the voices of Southeast Alaskans over those of our political representation and corporate interests. Choosing a full exemption will not create a long lasting, durable solution for roadless areas on the Tongass. It will only increase the legal challenges, uncertainty for businesses, and conflict on the Tongass going forward.

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/30/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Allycia
Last name: Witherspoon
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Allycia Witherspoon and I live in Sitka, Alaska. I have lived in Southeast Alaska since October of 2014. My husband and I have started a family here and we and our two children love and depend on the Tongass for food. We also love celebrating nature with our children and sharing our love of subsistence hunting and fishing with them. I am writing a comment on the Alaska Roadless Rule DEIS because I am concerned with how the Rule and the proposed full exemption will impact my fishing, hunting, subsistence harvesting, foraging for wild foods, recreating, the status of the Tongass as a national and global treasure, the forest's ability to sequester carbon and mitigate climate change impacts, the conservation of resources for future generations .

Out of the alternatives described in the AKRR DEIS I support alternative 1: no action. It protects important fish and wildlife habitat from clearcutting and roadbuilding. I depend on roadless areas in the Tongass National Forest for healthy fish habitat, deer habitat and subsistence hunting, foraging and gathering wild foods, recreating and enjoying nature, carbon sequestration and local climate change mitigation, viewing wildlife, keeping public lands wild for future generations, fiscal responsibility and saving taxpayer dollars. A full exemption does not protect these values, nor does it effectively balance economic development and conservation of roadless area characteristics. A full exemption from the Roadless Rule and increased logging and roadbuilding will negatively impact the Tongass and what I and many others use and depend on the forest to provide for us.

The Roadless areas on the Tongass that are especially important to me are those on or around all of the inventoried roadless areas on the Tongass Yakutat forelands, Revillagigedo Island (near Ketchikan), Prince of Wales Island, Wrangell and Etolin Islands, Kuiu Island, Kupreanof Island, the southern mainland from Bradfield Canal to Dixon Entrance the central mainland from Hobart Bay to Stikine River, the northern mainland above Port Snettisham (around Juneau), Admiralty Island, Chichagof Island, Baranof Island. I want the roadless areas in these locations to stay in roadless status in any alternative selected by the Forest Service, and be managed to provide for the uses and activities I listed above. It is important to me that the T77 and the TNC conservation priority areas retain their roadless protections.

I do not support the Forest Services preferred alternative of a full exemption. A full exemption is not in the interests of Southeast Alaskans who live in and use the Tongass National Forest, because A full exemption of the 'Roadless Rule' is not what the people of Southeast have stated they wanted for their/our land.. The State of Alaska says that a full exemption is needed for rural economic development opportunities. However, a full exemption would not help create more rural economic development opportunities, it would instead harm our existing rural economies that are based on the visitor industry and commercial fishing industry.

It would further harm rural economic opportunities because pursuing the same outdated economic model of old growth clearcut harvesting for export stifles innovation and possibility in other sectors, such as mariculture, sustainable young growth harvest, and rural agriculture. If the Forest Service wants to support rural economic development, they should transition to second growth logging invest in creating and maintaining recreation infrastructure improve and streamline existing permitting processes for important community projects rather than rehashing old conflicts devote resources to support our fishing and visitor industries.

I urge the Forest Service to prioritize the voices of Southeast Alaskans over those of our political representation and corporate interests. Choosing a full exemption will not create a long lasting, durable solution for roadless areas on the Tongass. It will only increase the legal challenges, uncertainty for businesses, and conflict on the Tongass going forward.

[Position]

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Claire
Last name: Witherspoon
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Claire Witherspoon and I live in Soquel, California.

The air is bad enough as it is! No more green house gases. There are many things we can do to turn this trend around. Not least of which is make Trump a one term president!

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, Claire Witherspoon

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/13/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Julie
Last name: Witherspoon
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I support 'No Action' alternative: Conserve the Roadless Rule in Alaska

Dear Comment Period Alaska Roadless Rule,

Hello there! I am writing from Michigan in support of the Roadless Rule. I try to visit family in Sitka once or twice a year. During these visits our family to enjoys the Tongass via hiking, fishing and just general sightseeing of this beautiful natural resource. We learn more about the environment and the Alaskan way of life on each visit and I would hate to see the habitat opened up for uses that would put fish & wildlife in danger. Thank you for your consideration. Julie A. Witherspoon

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,

Julie Witherspoon

Smiths Creek, MI 48074

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Laura
Last name: Witherspoon
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC929

Dear Chief Christiansen,

I am a visitor to the lands and waters of Southeast Alaska. The Tongass National Forest is a large part of why I am here. Visitors like me come to witness the vast, beautiful stands of old-growth trees that can't be found on such a scale anywhere else in the United States. We come to crew on commercial fishing boats. We come to hunt, fish and hike in America's largest National Forest. That is why it is important to me that the 2001 Roadless Rule remain in place on the Tongass National Forest. A no-action alternative is the best option for Alaskans and Americans.

I support the Tongass Transition and I would like the Forest Service to continue phasing out old growth clearcutting. This forest is a salmon forest, and the Forest Service should focus on restoring degraded watersheds and fish streams. Please prioritize conservation of the T77 and TNC conservation priority areas in any new Alaska Roadless Rule. Tourism and commercial fishing are at the heart of Southeast's economy, not the antiquated timber industry.

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/7/2019 6:33:37 PM
First name: Thomas
Last name: Witherspoon
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Thomas Witherspoon and I live in Sitka, AK. I have been in Southeast Alaska for 5 years. I depend on the forest for a supply of venison and seafood to feed my family a healthy diet and to offset the high cost of groceries in this region. I value the forest for the experiences myself and my family are able to gain by living and recreating here. Additionally, my career is with the USFS and I rely upon this forest for my employment! I am writing a comment on the Alaska Roadless Rule DEIS because I am concerned with how the Rule and the proposed full exemption will impact my fishing, hunting, subsistence harvesting, foraging for wild foods, the peace and solitude I find in nature, recreating, practicing my culture, the status of the Tongass as a national and global treasure, the forest's ability to sequester carbon and mitigate climate change impacts, the conservation of resources for future generations .

Out of the alternatives described in the AKRR DEIS I support alternative 1: no action. It shows the Forest Service is responding to the needs and voices of Southeast Alaskan communities. I depend on roadless areas in the Tongass National Forest for healthy fish habitat, deer habitat and subsistence hunting, foraging and gathering wild foods, recreating and enjoying nature, carbon sequestration and local climate change mitigation, viewing wildlife, keeping public lands wild for future generations, fiscal responsibility and saving taxpayer dollars practicing my culture. A full exemption does not protect these values, nor does it effectively balance economic development and conservation of roadless area characteristics. A full exemption from the Roadless Rule and increased logging and roadbuilding will negatively impact the Tongass and what I and many others use and depend on the forest to provide for us.

The Roadless areas on the Tongass that are especially important to me are those on or around all of the inventoried roadless areas on the Tongass Baranof Island. I want the roadless areas in these locations to stay in roadless status in any alternative selected by the Forest Service, and be managed to provide for the uses and activities I listed above. It is important to me that the T77 and the TNC conservation priority areas retain their roadless protections.

I do not support the Forest Services preferred alternative of a full exemption. A full exemption is not in the interests of Southeast Alaskans who live in and use the Tongass National Forest, because It dismisses the partnerships and collaboration that work to provide balanced alternatives. These alternatives provide compromises and in the absence of compromise, choosing full exemption appears very insincere to the collaborators, the public, and the mission of the agency.. The State of Alaska says that a full exemption is needed for rural economic development opportunities. However, a full exemption would not help create more rural economic development opportunities, it would instead harm our existing rural economies that are based on the visitor industry and commercial fishing industry.

It would further harm rural economic opportunities because pursuing the same outdated economic model of old growth clearcut harvesting for export stifles innovation and possibility in other sectors, such as mariculture, sustainable young growth harvest, and rural agriculture. If the Forest Service wants to support rural economic development, they should transition to second growth logging invest in creating and maintaining recreation infrastructure devote resources to support our fishing and visitor industries improve and streamline existing permitting processes for important community projects rather than rehashing old conflicts.

I urge the Forest Service to prioritize the voices of Southeast Alaskans over those of our political representation and corporate interests. Choosing a full exemption will not create a long lasting, durable solution for roadless areas on the Tongass. It will only increase the legal challenges, uncertainty for businesses, and conflict on the Tongass going forward.

When future generations look back at this moment in history, they will be shocked to read about the lack of science driving major forest management decisions in the last contiguous temperate rainforest on the planet Earth. Politics and business do not have the ecosystem's best interest at heart, and regardless of the details pertaining to all the different alternatives...the voice of the taxpaying public should be considered seriously, every time.

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/7/2019 6:33:37 PM
First name: Thomas
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Organization:
Title:
Comments:
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Out of the alternatives described in the AKRR DEIS I support alternative 1: no action. It shows the Forest Service is responding to the needs and voices of Southeast Alaskan communities. I depend on roadless areas in the Tongass National Forest for healthy fish habitat, deer habitat and subsistence hunting, foraging and gathering wild foods, recreating and enjoying nature, carbon sequestration and local climate change mitigation, viewing wildlife, keeping public lands wild for future generations, fiscal responsibility and saving taxpayer dollars practicing my culture. A full exemption does not protect these values, nor does it effectively balance economic development and conservation of roadless area characteristics. A full exemption from the Roadless Rule and increased logging and roadbuilding will negatively impact the Tongass and what I and many others use and depend on the forest to provide for us.

The Roadless areas on the Tongass that are especially important to me are those on or around all of the inventoried roadless areas on the Tongass Baranof Island. I want the roadless areas in these locations to stay in roadless status in any alternative selected by the Forest Service, and be managed to provide for the uses and activities I listed above. It is important to me that the T77 and the TNC conservation priority areas retain their roadless protections.

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I urge the Forest Service to prioritize the voices of Southeast Alaskans over those of our political representation and corporate interests. Choosing a full exemption will not create a long lasting, durable solution for roadless areas on the Tongass. It will only increase the legal challenges, uncertainty for businesses, and conflict on the Tongass going forward.

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Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/7/2019 6:33:37 PM
First name: Thomas
Last name: Witherspoon
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
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Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/8/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Thomas
Last name: Witherspoon
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Thomas Witherspoon and I live in Sitka, AK. I have been in Southeast Alaska for 5 years. I depend on the forest for a supply of venison and seafood to feed my family a healthy diet and to offset the high cost of groceries in this region. I value the forest for the experiences myself and my family are able to gain by living and recreating here. Additionally, my career is with the USFS and I rely upon this forest for my employment! I am writing a comment on the Alaska Roadless Rule DEIS because I am concerned with how the Rule and the proposed full exemption will impact my fishing, hunting, subsistence harvesting, foraging for wild foods, the peace and solitude I find in nature, recreating, practicing my culture, the status of the Tongass as a national and global treasure, the forest's ability to sequester carbon and mitigate climate change impacts, the conservation of resources for future generations .

Out of the alternatives described in the AKRR DEIS I support alternative 1: no action. It shows the Forest Service is responding to the needs and voices of Southeast Alaskan communities. I depend on roadless areas in the Tongass National Forest for healthy fish habitat, deer habitat and subsistence hunting, foraging and gathering wild foods, recreating and enjoying nature, carbon sequestration and local climate change mitigation, viewing wildlife, keeping public lands wild for future generations, fiscal responsibility and saving taxpayer dollars practicing my culture. A full exemption does not protect these values, nor does it effectively balance economic development and conservation of roadless area characteristics. A full exemption from the Roadless Rule and increased logging and roadbuilding will negatively impact the Tongass and what I and many others use and depend on the forest to provide for us.

The Roadless areas on the Tongass that are especially important to me are those on or around all of the inventoried roadless areas on the Tongass Baranof Island. I want the roadless areas in these locations to stay in roadless status in any alternative selected by the Forest Service, and be managed to provide for the uses and activities I listed above. It is important to me that the T77 and the TNC conservation priority areas retain their roadless protections.

I do not support the Forest Services preferred alternative of a full exemption. A full exemption is not in the interests of Southeast Alaskans who live in and use the Tongass National Forest, because It dismisses the partnerships and collaboration that work to provide balanced alternatives. These alternatives provide compromises and in the absence of compromise, choosing full exemption appears very insincere to the collaborators, the public, and the mission of the agency.. The State of Alaska says that a full exemption is needed for rural economic development opportunities. However, a full exemption would not help create more rural economic development opportunities, it would instead harm our existing rural economies that are based on the visitor industry and commercial fishing industry.

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I urge the Forest Service to prioritize the voices of Southeast Alaskans over those of our political representation and corporate interests. Choosing a full exemption will not create a long lasting, durable solution for roadless areas on the Tongass. It will only increase the legal challenges, uncertainty for businesses, and conflict on the Tongass going forward.

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[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Trina
Last name: Witherspoon
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, Trina Witherspoon

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Emily
Last name: Withnall
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Emily Withnall and I live in Missoula, Montana.

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, Emily Withnall

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Emily
Last name: Withnall
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.

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Regards, Emily Withnall

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Stephanie
Last name: Witkoski
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Stephanie Witkoski and I live in Davie, Florida.

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, Stephanie Witkoski

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Steven
Last name: Witkowski
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I used to live in the Tongass on Baranoff island. Please do not open my public lands to roads. Keep it roadless please.

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/5/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Eric
Last name: Witstine
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): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Amy
Last name: Witt
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Dear Friends at the National Forest Service and USDA,
I am in strong disagreement with your desire to exempt the Tongass National Forest from the 2001 Roadless Area Conservation Rule, which prohibits tree harvest and road construction/reconstruction within inventoried roadless areas with certain limited exceptions.
We MUST protect all remaining intact forests, especially old-growth forests like those found in Tongass National Forest. YOU may be prohibited from talking about CLIMATE CHANGE, but most Americans know the fact that it is happening, and that ALL FORESTS ARE VITAL to cooling the planet.
It is absurd that you are even proposing this. Please retract your plans and re-evaluate the true value of Tongass National Forest, to be kept pristine and unsullied by logging.
Amy Witt

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Eric
Last name: Witt
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, Eric Witt

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/21/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Rose
Last name: Witt
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
America Needs 'Roadless Rule' Protections for Tongass & Chugach National Forests Now More Than Ever

Dear U.S. Forest Service,

As a biologist, avid outdoorsperson, and parent of a family that vacations annually in Alaska, I strongly oppose the Forest Service's plan to eliminate "Roadless Rule" protections for the Tongass and Chugach National Forests. I urge you to select the "no action" alternative to protect and preserve these life-saving landscapes.

As you know the Tongass is America's wildest remaining national forest, with more than 9 million acres of roadless areas. And it's home to a wide range of wildlife, including Alexander Archipelago wolves, grizzly bears and salmon. It also stores a vast amount of carbon, with its centuries-old trees serving as a carbon-sink life raft in this perilous time of a rapidly accelerating Climate Crisis. Logging releases most of that carbon into the atmosphere, where CO2 concentrations are already well above those considered safe by 97% of the world's scientists.

American national forests (and pristine wildlands) provide clean water, fresh air and a lifetime of memories of hiking, camping, fishing, hunting, and wildlife and bird watching to over 200,000,000 people annually (including my own family) and support an outdoor recreation economy worth some $700 billion. But as I'm sure you are well aware, development, like roads divides areas of relatively continuous habitat into smaller, disconnected parcels causing habitat fragmentation which alters the behavior of wildlife and thus the viability of the ecosystems which all life on our planet depends on.

Safeguarding the water, recreation, fish, wildlife and jobs that depend on our national forests and wildlands requires that government not only consider but also apply the best available science to its planning and management of these natural treasures.

Your proposal to open the door to clearcutting and bulldozing is irresponsible and fundamentally threatens my natural heritage as well as my childrens' future. The Tongass & Chugach belong to all Americans and shouldn't be sacrificed to the timber industry, which provides a small fraction of the jobs and income in Southeast Alaska compared to tourism and fishing - both of which rely on intact forests to thrive. It's even more important to save these last remaining roadless forests because your agency has fragmented and logged so much of our national forests, devastating wildlife, clean waters, and our shared climate along the way.

I likewise oppose your plan to allow the agency to open any of the 5 million acres of roadless areas in the Chugach National Forest to bulldozing and clearcutting for logging. This move is blatantly a backdoor repeal of the 2001 Roadless Rule, which protects all roadless lands because of the critical role they play in protecting pure water, and in securing wildlife habitat and remote recreation.

Please -think of the considerable ecological benefits intact old-growth forests provide our society and think of our future generations by selecting the "no action" alternative to maintain "Roadless Rule" protections for both the Tongass and Chugach.

Sincerely,

Rose Ann Witt

Thousand Oaks, CA 91362

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Julia
Last name: Wittenberg
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC6467

Dear Secretary Perdue,

I am writing to support the *No-Action Alternative*[text bolded for emphasis] 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 temperature 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): 11/10/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Bethany
Last name: Witthuhn
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Bethany Witthuhn and I live in North Royalton, Ohio.

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, Bethany Witthuhn

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Nancy
Last name: Wittig
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Nancy Wittig and I live in Fairview Park, Ohio.

Who thinks up these terrible ideas? We must stop this wholesale destruction of forests.

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, Nancy Wittig

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/10/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: laurel
Last name: witting
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is laurel witting and I live in Red Hook, New York.

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, laurel witting

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: James
Last name: Wittliff
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is James Wittliff and I live in Los Angeles, California.

Protect this land. It is not ours to destroy.

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, James Wittliff

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Jennifer
Last name: Wittlinger
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Jennifer Wittlinger and I live in Steamboat Springs, Colorado.

Clean air is a vital right which is being attacked in the name of Trumps god, the almighty dollar. I think his goal is to destroy all trees, oceans, clean atmosphere, and leave us in a state of ruin. And I fear he will get his way!!

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, Jennifer Wittlinger

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 1/1/0001 12:00:00 AM
First name: Dauane
Last name: Wittman
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
3854

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,
Dauane Wittman
Inola, OK 74036

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Dauane
Last name: Wittman
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC3854

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,

Dauane Wittman

Inola, OK 74036

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Duane
Last name: Wittman
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC3275

U.S. Forest Service Alaska Roadless Rule

Comment Period

Comment Period Alaska Roadless Rule:

The Roadless Rule has been instrumental in conserving the Tongass National Forest and in supporting its 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. 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,

Duane Wittman

Inola, OK 74036

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Viva
Last name: Wittman
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Viva Wittman and I live in Los Angeles, CA. I am writing a comment on the Alaska Roadless Rule DEIS because I am concerned with how the Rule and the proposed full exemption will affect the Tongass National Forest and the Chugach National Forest.

as the human race reaches farther and dominates more land, it becomes of tantamount importance to hold sacred what protected land our planet has left. its best for the environment and best for our species and others to coexist with the land we are born out of.

I urge the Forest Service to select Alternative 1, the no action alternative, for the final decision on the Alaska Roadless Rule. This alternative protects the inventoried roadless areas in Alaska that are full of pristine wilderness and provide important fish and wildlife habitat, and already allows for important community and economic development projects. As an American citizen, I value the Tongass National Forest and the Chugach National Forest for its status as America's best natural solution to climate change and its sequestering of millions of metric tons of carbon and mitigating climate change, its wild salmon populations and the world-class fishing opportunities, its huge swaths of intact ecosystems and all the biodiversity it contains, its status as the largest intact temperate rainforest in the world, the recreational opportunities it provides, the high density of incredible wildlife it contains, to keep public lands wild for future generations, its status as a national and global treasure, the lifestyles of the indigenous communities that the forest supports. A full exemption does not protect these priorities, nor does it effectively balance economic development with the countless other benefits provided by roadless areas. I would like the Forest Service to manage roadless areas for low-impact recreation (camping, hiking, hunting, foraging, etc), medium-impact recreation (FS cabins, trails, mooring buoys, 3-sided shelters), passive/active watershed restoration (stream and habitat) to improve/maintain roadless characteristics (culvert removal/replacement, improve fish passage, wildlife thinning, etc), hydroelectric development, inter-tie/transmission line construction. It is important to me that high-value intact habitat including the T77 watersheds and the TNC conservation priority areas retain their roadless protections in any alternative selected.

The Forest Service is wasting taxpayers' valuable time and money by trying to prop up a failing timber industry in Southeast Alaska. The nonpartisan, independent taxpayer watchdog Taxpayers for Common Sense reported that the Tongass timber program has losses of over $600 million of taxpayers money in the past 20 years. I would rather see my taxpayer dollars used to restore salmon habitat that was hurt by past logging practices, perform restorative actions that support wildlife populations on previously degraded landscapes that support wildlife populations, establish the economic value of the carbon stored in the Tongass. We need to stop subsidizing the clearcutting of old growth on the Tongass through taxpayer funded roadbuilding. If a full exemption were chosen, it would not create opportunities and would instead prioritize the special interests of one industry over the interests of the entire American public.

The Tongass is Americas homegrown natural solution to climate change. The forest sequesters 8% of the carbon stored in forests throughout the contiguous US states, some 3 billion metric tons of it. We must take action to mitigate and adapt to climate change, and maintaining the Tongass in a roadless state is critical for a sustainable future.

I urge the Forest Service to listen to the voices of the American people and prioritize them over corporate interests. The Forest Service should strengthen public involvement in developing land management policy and focus on broadly supported work rather than allowing special corporate interests to guide policy changes. Attempting to exempt inventoried roadless areas on the Chugach National Forest from the Alaska Roadless Rule adds further insult to injury, and this proposal has not received any sufficient environmental impact analysis or public input. Choosing a full exemption will not create a long lasting, durable solution for roadless areas in Alaska it will only increase the legal challenges, uncertainty for businesses, and conflict over these forests going forward.

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Sharon
Last name: Wittmann
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, Sharon Wittmann

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Victor
Last name: Wittmann
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, Victor Wittmann

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Victor
Last name: Wittmann
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, Victor Wittmann

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Claire
Last name: Wittmeier
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, Claire Wittmeier

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Mike
Last name: Wittmer
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, Mike Wittmer

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Melissa
Last name: Wittstock
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I do not support accessing the federal lands and believe the roadless rule must stay in effect to protect these old wood forests. With climate change these forests and protected lands are even more critical.

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Frank
Last name: Witty
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, Frank Witty

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Bev
Last name: Witwer
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, Bev Witwer

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Janet
Last name: Witzeman
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, Janet Witzeman

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Janet
Last name: Witzeman
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Janet Witzeman and I live in Phoenix, Arizona.

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, Janet Witzeman

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Cynthia
Last name: Wizeman
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Cynthia Wizeman and I live in Vail, Colorado.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Cynthia Wizeman

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Susan
Last name: Wizer
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Susan Wizer and I live in Austin, Texas.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Susan Wizer

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/18/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Terry
Last name: Wizig
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Terry Wizig and I live in Houston, Texas.

Future generations will never forgive you for destroying this unique forest

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Terry Wizig

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: don
Last name: wleklinski
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is don wleklinski and I live in Terre Haute, Indiana.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, don wleklinski

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/11/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: paul
Last name: wnek
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is paul wnek and I live in Chicago, Illinois.

I have been fortunate to visit the Tongass forest. While visiting I learned from the local businesses, fishermen & natives how important this pristine environment is. I s is unnecessary to pillage this forest, especially at such a high cost to wildlife & livelihood of the locales. Also, the timber industry pays next to nothing for the pleasure of pillaging and WE, the American people to build roads for them for the privilege of doing it!!!

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.

Regards, paul wnek

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Tom
Last name: Wodetzki
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Tom Wodetzki and I live in Albion, California.

This legislation is part of what needs to be done to make sure our children and theirs, have a livable planet. Weve had it but they wont unless we take actions such as this.Thank you,Sharon Hansen

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.

Regards, Tom Wodetzki

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Ella
Last name: Wodrich
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC6336

Dear Secretary Perdue,

I am writing to support the *No-Action Alternative*[text bolded for emphasis] 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 temperature 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. -Please, please! This place is important to all Americans.

Sincerely,

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Helena
Last name: Wodrich
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC6462

Dear Secretary Perdue,

I am writing to support the *No-Action Alternative*[text bolded for emphasis] 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 temperature 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: Michael
Last name: Wodrich
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC6475

Dear Secretary Perdue,

I am writing to support the *No-Action Alternative*[text bolded for emphasis] 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 temperature 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): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Robert
Last name: Wodrich
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, Robert Wodrich

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Shaula
Last name: Woehlcke
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.

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Regards, Shaula Woehlcke

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Kenny
Last name: Woehr
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC3374

U.S. Forest Service Alaska Roadless Rule

Comment Period

Comment Period Alaska Roadless Rule:

The Roadless Rule has been instrumental in conserving the Tongass National Forest and in supporting its 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. 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,

Kenny Woehr

Bend, OR 97701

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/13/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: stacy
Last name: woeppel
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is stacy woeppel and I live in Newfoundland, Pennsylvania.

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, stacy woeppel

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Christine
Last name: Woerfel
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, Christine Woerfel

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: David
Last name: Woerpel
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.

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Regards, David Woerpel

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Michael
Last name: Wofford
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Sir or Madam, I am a hiker, backpacker, father and grand-father. I am 72 years old and since I was a child I have seen the loss of thousand of acres of natural area injured by the encroachment of development. There are few that remain pristine. These are treasures that we have the opportunity to hand to our children and children's children. Once lost they cannot be returned to their present character. The loss of lands, habitats and species is an unmeasurable and unnecessary cost. Please do not allow this loss to Tongrass National Forest.

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Stacie
Last name: Wogalter
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Stacie Wogalter and I live in Pleasant Valley, New York.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Stacie Wogalter

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Stacie
Last name: Wogalter
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, Stacie Wogalter

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Robert
Last name: Wohlberg
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Robert Wohlberg and I live in Richfield, Minnesota.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Robert Wohlberg

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Michael
Last name: Wohlleb
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.

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Regards, Michael Wohlleb

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/13/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Peter
Last name: Wohlleben
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Peter Wohlleben and I live in Brodhead. I am writing a comment on the Alaska Roadless Rule DEIS because I am concerned with how the Rule and the proposed full exemption will affect the Tongass National Forest and the Chugach National Forest.

Im the author of the hidden life of trees, and I believe that this forest is like a nature cathedral- if we destroy it, we destroy our natural and cultural heritage and also one of our best friends in fighting the climate change.

I urge the Forest Service to select Alternative 1, the no action alternative, for the final decision on the Alaska Roadless Rule. This alternative protects the inventoried roadless areas in Alaska that are full of pristine wilderness and provide important fish and wildlife habitat, and already allows for important community and economic development projects. As an American citizen, I value the Tongass National Forest and the Chugach National Forest for its status as America's best natural solution to climate change and its sequestering of millions of metric tons of carbon and mitigating climate change, its wild salmon populations and the world-class fishing opportunities, its huge swaths of intact ecosystems and all the biodiversity it contains, its status as the largest intact temperate rainforest in the world, the recreational opportunities it provides, the high density of incredible wildlife it contains, to keep public lands wild for future generations, its status as a national and global treasure, the lifestyles of the indigenous communities that the forest supports. A full exemption does not protect these priorities, nor does it effectively balance economic development with the countless other benefits provided by roadless areas. I would like the Forest Service to manage roadless areas for passive/active watershed restoration (stream and habitat) to improve/maintain roadless characteristics (culvert removal/replacement, improve fish passage, wildlife thinning, etc), low-impact recreation (camping, hiking, hunting, foraging, etc). It is important to me that high-value intact habitat including the T77 watersheds and the TNC conservation priority areas retain their roadless protections in any alternative selected.

The Forest Service is wasting taxpayers' valuable time and money by trying to prop up a failing timber industry in Southeast Alaska. The nonpartisan, independent taxpayer watchdog Taxpayers for Common Sense reported that the Tongass timber program has losses of over $600 million of taxpayers money in the past 20 years. I would rather see my taxpayer dollars used to restore salmon habitat that was hurt by past logging practices, perform restorative actions that support wildlife populations on previously degraded landscapes that support wildlife populations, establish the economic value of the carbon stored in the Tongass. We need to stop subsidizing the clearcutting of old growth on the Tongass through taxpayer funded roadbuilding. If a full exemption were chosen, it would not create opportunities and would instead prioritize the special interests of one industry over the interests of the entire American public.

The Tongass is Americas homegrown natural solution to climate change. The forest sequesters 8% of the carbon stored in forests throughout the contiguous US states, some 3 billion metric tons of it. We must take action to mitigate and adapt to climate change, and maintaining the Tongass in a roadless state is critical for a sustainable future.

I urge the Forest Service to listen to the voices of the American people and prioritize them over corporate interests. The Forest Service should strengthen public involvement in developing land management policy and focus on broadly supported work rather than allowing special corporate interests to guide policy changes. Attempting to exempt inventoried roadless areas on the Chugach National Forest from the Alaska Roadless

Rule adds further insult to injury, and this proposal has not received any sufficient environmental impact analysis or public input. Choosing a full exemption will not create a long lasting, durable solution for roadless areas in Alaska it will only increase the legal challenges, uncertainty for businesses, and conflict over these forests going forw

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/10/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: MATTHEW
Last name: WOHLWEND
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): 11/9/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: regina
Last name: woiler
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is regina woiler and I live in New York, New York.

HELLO EPA THIS IS THE PUBLIC YOU PURPORT TO REPRESENT REACHING OUT TO YOU. UM....CAN YOU START DOING YOUR JOB AND NOT CORRODING YOUR REASON FOR EXISTENCE TO MAKE BAD DECISIONS IN THE NAME OF GOOD {{CHEAPER BUSINESS}}. PLEASE DRINK THE SAME WATER I DO,, EAT THE SAME FOODS AND DON'T PURPORT TO BE A DEMOCRATIC, SCIENCE BASED EMBASSY FOR THE PEOPLE'S DESIRE TO PROTECT THE EMVIROMENT AND THE MINIMIZE THE DAMAGES DONE TO IT IN ORDER TO LIVE A LIFE OF INCREASING COMFORT USING THE RESOUCES NOT OFFERED TO FUTURE GENERATIONS BECAUSE OF YOUR INABILITY TO PRESERVE IT. DO YOUR JOBS!

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, regina woiler

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/7/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Christopher
Last name: Woitula
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): 11/8/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Barbara
Last name: Wojciak
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Barbara Wojciak and I live in Harpersville, Alabama.

Our forests are priceless. Do not put a monetary value on them and sell them to the highest bidder. The Goose with the Golden Egg story never ends well.

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, Barbara Wojciak

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/13/2019 4:42:54 AM
First name: Ewelina
Last name: Wojciechowska
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Ewelina Wojciechowska and I live in Chicago, IL. I am writing a comment on the Alaska Roadless Rule DEIS because I am concerned with how the Rule and the proposed full exemption will affect the Tongass National Forest and the Chugach National Forest.

There's a war on Nature
and we can all choose what to do
So if you feel like I feel, the Love of the Earth
then. you could be an Earth Warrior too!
'cause I'm a warrior... how about you?
I'm a warrior. how about you?
I'm a warrior, Earth Warrior
True-born Pagan, yeah
I'm a Warrior, nature soldier
Fightin for the earthEarth Warrior
Omina

I urge the Forest Service to select Alternative 1, the no action alternative, for the final decision on the Alaska Roadless Rule. This alternative protects the inventoried roadless areas in Alaska that are full of pristine wilderness and provide important fish and wildlife habitat, and already allows for important community and economic development projects. As an American citizen, I value the Tongass National Forest and the Chugach National Forest for the lifestyles of the indigenous communities that the forest supports its status as a national and global treasure, to keep public lands wild for future generations, the high density of incredible wildlife it contains, the recreational opportunities it provides, its status as the largest intact temperate rainforest in the world, its huge swaths of intact ecosystems and all the biodiversity it contains, its wild salmon populations and the world-class fishing opportunities, its status as America's best natural solution to climate change and its sequestering of millions of metric tons of carbon and mitigating climate change. A full exemption does not protect these priorities, nor does it effectively balance economic development with the countless other benefits provided by roadless areas. I would like the Forest Service to manage roadless areas for low-impact recreation (camping, hiking, hunting, foraging, etc). It is important to me that high-value intact habitat including the T77 watersheds and the TNC conservation priority areas retain their roadless protections in any alternative selected.

The Forest Service is wasting taxpayers' valuable time and money by trying to prop up a failing timber industry in Southeast Alaska. The nonpartisan, independent taxpayer watchdog Taxpayers for Common Sense reported that the Tongass timber program has losses of over $600 million of taxpayers money in the past 20 years. I would rather see my taxpayer dollars used to perform restorative actions that support wildlife populations on previously degraded landscapes that support wildlife populations, restore salmon habitat that was hurt by past logging practices. We need to stop subsidizing the clearcutting of old growth on the Tongass through taxpayer funded roadbuilding. If a full exemption were chosen, it would not create opportunities and would instead prioritize the special interests of one industry over the interests of the entire American public.

The Tongass is Americas homegrown natural solution to climate change. The forest sequesters 8% of the carbon stored in forests throughout the contiguous US states, some 3 billion metric tons of it. We must take action to mitigate and adapt to climate change, and maintaining the Tongass in a roadless state is critical for a sustainable future.

I urge the Forest Service to listen to the voices of the American people and prioritize them over corporate interests. The Forest Service should strengthen public involvement in developing land management policy and focus on broadly supported work rather than allowing special corporate interests to guide policy changes. Attempting to exempt inventoried roadless areas on the Chugach National Forest from the Alaska Roadless Rule adds further insult to injury, and this proposal has not received any sufficient environmental impact analysis or public input. Choosing a full exemption will not create a long lasting, durable solution for roadless

areas in Alaska it will only increase the legal challenges, uncertainty for businesses, and conflict over these forests going forward.

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/14/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Matt
Last name: Wojcik
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Matt Wojcik and I live in Mount Clemens, Michigan.

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, Matt Wojcik

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/11/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Nicholas
Last name: Wojcik
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Nicholas Wojcik and I live in Norman, Oklahoma.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Nicholas Wojcik

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Sabrina
Last name: Wojnaroski
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Sabrina Wojnaroski and I live in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

This is very important.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Sabrina Wojnaroski

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Sharon
Last name: Wojno
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Sharon Wojno and I live in Mount Pleasant, South Carolina.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Sharon Wojno

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Alan
Last name: Wojtalik
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Alan Wojtalik and I live in Parkville, Maryland.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Alan Wojtalik

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/13/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Nikki
Last name: Wojtalik
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Nikki Wojtalik and I live in Parkville, Maryland.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Nikki Wojtalik

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/11/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Abigaile
Last name: Wolak
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Abigaile Wolak and I live in Chicago, Illinois.

Please keep chemicals out of food and water supply.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Abigaile Wolak

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Lila
Last name: Wolan-Jedziniak
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Lila Wolan-Jedziniak and I live in Granby, Massachusetts.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Lila Wolan-Jedziniak

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Sophie
Last name: Wolbert
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, Sophie Wolbert

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: James
Last name: Wolcott
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is James Wolcott and I live in New Albany, Indiana.

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, James Wolcott

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/5/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Aaron
Last name: Wold
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): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Marzena
Last name: Wolert
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Absolutely no more fossil fuel projects! We are on course for an unlivable climate chaotic future for our children. I oppose this project wholeheartedly. The implications for wildlife in area will be disastrous. When will we look past short term profit and move towards renewable energy?

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Anna
Last name: Woletz
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Anna Woletz and I live in Eau Claire, Wisconsin.

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, Anna Woletz

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: A.
Last name: Wolf
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is A. Wolf and I live in [@advCity], 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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, A. Wolf

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Aaron
Last name: Wolf
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.
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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): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Arlene
Last name: Wolf
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, Arlene Wolf

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Arlene
Last name: Wolf
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.

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Regards, Arlene Wolf

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Arlene
Last name: Wolf
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.

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Last name: Wolf
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Regards, Arlene Wolf

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Arlene
Last name: Wolf
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Arlene Wolf and I live in Evansville, Indiana.

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, Arlene Wolf

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Betsy
Last name: Wolf
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, Betsy Wolf

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Betsy
Last name: Wolf
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Betsy Wolf and I live in Taos, New Mexico.

Water is precious, water is life. It is the right of human beings to have clean water. It is past time to develop clean, renewable energy.

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, Betsy Wolf

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/1/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Christine
Last name: Wolf
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Keep the Roadless Rule in Place for the Tongass National Forest

Dear Interdisciplinary Team Leader, Alaska Roadless Rule Ken Tu,

Please keep the current protection of the Tongass National Forest and its backcountry and roadless areas from logging and development.

The Tongass is one of the last big forest preserves in our country, and it is our responsibility to protect it for future generations. It is not only a place for outdoor recreation in the region, it also provides clean water, clean air, and wildlife habitat, all of which are foundational to the economic and ecological health of Southeast Alaska. A roadless area that large helps fight climate change, and it is now more important than ever to keep it that way. Road building, logging, and development should continue to be prohibited in the Tongass's roadless areas through upholding the Roadless Rule.

Thank you for keeping it that way.

Sincerely,

Christine Wolf

Seattle, WA 98101

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/23/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Crystal
Last name: Wolf
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Crystal Wolf and I live in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

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, Crystal Wolf

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Darlene
Last name: Wolf
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Darlene Wolf and I live in Naples, Florida.

This is insane. We already have too much sprawl.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Darlene Wolf

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/10/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Deborah
Last name: Wolf
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Deborah Wolf and I live in Seattle, Washington.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Deborah Wolf

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Debra
Last name: Wolf
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Debra Wolf and I live in Lansing, Michigan.

You are cutting away the future! These are public lands. Please stop. Now.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Debra Wolf

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Elmer
Last name: Wolf
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Elmer Wolf and I live in [@advCity], 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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Elmer Wolf

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Janette
Last name: Wolf
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Janette Wolf and I live in Benicia, California.

Please don't abandon the Roadless Rule in Alaska! Wildlife and Alaskans are depending on you. Thank you.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Janette Wolf

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Jennifer
Last name: Wolf
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Jennifer Wolf and I live in Boise, ID. I have worked in the outdoor industry for most of my career, and Southeast Alaska is the place that gave my career purpose. I depend on the wilderness for my job, as do a growing number of wilderness professionals who bring people to experience uncut wilderness. I am writing a comment on the Alaska Roadless Rule DEIS because I am concerned with how the Rule and the proposed full exemption will impact my foraging for wild foods, the peace and solitude I find in nature, recreating, the status of the Tongass as a national and global treasure, the forest's ability to sequester carbon and mitigate climate change impacts, the conservation of resources for future generations subsistence harvesting, fishing, hunting.

Out of the alternatives described in the AKRR DEIS I support alternative 1: no action. It protects important fish and wildlife habitat from clearcutting and roadbuilding. I depend on roadless areas in the Tongass National Forest for economic livelihood, healthy fish habitat, recreating and enjoying nature, carbon sequestration and local climate change mitigation, viewing wildlife, keeping public lands wild for future generations. A full exemption does not protect these values, nor does it effectively balance economic development and conservation of roadless area characteristics. A full exemption from the Roadless Rule and increased logging and roadbuilding will negatively impact the Tongass and what I and many others use and depend on the forest to provide for us.

The Roadless areas on the Tongass that are especially important to me are those on or around Baranof Island, Chichagof Island, Admiralty Island, the northern mainland above Port Snettisham (around Juneau), Kuiu Island, all of the inventoried roadless areas on the Tongass. I want the roadless areas in these locations to stay in roadless status in any alternative selected by the Forest Service, and be managed to provide for the uses and activities I listed above. It is important to me that the T77 and the TNC conservation priority areas retain their roadless protections.

I do not support the Forest Services preferred alternative of a full exemption. A full exemption is not in the interests of Southeast Alaskans who live in and use the Tongass National Forest, because A full exemption puts an irreplaceable resource in direct harm. Releasing carbon in a time when our planet is in such a precarious time, in light of the Amazonian rainforest fires, is short-sighted. Logging accounts for less than 12 percent of Southeast Alaska's economy, and this is simply not worth all that is lost in clear cutting. Further, these talks have not included the Tlingit and Haida that call these lands home. They have barely been invited to "be at the table", when in fact, these people and their livelihood are "what's on the menu". The plan to lift the roadless rule goes in opposition of many voices who recognize that the Tongass is a Homeland, an important carbon sink, and one of the last great wilderness areas on Earth.. The State of Alaska says that a full exemption is needed for rural economic development opportunities. However, a full exemption would not help create more rural economic development opportunities, it would instead harm our existing rural economies that are based on the visitor industry and commercial fishing industry.

It would further harm rural economic opportunities because pursuing the same outdated economic model of old growth clearcut harvesting for export stifles innovation and possibility in other sectors, such as mariculture, sustainable young growth harvest, and rural agriculture. If the Forest Service wants to support rural economic development, they should devote resources to support our fishing and visitor industries.

My job is to bring people into old growth lands in the Tongass. Week after week, one thing remains a constant in that job; the look people get when they thrash through the alders at the water line, and are immersed in the old growth. Usually a hush falls over the group, interrupted only when someone finally says "wow". This is a place of wonder

I urge the Forest Service to prioritize the voices of Southeast Alaskans over those of our political representation and corporate interests. Choosing a full exemption will not create a long lasting, durable solution for roadless areas on the Tongass. It will only increase the legal challenges, uncertainty for businesses, and conflict on the Tongass going forward.

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: joe
Last name: wolf
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is joe wolf and I live in Mayfield Heights, Ohio.

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, joe wolf

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Jonathan
Last name: Wolf
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Dear Secretary Perdue and Chief Christensen,

Please select the "no-action" alternative on the Alaska-specific Roadless Rule and protect all inventoried roadless areas on the Tongass National Forest under the 2001 National Roadless Rule.

I moved to Sitka, AK from Florida and one of the things that encouraged me to make this move from one corner of our beautiful country to the opposite one is that southeast Alaska, specifically the Tongass, is one of the last great wildernesses that remains untouched in North America. My town of Sitka is in the heart of the Tongass. It is home to hundreds of species of flora and fauna that thrive in its pristine forests and waters. It would be a tremendous shame to squander such a resource for something as short sighted as resource extraction. The jobs and economic value that can potentially be extracted cannot be balanced against the loss of true wilderness. The Tongass may eventually return to its pristine glory but it will not be in my lifetime.

The scars of old-growth logging are apparent when walking the trails around my home in Sitka, the actions of the last two centuries of resource extraction have still not fully healed and I cannot support further disturbance to the wilderness that remains.

The Tongass contains some of the last remaining intact old-growth temperate rainforests in the world, and its value in providing endless recreation opportunities, clean water, and fish and wildlife habitat is essential to the economic, cultural, and ecological health of Southeast Alaska. I urge you to keep the 2001 National Roadless Rule intact and current protections in place on the Tongass National Forest.

The Roadless Rule is among the smartest and most popular land management policies the Federal Government has ever adopted. Not only does it preserve that pristine 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 unsustainable taxpayer subsidies.

Lastly, the 2001 National Roadless Rule is well designed and flexible enough to allow for access and development projects. Since 2009 48 projects have been approved in the Tongass, the majority relating to surface exploration of potential mining and hydropower. The USFS has also taken steps to expedite this approval process, now taking only one to three weeks for the Tongass National Forest.

For these reasons, again, I strongly urge you to select the "no-action" alternative on the Alaska-specific Roadless Rule and keep the 2001 National Roadless Rule on the Tongass.

Thank you for your consideration.

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Karen
Last name: Wolf
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Karen Wolf and I live in Baltimore, Maryland.

Important

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, Karen Wolf

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: karen
Last name: wolf
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is karen wolf and I live in [@advCity], Pennsylvania.

we need to find alternate ways to do things in the world, all the greed propelling destruction of forests needed for our very survival makes me think that rather than being a superior species, we are the most stupid destroying our own home & threatening our own survival?? All for money, profits & such, we can't eat money, we can't breath money, we can't keep going on like this. We need to protect our natural resources, clean air, clean water and our forests, which produce oxygen.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.

Regards, karen wolf

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Laura
Last name: Wolf
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Laura Wolf and I live in Asheville, North Carolina.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Laura Wolf

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Leah
Last name: Wolf
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, Leah Wolf

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Linda
Last name: Wolf
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Linda Wolf and I live in Fanwood, New Jersey.

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, Linda Wolf

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Martin
Last name: Wolf
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC4056

U.S. Forest Service Alaska Roadless Rule Committee:

The Roadless Rule has been instrumental in conserving the Tongass National Forest and in supporting its 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. 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.

Sincerely,

Martin Wolf

Colorado Springs, CO 80919

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Martin
Last name: Wolf
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Martin Wolf and I live in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

You should consider doing the best economical thing for Alaska, which is the right thing for its people including natives and in this case, the right thing for its environment and wildlife and tourism of all kinds: the "No Action" alternative!

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, Martin Wolf

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/14/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Meghan
Last name: Wolf
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Meghan Wolf and I live in Reno, NV. I am writing a comment on the Alaska Roadless Rule DEIS because I am concerned with how the Rule and the proposed full exemption will affect the Tongass National Forest and the Chugach National Forest.

Protecting public lands and protecting our natural resources for the greater health of the planet is my work and a personal mission to protect our planet. I want to protect this forest for it's importance in carbon storage and the habitat it provides for wildlife.

I urge the Forest Service to select Alternative 1, the no action alternative, for the final decision on the Alaska Roadless Rule. This alternative protects the inventoried roadless areas in Alaska that are full of pristine wilderness and provide important fish and wildlife habitat, and already allows for important community and economic development projects. As an American citizen, I value the Tongass National Forest and the Chugach National Forest for its status as America's best natural solution to climate change and its sequestering of millions of metric tons of carbon and mitigating climate change, its wild salmon populations and the world-class fishing opportunities, its huge swaths of intact ecosystems and all the biodiversity it contains, its status as the largest intact temperate rainforest in the world, the recreational opportunities it provides, the high density of incredible wildlife it contains, and the lifestyles of the indigenous communities that the forest supports. A full exemption does not protect these priorities, nor does it effectively balance economic development with the countless other benefits provided by roadless areas. I would like the Forest Service to manage roadless areas for passive/active watershed restoration (stream and habitat) to improve/maintain roadless characteristics (culvert removal/replacement, improve fish passage, wildlife thinning, etc), and low-impact recreation (camping, hiking, hunting, foraging, etc). It is important to me that high-value intact habitat including the T77 watersheds and the TNC conservation priority areas retain their roadless protections in any alternative selected.

The Forest Service is wasting taxpayers' valuable time and money by trying to prop up a failing timber industry in Southeast Alaska. The nonpartisan, independent taxpayer watchdog Taxpayers for Common Sense reported that the Tongass timber program has losses of over $600 million of taxpayers money in the past 20 years. I would rather see my taxpayer dollars used to establish the economic value of the carbon stored in the Tongass, restore salmon habitat that was hurt by past logging practices, and prioritize restoration projects that support wildlife populations on previously degraded landscapes that upon which wildlife populations rely. We need to stop subsidizing the clearcutting of old growth on the Tongass through taxpayer funded roadbuilding. If a full exemption were chosen, it would not create opportunities and would instead prioritize the special interests of one industry over the interests of the entire American public.

The Tongass is Americas homegrown natural solution to climate change. The forest sequesters 8% of the carbon stored in forests throughout the contiguous US states, some 3 billion metric tons of it. We must take action to mitigate and adapt to climate change, and maintaining the Tongass in a roadless state is critical for a sustainable future.

I urge the Forest Service to listen to the voices of the American people and prioritize them over corporate interests. The Forest Service should strengthen public involvement in developing land management policy and focus on broadly supported work rather than allowing special corporate interests to guide policy changes. Attempting to exempt inventoried roadless areas on the Chugach National Forest from the Alaska Roadless

Rule adds further insult to injury, and this proposal has not received any sufficient environmental impact analysis or public input. Choosing a full exemption will not create a long lasting, durable solution for roadless areas in Alaska it will only increase the legal challenges, uncertainty for businesses, and conflict over these forests going forward.

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Nancy
Last name: Wolf
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, Nancy Wolf

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Pam
Last name: Wolf
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
PLEASE. 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, Pam Wolf

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Peter
Last name: Wolf
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Peter Wolf and I live in Sebastopol, California.

My name is [@advFirst] [@advLast] and I live in [@advCity] [@advState].

Im writing to lodge a formal protest against the final management plan for the Indian Creek and Shash Jaa units of Bears Ears National Monument. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) must protect all of the lands in the original boundaries of Bears Ears National Monument in its 2016 designation.

[@customField?4969]

This final version of the plan has little to no improvement over the draft management plan that I contacted you about last year. I requested you alter the plan to provide for co-management with the tribes, protections for cultural resources, ecology, water and wildlife.

The final plan is wholly inadequate in providing protections for cultural resources, ecology, water and wildlife. Your plan to develop cultural resource monitoring and management strategies two years down the road is not sufficient. The fact you have not included any real consultation with the Navajo Nation, Hopi Tribe, Ute Mountain Ute Tribe, Pueblo of Zuni, and Ute Indian Tribe who petitioned for the protection of the Bears Ears landscape is not only problematic, it is offensive. The BLM and the USFS must provide the interested Tribes with a meaningful voice in the co-management of this special area. Under BLM and USFSs current plan, priceless cultural resources are left at risk, and the tribes have no voice in the management of their sacred lands.

It is clear that BLM prioritized speed over getting this proposal right. It is incomprehensible why BLM would have pushed this forward in such an expedited manner when President Trumps Proclamation 9681 is currently the subject of ongoing legal challenges, and legal experts have indicated the Proclamation will be ruled illegal.

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, Peter Wolf

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Rachel
Last name: Wolf
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Rachel Wolf and I live in Santa Cruz, 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, Rachel Wolf

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Rachel
Last name: Wolf
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, Rachel Wolf

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Rachel
Last name: Wolf
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Rachel Wolf and I live in Saint Paul, Minnesota.

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, Rachel Wolf

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Rachel
Last name: Wolf
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, Rachel Wolf

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Robyn
Last name: Wolf
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Robyn Wolf and I live in Boulder, Colorado.

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, Robyn Wolf

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Roy
Last name: Wolf
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Roy Wolf and I live in Sunnyvale, 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, Roy Wolf

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: S.
Last name: Wolf
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, S. Wolf

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Stephen
Last name: Wolf
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Stephen Wolf and I live in Sandwich, Illinois.

There is hardly another resource on this planet that has the value of old growth trees.

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, Stephen Wolf

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/10/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Steven
Last name: Wolf
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): 12/10/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Taylor
Last name: Wolf
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Taylor Wolf and I live in Oakland, CA. I am writing a comment on the Alaska Roadless Rule DEIS because I am concerned with how the Rule and the proposed full exemption will affect the Tongass National Forest and the Chugach National Forest.

It is essential that we preserve the Tongass for those, humans and non-humans, who are living in balanced relationship with one another. There are so much wisdom in these ways of being, in the way the wolves and bears know their homes. It makes no sense for these entire ecosystems to be destroyed for hunger of a few people living far away from these lands.

I urge the Forest Service to select Alternative 1, the no action alternative, for the final decision on the Alaska Roadless Rule. This alternative protects the inventoried roadless areas in Alaska that are full of pristine wilderness and provide important fish and wildlife habitat, and already allows for important community and economic development projects. As an American citizen, I value the Tongass National Forest and the Chugach National Forest for its status as America's best natural solution to climate change and its sequestering of millions of metric tons of carbon and mitigating climate change, its wild salmon populations and the world-class fishing opportunities, its huge swaths of intact ecosystems and all the biodiversity it contains, its status as the largest intact temperate rainforest in the world, the recreational opportunities it provides, the high density of incredible wildlife it contains, to keep public lands wild for future generations, its status as a national and global treasure, the lifestyles of the indigenous communities that the forest supports. A full exemption does not protect these priorities, nor does it effectively balance economic development with the countless other benefits provided by roadless areas. I would like the Forest Service to manage roadless areas for low-impact recreation (camping, hiking, hunting, foraging, etc). It is important to me that high-value intact habitat including the T77 watersheds and the TNC conservation priority areas retain their roadless protections in any alternative selected.

The Forest Service is wasting taxpayers' valuable time and money by trying to prop up a failing timber industry in Southeast Alaska. The nonpartisan, independent taxpayer watchdog Taxpayers for Common Sense reported that the Tongass timber program has losses of over $600 million of taxpayers money in the past 20 years. I would rather see my taxpayer dollars used to restore salmon habitat that was hurt by past logging practices, perform restorative actions that support wildlife populations on previously degraded landscapes that support wildlife populations, develop more recreational opportunities, like trails and cabins. We need to stop subsidizing the clearcutting of old growth on the Tongass through taxpayer funded roadbuilding. If a full exemption were chosen, it would not create opportunities and would instead prioritize the special interests of one industry over the interests of the entire American public.

The Tongass is Americas homegrown natural solution to climate change. The forest sequesters 8% of the carbon stored in forests throughout the contiguous US states, some 3 billion metric tons of it. We must take action to mitigate and adapt to climate change, and maintaining the Tongass in a roadless state is critical for a sustainable future.

I urge the Forest Service to listen to the voices of the American people and prioritize them over corporate interests. The Forest Service should strengthen public involvement in developing land management policy and focus on broadly supported work rather than allowing special corporate interests to guide policy changes.

Attempting to exempt inventoried roadless areas on the Chugach National Forest from the Alaska Roadless Rule adds further insult to injury, and this proposal has not received any sufficient environmental impact analysis or public input. Choosing a full exemption will not create a long lasting, durable solution for roadless areas in Alaska it will only increase the legal challenges, uncertainty for businesses, and conflict over these forests going forward.

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Todd
Last name: Wolf
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Todd Wolf and I live in Parsippany-troy Hills, New Jersey.

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, Todd Wolf

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Wesley
Last name: Wolf
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Wesley Wolf and I live in Lake Barrington, Illinois.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Wesley Wolf

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Amy
Last name: Wolfberg
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Amy Wolfberg and I live in Los Angeles, California.

I am very, very angry that the EPA is so willing to jeopardize the health of Americans in order to benefit polluting industries. In the Trump era, the EPA should be renamed the Environmental Pollution Agency.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.

Regards, Amy Wolfberg

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Amy
Last name: Wolfe
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Amy Wolfe and I live in Phoenix, Arizona.

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, Amy Wolfe

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Barbara
Last name: Wolfe
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, Barbara Wolfe

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Barton
Last name: Wolfe
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Save Tongass! This is a precious place and belongs to all people, NOT to a few greedy profiteers. I 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, Barton Wolfe

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Brian
Last name: Wolfe
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Roadless Rule

Hello,

I am writing you today in regards to the Alaska Roadless Rule alternatives currently being proposed. I strongly support Alternative #1 to leave the original 2001 Roadless Rule in place.

In a time when we are on the verge of an existential crisis threatening our very existence on this planet, we need every last shrub, plant, and tree that we can muster. Corporate interests wringing some of the last untouched wilderness in our country for every last penny robs us all not only of the natural beauty of the landscape, but may very well rob our children of a future.

Please do not revoke any component of the 2001 Roadless Rule act.

Sincerely,

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/30/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Cathy
Last name: Wolfe
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Cathy Wolfe and I live in Bernville, Pennsylvania.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, Cathy Wolfe

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/18/2019 6:37:10 PM
First name: Charles
Last name: Wolfe
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Comments to oppose modification to the Roadless Rule

Dear U.S. Forest Service,

The Roadless Rule helps protect old-growth habitat for birds like the Prince of Wales Spruce Grouse and Northern Goshawk, as well as for mammals like wolves and deer. Opening roadless areas to more logging and roads will fragment the forest and eliminate more of the big old trees that these animals rely on.

Yet, all of the action alternatives in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement allow more roadbuilding and logging across the Tongass National Forest. Logging roads and timber operations cost tens of millions of taxpayer dollars every year, with zero return on investment. Meanwhile, these destructive activities degrade the naturally sustainable wealth of salmon, wildlife watching, and tourism opportunities.

It is time to stop opening more and more acres to the timber industry and instead bolster protections to the old-growth forests and wild areas on the Tongass. I urge you to select the "No Action" Alternative (Alternative 1) and allow the Roadless Rule to remain intact on the Tongass National Forest.

Sincerely,
Charles Wolfe
Sylmar, CA 91342

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Cheryl
Last name: Wolfe
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Cheryl Wolfe and I live in Rio Linda, 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, Cheryl Wolfe

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Ciara
Last name: Wolfe
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): 11/13/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Claire
Last name: Wolfe
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Claire Wolfe and I live in Germantown, Maryland.

Please save this unique national forest.

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, Claire Wolfe

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 1/1/0001 12:00:00 AM
First name: Elizabeth
Last name: Wolfe
Organization:
Title:
Comments:

Dear Chief Christiansen,

I live and work on the lands and waters of the Tongass National Forest. The health of the Tongass National Forest is critical to sustaining my way of life in this rugged region. From hunting and fishing, to hiking and camping, to our tourism and commercial fishing-based economies, we rely on the intact habitat that the roadless areas of the Tongass contain. That is why it is important to me that the 2001 Roadless Rule remain in place on the Tongass National Forest. A no-action alternative is the best option for Southeast Alaska.

Prioritizing one antiquated industry over private sectors is bad business, and bad for Southeast Alaska. I support the Tongass Transition and I would like the Forest Service to continue phasing out old growth clearcutting. Please prioritize conservation of the T77 and TNC conservation priority areas in any new Alaska Roadless Rule. This forest is a salmon forest, and the Forest Service should focus on restoring degraded watersheds and fish streams.

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 1/1/0001 12:00:00 AM
First name: Elizabeth
Last name: Wolfe
Organization:
Title:
Comments:

Dear Chief Christiansen,

I live and work on the lands and waters of the Tongass National Forest. The health of the Tongass National Forest is critical to sustaining my way of life in this rugged region. From hunting and fishing, to hiking and camping, to our tourism and commercial fishing-based economies, we rely on the intact habitat that the roadless areas of the Tongass contain. That is why it is important to me that the 2001 Roadless Rule remain in place on the Tongass National Forest. A no-action alternative is the best option for Southeast Alaska.

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Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Elizabeth
Last name: Wolfe
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC1259

Dear Chief Christiansen,

I live and work on the lands and waters of the Tongass National Forest. The health of the Tongass National Forest is critical to sustaining my way of life in this rugged region. From hunting and fishing, to hiking and camping, to our tourism and commercial fishing-based economies, we rely on the intact habitat that the roadless areas of the Tongass contain. That is why it is important to me that the 2001 Roadless Rule remain in place on the Tongass National Forest. A no-action alternative is the best option for Southeast Alaska.

Prioritizing one antiquated industry over private sectors is bad business, and bad for Southeast Alaska. I support the Tongass Transition and I would like the Forest Service to continue phasing out old growth clearcutting. Please prioritize conservation of the T77 and TNC conservation priority areas in any new Alaska Roadless Rule. This forest is a salmon forest, and the Forest Service should focus on restoring degraded watersheds and fish streams.

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 1/1/0001 12:00:00 AM
First name: Elizabeth
Last name: Wolfe
Organization:
Title:
Comments:

Dear Chief Christiansen,

I live and work on the lands and waters of the Tongass National Forest. The health of the Tongass National Forest is critical to sustaining my way of life in this rugged region. From hunting and fishing, to hiking and camping, to our tourism and commercial fishing-based economies, we rely on the intact habitat that the roadless areas of the Tongass contain. That is why it is important to me that the 2001 Roadless Rule remain in place on the Tongass National Forest. A no-action alternative is the best option for Southeast Alaska.

Prioritizing one antiquated industry over private sectors is bad business, and bad for Southeast Alaska. I support the Tongass Transition and I would like the Forest Service to continue phasing out old growth clearcutting. Please prioritize conservation of the T77 and TNC conservation priority areas in any new Alaska Roadless Rule. This forest is a salmon forest, and the Forest Service should focus on restoring degraded watersheds and fish streams.

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 1/1/0001 12:00:00 AM
First name: Elizabeth
Last name: Wolfe
Organization:
Title:
Comments:

Dear Chief Christiansen,

I live and work on the lands and waters of the Tongass National Forest. The health of the Tongass National Forest is critical to sustaining my way of life in this rugged region. From hunting and fishing, to hiking and camping, to our tourism and commercial fishing-based economies, we rely on the intact habitat that the roadless areas of the Tongass contain. That is why it is important to me that the 2001 Roadless Rule remain in place on the Tongass National Forest. A no-action alternative is the best option for Southeast Alaska.

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Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Heather
Last name: Wolfe
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Heather Wolfe and I live in Maitland, Florida.

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, Heather Wolfe

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/14/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Honora
Last name: Wolfe
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Honora Wolfe and I live in Lafayette, Colorado.

We need to save every forest, every tree, every ecosystem that functions like a lung for the planet. We all have children and grandchildren. Can we not leave the forests alone as a legacy to them?

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, Honora Wolfe

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/26/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Honora
Last name: Wolfe
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC177

Dear Forest Service,

The Roadless Rule, issued by the Forest Service in 2001, protects the largest carbon sequestration forest in the US, the Tongass National Forest. The forest is also habitat to hundreds of species of animals and trees.

Since the lumber/timber industry is a very small part of the economy in this part of Alaska the only excuse for cutting anything in this forest is greed. At a time when climate change and carbon sequestration are front and center in the minds and hearts of the majority of Americans, it seems crazy to allow a s ingle tree in the Tongass to be cut down for some wealthy person(s) or companies to make money at the expense of the climate and the animals that live there.

When scientists say that over a million species will go extinct in the next 20 years, any habitat that supports hundreds of species should be maintained pristine.

Furthermore, the roadless policy helps resolve some of the challenges facing our national forests: reducing the taxpayer burden for road maintenance; limiting the damage to watersheds and habitat caused by vehicle traffic and construction; and safeguarding mid-elevation landscapes, which are often vulnerable to development.

Finally in addition to the benefits cited above, roadless areas in national forests are major economic drivers for rural communities, drawing hunters, anglers, hikers, mountain bikers, and others seeking the increasingly scarce solitude and quietude that these vast, undisturbed places offer. With more than half of all national forests already open to logging, roads, and other industrial operations, the roadless rule helps ensure that mot of the rest of these pristine wild lands stay as they are.

I oppose ANY logging or roads built into the Tongass National Forest and support Alternative 1: no changes to the current roadless rule.

[Signature]

Thank you,

Honora Wolfe

Lafayette, CO 80026-9143

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/14/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Jeanne
Last name: Wolfe
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Jeanne Wolfe and I live in Washington, District of Columbia.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Jeanne Wolfe

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Jonathan
Last name: Wolfe
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, Jonathan Wolfe

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Katherine
Last name: Wolfe
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Katherine Wolfe and I live in Ashland, Oregon.

We need to protect every remaining square inch of our precious, priceless and irreplaceable natural areas from development and exploitation!!

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.

Regards, Katherine Wolfe

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/20/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Ken
Last name: Wolfe
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
The Tongass National Forest and others like it should be left alone as significant contributor to health of our air, water and animal diversity. What part of Climate Crisis dont you people understand?! We need to add more natural places not reduce the little we have left.

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Michael
Last name: Wolfe
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.

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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, Michael Wolfe

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Michael
Last name: Wolfe
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.

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Regards, Michael Wolfe

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: NeNe
Last name: Wolfe
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC1028

Dear Secretary Perdue,

I live and work on the lands and waters of the Tongass National Forest. The health of the Tongass National Forest is critical to sustaining my way of life in this rugged region. From hunting and fishing, to hiking and camping, to our tourism and commercial fishing-based economies, we rely on the intact habitat that the roadless areas of the Tongass contain. That is why it is important to me that the 2001 Roadless Rule remain in place on the Tongass National Forest. A no-action alternative is the best option for Southeast Alaska.

Prioritizing one antiquated industry over private sectors is bad business, and bad for Southeast Alaska. I support the Tongass Transition and I would like the Forest Service to continue phasing out old growth clearcutting. Please prioritize conservation of the T77 and TNC conservation priority areas in any new Alaska Roadless Rule. This forest is a salmon forest, and the Forest Service should focus on restoring degraded watersheds and fish streams.

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/22/2019 11:31:51 AM
First name: Ryan
Last name: Wolfe
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Ryan Wolfe and I live in Crescent, OK. I am writing a comment on the Alaska Roadless Rule DEIS because I am concerned with how the Rule and the proposed full exemption will affect the Tongass National Forest and the Chugach National Forest.

I'm a hunter and enjoy the outdoors. Fishing and Hunting are passions of mine.

I urge the Forest Service to select Alternative 1, the no action alternative, for the final decision on the Alaska Roadless Rule. This alternative protects the inventoried roadless areas in Alaska that are full of pristine wilderness and provide important fish and wildlife habitat, and already allows for important community and economic development projects. As an American citizen, I value the Tongass National Forest and the Chugach National Forest for to keep public lands wild for future generations. A full exemption does not protect these priorities, nor does it effectively balance economic development with the countless other benefits provided by roadless areas. I would like the Forest Service to manage roadless areas for low-impact recreation (camping, hiking, hunting, foraging, etc). It is important to me that high-value intact habitat including the T77 watersheds and the TNC conservation priority areas retain their roadless protections in any alternative selected.

The Forest Service is wasting taxpayers' valuable time and money by trying to prop up a failing timber industry in Southeast Alaska. The nonpartisan, independent taxpayer watchdog Taxpayers for Common Sense reported that the Tongass timber program has losses of over $600 million of taxpayers money in the past 20 years. I would rather see my taxpayer dollars used to perform restorative actions that support wildlife populations on previously degraded landscapes that support wildlife populations. We need to stop subsidizing the clearcutting of old growth on the Tongass through taxpayer funded roadbuilding. If a full exemption were chosen, it would not create opportunities and would instead prioritize the special interests of one industry over the interests of the entire American public.

The Tongass is Americas homegrown natural solution to climate change. The forest sequesters 8% of the carbon stored in forests throughout the contiguous US states, some 3 billion metric tons of it. We must take action to mitigate and adapt to climate change, and maintaining the Tongass in a roadless state is critical for a sustainable future.

I urge the Forest Service to listen to the voices of the American people and prioritize them over corporate interests. The Forest Service should strengthen public involvement in developing land management policy and focus on broadly supported work rather than allowing special corporate interests to guide policy changes. Attempting to exempt inventoried roadless areas on the Chugach National Forest from the Alaska Roadless Rule adds further insult to injury, and this proposal has not received any sufficient environmental impact analysis or public input. Choosing a full exemption will not create a long lasting, durable solution for roadless areas in Alaska it will only increase the legal challenges, uncertainty for businesses, and conflict over these forests going forward.

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/17/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Stacey
Last name: Wolfe
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Stacey Wolfe and I live in Pasadena, Maryland.

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, Stacey Wolfe

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Stacey
Last name: Wolfe
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, Stacey Wolfe

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Terry
Last name: WOLFE
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Terry WOLFE and I live in Morgantown, West Virginia.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Terry WOLFE

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Thomas
Last name: Wolfe
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.

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Regards, Thomas Wolfe

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Tonnie
Last name: Wolfe
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Our wilderness areas are a precious resource for all people. I live in an area where logging is permitted. The result is literally scarred land that takes years to recover. The loss of trees impacts air and water quality and the climate. Please preserve our pristine wilderness areas. They are a gift for future generations.

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/23/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Kate
Last name: Wolfe-Jenson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Alternatives to a Proposed Alaska Roadless Rule

I urge you to leave all of Alaska under the 2001 Roadless Rule (Alternative 1).

The Tongass National Forest is important to conserve as is because it is vital to protect as a watershed, habitat for endangered species, and buffer to the climate crisis.

I am concerned that even a modest reduction in "unsuitable timber lands" will become a precedent for destruction of the treasure of our national forests.

Please do not submit to shortsighted commercial interests, but maintain the Tongass in as pristine a state as possible.

Thank you

Kate

Kate Wolfe-Jenson

opening to a world of creative possibility

journeydancing.com

creative-experiments.com

dancingwithmonsters.com

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/7/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Joe
Last name: Wolfenbarger
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): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Arielle
Last name: Wolff
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Arielle Wolff and I live in Knoxville, Tennessee.

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, Arielle Wolff

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Cam
Last name: Wolff
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is [Cam] [Wolff] and I live in [Milwaukie], [Oregon].
[To the US Forest Service]
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.
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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Cam Wolff

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Dennis
Last name: Wolff
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Dennis Wolff and I live in Cave Springs, Arkansas.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Dennis Wolff

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Gabriel
Last name: Wolff
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Gabriel Wolff and I live in Santa Cruz, California.

Our country's commonwealth cannot be put up for sale to the highest corporate bidder. Please defend our national treasures for future generations and to ensure the present health of the planet we share.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.

Regards, Gabriel Wolff

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Jenny
Last name: Wolff
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Jenny Wolff and I live in Sedona, Arizona.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Jenny Wolff

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: John
Last name: Wolff
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is John Wolff and I live in Lancaster, Pennsylvania.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, John Wolff

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Mark
Last name: Wolff
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, Mark Wolff

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Scott
Last name: Wolff
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Scott Wolff and I live in Blacklick, Ohio.

This is an outrageous public land grab of our lands! Hands off!

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.

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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, Scott Wolff

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/12/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Seth
Last name: Wolff
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): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Bill
Last name: Wolfolk
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.

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Regards, Bill Wolfolk

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Emilia
Last name: Wolfova
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Emilia Wolfova and I live in Ballston Lake, New York.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Emilia Wolfova

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Edward
Last name: Wolfsohn
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.

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Regards, Edward Wolfsohn

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Edward
Last name: Wolfsohn
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
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Regards, Edward Wolfsohn

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Edward
Last name: Wolfsohn
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Edward Wolfsohn and I live in Durham, North Carolina.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Edward Wolfsohn

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: David
Last name: Wolfson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is David Wolfson and I live in Berkeley, 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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, David Wolfson

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: William
Last name: Wolfson
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, William Wolfson

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Jill
Last name: Wolgamott
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Jill Wolgamott and I live in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Climate change cannot wait! We must do all we can NOW to help make the future world better for our children. Thank you!

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, Jill Wolgamott

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Jill
Last name: Wolgamott
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
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Regards, Jill Wolgamott

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Jill
Last name: Wolgamott
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
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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, Jill Wolgamott

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: m
Last name: wolk
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is m wolk and I live in Havertown, Pennsylvania.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, m wolk

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: carol
Last name: wolkow-price
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is carol wolkow-price and I live in San Luis, Colorado.

don't destroy some of the last wild areas of the planet, there is no going back and today's greed will only hurt future generations

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.

Regards, carol wolkow-price

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Christine
Last name: Woll
Organization: The Nature Conservancy
Title:
Comments:
TNC_Alaska_Roadless_DEIS_Comments

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

James Hubbard

Under Secretary

Department of Agriculture
1400 Jefferson Drive, SW
Washington, DC 20024

Victoria Christiansen

Chief

USDA Forest Service

1400 Independence Ave, SW

Washington, DC 20250

December 17, 2019

Re: Public Comments for the USDA Forest Service Rulemaking for Alaska Roadless Areas

Dear Under Secretary Hubbard and Chief Christiansen,

The Nature Conservancy (TNC) appreciates the opportunity to comment on the USDA Forest Service's rulemaking for Alaska Roadless Areas as defined in the Federal Register on October 17, 2019 (84 FR 55522; 0596-AD37).

The Nature Conservancy is a global conservation organization working around the world to protect ecologically important lands and water for people and nature. Our mission is to conserve the lands and waters on which all life depends. Guided by science, we create innovative, on-the-ground solutions to our world's toughest challenges. We use a collaborative approach that engages local communities, governments, the private sector, and other partners.

The Nature Conservancy has been working in Southeast Alaska for nearly two decades to help ensure the sustainability of the diverse benefits that people derive from the lands and waters on the Tongass National Forest (TNF). Over this time, we have worked to improve scientific information on forest conditions and other important resources, collaborated with local residents to help inform and guide forest management to meet the diverse needs of local communities, and engaged innovative strategies in economic development and small-scale lending to support local businesses.

Following a review of the alternatives contained in this Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS), TNC supports Alternative 1, the No Action alternative; and does not support Alternative 6, the preferred alternative. Our views on these alternatives are informed by three primary reasons:

* The Nature Conservancy believes that the 2001 Roadless Rule has effectively protected the ecologically, socially, and economically important resources in the

Tongass National Forest; a full exemption leaves these resources more vulnerable to adverse impacts from logging and road building. Roadless areas protect habitat that supports healthy salmon runs, the cornerstone of subsistence, commercial and recreation fishing economies; maintains the wild scenery that is a major draw for Southeast Alaska's massive visitor industry; and keeps intact the globally unique old-growth forests that represent a crucial carbon sink in a time of global warming while providing habitat for healthy populations of wolves, bears, and Sitka black-tailed deer. Meanwhile, the proposed alternatives will allow for increased logging and roadbuilding pressure that threaten these values.

* The only way to create durable solutions on the Tongass National Forest is to listen to public, community, and tribal input; the preferred alternative and the rulemaking process to-date has jeopardized major investments in building goodwill and trust over many years among a wide range of local interests. Over the past decade, the Tongass has moved away from conflict and litigation by encouraging collaboration and community engagement. The preferred alternative will undoubtedly increase conflict, as it has been shown to be unsupported by the vast majority of the public, Southeast Alaskan communities, and by all cooperating tribes, and it does not follow collaborative pathways laid out by diverse stakeholder groups including the Tongass Advisory Committee (TAC).
* Changes to the Roadless Rule, and the preferred alternative in particular, take attention and resources away from productive and necessary work the Forest Service could be doing to further benefit the ecological, social, and economic values on the forest. Increased focus on administrative processes, uneconomic timber sale planning, and environmental litigation will continue to draw finite funding and other resources away from the work that benefits Southeast Alaska communities while not achieving any meaningful outcomes. Specifically, there is a need to invest in recreation and tourism, which are the backbone of the Southeast Alaska economy, develop a new timber industry in the form of a young-growth industry, and restore streams and forests so that they can provide maximum ecologic and community benefit.

Alternatives 2 and 3, as written, appear to be an attempt by the agency to create options that represent tradeoffs between industry, communities, and conservation. The Nature Conservancy believes in compromise and balancing tradeoffs to benefit nature and people; however, the process that has been followed in drafting the DEIS to date has lacked the necessary elements for creating a durable compromise on these issues. In the absence of meaningful efforts to bring contentious stakeholders to the table and gain consensus and/or concessions, it is not possible to know whether these alternatives, or some variation thereof, may form the basis for a lasting compromise among stakeholders.

DETAILED COMMENTS AND SUPPORTING ANALYSIS

The Nature Conservancy believes that the 2001 Roadless Rule has effectively protected the ecologically, socially, and economically important resources in the Tongass National Forest; a full exemption leaves these resources more vulnerable to adverse impacts from logging and road building.

The 2001 Roadless Area Conservation Rule recognized, in its statement of Purpose and Need, that some of the last remaining tracts of undeveloped, unfragmented lands in the United States were present on U.S. Forest Service (USFS) land. The actions identified as most likely to alter and fragment these final remaining areas were road construction, road reconstruction, and timber harvest.

Characteristics of roadless areas that were highlighted in the 2001 Rule included, "high quality or undisturbed soil, water and air...helping maintain abundant and healthy fish and wildlife populations; and...the basis for many forms of outdoor recreation." The Alaska Citizen Advisory Committee1 further refined "roadless characteristics" for the Tongass, acknowledging that in addition to their ecological and scenic values, roadless areas in Alaska also have cultural significance for Alaska Native peoples and supply the subsistence resources Southeast Alaska residents depend on. The lands contained in the Tongass underpin much of the economy

and sustenance of Southeast Alaska communities, and Inventoried Roadless Areas (IRAs) play an important role in conserving and stewarding some of the most valuable resources in Southeast Alaska.

When compared to the lower 48, the Tongass is a uniquely wild place: it is part of the largest remaining temperate rainforest on Earth, a rarity that is in itself a draw for tourists and which also protects some of the final remaining healthy salmon runs in the United States. The two largest non-government sectors of the Southeast Alaska economy are the visitor industry and seafood, which combined for 21% of total workforce earnings in 2018 (in contrast, the timber industry accounted for 0.8% of total earnings).2 The economic health and wild nature of the Tongass are inextricably linked, and the unfragmented, unaltered nature of IRAs are crucial to maintaining that wildness. Furthermore, the intact watersheds found in IRAs are a key element of maintaining healthy populations of deer, salmon, and other wildlife species throughout the Tongass. With their wide distribution throughout the Tongass, including in proximity to communities, IRAs provide a function that Wilderness areas (which are generally more remote)

1 Alaska Roadless Rule Citizen Advisory Committee: Final Report to the Governor and State Forester, 11/21/2018.
http://www.alaska.forestry.org/sites/default/files/ak/AKRoadlessRuleCitizenAdvisoryCommittee_FinalReport112 12 018.pdf

2 Southeast Conference, Southeast by the Numbers 2019.

http://www.seconference.org/sites/default/files/FINAL%20Southeast%20by%20the%20Numbers%202019.pdf

do not do nearly as well - the provision of high-quality hunting and fishing access both within their boundaries and in adjacent roaded areas for Southeast Alaska residents.

Below we explore the ways in which the current 2001 Roadless Rule and roadless areas protect ecological values on the Tongass; potential impacts of rulemaking that alters management of IRAs in relation to these characteristics; and the ways in which the DEIS inadequately represents these impacts. As described above, these ecological values are intricately linked with social and economic values of importance.

Increased road building and large-scale clear-cut logging can impact the ecological values of roadless areas

Roadless areas on the TNF contain high quality habitat that supports healthy wildlife and fish populations. Due to the relatively unfragmented nature of roadless areas, this habitat is not split by any development such as roads or large-scale clear-cuts - the activities most likely to impact ecological function on the Tongass.

The alternatives laid out in the DEIS are complex, with multiple Alaska Roadless Area (ARA) designations with differing levels of protection of these habitats from the impacts of roadbuilding and logging. Table 1 captures the Acres designated as Roadless areas in the rulemaking, wheras Table 2 provides more context to the functional change for activities such as roadbuilding, old-growth logging, and young growth logging. Both tables showcase large-scale changes to the acres open to development under a variety of alternatives.

Table 1. Acres designated as Roadless areas in the rulemaking for Alaska Roadless Areas DEIS by alternative.

Table 2. Area included in 2019 Alaska Roadless Areas and/or LUD II, by alternative and functional protection. These acres include all 870,000 LUD II acres in column 1 for analysis consistency. For greater detail, see Appendix A.

*Out of 870,000 acres of LUD II acres only; no Roadless areas under Alternative 6.

It should be noted that when comparing the impacts of alternatives on ecological values, it is challenging to try to compare roadless areas (areas without roads) with areas designated as "Alaska Roadless Areas", some of which allow roadbuilding and old-growth clear-cuts. Likewise, several alternatives either contain or exclude Congressionally-protected Land Use Designation II (LUD II) areas that are functionally protected regardless of

ARA designation. In order to maintain consistency, our analyses of the area functionally protected by each alternative includes all 870,000 acres of LUD II areas for each alternative and excludes the ARAs that allow old-growth clear-cuts and roadbuilding. For our analyses below, we utilize the terms "protected" and "open to development" to represent the functional impacts of any designation changes as a result of any of the alternatives. We also utilize the distinction between Development LUDs and Non-Development LUDs to inform our analysis. To better understand the details of how we are defining these terms in which analysis, see Appendix A.

Understanding the scale of designation changes is helpful in understanding potential impacts, but so is understanding the actual suitability of harvest and likelihood of harvest of any of these areas. An analysis of the total large tree Productive Old Growth (POG), high volume POG, and suitable old growth by alternative (Table 4) showcases a better estimate of how many acres are most likely to be impacted by any potential logging activities.

Table 4. Total Large Tree Productive Old Growth (POG), High Volume POG, and all Old Growth Suitable for harvest by alternative.

Another way to decipher even further the likely impacts is to examine the spatial distribution of suitable, high-volume productive old-growth, i.e., the most highly sought stands. Table 5 shows that it is likely that the main biogeographic provinces that will see disproportionately high increases in timber harvest are Kupreanof/Mitkof, North Prince of Wales, Etolin/Zarembo, and Revilla/Cleveland Peninsula due to their high proportion of these acres and their locations relative to logging-related infrastructure.

Table 5. Acres of Suitable High-volume POG by alternative and Biogeographic Province.

Suitable High-Volume Productive Old Growth (acres)

The DEIS as-written repeatedly assumes that the impacts of roadbuilding and logging will be similar between alternatives, despite the vast difference in acreage made accessible by the

changes. This assumption fails to adequately address the true potential impacts, especially of accessing new, undeveloped watersheds.

As an example, the DEIS asserts that the current projected timber sale quantity (PTSQ) will not change as a result of this rulemaking process to argue that negative effects to current IRAs will be minimal, including for a full exemption. However, this ignores the difference between "maximum allowable harvest" and what can reasonably be expected to occur. The TNF has repeatedly failed to meet its PTSQ for many years as a result of the unfavorable economics of old-growth timber sales, and it is anticipated that any changes to the Roadless Rule will have limited impacts on their ability to meet these targets, especially on the scale depicted in the media. That being said, the preferred alternative will still increase the acreage that may actually be sold for timber harvest in a way that is not represented by unreasonable "maximum allowable harvest" target, which is so bloated as to mask substantial changes to the old-growth harvest that can be reasonably expected in Alternatives 5 and 6. Indeed, a primary rationale supporting Alternative 6 is its ability to allow for the development of more economical timber sales, and thus increased harvest. As proposed and intended, Alternative 6 will increase old-growth timber harvest as compared to the No Action alternative, regardless of whether it achieves PTSQ.

It also seems certain that a full exemption is intended to and will allow for an expansion of roads to access timber in new watersheds, even if the economics of old-growth may mean that very little timber will be successfully sold from those watersheds (a historic trend). The DEIS fails to adequately account for the impact that roadbuilding will have on fish, wildlife, and invasive species in undeveloped watersheds that currently have culvert-free salmon streams and forests that have thus far avoided the introduction of invasive species. The

DEIS notes that 10 intact watersheds would be fragmented under the preferred alternative, but does not go into any further detail as to how accessing these additional intact watersheds will impact terrestrial and aquatic habitat.

The DEIS states that any environmental impacts associated with road building and timber harvested will be analyzed on a site-specific basis as part of the NEPA process. However, road building in particular is an activity whose fragmenting impacts are most felt and best understood at a landscape-wide scale; yet, unlike the 2001 Roadless Rule, this DEIS makes little attempt to analyze the landscape-scale impacts of increased road building.

This level of analysis showcases that predictions of future timber harvest made in the DEIS at a biogeographic province-scale by alternative also appear to be flawed. Table 3.3a-4 of the DEIS, for example, predicts a 13% decrease in acres of old-growth harvest in the North Prince of Wales province under Alternative 6. Table 5 provides a sound basis for determining and assessing more localized impacts on wildlife species, like the wolf, in areas (e.g. North Prince of Wales Complex) where significant additional threats can be expected, rather than focusing exclusively and inadequately on the general, forest-wide impacts on such wildlife species.

Tongass IRAs contain 88% of areas scientifically shown to be the highest priority conservation areas in Southeast Alaska.

In 2008, TNC and Audubon Alaska published A Conservation Assessment for the Coastal Forests and Mountains Ecoregion of Southeast Alaska,3 (See Appendix B for a description). This publication was the result of extensive collaboration with scientists, agency staff and stakeholders, as well as compilation and analysis of the most comprehensive data available on forests, wildlife and fisheries and associated habitat values in southeastern Alaska, and resulted in a spatial dataset on a suite of indicators that represent the full range of biodiversity and ecological values in the region, and the identification of the most important areas for long-term conservation of temperate rainforests and associated social, economic and ecological values, known as the TNC/Audubon Conservation Priority Areas. In addition, beginning in 2012, Trout Unlimited utilized these datasets, with additional stakeholder input, to develop the T77 Watersheds, which specifically identify important fish conservation areas.

These joint conservation priority areas are significantly represented in the IRAs that will be impacted by the rulemaking process.

Table 3. Acres of TNC/Audubon Conservation Priority areas and T77 watersheds protected from logging and roadbuilding as roadless areas and/or LUD II areas.

*Out of 870,000 acres of LUD II acres only; there are no Roadless areas under Alternative 6.

Tongass Inventoried Roadless Areas contain over 40% of the Tongass National Forest's remaining Large Tree Old Growth.

The logging that occurred on the TNF over the past 70 years focused on the largest, highest-volume stands that were easily accessible. Combined with logging that has taken place on private lands, this has meant a substantial diminishment of large tree POG. Of what remains on USFS land (approximately 510,000 acres), 45% - 230,000 acres - is located within IRAs (Table 6). These stands are globally unique, contain centuries of accumulated carbon, and provide valuable habitat for wildlife. Over the course of its relatively short enforcement in Alaska, the 2001 Roadless Rule has likely kept thousands of acres of large tree old-growth from being harvested;

3 Schoen, J. & E. Dovichin, eds. (2007). A Conservation Assessment of the Coastal Forests and Mountains of the Tongass National Forest and Southeast Alaska. The Nature Conservancy and Audubon Alaska. Anchorage AK.

considering the rarity and outsize importance of these stands to wildlife and the climate, they should continue to be protected, as is most effectively done by Alternative 1.

Table 6: Large Tree Productive Old Growth protected as Roadless by alternative. The "biogeographic provinces most likely to see harvest," according to Table 5, are Kupreanof/Mitkof, North Prince of Wales, Etolin/Zarembo, and Revilla/Cleveland Peninsula.

Inventoried Roadless Areas protect 49% of salmon stream miles encompassed by the Tongass National Forest.4

The greatest continuing threat to salmon habitat quality on federal lands is road construction because of the potential for sediment delivery and the ability of a poorly designed or constructed stream crossing to block fish passage. Currently, nearly half of the salmon stream habitat on the TNF - and over 60% of coho and sockeye spawning habitat - is located in IRAs, protecting it from these impacts (Table 7). This unaltered habitat provides commercial and subsistence salmon for free- no habitat management, restoration, or hatcheries needed. Allowing roadbuilding in these watersheds would diminish these ecosystem services for little gain. As noted in the DEIS, even modern road construction following best management practices can have negative impacts on fish habitat. Improperly constructed crossings can cut off anadromous fish access to portions of the stream upstream from the crossing; even a few instances of this in a previously undeveloped watershed can be a significant diminishment of habitat. Any analysis done on the alternatives should account for the impact of road construction and operation on previously unroaded watersheds.

4 As identified in the 2018 Alaska Anadromous Waters Catalog (AWC)

Table 7: Salmon stream protection, by alternative.

The 2001 Roadless Rule contains important wildlife habitats and populations that benefits Southeast Alaska communities.*Values in this row are exclusively for 870,000 acres of LUD II.

In order to better understand the potential implications of the alternatives on critical wildlife habitat, TNC has performed an analysis using data from A Conservation Assessment for the Coastal

Forests and Mountains Ecoregion of Southeast Alaska,5 which was developed by TNC and Audubon Alaska to describe and assess the spatial distribution of important ecological values across Southeast Alaska. This data shows that Tongass IRAs protect 51% of Sitka black-tailed deer habitat and 52% of bear habitat.

Table 8: Deer and bear habitat protection by alternative

*Values for 870,000 acres of LUD II not included in Roadless under Alt 6.

It is important to consider the situation of deer habitat at a Biogeographical Province scale as well. This analysis shows that in several of the provinces most likely to see increased logging pressure, the preferred alternative will place >40% of deer habitat value in development LUDs open to logging and roadbuilding (Table 9). This includes the North Central Prince of Wales

5 Schoen, J. & E. Dovichin, eds. (2007). A Conservation Assessment of the Coastal Forests and Mountains of the
Tongass National Forest and Southeast Alaska. The Nature Conservancy and Audubon Alaska. Anchorage AK.

Biogeographic Province, which encompasses multiple communities and has already seen large decreases in deer habitat capability due to extensive logging. Bear habitat will be similarly impacted in these provinces (Table 10).

Table 9: Amount of deer habitat most likely to see impacts of logging and roadbuilding

In many areas of Southeast Alaska, deer habitat is also important to one of their predators- the Alexander Archipelago wolf. Petitions to list the Alexander Archipelago wolf were filed in 1993 and 2011, in part due to decreasing populations in some areas of Southeast Alaska (for instance, on Prince of Wales Island, populations decreased from 39.5 wolves/1,000 km2 in 1994 to 11.9/1,000 km2 in 2015.6) The causes of this decline are complex, but there is little question that both increased road access (and the resultant increase in human interactions) and decreasing deer populations place negative pressure on wolf populations. Both of these negative pressures are expected to expand under the preferred alternative. While the DEIS does discuss wolf population, the impacts analysis for wolves is inadequate in that it focuses exclusively on the forest-wide population and ignores significant impacts on threatened regional populations. As a result, changes that are acknowledged to likely have a negative impact on a species that has seen

6 Wolf Technical Committee. 2017. Interagency Wolf Habitat Management Program: Recommendations for Game Management Unit 2. Management Bulletin R10-MB-822. USDA Forest Service, USDI Fish and Wildlife Service, and Alaska Department of Fish and Game. Available at:

https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE DOCUMENTS/fseprd537975.pdf

a 75% decrease in population in one region over the past 25 years are set aside without thorough analysis, an issue that should be rectified in the final EIS.

Considering that predicted timber harvest by biogeographic province is likely flawed in the DEIS, it is unlikely that the impacts a full exemption to the Roadless Rule will have on deer, bear, and wolves have been properly quantified, especially for Prince of Wales Island.

Tongass roadless areas are critical to a world with a changing climate

Roadless areas, in their undeveloped nature, provide natural climate resilience for the ecological systems of Southeast Alaska amid year-to-year uncertainty. Research around the globe examining the connection between fragmentation and ecosystem resilience shows that more fragmented ecosystems (by roads and other development) are less resilient to detrimental changes to habitat and climate conditions. Considering the uncertainty surrounding climate 7 having intact, unfragmented watersheds in all corners of the Tongass increases the resiliency of the forests and wildlife of the National Forest.

In addition to this role, the forests of the Tongass themselves serve as a safeguard against climate change. Temperate rainforests contain some of the highest concentrations of sequestered carbon of any forest type globally, and the undisturbed old-growth forests found in roadless areas contain carbon accumulated over centuries in their trees and soils. With a disturbance regime that mainly consists of small windthrow events (0.25-1 acre in size) and no fire return interval, the forests of Southeast Alaska are also among the most stable stores of natural carbon. The table below, which was derived by recent analysis of the spatial distribution of carbon storage on the Tongass,8 showcases the vast stores of biomass carbon currently protected in roadless areas.

Table 11: Carbon stored in biomass protected by alternative

*Values in this row are exclusively for 870,000 acres of LUD II.

7 Shanley, Colin S., et al. "Climate change implications in the northern coastal temperate rainforest of North America." Climatic Change 130.2 (2015): 155-170.

8 Buma, Brian, and Thomas Thompson. "Long-term exposure to more frequent disturbances increases baseline carbon in some ecosystems: Mapping and quantifying the disturbance frequency-ecosystem C relationship." PloS one 14.2 (2019): e0212526.

Inventoried Roadless Areas are critical defenses against the spread of invasive species

According to the 2001 Roadless Conservation Rule, IRAs serve as a "bulwark" against the intrusion of invasive species into previously unaffected landscapes. Invasive plant species compete with native vegetation, with potential negative impacts for both the flora and fauna of an ecosystem. In Southeast Alaska, species of note include reed canarygrass, Japanese knotweed, and spotted knapweed. Climate change has increased the risk of invasion by these species; as the DEIS notes, ". .the current and predicted milder winter temperatures and the longer growing season in Southeast Alaska have created opportunities for the spread and establishment of invasive plant species within this region."9

With seeds and invasive plant parts spreading by hitching a ride on heavy equipment used for roadbuilding and logging, roads in the TNF are a conduit for invasive species to colonize new areas. Roads accessing parts of the Tongass that were previously undeveloped are likely to have an outsized impact in terms of invasive species. When comparing a mile of road in a watershed that already has had significant road and logging development to a mile of road in an undeveloped watershed, the two are not equal; in the former, impacts have already occurred in the vicinity, while in the latter, a new avenue for the spread of invasive species is being opened for the first time. The DEIS fails to make this distinction.

The only way to create durable solutions on the Tongass is to listen to public, stakeholder, community, and tribal input; the preferred alternative and the process to date has jeopardized major investments in building goodwill and trust over many years among a wide range of local interests

The Purpose and Need of the Alaska Roadless Rule rulemaking DEIS states that this rule is meant to provide a "long-term, durable approach to roadless area management. .that accommodates the unique biological, social, and economic situation found in and around the Tongass."10 The long history of the Tongass is marked by conflict, litigation, and unstable policies that have prevented long-term durable solutions to land management challenges. We are pleased to see this as a purpose of this process, but it is difficult to argue that a full exemption to the Roadless Rule meets the stated Purpose and Need.

Experience on the Tongass has demonstrated that the way to achieve a durable solution is through compromise, involvement of diverse stakeholders , and reliance on the best available information. Experience has also demonstrated the importance of process: a process that is responsive to public input from inclusive, collaborative, and empowered stakeholders is far more likely to have a broad constituency in favor of the final outcome than a rule based solely on top-down dictates.

9 DEIS 3-122

10 DEIS ES-2

Recent trends have suggested that the region has been moving in this direction. The 2016 TLMP Amendment and the Prince of Wales Landscape Level Analysis are both examples of processes that used collaborative, well-informed stakeholder input in drafting TNF plans and projecta, Both documents incorporated diverse viewpoints and concerns, creating plans that can serve the communities of the Tongass. The key in these cases was that the resulting Record of Decisions were responsive to the input of the Tongass Advisory Committee11 and the Prince of Wales Landscape Assessment Team,12 respectively. In spirit, these projects move the Tongass forward by focusing on the transition to young growth, recreation projects, and the salmon and deer that are major staples of the economy and sustenance of the region.

The Alaska Roadless Rule rulemaking process also had the opportunity to be responsive to collaborative, diverse inputs. During the scoping period, the agency toured a large number of rural Southeast Alaskan communities and generated many public scoping comments. The State of Alaska established a Citizen's

Advisory Committee, which spent many hours discussing potential alternatives and related issues. Five tribal governments signed on as Cooperating Agencies and contributed an unprecedented amount of time and energy into analyzing the potential impacts of a rulemaking on their traditional lands. According to the USFS, only 2 of the 14 communities visited during the scoping period were not overwhelmingly supportive of the 2001 Roadless Rule; and a large majority of the public written comments were not supportive of a full exemption. According to the President of the regional tribe, Central Council Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska, none of the cooperating tribes supported a full exemption, and the process severely diminished their voices; and since scoping a variety of tribes and subsistence boards have voted to support a no-action alternative. The Citizen's Advisory Committee did not recommend a full exemption, and many of the issues that were included as priorities by this group have not been addressed by the preferred alternative.

Alternatives 2 and 3 appear to be alternatives that represent attempts by the USFS to respond to diverse input by creating "middle-ground" options. The Nature Conservancy is supportive of the attempts to including TNC/Audubon Conservation Priority Areas and T77 areas into a protected status, as included in Alternative 2 and 3; and we are broadly supportive of the idea of creating community priority areas that allow areas near communities to have a particular status.

However, without any time or interest in developing Alternatives 2 and 3 in a way that brings other stakeholders (i.e., industry or other supporters of the preferred alternative) to the table, even these options seem non-durable. Furthermore, the community priority areas seem to have been created in haste, only apply criteria associated with local processing of timber (and not other community priorities such as subsistence or cultural uses) and have been applied to several communities that have been on the record in opposition to any changes to the Roadless Rule. Meanwhile, none of the recommendations from the tribes that signed on as Cooperative

Agencies have been incorporated into these community priority areas.

11 Tongass Advisory Committee Final Recommendations. December 2015. Available at: https://s31207.pcdn.co/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/Tongass-Advisory-Committee-Final-Recommendations_Dec-2015.pdf

12 Prince of Wales Landscape Assessment Team Final Package. June 2017.

https://static1.squarespace.com/static/566f1973a2bab8b3e485212d/t/59401661ff7c50ca37809356/1497372293342/P OWLAT+Final+Package+June+2017.pdf

The need to connect communities, access mining claims, and develop renewable energy projects were all cited as arguments for changing the 2001 Roadless Rule in Alaska. However, the 2001 Roadless Rule in Alaska already provides exceptions for renewable energy development and mining within IRAs, and the State of Alaska has easement for utility/transport corridors across the Tongass under Section 4407 of the 2005 federal transportation funding bill.13 Furthermore, in 2018 the process for approving IRA exceptions was streamlined by delegating authority for approval to the Regional Forester (previously, delegation had been to the USFS Chief in Washington, D.C.), in order to expedite these exceptions.14 However, the USFS has noted that IRAs do not allow for the development of geothermal projects in roadless areas. If this is an issue that presents a durable solution to ensure community access to renewable energy, TNC supports a concise, targeted amendment to the rule for Alaska that will allow geothermal development alongside the existing exceptions. A full exemption (or any change to IRA boundaries) is not required to achieve this outcome.

Changes to the Roadless Rule, and the preferred alternative in particular, take attention and resources away from productive and necessary work the Forest Service could be doing to further benefit the ecological, social, and economic values on the forest.

The Roadless Rule rulemaking process to date has already cost considerable agency resources, and if a full exemption is implemented, it will undoubtedly lead to the continuation of USFS resources being dominated by illogical priorities, including uneconomic planning for old-growth timber sales and a likely another lengthy administrative process to revise the TLMP. Finite funding and staffing resources available to the USFS - and

the region more generally - are best put to use on projects that advance management activities that will benefit the economy and communities of Southeast Alaska.

Historic prioritization of old-growth timber planning has consistently cost more than it has benefitted the Southeast Alaska economy.

A recent report from Taxpayers for Common Sense highlighted the fact that the Tongass National Forest loses millions of dollars annually supporting its old-growth timber program.15 This reveals the paradox on the Tongass: while old-growth trees are thought to supply the only products valuable enough to pay their way from the mill to markets outside of Southeast Alaska, little attention is paid to the initial costs of planning for and accessing those stands. The Nature Conservancy supports the transition to young growth because we view it as a viable industry; the hurdle of accessing young growth stands was crossed during the era of subsidized roadbuilding. Old-growth simply isn't worth enough to justify the immense timber sale preparation and infrastructure costs associated with it, particularly when discussing opening undeveloped watersheds for timber cruising that may require construction of log transfer facilities (LTF) and

13 http://www.law.state.ak.us/press/releases/2019/061219-Tongass.html

14 https://www.eenews.net/assets/2018/11/08/document_gw_02.pdf

15 Taxpayers for Common Sense 2019. https://www.taxpayer.net/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/TCS-Cutting-Our-Losses-2019-.pdf

trunk roads for initial access. Any old-growth timber that was easily accessible or economically viable on the TNF has likely already been harvested, and there are many examples of planned timber sales that have failed to find a buyer. Lastly, the great majority of timber sales on the TNF are significantly delayed or held up by environmental litigation, another costly expense.

Included in the 2001 Roadless Area Conservation Rule is the recognition that, "the size of the existing forest road system and attendant budget constraints prevent the agency [USFS] from managing its road system to the safety and environmental standards to which it was built." The USFS currently has a $3.4 billion deferred road maintenance backlog; however, the cost of maintaining the additional roads that will be built accessing current IRAs is not addressed in the Alaska Roadless Rule rulemaking DEIS. Meanwhile, the TNF's record of building multi-million dollar roads not included in timber sale costs (North Kuiu being a good recent example) suggests that opening IRAs to roadbuilding for logging will likely cost the taxpayer and not result in any new timber sales.

In order to support the economy and communities of Southeast Alaska, the Tongass National Forest should be focusing its resources on things that generate productive and positive benefits, including restoration, recreation and tourism infrastructure, and the transition of the timber industry to a viable future.

Improving fish habitat is a categorical need across the Tongass

One legacy of 70 years and 440,000 acres of large-scale clear-cut logging and roadbuilding on the Tongass is that of diminished fish habitat, especially in locations logged prior to the Tongass Timber Reform Act in 1990. In many cases, riparian forests were logged with no buffer along salmon spawning streams, streams were used as skid trails, and downed wood that provided instream structure was removed from stream channels intentionally. Additionally, roads were constructed with stream crossings and culverts that are barriers to fish passage (known as "red crossings"). Since the 1990s, it has been recognized that watersheds so impacted could be improved through instream restoration.16

The Tongass National Forest currently has instream restoration and "red crossing" removal needs well in excess of funding and personnel resources available to do the work. The Nature Conservancy has partnered with the TNF on several such projects, and we applaud the efforts being made to stabilize fish habitat. However, restoration completed and planned in the near future addresses only a small part of the identified need. Just considering fish passage and access to habitat, between two recent Landscape Level Analyses on

Prince of Wales Island and in the "Central Tongass," 899 red crossings were identified as needing replacement.

Large-scale attention to wildlife habitat is needed to prevent population declines of important species

Fifteen to twenty years after clear-cut logging, dense young growth enters a period called "stem exclusion," a state that features little light reaching the ground to support shrubs and herbs

16 Bryant, Mason, and Fred Everest. 1998. "Management and Condition of Watersheds in Southeast Alaska: The Persistence of Anadromous Salmon." Northwest Science, 72:4, p 249-267.

wildlife need, and which can persist for 150 years.17 This has a negative impact on many wildlife species, including Sitka black-tailed deer (an important source of protein for local communities), wolves that prey on deer, and bears. There is a substantial need on the Tongass to address this, especially in areas that have had large amounts of historical logging: TNC estimates that habitat capability for Sitka black-tailed deer in the North Prince of Wales Complex biogeographic province has declined by 38% since 1954. Looking forward, the total area of young growth projected to be in stem exclusion by 2045 within Game Management Unit 2 (encompassing Prince of Wales and neighboring islands) is between 251,000 and 496,500 acres, with a consequent decline in deer populations of 21%-32% from 2015 levels.18 Current restoration needs on the Prince of Wales alone are estimated to total $20 million.

Research shows that intermediate silvicultural treatments can delay stem exclusion, extending the amount of time a harvested stand provides forage for herbivores. Forest restoration can serve multiple purposes, but in development LUDs, it should be designed to benefit future timber harvest by thinning the stand to concentrate resources on tree growth in fewer residuals, and wildlife by mimicking natural disturbance through the creation of 0.1-acre forest openings that will contain persistent forage growth for decades.

The largest driver of Southeast Alaska's economy needs investment for continued growth

The visitor industry provides the largest share of worker earnings in Southeast Alaska of any private industry. It is poised for significant growth over the next decade. The USFS's recreation infrastructure is also important for the large majority of Southeast Alaska residents whose main interaction with the TNF is in using its cabins, trails, shelters, and campgrounds.

A good example of this infrastructure need was demonstrated by the Prince of Wales Landscape Analysis Team (POWLAT), which produced a list of projects for the Prince of Wales Landscape Level Analysis. Out of 60 project recommendations, that group provided a list of 31 projects centered on recreation, including cabins, kayak shelters, trails, and a campground.19 Conversations at POWLAT meetings included discussions of cross-island hut-to-hut hiking trails, potential for kayak tours linking offshore islands, and the utility and safety remote island shelters would provide to local residents boating in a place with unpredictable weather. To date, implementation of these projects is slow due to lack of funding and district prioritization.

17 Alaback, Paul B. "Dynamics of Understory Biomass in Sitka Spruce-Western Hemlock Forests of Southeast Alaska: Ecological Archives E063-004." Ecology 63.6 (1982): 1932-1948.

18 Gilbert, S. L., T. Haynes, M. S. Lindberg, D. Albert, and M. L. Kissling. 2015. Future population trends and drivers of change for Alexander Archipelago wolves on and near Prince of Wales Island, Alaska. Draft report submitted to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Region 7, Anchorage, Alaska, by the University of Alaska Fairbanks, Department of Biology and Wildlife and Institute of Arctic Biology.

19 Prince of Wales Landscape Assessment Team Final Package. June 2017. Available at: https://static1.squarespace.com/static/566f1973a2bab8b3e485212d/t/59401661ff7c50ca37809356/1497372293342/P OWLAT+Final+Package+June+2017.pdf

A Southeast Alaska timber industry will only continue to exist if the mapped transition to a young growth timber industry is supported

The timber industry has been a part of the fabric of many areas of Southeast Alaska for decades, and a sustainable young growth industry has a role to play as part of a future diversified economy in the Tongass. The Nature Conservancy strongly supports continued progress toward the transition to a young growth industry. The transition is urgent: the economics of continued old-growth logging are becoming increasingly marginal with every remaining acre that is cut to the point that, without a transition to young growth, there may not be a timber industry in Southeast Alaska in 20 years. The transition will require significant effort and investment of time and resources from the TNF if it is going to succeed in supporting a viable domestic timber industry. The Tongass Advisory Committee recommended "transformative steps" that included pursuing partnerships and collaboration, revamping sale planning and assessment, use of stewardship contracting, and addressing ways to incentivize the development of a domestic industry.20 In the time since those recommendations were submitted to the USFS in December 2015, there have been efforts to improve information regarding young growth supply and workforce capacity development achieved in collaboration with partners, but much remains to be done.

A roadmap for the transition exists that does not include the need to exempt the TNF from the Roadless Rule. Work started by the Tongass Advisory Committee, which then formed the basis of the 2016 TLMP, has the Tongass on track to transition to young growth by 2032. Recent inventory supports this: growth and yield modeling presented at the third "Young Growth Symposium" October 21-23, 2019 showed that, in the southern half of the TNF, a sustained yield of 41 million board feet (MMBF)/year (the projected demand in the 2016 TLMP) will be achieved by 2029, increasing rapidly in the years following that to exceed 100 MMBF/year by 2033. The Nature Conservancy's inventory based on LiDAR showed that, on Prince of Wales Island, there are currently ~68 MMBF in suitable young growth stands exceeding an average of 30,000 board feet per acre. The supply of young growth is on track to achieve the timeline laid out by the TAC and 2016 TLMP, and we encourage the USFS to focus the attention of their timber program on fostering a local domestic young growth industry that can utilize that supply.

The addition of 20,000 acres of young growth to the suitable timber base under the preferred alternative will likely not have any positive effect on the transition; these scattered stands are mostly either less than 20 years old or very remote; and TNC estimates that 2/3 of these suitable young growth acres are highly unlikely to contribute anything to the transition.

CLOSING

The TNF is a national treasure, and TNC is proud to be a long-standing partner of the USFS in helping improve land management of its forests. We are thankful that the USFS can articulate

20 Tongass Advisory Committee Final Recommendations. December 2015. Available at: https://s31207.pcdn.co/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/Tongass-Advisory-Committee-Final-Recommendations Dec-2015.pdf

the need to create durable policy solutions for the purposes of improving the efficiency and effectiveness of land management.

However, the proposed alternative, the DEIS, and the rulemaking process to date make it hard to believe that any decisions derived will ultimately meet the stated purpose and need of said process. The majority of the alternatives fail to adequately protect the ecological, social and economic properties of roadless areas by making road building and timber harvest easier and more likely in very specific areas that have seen the cumulative impacts of roadbuilding and logging over the course of decades. The majority of the alternatives also fail to address the stated desires by the great majority of local and national stakeholders and will damage relationships that have been built between stakeholders over the last decade. Finally, this effort continues a worrying trend of outsized spending and attention on an uneconomic and unsustainable industry, at the expense of current and future industries and other more pressing needs.

Sincerely,

Christine Woll

Southeast Alaska Program Director

The Nature Conservancy

Steven Cohn

Alaska State Director
The Nature Conservancy

Appendix A: Notes on the Analyses of Alaska Roadless Areas defined in the DEIS

The alternatives laid out in the DEIS are complex, with multiple Alaska Roadless Area (ARA) designations with differing levels of protection. As a result, straightforward analysis of changes in the total area contained in Roadless by alternative fails to capture the functional change in land area protected from development activities such as roadbuilding, old-growth logging, and young growth logging.

It should be noted that when comparing the impacts of alternatives on ecological values, it is challenging to try to compare roadless areas (areas without roads) with areas designated as "Alaska Roadless Areas", some of which allow roadbuilding and old-growth clear-cuts. Likewise, several alternatives either contain or exclude Congressionally-protected Land Use Designation II (LUD II) areas that are functionally protected regardless of ARA designation. In order to maintain consistency, our analyses of the area functionally protected by each alternative includes all 870,000 acres of LUD II areas for each alternative and excludes the ARAs that allow old-growth clear-cuts and roadbuilding.

For each analyses, we analyzed different levels of protection status to better understand the functional change. Table A1 showcases a variety of protection status levels which have been utilized differently for different analyses.

Table A1. Area included in 2019 Alaska Roadless Areas and/or LUD II, by alternative and functional protection. These acres include all 870,000 LUD II acres in column 1 for analysis consistency.*Out of 870,000 acres of LUD II acres only; no Roadless areas under Alternative 6.

We've organized these functional protections into three categories:

Protection Status 1: Protections that restrict roadbuilding and all commercial logging. This applies to LUD IIs, current Roadless Areas, and the Roadless Priority and Watershed Priority ARAs. This is the level of protection analyzed for fish and stream habitat.

Protection Status 2: Protections that do not allow old-growth logging, but do allow roadbuilding and young-growth logging. This is restricted to Alternative 3's formalizing of TLMP protections for TNC/Audubon Conservation Priority Areas and T77 Watersheds. Combined with Protection Status 1, this is the level used to analyze impacts to wildlife such as deer and bears.

Open to development: This applies to ARA designations that allow old-growth logging and roadbuilding-specifically, the Community Priority ARA for Alternative 3, and the Timber Priority ARA for Alternative 4.

Other analyses displayed relies on data directly comparable across alternatives: timber Suitability for harvest by alternative (Tables 4, 5, and 6) or areas in Development LUDs open to roadbuilding and commercial logging (Tables 9 and 10).

It is worth noting that, according to spatial data provided by the US Forest Service, Alternative 3 will remove 325,000 acres of currently roadless areas from the 2001 Roadless Rule- not 212,000 acres as claimed in the

DEIS. Of this total, 257,000 acres would be in Development LUDs, as defined by the 2016 TLMP. The lack of information as to the extent of Community ARAs in Hydaburg and Kake also makes analysis of Alternative 3 incomplete (and optimistic). This is a striking situation for an issue as momentous as changing roadless area boundaries; the DEIS should not have been released without clear spatial understanding of all the alternatives.

A detailed breakdown the different Alaska Roadless Rule alternatives by protections status is shown below.

Table A2. Detailed breakdown of the different Alaska Roadless Rule alternatives by protections status afforded through the various Alaska Roadless Areas (ARAs). Note that for the sake of consistency, LUD II areas are included in the Total Protected row regardless of roadless status.

Area effected by 2019 Alaska Roadless Rule rulemaking DEIS, by alternative (acres)*

Appendix B: TNC Conservation Priority Areas

Conservation Priorities for Forests and Freshwater
in the Tongass National Forest

Summary: In 2008 The Nature Conservancy and Audubon Alaska published A Conservation Assessment for the Coastal Forests and Mountains Ecoregion of Southeast Alaska (Schoen & Dovichin 2008)1. This publication was the result of extensive collaboration with scientists, agency staff and stakeholders, as well as compilation and analysis of the most comprehensive data every available on forests, wildlife and fisheries and associated habitat values in southeastern Alaska. Our approach was to develop GIS data on a suite of indicators that represent the full range of biodiversity and ecological values in the region (Fig. 1), characterize how these values have changed over time, and identify the most important areas for long-term conservation of temperate rainforests and associated social, economic and ecological values. We used the optimization tool MARXAN to identify the set of areas that contain the highest concentrations of values for this suite of indicators within the smallest total area, as well as the highest concentrations of economic timber values with least overlap to areas important for biodiversity.

Figure 1. Data sources, key attributes and interim models used to map focal species and systems in the Coastal Forests and Mountains of Southeast Alaska.

Integrated Conservation Framework: The result of this assessment was an Integrated Conservation Framework - integrated because it takes into account a range of strategies for conservation of intact watersheds, stewardship of high-value modified watersheds and sustainable timber supply in areas with existing roads and other infrastructure.

* Conservation Priority Watersheds: Areas with high ecological values that are mostly intact with little to no past logging or industrial activity. These areas are best suited for long-term conservation to provide the unique range of social, economic and ecological values associated with oldgrowth temperate rainforests.
* Stewardship Priority Watersheds: Areas that have high ecological values, but also contain substantial past timber harvest and road infrastructure. In some cases, past harvest has created the need for restoration, and young-growth forests provide management opportunities over time.
* Timber Production Watersheds: Areas with substantial past harvest and extensive logging infrastructure, with extensive young-growth forests and sufficient remaining oldgrowth to supply local needs until young-growth forests mature.
* Lower Value Intact Watersheds: Areas that are mostly free of industrial activity, but primarily dominated by mountainous terrain, glaciers or extensive wetlands. These areas provide important values for recreation and other activities, but relatively low value for logging and low conflict.

1 Schoen, J. & E. Dovichin, eds. (2007). A Conservation Assessment of the Coastal Forests and Mountains of the Tongass National Forest and Southeast Alaska. The Nature Conservancy and Audubon Alaska. Anchorage AK.

Appendix D: Analysis of Potential Climate Impacts of Roadless Rulemaking

The Tongass National Forest contains vast stores of carbon in its living matter and soils, both above and below ground. As Southeast Alaska has little to no recent history of catastrophic fire or large-scale disturbance, the largest threat to this carbon store is from human actions, specifically clear-cut logging. Post-logging clear-cuts quickly regenerate into rapidly growing young growth stands, but do not attain the level of stored carbon present in their old-growth predecessors for at least 200 years.21 Likewise, while some of the timber harvested may be milled into products expected to last for 100 years or more, is it estimated that only 13% of the total aboveground carbon will be stored in this way. 22 This accounting does not include the sizeable proportion (possibly >50%) of a forest's carbon sequestered in its soils, and the effects of clear-cutting on that carbon.

Carbon sequestration in the Tongass can be quantified by modeled aboveground and belowground biomass23, soil carbon,24 and CO2-equivalent.25 In analyzing impacts of the Roadless Rule rulemaking by alternative, TNC is focusing on aboveground stores of Carbon in old-growth stands Suitable for harvest (Table D1), although all carbon stores initially decrease following harvest due to microclimate-induced changes in decomposition rates and soil disturbance.

Table D1: Aboveground biomass Carbon storage suitable for harvest, by alternative. This table also includes a comparison of the CO2-equivalent found in the aboveground biomass of these stands with the number of American cars its emission would equal (average emissions on an annual basis).

21 Harmon, Mark E., et al. "Effects on carbon storage of conversion of old-growth forests to young forests." Science, vol. 247, no. 4943, 1990, p. 699

22 Leighty, Wayne W., et al. "Effects of Management on Carbon Sequestration in Forest Biomass in Southeast Alaska." Ecosystems, vol. 9, no. 7, 2006, p. 1051-1065.

23 Buma, Brian, and Thomas Thompson. "Long-term exposure to more frequent disturbances increases baseline carbon in some ecosystems: Mapping and quantifying the disturbance frequency-ecosystem C relationship." PloS one 14.2 (2019): e0212526.

24 McNicol, Gavin, et al. "Large, climate-sensitive soil carbon stocks mapped with pedology-informed machine learning in the North Pacific coastal temperate rainforest." Environmental Research Letters 14.1 (2019): 014004.

25 Based on an expansion factor of 3.664 applied to dry biomass Carbon.

[Position]

The Nature Conservancy
Alaska

James Hubbard
Under Secretary
Department of Agriculture
1400 Jefferson Drive, SW
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Victoria Christiansen
Chief
USDA Forest Service
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December 17, 2019

Re: Public Comments for the USDA Forest Service Rulemaking for Alaska Roadless Areas

Dear Under Secretary Hubbard and Chief Christiansen,

The Nature Conservancy (TNC) appreciates the opportunity to comment on the USDA Forest Service's rulemaking for Alaska Roadless Areas as defined in the Federal Register on October 17, 2019 (84 FR 55522; 0596-AD37).

The Nature Conservancy is a global conservation organization working around the world to protect ecologically important lands and water for people and nature. Our mission is to conserve the lands and waters on which all life depends. Guided by science, we create innovative, on-the-ground solutions to our world's toughest challenges. We use a collaborative approach that engages local communities, governments, the private sector, and other partners.

The Nature Conservancy has been working in Southeast Alaska for nearly two decades to help ensure the sustainability of the diverse benefits that people derive from the lands and waters on the Tongass National Forest (TNF). Over this time, we have worked to improve scientific information on forest conditions and other important resources, collaborated with local residents to help inform and guide forest management to meet the diverse needs of local communities, and engaged innovative strategies in economic development and small-scale lending to support local businesses.

Following a review of the alternatives contained in this Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS), TNC supports Alternative 1, the No Action alternative; and does not support Alternative 6, the preferred alternative. Our views on these alternatives are informed by three primary reasons:

- **The Nature Conservancy believes that the 2001 Roadless Rule has effectively protected the ecologically, socially, and economically important resources in the**

Tongass National Forest; a full exemption leaves these resources more vulnerable to adverse impacts from logging and road building. Roadless areas protect habitat that supports healthy salmon runs, the cornerstone of subsistence, commercial and recreation fishing economies; maintains the wild scenery that is a major draw for Southeast Alaska's massive visitor industry; and keeps intact the globally unique old-growth forests that represent a crucial carbon sink in a time of global warming while providing habitat for healthy populations of wolves, bears, and Sitka black-tailed deer. Meanwhile, the proposed alternatives will allow for increased logging and roadbuilding pressure that threaten these values.

- **The only way to create durable solutions on the Tongass National Forest is to listen to public, community, and tribal input; the preferred alternative and the rulemaking process to-date has jeopardized major investments in building goodwill and trust over many years among a wide range of local interests.** Over the past decade, the Tongass has moved away from conflict and litigation by encouraging collaboration and community engagement. The preferred alternative will undoubtedly increase conflict, as it has been shown to be unsupported by the vast majority of the public, Southeast Alaskan communities, and by all cooperating tribes, and it does not follow collaborative pathways laid out by diverse stakeholder groups including the Tongass Advisory Committee (TAC).
- **Changes to the Roadless Rule, and the preferred alternative in particular, take attention and resources away from productive and necessary work the Forest Service could be doing to further benefit the ecological, social, and economic values on the forest.** Increased focus on administrative processes, uneconomic timber sale planning, and environmental litigation will continue to draw finite funding and other resources away from the work that benefits Southeast Alaska communities while not achieving any meaningful outcomes. Specifically, there is a need to invest in recreation and tourism, which are the backbone of the Southeast Alaska economy, develop a new timber industry in the form of a young-growth industry, and restore streams and forests so that they can provide maximum ecologic and community benefit.

Alternatives 2 and 3, as written, appear to be an attempt by the agency to create options that represent tradeoffs between industry, communities, and conservation. The Nature Conservancy believes in compromise and balancing tradeoffs to benefit nature and people; however, the process that has been followed in drafting the DEIS to date has lacked the necessary elements for creating a durable compromise on these issues. In the absence of meaningful efforts to bring contentious stakeholders to the table and gain consensus and/or concessions, it is not possible to know whether these alternatives, or some variation thereof, may form the basis for a lasting compromise among stakeholders.

DETAILED COMMENTS AND SUPPORTING ANALYSIS

The Nature Conservancy believes that the 2001 Roadless Rule has effectively protected the ecologically, socially, and economically important resources in the Tongass National Forest; a full exemption leaves these resources more vulnerable to adverse impacts from logging and road building.

The 2001 Roadless Area Conservation Rule recognized, in its statement of Purpose and Need, that some of the last remaining tracts of undeveloped, unfragmented lands in the United States were present on U.S. Forest Service (USFS) land. The actions identified as most likely to alter and fragment these final remaining areas were road construction, road reconstruction, and timber harvest.

Characteristics of roadless areas that were highlighted in the 2001 Rule included, "high quality or undisturbed soil, water and air…helping maintain abundant and healthy fish and wildlife populations; and…the basis for many forms of outdoor recreation." The Alaska Citizen Advisory Committee[1] further refined "roadless characteristics" for the Tongass, acknowledging that in addition to their ecological and scenic values, roadless areas in Alaska also have cultural significance for Alaska Native peoples and supply the subsistence resources Southeast Alaska residents depend on. The lands contained in the Tongass underpin much of the economy and sustenance of Southeast Alaska communities, and Inventoried Roadless Areas (IRAs) play an important role in conserving and stewarding some of the most valuable resources in Southeast Alaska.

When compared to the lower 48, the Tongass is a uniquely wild place: it is part of the largest remaining temperate rainforest on Earth, a rarity that is in itself a draw for tourists and which also protects some of the final remaining healthy salmon runs in the United States. The two largest non-government sectors of the Southeast Alaska economy are the visitor industry and seafood, which combined for 21% of total workforce earnings in 2018 (in contrast, the timber industry accounted for 0.8% of total earnings).[2] The economic health and wild nature of the Tongass are inextricably linked, and the unfragmented, unaltered nature of IRAs are crucial to maintaining that wildness. Furthermore, the intact watersheds found in IRAs are a key element of maintaining healthy populations of deer, salmon, and other wildlife species throughout the Tongass. With their wide distribution throughout the Tongass, including in proximity to communities, IRAs provide a function that Wilderness areas (which are generally more remote)

[1] Alaska Roadless Rule Citizen Advisory Committee: Final Report to the Governor and State Forester, 11/21/2018. http://www.alaska.forestry.org/sites/default/files/ak/AKRoadlessRuleCitizenAdvisoryCommittee_FinalReport11212018.pdf

[2] Southeast Conference, Southeast by the Numbers 2019. http://www.seconference.org/sites/default/files/FINAL%20Southeast%20by%20the%20Numbers%202019.pdf

do not do nearly as well - the provision of high-quality hunting and fishing access both within their boundaries and in adjacent roaded areas for Southeast Alaska residents.

Below we explore the ways in which the current 2001 Roadless Rule and roadless areas protect ecological values on the Tongass; potential impacts of rulemaking that alters management of IRAs in relation to these characteristics; and the ways in which the DEIS inadequately represents these impacts. As described above, these ecological values are intricately linked with social and economic values of importance.

Increased road building and large-scale clear-cut logging can impact the ecological values of roadless areas

Roadless areas on the TNF contain high quality habitat that supports healthy wildlife and fish populations. Due to the relatively unfragmented nature of roadless areas, this habitat is not split by any development such as roads or large-scale clear-cuts - the activities most likely to impact ecological function on the Tongass.

The alternatives laid out in the DEIS are complex, with multiple Alaska Roadless Area (ARA) designations with differing levels of protection of these habitats from the impacts of roadbuilding and logging. Table 1 captures the Acres designated as Roadless areas in the rulemaking, wheras Table 2 provides more context to the functional change for activities such as roadbuilding, old-growth logging, and young growth logging. Both tables showcase large-scale changes to the acres open to development under a variety of alternatives.

Table 1. Acres designated as Roadless areas in the rulemaking for Alaska Roadless Areas DEIS by alternative.

	Total acres designated as Roadless Areas	**Acres removed from designated Roadless Areas**	**Acres added to designated Roadless Areas**
Alternative 1	9,223,443	N/A	N/A
Alternative 2	9,251,636	112,470	154,335
Alternative 3	8,118,908	1,153,964	49,428
Alternative 4	8,884,788	375,028	41,865
Alternative 5	6,918,229	2,300,566	0
Alternative 6	0	9,223,443	0

*Offshore islands and Roadless Areas identified in the 2003 Supplemental Roadless EIS (Alternatives 2 & 3), and LUD II acres not currently included in Roadless (Alternatives 2 & 4).

Table 2. Area included in 2019 Alaska Roadless Areas and/or LUD II, by alternative and functional protection. These acres include all 870,000 LUD II acres in column 1 for analysis consistency. For greater detail, see Appendix A.

	Protected from roadbuilding and old-growth logging (acres)	**Protected from old-growth logging; roadbuilding and young growth logging allowed (acres)**	**ARAs not protected from roadbuilding or commercial logging (acres)**	**2001 Roadless Areas opened for roadbuilding and logging (acres)**
TNC Analysis label	*Protected*		*Open to development*	
Alternative 1	9,265,308	0	0	N/A
Alternative 2	9,251,636	0	0	112,470
Alternative 3	8,747,441	366,000	241,646	566,421
Alternative 4	8,135,041	0	749,747	1,124,775
Alternative 5	6,960,094	0	0	2,300,566
Alternative 6*	870,179	0	0	8,387,512

*Out of 870,000 acres of LUD II acres only; no Roadless areas under Alternative 6.

It should be noted that when comparing the impacts of alternatives on ecological values, it is challenging to try to compare roadless areas (areas without roads) with areas designated as "Alaska Roadless Areas", some of which allow roadbuilding and old-growth clear-cuts. Likewise, several alternatives either contain or exclude Congressionally-protected Land Use Designation II (LUD II) areas that are functionally protected regardless of ARA designation. In order to maintain consistency, our analyses of the area functionally protected by each alternative includes all 870,000 acres of LUD II areas for each alternative and excludes the ARAs that allow old-growth clear-cuts and roadbuilding. For our analyses below, we utilize the terms "protected" and "open to development" to represent the functional impacts of any designation changes as a result of any of the alternatives. We also utilize the distinction between Development LUDs and Non-Development LUDs to inform our analysis. To better understand the details of how we are defining these terms in which analysis, see Appendix A.

Understanding the scale of designation changes is helpful in understanding potential impacts, but so is understanding the actual suitability of harvest and likelihood of harvest of any of these areas. An analysis of the total large tree Productive Old Growth (POG), high volume POG, and suitable old growth by alternative (Table 4) showcases a better estimate of how many acres are most likely to be impacted by any potential logging activities.

Table 4. Total Large Tree Productive Old Growth (POG), High Volume POG, and all Old Growth Suitable for harvest by alternative.

	Suitable Large Tree Productive Old Growth (POG) (acres)	**Suitable High-Volume POG (acres)**	**Total Suitable old-growth timber (acres)**
Alternative 1	30,301	95,623	228,713
Alternative 2	31,813	103,091	248,915
Alternative 3	35,425	124,772	306,936
Alternative 4	39,371	150,904	386,909
Alternative 5	40,124	154,254	393,977
Alternative 6	40,124	154,254	393,977

Another way to decipher even further the likely impacts is to examine the spatial distribution of suitable, high-volume productive old-growth, i.e., the most highly sought stands. Table 5 shows that it is likely that the main biogeographic provinces that will see disproportionately high increases in timber harvest are Kupreanof/Mitkof, North Prince of Wales, Etolin/Zarembo, and Revilla/Cleveland Peninsula due to their high proportion of these acres and their locations relative to logging-related infrastructure.

Table 5. Acres of Suitable High-volume POG by alternative and Biogeographic Province.

	Suitable High-Volume Productive Old Growth (acres)					
Biogeographic Province	**Currently Suitable (Alt 1)**	**Alt 2**	**Alt 3**	**Alt 4**	**Alt 5**	**Alt 6**
E. Baranof Island	1,253	1,274	1,274	3,216	3,216	3,216
E. Chichagof Island	12,184	12,389	14,942	20,354	20,966	20,966
Etolin Zarembo Island Complex	8,589	9,085	11,611	13,329	13,882	13,882
Kuiu Island	10,100	10,112	11,406	12,602	12,602	12,602
Kupreanof / Mitkof Islands	10,991	13,748	16,345	18,673	18,954	18,954
Lynn Canal / Mainland	2,507	2,677	2,677	5,155	5,525	5,525
North Prince of Wales Complex	28,869	30,994	37,037	40,995	41,962	41,962
Outside Islands	3,196	3,318	3,318	3,985	3,985	3,985
Revilla Island / Cleveland Peninsula	13,737	15,279	20,764	24,249	24,787	24,787
South Prince of Wales Island	2,120	2,136	2,181	2,610	2,610	2,610
Stikine River / Mainland	1,368	1,368	2,506	4,367	4,394	4,394
Taku River / Mainland	36	36	36	37	37	37
W. Baranof Island	618	618	618	1,277	1,277	1,277
Yakutat Forelands	50	50	50	50	50	50
Total	**95,623**	**103,091**	**124,772**	**150,904**	**154,254**	**154,254**

The DEIS as-written repeatedly assumes that the impacts of roadbuilding and logging will be similar between alternatives, despite the vast difference in acreage made accessible by the

changes. This assumption fails to adequately address the true potential impacts, especially of accessing new, undeveloped watersheds.

As an example, the DEIS asserts that the current projected timber sale quantity (PTSQ) will not change as a result of this rulemaking process to argue that negative effects to current IRAs will be minimal, including for a full exemption. However, this ignores the difference between "maximum allowable harvest" and what can reasonably be expected to occur. The TNF has repeatedly failed to meet its PTSQ for many years as a result of the unfavorable economics of old-growth timber sales, and it is anticipated that any changes to the Roadless Rule will have limited impacts on their ability to meet these targets, especially on the scale depicted in the media. That being said, the preferred alternative will still increase the acreage that may actually be sold for timber harvest in a way that is not represented by unreasonable "maximum allowable harvest" target, which is so bloated as to mask substantial changes to the old-growth harvest that can be reasonably expected in Alternatives 5 and 6. Indeed, a primary rationale supporting Alternative 6 is its ability to allow for the development of more economical timber sales, and thus increased harvest. As proposed and intended, Alternative 6 will increase old-growth timber harvest as compared to the No Action alternative, regardless of whether it achieves PTSQ.

It also seems certain that a full exemption is intended to and will allow for an expansion of roads to access timber in new watersheds, even if the economics of old-growth may mean that very little timber will be successfully sold from those watersheds (a historic trend). The DEIS fails to adequately account for the impact that roadbuilding will have on fish, wildlife, and invasive species in undeveloped watersheds that currently have culvert-free salmon streams and forests that have thus far avoided the introduction of invasive species. The DEIS notes that 10 intact watersheds would be fragmented under the preferred alternative, but does not go into any further detail as to how accessing these additional intact watersheds will impact terrestrial and aquatic habitat.

The DEIS states that any environmental impacts associated with road building and timber harvested will be analyzed on a site-specific basis as part of the NEPA process. However, road building in particular is an activity whose fragmenting impacts are most felt and best understood at a landscape-wide scale; yet, unlike the 2001 Roadless Rule, this DEIS makes little attempt to analyze the landscape-scale impacts of increased road building.

This level of analysis showcases that predictions of future timber harvest made in the DEIS at a biogeographic province-scale by alternative also appear to be flawed. Table 3.3a-4 of the DEIS, for example, predicts a 13% *decrease* in acres of old-growth harvest in the North Prince of Wales province under Alternative 6. Table 5 provides a sound basis for determining and assessing more localized impacts on wildlife species, like the wolf, in areas (e.g. North Prince of Wales Complex) where significant additional threats can be expected, rather than focusing exclusively and inadequately on the general, forest-wide impacts on such wildlife species.

Tongass IRAs contain 88% of areas scientifically shown to be the highest priority conservation areas in Southeast Alaska.

In 2008, TNC and Audubon Alaska published *A Conservation Assessment for the Coastal Forests and Mountains Ecoregion of Southeast Alaska*,[3] (See Appendix B for a description). This publication was the result of extensive collaboration with scientists, agency staff and stakeholders, as well as compilation and analysis of the most comprehensive data available on forests, wildlife and fisheries and associated habitat values in southeastern Alaska, and resulted in a spatial dataset on a suite of indicators that represent the full range of biodiversity and ecological values in the region, and the identification of the most important areas for long-term conservation of temperate rainforests and associated social, economic and ecological values, known as the TNC/Audubon Conservation Priority Areas. In addition, beginning in 2012, Trout Unlimited utilized these datasets, with additional stakeholder input, to develop the T77 Watersheds, which specifically identify important fish conservation areas.

These joint conservation priority areas are significantly represented in the IRAs that will be impacted by the rulemaking process.

Table 3. Acres of TNC/Audubon Conservation Priority areas and T77 watersheds protected from logging and roadbuilding as roadless areas and/or LUD II areas.

	TNC Audubon and/or T77 Watersheds protected (acres)	**Change (acres)**
Alternative 1	3,357,666	
Alternative 2	3,389,164	+31,497
Alternative 3	3,357,666	0
Alternative 4	3,284,237	-73,429
Alternative 5	2,216,920	-1,140,746
Alternative 6*	140,950	-3,216,717

*Out of 870,000 acres of LUD II acres only; there are no Roadless areas under Alternative 6.

Tongass Inventoried Roadless Areas contain over 40% of the Tongass National Forest's remaining Large Tree Old Growth.

The logging that occurred on the TNF over the past 70 years focused on the largest, highest-volume stands that were easily accessible. Combined with logging that has taken place on private lands, this has meant a substantial diminishment of large tree POG. Of what remains on USFS land (approximately 510,000 acres), 45% – 230,000 acres – is located within IRAs (Table 6). These stands are globally unique, contain centuries of accumulated carbon, and provide valuable habitat for wildlife. Over the course of its relatively short enforcement in Alaska, the 2001 Roadless Rule has likely kept thousands of acres of large tree old-growth from being harvested;

[3] Schoen, J. & E. Dovichin, eds. (2007). A Conservation Assessment of the Coastal Forests and Mountains of the Tongass National Forest and Southeast Alaska. The Nature Conservancy and Audubon Alaska. Anchorage AK.

considering the rarity and outsize importance of these stands to wildlife and the climate, they should continue to be protected, as is most effectively done by Alternative 1.

Table 6: Large Tree Productive Old Growth protected as Roadless by alternative. The "biogeographic provinces most likely to see harvest," according to Table 5, are Kupreanof/Mitkof, North Prince of Wales, Etolin/Zarembo, and Revilla/Cleveland Peninsula.

	Protected (acres)	**Open to development (acres)**	**Large tree POG suitable for harvest (acres)**	**Large tree POG suitable for harvest in biogeographic provinces most likely to see harvest**
Alternative 1	234,598	278,832	30,301	21,103
Alternative 2	239,105	274,325	31,813	22,516
Alternative 3	237,614	275,816	35,425	25,476
Alternative 4	203,528	309,902	39,371	27,696
Alternative 5	160,017	353,413	40,124	28,338
Alternative 6	-	513,430	40,124	28,338

Inventoried Roadless Areas protect 49% of salmon stream miles encompassed by the Tongass National Forest.[4]

The greatest continuing threat to salmon habitat quality on federal lands is road construction because of the potential for sediment delivery and the ability of a poorly designed or constructed stream crossing to block fish passage. Currently, nearly half of the salmon stream habitat on the TNF – and over 60% of coho and sockeye spawning habitat – is located in IRAs, protecting it from these impacts (Table 7). This unaltered habitat provides commercial and subsistence salmon for free- no habitat management, restoration, or hatcheries needed. Allowing roadbuilding in these watersheds would diminish these ecosystem services for little gain. As noted in the DEIS, even modern road construction following best management practices can have negative impacts on fish habitat. Improperly constructed crossings can cut off anadromous fish access to portions of the stream upstream from the crossing; even a few instances of this in a previously undeveloped watershed can be a significant diminishment of habitat. Any analysis done on the alternatives should account for the impact of road construction and operation on previously unroaded watersheds.

[4] As identified in the 2018 Alaska Anadromous Waters Catalog (AWC)

Table 7: Salmon stream protection, by alternative.

	Salmon stream miles protected (% of total on USFS land)	Chinook	Chum	Coho	Pink	Sockeye
Alternative 1	2,561 mi. (49%)	15%	31%	62%	50%	69%
Alternative 2	2,540 mi. (48%)	15%	33%	61%	51%	67%
Alternative 3	2,410 mi. (46%)	15%	32%	55%	48%	61%
Alternative 4	2,255 mi. (43%)	15%	29%	55%	44%	64%
Alternative 5	1,915 mi. (37%)	11%	17%	50%	34%	59%
Alternative 6*	590 mi. (11%)	7%	7%	26%	17%	41%

*Values in this row are exclusively for 870,000 acres of LUD II.

The 2001 Roadless Rule contains important wildlife habitats and populations that benefits Southeast Alaska communities.

In order to better understand the potential implications of the alternatives on critical wildlife habitat, TNC has performed an analysis using data from *A Conservation Assessment for the Coastal Forests and Mountains Ecoregion of Southeast Alaska*,[5] which was developed by TNC and Audubon Alaska to describe and assess the spatial distribution of important ecological values across Southeast Alaska. This data shows that Tongass IRAs protect 51% of Sitka black-tailed deer habitat and 52% of bear habitat.

Table 8: Deer and bear habitat protection by alternative

	Deer habitat protected (% of total deer habitat suitability index value on TNF)	Bear habitat protected (% of total bear habitat suitability index value on TNF)
Alternative 1	51%	52%
Alternative 2	52%	53%
Alternative 3	53%	53%
Alternative 4	45%	47%
Alternative 5	35%	37%
Alternative 6*	8%	9%

*Values for 870,000 acres of LUD II not included in Roadless under Alt 6.

It is important to consider the situation of deer habitat at a Biogeographical Province scale as well. This analysis shows that in several of the provinces most likely to see increased logging pressure, the preferred alternative will place >40% of deer habitat value in development LUDs open to logging and roadbuilding (Table 9). This includes the North Central Prince of Wales

[5] Schoen, J. & E. Dovichin, eds. (2007). A Conservation Assessment of the Coastal Forests and Mountains of the Tongass National Forest and Southeast Alaska. The Nature Conservancy and Audubon Alaska. Anchorage AK.

Biogeographic Province, which encompasses multiple communities and has already seen large decreases in deer habitat capability due to extensive logging. Bear habitat will be similarly impacted in these provinces (Table 10).

Table 9: Amount of deer habitat most likely to see impacts of logging and roadbuilding

	Deer habitat open to development (% of total deer habitat suitability index value within each biogeographic province)					
Biogeographic Province	Alt 1	Alt 2	Alt 3	Alt 4	Alt 5	Alt 6
Etolin Zarembo Island Complex	24%	27%	26%	37%	48%	48%
Kupreanof / Mitkof Islands	15%	19%	19%	30%	50%	50%
North Prince of Wales Complex	26%	27%	27%	34%	43%	43%
Revilla Island / Cleveland Peninsula	11%	12%	16%	18%	31%	31%

Table 10: Amount of bear habitat most likely to see impacts of logging and roadbuilding

	Bear habitat open to development (% of total deer habitat suitability index value within each biogeographic province)					
Biogeographic Province	Alt 1	Alt 2	Alt 3	Alt 4	Alt 5	Alt 6
Etolin Zarembo Island Complex	20%	23%	23%	35%	44%	44%
Kupreanof / Mitkof Islands	11%	13%	14%	26%	47%	47%
North Prince of Wales Complex	24%	25%	26%	34%	42%	43%
Revilla Island / Cleveland Peninsula	6%	7%	10%	13%	31%	31%

In many areas of Southeast Alaska, deer habitat is also important to one of their predators- the Alexander Archipelago wolf. Petitions to list the Alexander Archipelago wolf were filed in 1993 and 2011, in part due to decreasing populations in some areas of Southeast Alaska (for instance, on Prince of Wales Island, populations decreased from 39.5 wolves/1,000 km^2 in 1994 to 11.9/1,000 km^2 in 2015.[6]) The causes of this decline are complex, but there is little question that both increased road access (and the resultant increase in human interactions) and decreasing deer populations place negative pressure on wolf populations. Both of these negative pressures are expected to expand under the preferred alternative. While the DEIS does discuss wolf population, the impacts analysis for wolves is inadequate in that it focuses exclusively on the forest-wide population and ignores significant impacts on threatened regional populations. As a result, changes that are acknowledged to likely have a negative impact on a species that has seen

[6] Wolf Technical Committee. 2017. Interagency Wolf Habitat Management Program: Recommendations for Game Management Unit 2. Management Bulletin R10-MB-822. USDA Forest Service, USDI Fish and Wildlife Service, and Alaska Department of Fish and Game. Available at: https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/fseprd537975.pdf

a 75% decrease in population in one region over the past 25 years are set aside without thorough analysis, an issue that should be rectified in the final EIS.

Considering that predicted timber harvest by biogeographic province is likely flawed in the DEIS, it is unlikely that the impacts a full exemption to the Roadless Rule will have on deer, bear, and wolves have been properly quantified, especially for Prince of Wales Island.

Tongass roadless areas are critical to a world with a changing climate

Roadless areas, in their undeveloped nature, provide natural climate resilience for the ecological systems of Southeast Alaska amid year-to-year uncertainty. Research around the globe examining the connection between fragmentation and ecosystem resilience shows that more fragmented ecosystems (by roads and other development) are less resilient to detrimental changes to habitat and climate conditions. Considering the uncertainty surrounding climate [7] having intact, unfragmented watersheds in all corners of the Tongass increases the resiliency of the forests and wildlife of the National Forest.

In addition to this role, the forests of the Tongass themselves serve as a safeguard against climate change. Temperate rainforests contain some of the highest concentrations of sequestered carbon of any forest type globally, and the undisturbed old-growth forests found in roadless areas contain carbon accumulated over centuries in their trees and soils. With a disturbance regime that mainly consists of small windthrow events (0.25-1 acre in size) and no fire return interval, the forests of Southeast Alaska are also among the most stable stores of natural carbon. The table below, which was derived by recent analysis of the spatial distribution of carbon storage on the Tongass,[8] showcases the vast stores of biomass carbon currently protected in roadless areas.

Table 11: Carbon stored in biomass protected by alternative

	Carbon biomass storage protected (Mg Carbon)	**Percentage of Total TNF Carbon stored**
Alternative 1	481,018,676	50%
Alternative 2	480,392,603	50%
Alternative 3	447,860,178	47%
Alternative 4	408,055,089	43%
Alternative 5	324,139,724	34%
Alternative 6*	59,025,571	6%

*Values in this row are exclusively for 870,000 acres of LUD II.

[7] Shanley, Colin S., et al. "Climate change implications in the northern coastal temperate rainforest of North America." *Climatic Change* 130.2 (2015): 155-170.

[8] Buma, Brian, and Thomas Thompson. "Long-term exposure to more frequent disturbances increases baseline carbon in some ecosystems: Mapping and quantifying the disturbance frequency-ecosystem C relationship." *PloS one* 14.2 (2019): e0212526.

Inventoried Roadless Areas are critical defenses against the spread of invasive species

According to the 2001 Roadless Conservation Rule, IRAs serve as a "bulwark" against the intrusion of invasive species into previously unaffected landscapes. Invasive plant species compete with native vegetation, with potential negative impacts for both the flora and fauna of an ecosystem. In Southeast Alaska, species of note include reed canarygrass, Japanese knotweed, and spotted knapweed. Climate change has increased the risk of invasion by these species; as the DEIS notes, "…the current and predicted milder winter temperatures and the longer growing season in Southeast Alaska have created opportunities for the spread and establishment of invasive plant species within this region."[9]

With seeds and invasive plant parts spreading by hitching a ride on heavy equipment used for roadbuilding and logging, roads in the TNF are a conduit for invasive species to colonize new areas. Roads accessing parts of the Tongass that were previously undeveloped are likely to have an outsized impact in terms of invasive species. When comparing a mile of road in a watershed that already has had significant road and logging development to a mile of road in an undeveloped watershed, the two are not equal; in the former, impacts have already occurred in the vicinity, while in the latter, a new avenue for the spread of invasive species is being opened for the first time. The DEIS fails to make this distinction.

The only way to create durable solutions on the Tongass is to listen to public, stakeholder, community, and tribal input; the preferred alternative and the process to date has jeopardized major investments in building goodwill and trust over many years among a wide range of local interests

The Purpose and Need of the Alaska Roadless Rule rulemaking DEIS states that this rule is meant to provide a "long-term, durable approach to roadless area management…that accommodates the unique biological, social, and economic situation found in and around the Tongass."[10] The long history of the Tongass is marked by conflict, litigation, and unstable policies that have prevented long-term durable solutions to land management challenges. We are pleased to see this as a purpose of this process, but it is difficult to argue that a full exemption to the Roadless Rule meets the stated Purpose and Need.

Experience on the Tongass has demonstrated that the way to achieve a durable solution is through compromise, involvement of diverse stakeholders , and reliance on the best available information. Experience has also demonstrated the importance of process: a process that is responsive to public input from inclusive, collaborative, and empowered stakeholders is far more likely to have a broad constituency in favor of the final outcome than a rule based solely on top-down dictates.

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[9] DEIS 3-122
[10] DEIS ES-2

Recent trends have suggested that the region has been moving in this direction. The 2016 TLMP Amendment and the Prince of Wales Landscape Level Analysis are both examples of processes that used collaborative, well-informed stakeholder input in drafting TNF plans and projecta, Both documents incorporated diverse viewpoints and concerns, creating plans that can serve the communities of the Tongass. The key in these cases was that the resulting Record of Decisions were responsive to the input of the Tongass Advisory Committee[11] and the Prince of Wales Landscape Assessment Team,[12] respectively. In spirit, these projects move the Tongass forward by focusing on the transition to young growth, recreation projects, and the salmon and deer that are major staples of the economy and sustenance of the region.

The Alaska Roadless Rule rulemaking process also had the opportunity to be responsive to collaborative, diverse inputs. During the scoping period, the agency toured a large number of rural Southeast Alaskan communities and generated many public scoping comments. The State of Alaska established a Citizen's Advisory Committee, which spent many hours discussing potential alternatives and related issues. Five tribal governments signed on as Cooperating Agencies and contributed an unprecedented amount of time and energy into analyzing the potential impacts of a rulemaking on their traditional lands. According to the USFS, only 2 of the 14 communities visited during the scoping period were not overwhelmingly supportive of the 2001 Roadless Rule; and a large majority of the public written comments were not supportive of a full exemption. According to the President of the regional tribe, Central Council Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska, none of the cooperating tribes supported a full exemption, and the process severely diminished their voices; and since scoping a variety of tribes and subsistence boards have voted to support a no-action alternative. The Citizen's Advisory Committee did not recommend a full exemption, and many of the issues that were included as priorities by this group have not been addressed by the preferred alternative.

Alternatives 2 and 3 appear to be alternatives that represent attempts by the USFS to respond to diverse input by creating "middle-ground" options. The Nature Conservancy is supportive of the attempts to including TNC/Audubon Conservation Priority Areas and T77 areas into a protected status, as included in Alternative 2 and 3; and we are broadly supportive of the idea of creating community priority areas that allow areas near communities to have a particular status. However, without any time or interest in developing Alternatives 2 and 3 in a way that brings other stakeholders (i.e., industry or other supporters of the preferred alternative) to the table, even these options seem non-durable. Furthermore, the community priority areas seem to have been created in haste, only apply criteria associated with local processing of timber (and not other community priorities such as subsistence or cultural uses) and have been applied to several communities that have been on the record in opposition to any changes to the Roadless Rule. Meanwhile, none of the recommendations from the tribes that signed on as Cooperative Agencies have been incorporated into these community priority areas.

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[11] Tongass Advisory Committee Final Recommendations. December 2015. Available at: https://s31207.pcdn.co/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/Tongass-Advisory-Committee-Final-Recommendations_Dec-2015.pdf

[12] Prince of Wales Landscape Assessment Team Final Package. June 2017. https://static1.squarespace.com/static/566f1973a2bab8b3e485212d/t/59401661ff7c50ca37809356/1497372293342/POWLAT+Final+Package+June+2017.pdf

The need to connect communities, access mining claims, and develop renewable energy projects were all cited as arguments for changing the 2001 Roadless Rule in Alaska. However, the 2001 Roadless Rule in Alaska already provides exceptions for renewable energy development and mining within IRAs, and the State of Alaska has easement for utility/transport corridors across the Tongass under Section 4407 of the 2005 federal transportation funding bill.[13] Furthermore, in 2018 the process for approving IRA exceptions was streamlined by delegating authority for approval to the Regional Forester (previously, delegation had been to the USFS Chief in Washington, D.C.), in order to expedite these exceptions.[14] However, the USFS has noted that IRAs do not allow for the development of geothermal projects in roadless areas. If this is an issue that presents a durable solution to ensure community access to renewable energy, TNC supports a concise, targeted amendment to the rule for Alaska that will allow geothermal development alongside the existing exceptions. A full exemption (or any change to IRA boundaries) is not required to achieve this outcome.

Changes to the Roadless Rule, and the preferred alternative in particular, take attention and resources away from productive and necessary work the Forest Service could be doing to further benefit the ecological, social, and economic values on the forest.

The Roadless Rule rulemaking process to date has already cost considerable agency resources, and if a full exemption is implemented, it will undoubtedly lead to the continuation of USFS resources being dominated by illogical priorities, including uneconomic planning for old-growth timber sales and a likely another lengthy administrative process to revise the TLMP. Finite funding and staffing resources available to the USFS – and the region more generally - are best put to use on projects that advance management activities that will benefit the economy and communities of Southeast Alaska.

Historic prioritization of old-growth timber planning has consistently cost more than it has benefitted the Southeast Alaska economy.

A recent report from Taxpayers for Common Sense highlighted the fact that the Tongass National Forest loses millions of dollars annually supporting its old-growth timber program.[15] This reveals the paradox on the Tongass: while old-growth trees are thought to supply the only products valuable enough to pay their way from the mill to markets outside of Southeast Alaska, little attention is paid to the initial costs of planning for and accessing those stands. The Nature Conservancy supports the transition to young growth because we view it as a viable industry; the hurdle of accessing young growth stands was crossed during the era of subsidized roadbuilding. Old-growth simply isn't worth enough to justify the immense timber sale preparation and infrastructure costs associated with it, particularly when discussing opening undeveloped watersheds for timber cruising that may require construction of log transfer facilities (LTF) and

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[13] http://www.law.state.ak.us/press/releases/2019/061219-Tongass.html
[14] https://www.eenews.net/assets/2018/11/08/document_gw_02.pdf
[15] Taxpayers for Common Sense 2019. https://www.taxpayer.net/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/TCS-Cutting-Our-Losses-2019-.pdf

trunk roads for initial access. Any old-growth timber that was easily accessible or economically viable on the TNF has likely already been harvested, and there are many examples of planned timber sales that have failed to find a buyer. Lastly, the great majority of timber sales on the TNF are significantly delayed or held up by environmental litigation, another costly expense.

Included in the 2001 Roadless Area Conservation Rule is the recognition that, "the size of the existing forest road system and attendant budget constraints prevent the agency [USFS] from managing its road system to the safety and environmental standards to which it was built." The USFS currently has a $3.4 billion deferred road maintenance backlog; however, the cost of maintaining the additional roads that will be built accessing current IRAs is not addressed in the Alaska Roadless Rule rulemaking DEIS. Meanwhile, the TNF's record of building multi-million dollar roads not included in timber sale costs (North Kuiu being a good recent example) suggests that opening IRAs to roadbuilding for logging will likely cost the taxpayer and not result in any new timber sales.

In order to support the economy and communities of Southeast Alaska, the Tongass National Forest should be focusing its resources on things that generate productive and positive benefits, including restoration, recreation and tourism infrastructure, and the transition of the timber industry to a viable future.

Improving fish habitat is a categorical need across the Tongass

One legacy of 70 years and 440,000 acres of large-scale clear-cut logging and roadbuilding on the Tongass is that of diminished fish habitat, especially in locations logged prior to the Tongass Timber Reform Act in 1990. In many cases, riparian forests were logged with no buffer along salmon spawning streams, streams were used as skid trails, and downed wood that provided instream structure was removed from stream channels intentionally. Additionally, roads were constructed with stream crossings and culverts that are barriers to fish passage (known as "red crossings"). Since the 1990s, it has been recognized that watersheds so impacted could be improved through instream restoration.[16]

The Tongass National Forest currently has instream restoration and "red crossing" removal needs well in excess of funding and personnel resources available to do the work. The Nature Conservancy has partnered with the TNF on several such projects, and we applaud the efforts being made to stabilize fish habitat. However, restoration completed and planned in the near future addresses only a small part of the identified need. Just considering fish passage and access to habitat, between two recent Landscape Level Analyses on Prince of Wales Island and in the "Central Tongass," 899 red crossings were identified as needing replacement.

Large-scale attention to wildlife habitat is needed to prevent population declines of important species

Fifteen to twenty years after clear-cut logging, dense young growth enters a period called "stem exclusion," a state that features little light reaching the ground to support shrubs and herbs

[16] Bryant, Mason, and Fred Everest. 1998. "Management and Condition of Watersheds in Southeast Alaska: The Persistence of Anadromous Salmon." *Northwest Science*, 72:4, p 249-267.

wildlife need, and which can persist for 150 years.[17] This has a negative impact on many wildlife species, including Sitka black-tailed deer (an important source of protein for local communities), wolves that prey on deer, and bears. There is a substantial need on the Tongass to address this, especially in areas that have had large amounts of historical logging: TNC estimates that habitat capability for Sitka black-tailed deer in the North Prince of Wales Complex biogeographic province has declined by 38% since 1954. Looking forward, the total area of young growth projected to be in stem exclusion by 2045 within Game Management Unit 2 (encompassing Prince of Wales and neighboring islands) is between 251,000 and 496,500 acres, with a consequent decline in deer populations of 21%-32% from 2015 levels.[18] Current restoration needs on the Prince of Wales alone are estimated to total $20 million.

Research shows that intermediate silvicultural treatments can delay stem exclusion, extending the amount of time a harvested stand provides forage for herbivores. Forest restoration can serve multiple purposes, but in development LUDs, it should be designed to benefit future timber harvest by thinning the stand to concentrate resources on tree growth in fewer residuals, and wildlife by mimicking natural disturbance through the creation of 0.1-acre forest openings that will contain persistent forage growth for decades.

<u>The largest driver of Southeast Alaska's economy needs investment for continued growth</u>

The visitor industry provides the largest share of worker earnings in Southeast Alaska of any private industry. It is poised for significant growth over the next decade. The USFS's recreation infrastructure is also important for the large majority of Southeast Alaska residents whose main interaction with the TNF is in using its cabins, trails, shelters, and campgrounds.

A good example of this infrastructure need was demonstrated by the Prince of Wales Landscape Analysis Team (POWLAT), which produced a list of projects for the Prince of Wales Landscape Level Analysis. Out of 60 project recommendations, that group provided a list of 31 projects centered on recreation, including cabins, kayak shelters, trails, and a campground.[19] Conversations at POWLAT meetings included discussions of cross-island hut-to-hut hiking trails, potential for kayak tours linking offshore islands, and the utility and safety remote island shelters would provide to local residents boating in a place with unpredictable weather. To date, implementation of these projects is slow due to lack of funding and district prioritization.

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[17] Alaback, Paul B. "Dynamics of Understory Biomass in Sitka Spruce-Western Hemlock Forests of Southeast Alaska: Ecological Archives E063-004." *Ecology* 63.6 (1982): 1932-1948.

[18] Gilbert, S. L., T. Haynes, M. S. Lindberg, D. Albert, and M. L. Kissling. 2015. Future population trends and drivers of change for Alexander Archipelago wolves on and near Prince of Wales Island, Alaska. Draft report submitted to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Region 7, Anchorage, Alaska, by the University of Alaska Fairbanks, Department of Biology and Wildlife and Institute of Arctic Biology.

[19] Prince of Wales Landscape Assessment Team Final Package. June 2017. Available at: https://static1.squarespace.com/static/566f1973a2bab8b3e485212d/t/59401661ff7c50ca37809356/1497372293342/POWLAT+Final+Package+June+2017.pdf

A Southeast Alaska timber industry will only continue to exist if the mapped transition to a young growth timber industry is supported

The timber industry has been a part of the fabric of many areas of Southeast Alaska for decades, and a sustainable young growth industry has a role to play as part of a future diversified economy in the Tongass. The Nature Conservancy strongly supports continued progress toward the transition to a young growth industry. The transition is urgent: the economics of continued old-growth logging are becoming increasingly marginal with every remaining acre that is cut to the point that, without a transition to young growth, there may not be a timber industry in Southeast Alaska in 20 years. The transition will require significant effort and investment of time and resources from the TNF if it is going to succeed in supporting a viable domestic timber industry. The Tongass Advisory Committee recommended "transformative steps" that included pursuing partnerships and collaboration, revamping sale planning and assessment, use of stewardship contracting, and addressing ways to incentivize the development of a domestic industry.[20] In the time since those recommendations were submitted to the USFS in December 2015, there have been efforts to improve information regarding young growth supply and workforce capacity development achieved in collaboration with partners, but much remains to be done.

A roadmap for the transition exists that does not include the need to exempt the TNF from the Roadless Rule. Work started by the Tongass Advisory Committee, which then formed the basis of the 2016 TLMP, has the Tongass on track to transition to young growth by 2032. Recent inventory supports this: growth and yield modeling presented at the third "Young Growth Symposium" October 21-23, 2019 showed that, in the southern half of the TNF, a sustained yield of 41 million board feet (MMBF)/year (the projected demand in the 2016 TLMP) will be achieved by 2029, increasing rapidly in the years following that to exceed 100 MMBF/year by 2033. The Nature Conservancy's inventory based on LiDAR showed that, on Prince of Wales Island, there are currently ~68 MMBF in suitable young growth stands exceeding an average of 30,000 board feet per acre. The supply of young growth is on track to achieve the timeline laid out by the TAC and 2016 TLMP, and we encourage the USFS to focus the attention of their timber program on fostering a local domestic young growth industry that can utilize that supply.

The addition of 20,000 acres of young growth to the suitable timber base under the preferred alternative will likely not have any positive effect on the transition; these scattered stands are mostly either less than 20 years old or very remote; and TNC estimates that 2/3 of these suitable young growth acres are highly unlikely to contribute anything to the transition.

CLOSING

The TNF is a national treasure, and TNC is proud to be a long-standing partner of the USFS in helping improve land management of its forests. We are thankful that the USFS can articulate

[20] Tongass Advisory Committee Final Recommendations. December 2015. Available at: https://s31207.pcdn.co/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/Tongass-Advisory-Committee-Final-Recommendations_Dec-2015.pdf

the need to create durable policy solutions for the purposes of improving the efficiency and effectiveness of land management.

However, the proposed alternative, the DEIS, and the rulemaking process to date make it hard to believe that any decisions derived will ultimately meet the stated purpose and need of said process. The majority of the alternatives fail to adequately protect the ecological, social and economic properties of roadless areas by making road building and timber harvest easier and more likely in very specific areas that have seen the cumulative impacts of roadbuilding and logging over the course of decades. The majority of the alternatives also fail to address the stated desires by the great majority of local and national stakeholders and will damage relationships that have been built between stakeholders over the last decade. Finally, this effort continues a worrying trend of outsized spending and attention on an uneconomic and unsustainable industry, at the expense of current and future industries and other more pressing needs.

Sincerely,

Christine Woll
Southeast Alaska Program Director
The Nature Conservancy
cwoll@tnc.org

Steven Cohn
Alaska State Director
The Nature Conservancy
Steven.Cohn@tnc.org

Appendix A: Notes on the Analyses of Alaska Roadless Areas defined in the DEIS

The alternatives laid out in the DEIS are complex, with multiple Alaska Roadless Area (ARA) designations with differing levels of protection. As a result, straightforward analysis of changes in the total area contained in Roadless by alternative fails to capture the functional change in land area protected from development activities such as roadbuilding, old-growth logging, and young growth logging.

It should be noted that when comparing the impacts of alternatives on ecological values, it is challenging to try to compare roadless areas (areas without roads) with areas designated as "Alaska Roadless Areas", some of which allow roadbuilding and old-growth clear-cuts. Likewise, several alternatives either contain or exclude Congressionally-protected Land Use Designation II (LUD II) areas that are functionally protected regardless of ARA designation. In order to maintain consistency, our analyses of the area functionally protected by each alternative includes all 870,000 acres of LUD II areas for each alternative and excludes the ARAs that allow old-growth clear-cuts and roadbuilding.

For each analyses, we analyzed different levels of protection status to better understand the functional change. Table A1 showcases a variety of protection status levels which have been utilized differently for different analyses.

Table A1. Area included in 2019 Alaska Roadless Areas and/or LUD II, by alternative and functional protection. These acres include all 870,000 LUD II acres in column 1 for analysis consistency.

	Protected from roadbuilding and old-growth logging (acres)	**Protected from old-growth logging; roadbuilding and young growth logging allowed (acres)**	**ARA not protected from roadbuilding or commercial logging (acres)**	**2001 Roadless Areas opened for roadbuilding and logging (acres)**
TNC Analysis label	*Protection Status 1*	*Protection Status 2*	*Open to development*	
Alternative 1	9,265,308	0	0	N/A
Alternative 2	9,251,636	0	0	112,470
Alternative 3	8,747,441	366,000	241,646	566,421
Alternative 4	8,135,041	0	749,747	1,124,775
Alternative 5	6,960,094	0	0	2,300,566
Alternative 6*	870,179	0	0	8,387,512

*Out of 870,000 acres of LUD II acres only; no Roadless areas under Alternative 6.

We've organized these functional protections into three categories:

Protection Status 1: Protections that restrict roadbuilding and all commercial logging. This applies to LUD IIs, current Roadless Areas, and the Roadless Priority and Watershed Priority ARAs. This is the level of protection analyzed for fish and stream habitat.

Protection Status 2: Protections that do not allow old-growth logging, but do allow roadbuilding and young-growth logging. This is restricted to Alternative 3's formalizing of TLMP protections for TNC/Audubon Conservation Priority Areas and T77 Watersheds. Combined with Protection Status 1, this is the level used to analyze impacts to wildlife such as deer and bears.

Open to development: This applies to ARA designations that allow old-growth logging and roadbuilding- specifically, the Community Priority ARA for Alternative 3, and the Timber Priority ARA for Alternative 4.

Other analyses displayed relies on data directly comparable across alternatives: timber Suitability for harvest by alternative (Tables 4, 5, and 6) or areas in Development LUDs open to roadbuilding and commercial logging (Tables 9 and 10).

It is worth noting that, according to spatial data provided by the US Forest Service, Alternative 3 will remove 325,000 acres of currently roadless areas from the 2001 Roadless Rule- not 212,000 acres as claimed in the DEIS. Of this total, 257,000 acres would be in Development LUDs, as defined by the 2016 TLMP. The lack of information as to the extent of Community ARAs in Hydaburg and Kake also makes analysis of Alternative 3 incomplete (and optimistic). This is a striking situation for an issue as momentous as changing roadless area boundaries; the DEIS should not have been released without clear spatial understanding of all the alternatives.

A detailed breakdown the different Alaska Roadless Rule alternatives by protections status is shown below.

Table A2. Detailed breakdown of the different Alaska Roadless Rule alternatives by protections status afforded through the various Alaska Roadless Areas (ARAs). Note that for the sake of consistency, LUD II areas are included in the *Total Protected* row regardless of roadless status.

		Area effected by 2019 Alaska Roadless Rule rulemaking DEIS, by alternative (acres)*					
	ARA Designation	**Alternative 1**	**Alternative 2**	**Alternative 3**	**Alternative 4**	**Alternative 5**	**Alternative 6**
	Total Roadless Area	9,223,443	9,251,636	8,118,908	8,884,788	6,918,229	0
Protected from Roadbuilding, commercial logging	Roadless Priority ARA	N/A	5,120,835	4,658,430	7,264,862	6,089,048	0
	Watershed Priority ARA	N/A	3,260,622	3,218,831	0	0	0
	LUD II ARA	N/A	870,179	N/A	870,179	829,181	0
	LUD II outside Roadless**	41,865	0	870,179	0	41,865	870,179
	Total Protected	*9,265,308*	*9,251,636*	*8,747,441*	*8,135,041*	*6,960,094*	*870,179*
Not protected from roadbuilding or commercial logging	Timber Priority ARA	N/A	0	0	749,747	0	0
	Community Priority ARA	N/A	0	241,646	0	0	0
	Removed from Roadless	N/A	112,470	1,153,964	375,028	2,300,566	9,215,613

*discrepancies in acreage are generally caused by slight overlap, differing coastline, and/or slightly unmatched GIS layers between alternatives
**This row contains acres not included in Roadless Areas. It is included here because several Roadless Alternatives include the addition of LUD IIs into Alaska Roadless Areas. The LUD II Areas are independently legislatively protected; changes to Roadless status in these areas does not change their protected status.

Appendix B: TNC Conservation Priority Areas

Conservation Priorities for Forests and Freshwater in the Tongass National Forest

Summary: In 2008 The Nature Conservancy and Audubon Alaska published *A Conservation Assessment for the Coastal Forests and Mountains Ecoregion of Southeast Alaska* (Schoen & Dovichin 2008)[1]. This publication was the result of **extensive collaboration with scientists, agency staff and stakeholders**, as well as **compilation and analysis of the most comprehensive data every available on forests, wildlife and fisheries and associated habitat values in southeastern Alaska**. Our approach was to develop GIS data on a suite of indicators that represent the full range of biodiversity and ecological values in the region (Fig. 1), characterize how these values have changed over time, and identify the most important areas for long-term conservation of temperate rainforests and associated social, economic and ecological values. We used the optimization tool MARXAN to identify the set of areas that contain the highest concentrations of values for this suite of indicators within the smallest total area, as well as the highest concentrations of economic timber values with least overlap to areas important for biodiversity.

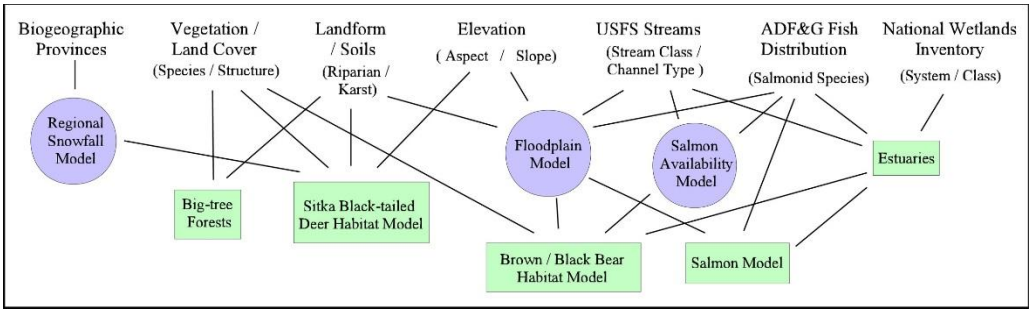


Figure 1. Data sources, key attributes and interim models used to map focal species and systems in the Coastal Forests and Mountains of Southeast Alaska.

Integrated Conservation Framework: The result of this assessment was an Integrated Conservation Framework – integrated because it takes into account a range of strategies for conservation of intact watersheds, stewardship of high-value modified watersheds and sustainable timber supply in areas with existing roads and other infrastructure.

- *Conservation Priority Watersheds*: Areas with high ecological values that are mostly intact with little to no past logging or industrial activity. These areas are best suited for long-term conservation to provide the unique range of social, economic and ecological values associated with oldgrowth temperate rainforests.
- *Stewardship Priority Watersheds*: Areas that have high ecological values, but also contain substantial past timber harvest and road infrastructure. In some cases, past harvest has created the need for restoration, and young-growth forests provide management opportunities over time.
- *Timber Production Watersheds*: Areas with substantial past harvest and extensive logging infrastructure, with extensive young-growth forests and sufficient remaining oldgrowth to supply local needs until young-growth forests mature.
- *Lower Value Intact Watersheds*: Areas that are mostly free of industrial activity, but primarily dominated by mountainous terrain, glaciers or extensive wetlands. These areas provide important values for recreation and other activities, but relatively low value for logging and low conflict.

[1] Schoen, J. & E. Dovichin, eds. (2007). A Conservation Assessment of the Coastal Forests and Mountains of the Tongass National Forest and Southeast Alaska. The Nature Conservancy and Audubon Alaska. Anchorage AK.

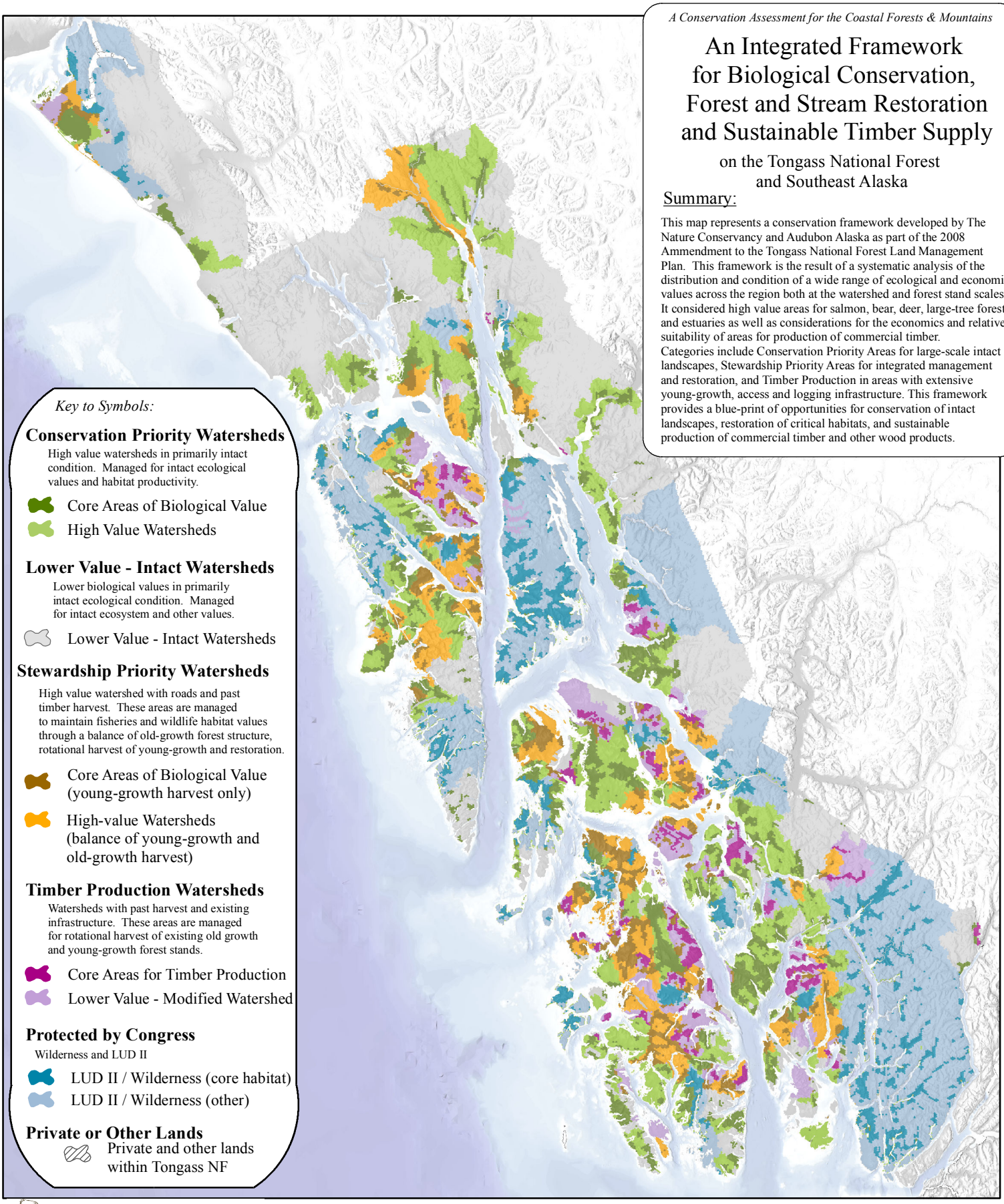
A Conservation Assessment for the Coastal Forests & Mountains

An Integrated Framework for Biological Conservation, Forest and Stream Restoration and Sustainable Timber Supply

on the Tongass National Forest and Southeast Alaska

Summary:

This map represents a conservation framework developed by The Nature Conservancy and Audubon Alaska as part of the 2008 Ammendment to the Tongass National Forest Land Management Plan. This framework is the result of a systematic analysis of the distribution and condition of a wide range of ecological and economic values across the region both at the watershed and forest stand scales. It considered high value areas for salmon, bear, deer, large-tree forests and estuaries as well as considerations for the economics and relative suitability of areas for production of commercial timber. Categories include Conservation Priority Areas for large-scale intact landscapes, Stewardship Priority Areas for integrated management and restoration, and Timber Production in areas with extensive young-growth, access and logging infrastructure. This framework provides a blue-print of opportunities for conservation of intact landscapes, restoration of critical habitats, and sustainable production of commercial timber and other wood products.



Key to Symbols:

Conservation Priority Watersheds

High value watersheds in primarily intact condition. Managed for intact ecological values and habitat productivity.

- Core Areas of Biological Value
- High Value Watersheds

Lower Value - Intact Watersheds

Lower biological values in primarily intact ecological condition. Managed for intact ecosystem and other values.

- Lower Value - Intact Watersheds

Stewardship Priority Watersheds

High value watershed with roads and past timber harvest. These areas are managed to maintain fisheries and wildlife habitat values through a balance of old-growth forest structure, rotational harvest of young-growth and restoration.

- Core Areas of Biological Value (young-growth harvest only)
- High-value Watersheds (balance of young-growth and old-growth harvest)

Timber Production Watersheds

Watersheds with past harvest and existing infrastructure. These areas are managed for rotational harvest of existing old growth and young-growth forest stands.

- Core Areas for Timber Production
- Lower Value - Modified Watershed

Protected by Congress

Wilderness and LUD II

- LUD II / Wilderness (core habitat)
- LUD II / Wilderness (other)

Private or Other Lands

- Private and other lands within Tongass NF

Audubon ALASKA

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Appendix C: Data analysis by Biogeographic Province

Table C1: Acres of Suitable Large Tree POG by alternative and Biogeographic Province.

	Suitable Large Tree Productive Old Growth (acres)					
Biogeographic Province	**Alt 1**	**Alt 2**	**Alt 3**	**Alt 4**	**Alt 5**	**Alt 6**
E. Baranof Island	17	17	17	77	77	77
E. Chichagof Island	1,720	1,720	2,045	2,614	2,628	2,628
Etolin Zarembo Island Complex	1,808	1,868	2,044	2,427	2,487	2,487
Kuiu Island	3,639	3,639	3,924	4,014	4,014	4,014
Kupreanof / Mitkof Islands	2,306	2,696	2,999	3,240	3,247	3,247
Lynn Canal / Mainland	211	240	240	762	858	858
North Prince of Wales Complex	14,731	15,403	17,171	18,281	18,569	18,569
Outside Islands	1,467	1,528	1,528	1,657	1,657	1,657
Revilla Island / Cleveland Peninsula	2,258	2,549	3,262	3,748	4,035	4,035
South Prince of Wales Island	1,472	1,481	1,502	1,662	1,662	1,662
Stikine River / Mainland	554	554	575	770	770	770
Taku River / Mainland	1	1	1	2	2	2
W. Baranof Island	59	59	59	59	59	59
Yakutat Forelands	57	57	57	57	57	57
Total	**30,301**	**31,813**	**35,425**	**39,371**	**40,124**	**40,124**

Table C2: Miles of salmon streams protected by alternative and Biogeographic Province.

	Salmon stream miles protected					
Biogeographic Province	**Alt 1**	**Alt 2**	**Alt 3**	**Alt 4**	**Alt 5**	**Alt 6**
Admiralty Island	23	22	22	22	19	0
Dall Island Complex	56	56	56	54	45	0
E. Baranof Island	47	52	52	44	40	0
E. Chichagof Island	203	226	225	180	174	113
Etolin Zarembo Island Complex	39	38	33	25	22	0
Fairweather Icefields	3	3	0	0	3	0
Kuiu Island	75	86	83	70	42	6
Kupreanof / Mitkof Islands	338	329	315	273	185	26
Lynn Canal / Mainland	100	97	92	91	66	12
North Misty Fjords	14	14	14	14	10	0
North Prince of Wales Complex	278	255	244	227	204	124
Outside Islands	72	75	75	69	65	36
Revilla Island / Cleveland Peninsula	180	169	161	155	120	22
South Misty Fjords	50	50	50	50	50	0

South Prince of Wales Island	78	78	78	71	45	9
Stikine River / Mainland	137	140	138	133	111	0
Taku River / Mainland	96	96	96	92	66	0
W. Baranof Island	139	139	137	135	123	0
W. Chichagof Island	13	12	13	12	12	8
Yakutat Forelands	620	604	526	538	541	234
Total	**2,561**	**2,540**	**2,410**	**2,255**	**1,943**	**590**

**LUD II already has legislative protection, making changes to its Roadless status irrelevant. Alt 6 does not have any Roadless protections; miles listed for that alternative are protected by LUD II.*

Table C3: Amount of deer habitat open to development

	Deer habitat open to development (% of total deer habitat suitability index value within each biogeographic province)					
Biogeographic Province	Alt 1	Alt 2	Alt 3	Alt 4	Alt 5	Alt 6
Admiralty Island	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Chilkat River Complex	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Dall Island Complex	0%	0%	0%	3%	14%	14%
E. Baranof Island	21%	16%	7%	30%	42%	42%
E. Chichagof Island	24%	20%	17%	32%	39%	39%
Etolin Zarembo Island Complex	24%	27%	26%	37%	48%	48%
Fairweather Icefields	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Glacier Bay	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Kuiu Island	18%	14%	10%	21%	29%	29%
Kupreanof / Mitkof Islands	15%	19%	19%	30%	50%	50%
Lynn Canal / Mainland	7%	7%	6%	13%	23%	28%
North Misty Fjords	1%	1%	1%	1%	2%	2%
North Prince of Wales Complex	26%	27%	27%	34%	43%	43%
Outside Islands	17%	14%	11%	20%	22%	22%
Revilla Island / Cleveland Peninsula	11%	12%	16%	18%	31%	31%
South Misty Fjords	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
South Prince of Wales Island	5%	6%	5%	15%	26%	26%
Stikine River / Mainland	7%	7%	6%	13%	33%	33%
Taku River / Mainland	2%	2%	1%	7%	29%	29%
W. Baranof Island	5%	5%	4%	9%	15%	15%
W. Chichagof Island	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Yakutat Forelands	7%	8%	17%	17%	17%	17%
Grand Total	**12%**	**12%**	**12%**	**18%**	**27%**	**27%**

Table C4: Amount of bear habitat open to development

Biogeographic Province	Bear habitat open to development (% of total bear habitat suitability index value within each biogeographic province)					
	Alt 1	Alt 2	Alt 3	Alt 4	Alt 5	Alt 6
Admiralty Island	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Chilkat River Complex	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Dall Island Complex	0%	0%	0%	3%	14%	14%
E. Baranof Island	10%	8%	4%	15%	25%	25%
E. Chichagof Island	19%	14%	12%	27%	37%	37%
Etolin Zarembo Island Complex	20%	23%	23%	35%	44%	44%
Fairweather Icefields	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Glacier Bay	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Kuiu Island	18%	15%	9%	21%	30%	30%
Kupreanof / Mitkof Islands	11%	13%	14%	26%	47%	47%
Lynn Canal / Mainland	4%	4%	3%	9%	16%	20%
North Misty Fjords	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	1%
North Prince of Wales Complex	24%	25%	26%	34%	42%	43%
Outside Islands	11%	9%	6%	13%	15%	15%
Revilla Island / Cleveland Peninsula	6%	7%	10%	13%	31%	31%
South Misty Fjords	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
South Prince of Wales Island	3%	3%	3%	12%	22%	22%
Stikine River / Mainland	3%	3%	3%	10%	25%	25%
Taku River / Mainland	1%	1%	1%	5%	25%	25%
W. Baranof Island	4%	4%	3%	6%	11%	11%
W. Chichagof Island	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Yakutat Forelands	2%	3%	7%	8%	8%	8%
Grand Total	**7%**	**7%**	**7%**	**13%**	**21%**	**22%**

Appendix D: Analysis of Potential Climate Impacts of Roadless Rulemaking

The Tongass National Forest contains vast stores of carbon in its living matter and soils, both above and below ground. As Southeast Alaska has little to no recent history of catastrophic fire or large-scale disturbance, the largest threat to this carbon store is from human actions, specifically clear-cut logging. Post-logging clear-cuts quickly regenerate into rapidly growing young growth stands, but do not attain the level of stored carbon present in their old-growth predecessors for at least 200 years.[21] Likewise, while some of the timber harvested may be milled into products expected to last for 100 years or more, is it estimated that only 13% of the total aboveground carbon will be stored in this way.[22] This accounting does not include the sizeable proportion (possibly >50%) of a forest's carbon sequestered in its soils, and the effects of clear-cutting on that carbon.

Carbon sequestration in the Tongass can be quantified by modeled aboveground and belowground biomass[23], soil carbon,[24] and CO_2-equivalent.[25] In analyzing impacts of the Roadless Rule rulemaking by alternative, TNC is focusing on aboveground stores of Carbon in old-growth stands Suitable for harvest (Table D1), although all carbon stores initially decrease following harvest due to microclimate-induced changes in decomposition rates and soil disturbance.

Table D1: Aboveground biomass Carbon storage suitable for harvest, by alternative. This table also includes a comparison of the CO_2-equivalent found in the aboveground biomass of these stands with the number of American cars its emission would equal (average emissions on an annual basis).

	Area, Suitable OG (acres)	Aboveground Carbon (Mg)	Aboveground CO2-equivalent (Mg CO_2e)	Equivalent Annual US Car Emissions (# of cars)
Alternative 1	228,713	13,695,210	50,179,248	10,908,532
Alternative 2	248,915	14,861,019	54,450,773	11,837,124
Alternative 3	306,936	18,326,301	67,147,565	14,597,297
Alternative 4	386,909	23,001,737	84,278,365	18,321,384
Alternative 5	393,977	23,495,778	86,088,531	18,714,898
Alternative 6	393,977	23,495,778	86,088,531	18,714,898

[21] Harmon, Mark E., et al. "Effects on carbon storage of conversion of old-growth forests to young forests." *Science*, vol. 247, no. 4943, 1990, p. 699

[22] Leighty, Wayne W., et al. "Effects of Management on Carbon Sequestration in Forest Biomass in Southeast Alaska." *Ecosystems*, vol. 9, no. 7, 2006, p. 1051-1065.

[23] Buma, Brian, and Thomas Thompson. "Long-term exposure to more frequent disturbances increases baseline carbon in some ecosystems: Mapping and quantifying the disturbance frequency-ecosystem C relationship." *PloS one* 14.2 (2019): e0212526.

[24] McNicol, Gavin, et al. "Large, climate-sensitive soil carbon stocks mapped with pedology-informed machine learning in the North Pacific coastal temperate rainforest." *Environmental Research Letters* 14.1 (2019): 014004.

[25] Based on an expansion factor of 3.664 applied to dry biomass Carbon.

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Margaret
Last name: Woll
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Margaret Woll and I live in Bellingham, Washington.

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, Margaret Woll

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Debra
Last name: Wollesen
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Debra Wollesen and I live in Redmond, Oregon.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Debra Wollesen

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Michael
Last name: Wollman
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Michael Wollman and I live in San Luis Obispo, 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, Michael Wollman

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Nan
Last name: Wollman
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Nan Wollman and I live in Tucson, Arizona.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Nan Wollman

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Heidi
Last name: Wollum
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Heidi Wollum and I live in New York, New York.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Heidi Wollum

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Heidi
Last name: Wollum
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, Heidi Wollum

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Diane
Last name: Wolniewicz
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Diane Wolniewicz and I live in Chicago, Illinois.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Diane Wolniewicz

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Ronald
Last name: Wolniewicz
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Ronald Wolniewicz and I live in Toledo, Ohio.

Why does this administration feel the need to destroy America's natural beauty and wonder mint. Are Republicans so evil that leaving something of America in its original state is just unthinkable. Human can't improve everything, sometimes being left alone is the best. Is it pleasing your billionaire friends and corporate sponsors that important. Or is it the money seeing how much you can steal from the American public. Leave our natural wilderness areas, national parks, and monuments alone

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.

Regards, Ronald Wolniewicz

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/14/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Rose
Last name: Wolny
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Rose Wolny and I live in Coolidge, Arizona.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Rose Wolny

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Patricia
Last name: Wolongevicz
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, Patricia Wolongevicz

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Patricia
Last name: Wolongevicz
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Patricia Wolongevicz and I live in Hanover, Massachusetts.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Patricia Wolongevicz

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
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Last name: Wolongevicz
Organization:
Title:
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Regards, Patricia Wolongevicz

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Vivian
Last name: Wolpers
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
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Regards, Vivian Wolpers

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Vivian
Last name: Wolpers
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
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Regards, Vivian Wolpers

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/11/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Thomas
Last name: Wolslegel
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Thomas Wolslegel and I live in East Longmeadow, Massachusetts.

Leave them trees alone! We need more trees.

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, Thomas Wolslegel

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: David
Last name: Wolter
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is David Wolter and I live in Chelsea, Michigan
48118
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.
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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, David Wolter

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Leslie
Last name: Wolter
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Leslie Wolter and I live in O'fallon, Illinois.

Someone needs to protect the forests from the madman in the White House

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Leslie Wolter

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Patricia
Last name: Wolter
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
These are our public trees! Keep your hands off of our resources! STOP! I disapprove of ANY AND ALL ROADS OR DESTRUCTION OF ANY HABITAT. YOU ARE EMPLOYED BY US THE PUBLIC AND IT IS DESPICABLE THAT YOU WOULD EVEN CONSIDER TEARING DOWN FOREST.

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: michael
Last name: woltering
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is michael woltering and I live in Converse, Texas.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, michael woltering

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Dave
Last name: Wolverton
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Dave Wolverton and I live in Manitou Springs, Colorado.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Dave Wolverton

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Title:
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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Dave Wolverton

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/13/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Carol
Last name: Wolvington
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC354

11-10-19

Dear Chief Christiansen,

I am writing to support *protection* [text underlined for emphasis] of the Tongass Nat'l Forest. Please please please do all you can to *protect* [text underlined for emphasis] + preserve our remaining old-growth trees + all the creatures who depend on them for healthy habitat. We in New Mexico are alarmed about the proposal to slash protection of over 9 million acres there.

I write prayerfully that you + others with power will do the right thing In peace,

Carol D. Wolvington [Signature]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/10/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Roxane
Last name: wolzen
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Roxane wolzen and I live in Oxford, Nebraska.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Roxane wolzen

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/11/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: John
Last name: Wondzell
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): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: John
Last name: Wondzell
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC3484

U.S. Forest Service Alaska Roadless Rule

Comment Period

Comment Period Alaska Roadless Rule:

The Roadless Rule has been instrumental in conserving the Tongass National Forest and in supporting its 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. 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,

John Wondzell

Laramie, WY 82073

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 1/1/0001 12:00:00 AM
First name: John
Last name: Wondzell
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC3733

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,
John Wondzell
Laramie, WY 82073

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Emily
Last name: Wong
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Emily Wong and I live in The Bronx, New York.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Emily Wong

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: ERIC
Last name: WONG
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC3449

U.S. Forest Service Alaska Roadless Rule Committee:

Please preserve the little that we have left. Conservation of our resource is an absolute necessity and must be continued if all living beings are to continue living on our Fabulous Mother Earth!!!!!!

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 more than 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,

ERIC WONG

Honolulu, HI 96825

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 1/1/0001 12:00:00 AM
First name: ERIC
Last name: WONG
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
3449

U.S. Forest Service Alaska Roadless Rule Committee:

Please preserve the little that we have left. Conservation of our resource is an absolute necessity and must be continued if all living beings are to continue living on our Fabulous Mother Earth!!!!!!

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 more than 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,
ERIC WONG
Honolulu, HI 96825

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 5:45:56 AM
First name: Gregory
Last name: Wong
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Gregory Wong and I live in Battle Ground, WA. I am writing a comment on the Alaska Roadless Rule DEIS because I am concerned with how the Rule and the proposed full exemption will affect the Tongass National Forest and the Chugach National Forest.

Recreation. Stream protection to support sustainable fisheries. Selected harvest of trees.

I urge the Forest Service to select Alternative 1, the no action alternative, for the final decision on the Alaska Roadless Rule. This alternative protects the inventoried roadless areas in Alaska that are full of pristine wilderness and provide important fish and wildlife habitat, and already allows for important community and economic development projects. As an American citizen, I value the Tongass National Forest and the Chugach National Forest for its status as America's best natural solution to climate change and its sequestering of millions of metric tons of carbon and mitigating climate change, its wild salmon populations and the world-class fishing opportunities, its huge swaths of intact ecosystems and all the biodiversity it contains, its status as the largest intact temperate rainforest in the world, the recreational opportunities it provides, the high density of incredible wildlife it contains, to keep public lands wild for future generations, its status as a national and global treasure, the lifestyles of the indigenous communities that the forest supports. A full exemption does not protect these priorities, nor does it effectively balance economic development with the countless other benefits provided by roadless areas. I would like the Forest Service to manage roadless areas for low-impact recreation (camping, hiking, hunting, foraging, etc), medium-impact recreation (FS cabins, trails, mooring buoys, 3-sided shelters), passive/active watershed restoration (stream and habitat) to improve/maintain roadless characteristics (culvert removal/replacement, improve fish passage, wildlife thinning, etc), hydroelectric development, inter-tie/transmission line construction. It is important to me that high-value intact habitat including the T77 watersheds and the TNC conservation priority areas retain their roadless protections in any alternative selected.

The Forest Service is wasting taxpayers' valuable time and money by trying to prop up a failing timber industry in Southeast Alaska. The nonpartisan, independent taxpayer watchdog Taxpayers for Common Sense reported that the Tongass timber program has losses of over $600 million of taxpayers money in the past 20 years. I would rather see my taxpayer dollars used to restore salmon habitat that was hurt by past logging practices, perform restorative actions that support wildlife populations on previously degraded landscapes that support wildlife populations, develop more recreational opportunities, like trails and cabins, support small-scale, sustainable logging, establish the economic value of the carbon stored in the Tongass. We need to stop subsidizing the clearcutting of old growth on the Tongass through taxpayer funded roadbuilding. If a full exemption were chosen, it would not create opportunities and would instead prioritize the special interests of one industry over the interests of the entire American public.

The Tongass is Americas homegrown natural solution to climate change. The forest sequesters 8% of the carbon stored in forests throughout the contiguous US states, some 3 billion metric tons of it. We must take action to mitigate and adapt to climate change, and maintaining the Tongass in a roadless state is critical for a sustainable future.

I urge the Forest Service to listen to the voices of the American people and prioritize them over corporate interests. The Forest Service should strengthen public involvement in developing land management policy and focus on broadly supported work rather than allowing special corporate interests to guide policy changes. Attempting to exempt inventoried roadless areas on the Chugach National Forest from the Alaska Roadless Rule adds further insult to injury, and this proposal has not received any sufficient environmental impact analysis or public input. Choosing a full exemption will not create a long lasting, durable solution for roadless areas in Alaska it will only increase the legal challenges, uncertainty for businesses, and conflict over these forests going forward.

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/20/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Jayson
Last name: Wong
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
LEAVE THIS NATURAL WONDER ALONE.

The US has a disgraceful track record of environmental vandalism and this is one more example of corporate greed. Having a multi millionaire who's only concern is becoming a multi billionaire as the head of state is a recipe for disaster!!! Every decision Trump makes is based on currying flavour with large multinationals to advance his own personal wealth... he does not care about America!!!

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Jen-Mai
Last name: Wong
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Jen-Mai Wong and I live in Jersey City, New Jersey.

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, Jen-Mai Wong

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Lily
Last name: Wong
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Lily Wong and I live in San Jose, 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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Lily Wong

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Nina
Last name: Wong
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Nina Wong and I live in San Gabriel, 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, Nina Wong

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/10/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Olivia
Last name: Wong
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Olivia Wong and I live in New York, New York.

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, Olivia Wong

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Patricia
Last name: Wong
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, Patricia Wong

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Patricia
Last name: Wong
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Patricia Wong and I live in Yorba Linda, California.

Resources, broadly speaking, are highly interwoven and therefore conservation of them involves intertwined consequences. We must nevertheless move significantly toward conservation and this is one factor that needs your help to keep the Roadless Rule active.

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.

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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, Patricia Wong

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Penelope
Last name: Wong
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, Penelope Wong

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/13/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Perry
Last name: Wong
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Perry Wong and I live in Kent, Washington.

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, Perry Wong

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 8:44:05 PM
First name: Sherry
Last name: Wong
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Sherry Wong and I live in Berkeley, CA. I am writing a comment on the Alaska Roadless Rule DEIS because I am concerned with how the Rule and the proposed full exemption will affect the Tongass National Forest and the Chugach National Forest.

We are facing existential risk from climate change. As a researcher in artificial intelligence policy I know first hand that it is difficult to make mass changes even though we know that we are putting our own lives and that if future generations at risk. The Tongass National Forest is a vital part of our ecosystem and if we do not protect it, we lose much more than some trees. We stand to lose everything.

I urge the Forest Service to select Alternative 1, the no action alternative, for the final decision on the Alaska Roadless Rule. This alternative protects the inventoried roadless areas in Alaska that are full of pristine wilderness and provide important fish and wildlife habitat, and already allows for important community and economic development projects. As an American citizen, I value the Tongass National Forest and the Chugach National Forest for its status as America's best natural solution to climate change and its sequestering of millions of metric tons of carbon and mitigating climate change, the lifestyles of the indigenous communities that the forest supports its huge swaths of intact ecosystems and all the biodiversity it contains. A full exemption does not protect these priorities, nor does it effectively balance economic development with the countless other benefits provided by roadless areas. I would like the Forest Service to manage roadless areas for passive/active watershed restoration (stream and habitat) to improve/maintain roadless characteristics (culvert removal/replacement, improve fish passage, wildlife thinning, etc), hydroelectric development. It is important to me that high-value intact habitat including the T77 watersheds and the TNC conservation priority areas retain their roadless protections in any alternative selected.

The Forest Service is wasting taxpayers' valuable time and money by trying to prop up a failing timber industry in Southeast Alaska. The nonpartisan, independent taxpayer watchdog Taxpayers for Common Sense reported that the Tongass timber program has losses of over $600 million of taxpayers money in the past 20 years. I would rather see my taxpayer dollars used to perform restorative actions that support wildlife populations on previously degraded landscapes that support wildlife populations. We need to stop subsidizing the clearcutting of old growth on the Tongass through taxpayer funded roadbuilding. If a full exemption were chosen, it would not create opportunities and would instead prioritize the special interests of one industry over the interests of the entire American public.

The Tongass is Americas homegrown natural solution to climate change. The forest sequesters 8% of the carbon stored in forests throughout the contiguous US states, some 3 billion metric tons of it. We must take action to mitigate and adapt to climate change, and maintaining the Tongass in a roadless state is critical for a sustainable future.

I urge the Forest Service to listen to the voices of the American people and prioritize them over corporate interests. The Forest Service should strengthen public involvement in developing land management policy and focus on broadly supported work rather than allowing special corporate interests to guide policy changes. Attempting to exempt inventoried roadless areas on the Chugach National Forest from the Alaska Roadless Rule adds further insult to injury, and this proposal has not received any sufficient environmental impact analysis or public input. Choosing a full exemption will not create a long lasting, durable solution for roadless areas in Alaska it will only increase the legal challenges, uncertainty for businesses, and conflict over these forests going forward.

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Janene
Last name: Wong-Brehmer
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Janene Wong-Brehmer and I live in Phoenix, Arizona.

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, Janene Wong-Brehmer

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Debra
Last name: Wontor
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Debra Wontor and I live in Hawley, Pennsylvania.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Debra Wontor

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/26/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: P.K.
Last name: Woo
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC146

The thought that anyone would even consider opening up such a priceless, beautiful & important ecosystem for clear out logging is absolutely absurd.

Lets keep the Tongass protected!

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/5/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Adam
Last name: Wood
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): 10/18/2019 6:28:45 PM
First name: Allane
Last name: Wood
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Comments to oppose modification to the Roadless Rule

Dear U.S. Forest Service,

The Roadless Rule helps protect old-growth habitat for birds like the Prince of Wales Spruce Grouse and Northern Goshawk, as well as for mammals like wolves and deer. Opening roadless areas to more logging and roads will fragment the forest and eliminate more of the big old trees that these animals rely on.

Yet, all of the action alternatives in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement allow more roadbuilding and logging across the Tongass National Forest. Logging roads and timber operations cost tens of millions of taxpayer dollars every year, with zero return on investment. Meanwhile, these destructive activities degrade the naturally sustainable wealth of salmon, wildlife watching, and tourism opportunities.

It is time to stop opening more and more acres to the timber industry and instead bolster protections to the old-growth forests and wild areas on the Tongass. I urge you to select the "No Action" Alternative (Alternative 1) and allow the Roadless Rule to remain intact on the Tongass National Forest.

Sincerely,
Allane Wood
Elgin, IL 60123

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Barbara
Last name: Wood
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, Barbara Wood

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Barbara
Last name: Wood
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, Barbara Wood

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Barbara
Last name: Wood
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Barbara Wood and I live in Prescott, Arizona.

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, Barbara Wood

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/14/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: bill
Last name: wood
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is bill wood and I live in Mount Shasta, 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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, bill wood

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Bill
Last name: Wood
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Bill Wood and I live in Mount Shasta, 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, Bill Wood

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Brittany
Last name: Wood
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC1137

Dear Secretary Perdue,

I live and work on the lands and waters of the Tongass National Forest. The health of the Tongass National Forest is critical to sustaining my way of life in this rugged region. From hunting and fishing, to hiking and camping, to our tourism and commercial fishing-based economies, we rely on the intact habitat that the roadless areas of the Tongass contain. That is why it is important to me that the 2001 Roadless Rule remain in place on the Tongass National Forest. A no-action alternative is the best option for Southeast Alaska.

Prioritizing one antiquated industry over private sectors is bad business, and bad for Southeast Alaska. I support the Tongass Transition and I would like the Forest Service to continue phasing out old growth clearcutting. Please prioritize conservation of the T77 and TNC conservation priority areas in any new Alaska Roadless Rule. This forest is a salmon forest, and the Forest Service should focus on restoring degraded watersheds and fish streams.

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 1/1/0001 12:00:00 AM
First name: Brittany
Last name: Wood
Organization:
Title:
Comments:

Dear Secretary Perdue,

I live and work on the lands and waters of the Tongass National Forest. The health of the Tongass National Forest is critical to sustaining my way of life in this rugged region. From hunting and fishing, to hiking and camping, to our tourism and commercial fishing-based economies, we rely on the intact habitat that the roadless areas of the Tongass contain. That is why it is important to me that the 2001 Roadless Rule remain in place on the Tongass National Forest. A no-action alternative is the best option for Southeast Alaska.

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Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 1/1/0001 12:00:00 AM
First name: Brittany
Last name: Wood
Organization:
Title:
Comments:

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Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 1/1/0001 12:00:00 AM
First name: Brittany
Last name: Wood
Organization:
Title:
Comments:

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Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 1/1/0001 12:00:00 AM
First name: Brittany
Last name: Wood
Organization:
Title:
Comments:

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Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/13/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Brittany
Last name: Wood
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC442

Dear Roadless Rule Planning Team,

The health of the Tongass National Forest is important to me. I depend on the Tongass which is a unique and global treasure.

The freshwater streams where salmon and old growth forest of the Tongass provide spawning habitat for these fish, which in turn feed a matrix of bears, birds, insects, and other wildlife that Alaska is so famous for. The health of our economy, which is heavily dependent on the fishing and tourism industries, also depends on the salmon, wildlife and presence of old growth forests. A sustainable future for Southeast Alaska requires protecting expansive areas of intact habitat - in short, it requires keeping our Roadless areas roadless! I urge the Forest Service and the Secretary to protect important salmon spawning habitat, maintain old growth forests for winter deer habitat, and keep the places I like to recreate free of clearcuts and roadbuilding.

WHO I AM: [text bolded for emphasis] Include your name, where you live, and any relevant biographical information. Do you live or work on the Tongass National Forest? What is your relationship to the Tongass?

Brittany Wood, Sitka, Ak

PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE: [text bolded for emphasis] The Forest Service will choose how to proceed from a number of different alternatives. If you want the Roadless Rule to remain on the Tongass, write "No Action."

No Action

WHY I PREFER THIS ALTERNATIVE: [text bolded for emphasis] How would this alternative affect you and Southeast Alaskans?

AREAS: [text bolded for emphasis] Are there specific islands, watersheds, or mountains that you depend on? Name the most important areas that the Roadless Rule to protect. Examples include the Tenakee Inlet, Nakwasina Sound, Fish Bay, Ushk Bay, Northern Prince of Wales, T77 salmon watershed areas, Audobon TNC ecological priority areas, etc.

Bristale Bay

USE: [text bolded for emphasis] What activities do you use the Tongass National Forest for? Hunting, fishing, recreation, subsistence, business, tourism, etc.

Recreation

SUGGESTION: [text bolded for emphasis] How should the Forest Service manage the Tongass National Forest, rather than old-growth clearcut logging? More sustainable alternatives to timber harvest include salmon watershed restoration, visitor industry infrastructure, deer habitat enhancement, young growth thinning, and maintenance of recreation infrastructure such as trails and cabins.

Additional comments for the Forest Service:

Sincerely,

Brittany Wood

I want to receive a copy of the Draft Environmental Statement

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Bruce
Last name: Wood
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, Bruce Wood

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: CE
Last name: Wood
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is CE Wood and I live in Clyde Hill, Washington.

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.

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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, CE Wood

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/4/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Charles
Last name: Wood
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
4 November 2019

Via email: akroadlessrule@fs.fed.us

USDA Forest Service

Attn: Alaska Roadless Rule

P.O. Box 21628

Juneau, Alaska 99802-1628

Re: Tongass Roadless Rule Exemption

1. My father logged for many years during the "50-year Contracts" timeframe. I have resided within the Tongass National Forest for 64 years, some of that time in Southeast logging camps. The Tongass is my home.

2. My observation is that the timber industry harvested a 100-year supply of timber in about 70 years. Some of the best and easiest timber was taken first.

3. The economic argument is clearly not based in reality, especially when considering the amount of corporate welfare that goes into road building with its long-term maintenance, and tree thinning, nor does it consider possible adverse economic impacts on the tourism and fishing industries. Furthermore, there are no longer any pulp mills to process the majority of Tongass timber, which is low quality spruce and hemlock. Large percentages of high value old growth cedar and spruce are exported (as round logs) with zero stateside milling. Making more timber land available as a result of this proposed rule will not change these facts. There are likely to be no new mills built, and no new mill jobs, which alone could have otherwise provided economic diversity and stability in the region.

4. In summary, the current Roadless Rule is not the primary cause of the timber industry's problems. Too many prior years of excessively high annual harvests, market forces, operator efficiencies, and consolidation of logging and towing contractors into just a few well-connected companies probably are all contributing factors.

5. Because of the importance of the Tongass to global climate change with carbon capture, the highest and best use of the Tongass for its true owners, the people of the United States, is to cease and desist in any attempt to reopen the Roadless Rule.

6. I am adamantly opposed to the proposed action. Leave the Tongass alone. I fully support Alternative 1.

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Chris
Last name: Wood
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Chris Wood and I live in Madison, Wisconsin.

I implore you to protect the Tongass National Forest.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Chris Wood

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Dagmar
Last name: wood
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, Dagmar wood

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Daryl
Last name: Wood
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
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Regards, Daryl Wood

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: David
Last name: Wood
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
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Regards, David Wood

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Last name: Wood
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
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Regards, David Wood

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Debbi
Last name: Wood
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, Debbi Wood

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Diane
Last name: Wood
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, Diane Wood

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Dolores
Last name: Wood
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to advocate for 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. Lives depend on the continued preservation of the Tongass
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, Dolores Wood

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/26/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Elsa
Last name: Wood
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC272

To the USDA Forest Service,

I attended a public meeting in Juneau and listened to a hearing in the U.S. House of Representatives. Why does the Forest Service repeatedly listen to the lies of the State of Alaska and certain industry groups? The Roadless Rule does not prohibit renewable energy or mineral development, nor does it prohibit necessary road connections in Alaska. You have court documents that make this very clear, and I wonder how you can buy in to these arguments, know that they're false, and propose an exemption to the rule because of them? Focus on the truth ? this is all about allowing a very small industry group in Southeast Alaska continue to have access to old growth timber, at the expense of industries that do work for the forest and at the expense of the people who do work for the forest and at the expense of people who live here, have lived here, will continue to live here. Do the right thing and listen to the people of Southeast Alaska, not Senator Murkowski.

Thank you,

Elsa Wood

Haines, AK

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Gordon
Last name: Wood
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.

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Regards, Gordon Wood

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Hollace
Last name: Wood
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Hollace Wood and I live in Los Angeles, California.

Protect Alaska

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, Hollace Wood

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Homer
Last name: Wood
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Homer Wood and I live in Greenstone, Pennsylvania.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Homer Wood

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: John
Last name: Wood
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is John Wood and I live in Hood River, Oregon.

While you are at it, stop the Pebble Mine too.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, John Wood

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/10/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Jon
Last name: Wood
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Jon Wood and I live in Overland Park, Kansas.

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.

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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, Jon Wood

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/5/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Jon
Last name: Wood
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): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Jonathan
Last name: Wood
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC6375

I live + recreate in the Tongass. Each new climate report that comes out is more dire than the previous. I don't know if keepin ghte Tongass roadless rule in place will save the planet but I feel sure that exempting the Tongass will only further ensure our demise.

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/10/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Judy
Last name: Wood
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Judy Wood and I live in Loveland, Colorado.

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, Judy Wood

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Karen
Last name: Wood
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, Karen Wood

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: karen
Last name: wood
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is karen wood and I live in Valdosta, Georgia.

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, karen wood

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Katie
Last name: Wood
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Katie Wood and I live in Covington, Louisiana.

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, Katie Wood

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Keith
Last name: Wood
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Keith Wood and I live in Dallas, Texas. I strongly oppose building new logging roads in Alaska. I have visited these forests, and America has nothing like them anywhere else. Please do not sacrifice our 1000s of years old trees and natural heritage for the sake of short term economic development - no matter how many - nor how few - people will benefit. Please, let nature be undisturbed in at least this one corner of our nation.

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Kim
Last name: Wood
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, Kim Wood

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Kim
Last name: Wood
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, Kim Wood

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/11/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Leslie
Last name: Wood
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Leslie Wood and I live in San Juan Capistrano, California.

Please stop this abominable plan from going forward. Once these places are gone, we can never get them back.

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, Leslie Wood

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: M.
Last name: Wood
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.
he 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, M. Wood

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: M.
Last name: Wood
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.

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, M. Wood

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: M.
Last name: Wood
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 the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples who 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, M. Wood

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Margaret
Last name: Wood
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Margaret Wood and I live in Naperville, Illinois.

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, Margaret Wood

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Martha
Last name: Wood
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, Martha Wood

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Michelle
Last name: Wood
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, Michelle Wood

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/14/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Nara
Last name: Wood
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Nara Wood and I live in Leonard, Texas.

We have really worked ourselves into a mess. We need more housing for more people and yet trees are a first defense against climate change. Surely American ingenuity can develop new products for building (some have experimented with bamboo) and allow the trees to live to help save the planet from climate change.

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, Nara Wood

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Pamela
Last name: Wood
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, Pamela Wood

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/16/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Parie
Last name: Wood
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Please do not do this. Please.

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Peter
Last name: Wood
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Peter Wood and I live in New York, New York.

CLEAN AIR IS A RIGHT - NOT A PRIVILEGE!

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, Peter Wood

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Rega
Last name: Wood
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
It is vital to our national interest that the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1 be chosen. 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.
Not logging but environmental considerations must dictate our actions at this time.
Regards, Rega Wood

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Rick
Last name: Wood
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, Rick Wood

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Rick
Last name: Wood
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, Rick Wood

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/7/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Robert
Last name: Wood
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): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Ronald
Last name: Wood
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Please select the "no action" Alternative regarding the Tongass Roadless Rule

I was involved in many of the Timber old growth sales from 1975-1985.

That was a different culture in those days. Actually, the industry pretty much had their way. Things are different now. I would hate to see that scale of logging return. There is only so much old growth and much of it is located in lower elevations along saltwater routes and use areas. Because of economics access is a problem and often conflicts with other uses of the land.

I can not imagine the polarization that would take place now. The Tongass has much higher values. It's not worth the trouble to get the remaining accessible old growth given it's worth value for other uses.

Sincerely,

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Ruby
Last name: Wood
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Ruby Wood and I live in Interlachen, Florida.

Please find a cleaner way.

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, Ruby Wood

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Ruth
Last name: Wood
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing in support of Alternative 1, the no action alternative. The roadless rule was instituted to protect our national forests, and that is what it does. There is no reason to make a change, so don't. The purpose of revising the rule is to promote logging of old growth timber. There isn't much of that left, and the value of the old growth trees to the integrity of the forest is the most important factor. Habitat, wildlife, salmon, recreation, subsistence-- all of these activities are more important to Alaska than the logging industry. The only impetus for this is politicians who value campaign donations more than the forest. Keep the roadless rule as is.

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Ruth
Last name: Wood
Organization: myself
Title:
Comments:
I just submitted a comment, and it is now 8:27 p.m. on December 17th. Once I submitted my comment, I got a response that my comment was logged in as received on December 18th. I am in Alaska, and this is about the Tongas National Forest in Alaska. I am opposed to changing the roadless rule and hope my opinion will be considered.

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/11/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Sam
Last name: Wood
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): 12/9/2019 6:28:00 PM
First name: Sharon
Last name: Wood
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Protect the Tongass and Chugach national forests

Dear Secretary Perdue,

I am writing to express my disappointment with the U.S. Forest Service's proposed Alaska Roadless Rule and associated draft environmental impact statement. The proposed management plan would open vast tracts of America's remaining ancient forest to logging and road building.

The Tongass National Forest contains nearly 10 million acres of intact forest landscape (IFL), the unbroken natural landscape of a forest ecosystem and its habitat. That amount is equivalent to more than half of the IFL in the Lower 48 states combined and represents nearly 40 percent of the IFL managed by the U.S. Forest Service.

Roadless area protections sustain southeast Alaska's ancient forests, including thousand-year-old sitka spruce, western hemlock, and western red cedar. Tribal communities rely on the Tongass for traditional uses dating back thousands of years. The Tongass is also home to endemic species including brown bears, wolves, eagles, black-tailed deer, and world-class salmon habitat that supports commercial and recreational fisheries.

The Tongass produces 25 percent of the entire West Coast's annual salmon harvest. The Forest Service estimates that the salmon industry generates $986 million annually.

In an August 2019 letter to your office, southeast Alaska fishermen and fisherwomen urged the Forest Service to select an alternative that broadly protects fish habitat, continues the phase-out of industrial scale old growth clear-cutting, and prioritizes the restoration of degraded watersheds and streams.

Instead, the Department of Agriculture and the Forest Service have proposed renewed large-scale logging that would adversely affect the tourism and seafood industries of southeast Alaska.

Additionally, this draft plan gives the regional forester the ability to remove Roadless Rule protections from any of the currently protected 5.4 million acres in the Chugach National Forest, with no analysis of impacts and extremely limited opportunities for public comment.

Please stop the rollback of the important 2001 national Roadless Rule in Alaska and protect the Tongass and Chugach national forests!

Sincerely,
Sharon Wood
Greeley, Colorado

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Sharon
Last name: Wood
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Sharon Wood and I live in Greeley, Colorado.

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, Sharon Wood

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Sherard
Last name: Wood
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Sherard Wood and I live in Dublin, California.
[Your personal comment will be added here.]
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, Sherard Wood

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/10/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Stephanie
Last name: Wood
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Stephanie Wood and I live in Upr Montclair, New Jersey.

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, Stephanie Wood

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/20/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Stephen
Last name: Wood
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
The Tongass National Forest, "one of the last remaining intact temperate rainforests in the world". it is a pristine old growth forest that deserves to be protected as a roadless area for future generations. The wild areas are vital to our survival as a species we use them for recreation as well as our spiritual growth. These areas help us to connect with the earth our creator and our humanity when we appreciate the beauty of the natural world, when we are in awe of its beauty and we appreciate our place in the world and recognize our responsibility to protect the the wild places that remain.

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/17/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Stephen
Last name: Wood
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Stephen Wood and I live in Seattle, Wa.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, Stephen Wood

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Sue
Last name: Wood
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Sue Wood and I live in Highland, New York.

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, Sue Wood

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Susan
Last name: Wood
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Susan Wood and I live in Golden, Colorado.

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, Susan Wood

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/4/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Suzanne
Last name: Wood
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
4 November 2019

Email: akroadlessrule@fs.fed.us

USDA Forest Service

Attn: Alaska Roadless Rule

P.O. Box 21628

Juneau, Alaska 99802

To Whom It May Concern,

1. I do support the existing Roadless Rule governing the Tongass National Forest (Tongass) in Southeast Alaska, the biggest reserve of coastal temperate rainforest-bigger than any other forest.

2. I do not support a "new" stand alone Alaska Roadless Rule Exemption that would affect the Tongass.

3. Further reducing the footprint of the Tongass continues to put at peril all life not only in the Tongass and surrounding Southeast Alaska communities, but all life on Earth, especially as the society of man has not progressed to any actionable climate change protocol.

4. Further to climate change and the threat to the Tongass and other forests worldwide is the melting Arctic permafrost and the release of methane accelerated by a warming planet. Matt McGrath's Permafrost warming in parts of Alaska 'is accelerating' (22 October 2015) included

[Vladimir Romanovsky, University of Alaska professor and head of Global Terrestrial Network for Permafrost, the primary international monitoring programme] One of the world's leading experts on permafrost has told BBC News that the recent rate of warming of this frozen layer of earth is "unbelievable".

Researchers worry that methane frozen within the permafrost will be released, exacerbating climate change.

Methane is a powerful greenhouse gas and researchers estimate that the amount in permafrost equates to more than double the amount of carbon currently in the atmosphere.

Neither Alaska or the United States governments have testified before the United Nations declaring Alaska's melting permafrost, and escaping methane to be worthy of inclusion in the climate change protocol. Would it not seem prudent to leave the Tongass intact as a stabilizing mechanism for weather, the environment that does contribute to the world's jet stream and weather patterns.

5. Communities have already explored and engaged in carbon credit agreements where an annual payment for keeping stands of timber intact, resulting in lucrative returns. Carbon Offsets for Urban Trees Are on the Horizon - Austin, Texas, and King County, Washington, are testing carbon credits for planting and protecting urban trees, by Maria Dolan (28 August 2018) includes

The evidence is in: Urban trees improve air and water quality, reduce energy costs, and improve human health, even as they offer the benefit of storing carbon. And in cities across the country, they are disappearing.

A recent paper by two U.S. Forest Service scientists reported that metropolitan areas in the U.S. are losing about 36 million trees each year. The paper, by David Nowak and Eric Greenfield, was an expansion of the same researchers' 2012 study that found significant tree loss in 17 out of the 20 U.S. cities studied.

This arboreal decline is happening even in some areas that promote "million-tree" campaigns, Arbor Day plantings, and street-tree giveaways. Cash-strapped municipalities just can't find enough green to maintain the green. Additionally, many cities are adjusting to population booms, and to temperature increases and drought due to climate change-both conditions that can be hard on trees (while increasing their value as sources of cooling and cleaner air). There's also a growing recognition of the inequity of tree-canopy distribution in many cities, with lush cover in wealthy neighborhoods and far fewer trees in disadvantaged areas.

To find more funding for urban trees, some local governments, including Austin, Texas and King County, Washington (where Seattle is located), are running pilot projects with a Seattle-based nonprofit called City Forest Credits (CFC). The nonprofit is developing a new approach: generating funding for city tree canopies from private companies (and individuals) that wish to offset their carbon emissions by buying credits for tree planting or preservation.

The vast majority of forest carbon credits worldwide have been issued for trees in tropical rainforests and other forests far from urban areas. A study released last year of the forest offsets in California's cap-and-trade program found that they are effective at reducing emissions.

The new credits aim to quantify not only the carbon benefits of urban trees, but also rainfall interception, energy savings from cooling and heating effects, and air-quality benefits. CFC has no role in marketing or selling credits for specific projects, but maintains the standards (protocols) and credentialing for other organizations that sell them. A third-party firm, Ecofor, verifies compliance for tree-preservation projects. Tree-planting projects are either third-party verified, or, for smaller projects that cannot afford that, verified by CFC with peer review, using Google Earth and geocoded photos.

To be eligible for the credits, city tree projects must follow protocols created specifically for urban forests-rules governing such specifics as the location and duration of a project and how the carbon will be quantified.

Land possibilities there, so they differ from traditional carbon credits," said Ian Leahy, director of urban forestry programs at the non-profit conservation group American Forests, and a member of the CFC protocol board.

I think the work is innovative and potentially game-changing," said Zach Baumer, climate program manager for the City of Austin. (Baumer also serves on the protocol board for CFC.)

To harness the market to create environmental benefits in cities is a great thing.

Austin

The City of Austin aims to be carbon neutral in government operations by 2020. To get there, it has been reducing emissions through energy efficiency, renewable energy, alternative fuels, and hybrid and electric vehicles. But the city will still need offsets to claim neutrality.

If governments and businesses choose to purchase these credits, they could help fill that gap, and they can keep their dollars local. Austin is running two pilot projects this year with CFC: a riparian reforestation project near a creek and a tree-planting project on school-district land. The City of Austin is purchasing the credits for both projects from the nonprofit TreeFolks, via CFC.

6. The U.S. Government's vast inventory of idle and often contested Federal lands countrywide could be redirected towards a major National forest silviculture program overseen through long-term leases or outright state land grants. Consideration of each state's historic tree inventory, whether mixed or mono crop conifers or deciduous, would aid in establishing expansive forces that could be managed for carbon capture, terrain stabilization/erosion reduction, windbreaks, climate stabilization, or for sustainable rotational timber harvest to meet local and overseas marketing needs - all are a win-win with increased employment opportunities, plus regional environmental and economic benefits.

Employment and cross training for current logging community members could make for a ready to work force, participating in the initial forest development tasks. Such tasks, accomplished in stages from site selection and layout; road building and culvert installation; soil preparation/enrichment; identifying water bodies and/or well-drilling sites for seedling irrigation; fabrication, construction and building of high tunnels or like buildings for seed propagation; constructing fencing or like barriers to protect young seedlings from migrating game; installation of remote monitoring equipment, etc. Millions of trees could be planted in a myriad new forests across the United States, providing carbon capture, economic and employment opportunities.

7. The following link "Deforestation to blame for Beijing's pollution" (Xun Zhou, South China Morning Post (April 2013, updated January 2018) includes

The environmental disaster China is experiencing now goes back to the time of the Great Leap Forward in the late 1950s. To transform China into the dreamed-of industrial superpower Mao envisaged, it needed a huge amount of steel. Forests were destroyed as trees were felled to feed backyard furnaces. Many of the mountainous regions throughout China were deforested.

Deforestation had devastating consequences, causing regular soil erosion and sandstorms. In some areas, it turned paddy fields into sandy beaches and farmland into bogs. The Gobi desert might be a natural phenomenon, but the massive deforestation during the Great Leap Forward enlarged it.

A number of documents I came cross in archives in China show that in the time of the Great Leap Forward, at least one third of China's open forests were chopped down and one fifth of closed forests were destroyed in areas immediately surrounding the Gobi.

In western Shaanxi province, at least 60 per cent of trees, which were originally planted to protect the railways, were chopped down. In major irrigation regions by the Jing, Wei and Luo rivers, more than 30,000 trees along the canals were felled. In Gansu province, along Tianshui region's Xiaolong mountain, and Tangou in Wushan county, some one third of the forest was destroyed."

The destruction of forests not only reduced the amount of water resources, it caused sandstorms that wiped out tens of thousands of hectares of farming land, expanding the desert ever further.

The Great Leap Forward not only resulted in a devastating famine throughout China lasting three or more years and claiming tens of millions lives, it also led to the mass destruction of agriculture, industry and trade, and infiltrated every aspect of human life, leaving large parts of China scarred forever by man-made environmental disasters. The annual sandstorms and smog in Beijing is one example.

The problem will not be solved by simply banning private vehicles and street vendors, or closing down a few privately owned factories. The government needs to put serious efforts into stopping legal and illegal logging, gigantic irrigation projects and other constructions that destroy the remaining forests and damage the environment.

Beijing doesn't need any more huge ring roads and skyscrapers. What Beijing and other Chinese cities urgently need is a green belt. Putting more money into reforestation might be a more effective way to help tackle China's pollution problem and bring back the bright blue sky.

8. During the summer of 1993, I participated in the Tongass Cave Project (TCP) headquartered out of Thorne Bay, Alaska. The TCP was comprised National Speleological Society members. Locally, they were tasked with exploration, survey, conservation and study of karst and caves in Southeast Alaska, specifically Prince of Wales and Dall Islands - an effort to identify caves within proposed logging units which could be negatively impacted by the effects of road building and clearcutting.

I helped survey Bridalveil Cave, Curley Cave, First Plunge, Great White Cave, Hole in the Ground, King Kong Cave, Larry Pit, Moe Hole, On Your Knees Cave, El Capitan Cave, Klinger Cave. The Forest Service has since opened a portion of El Capitan near to the cave entrance for public tours.

En route to the caves, we often trekked across vast expanses of clearcuts, sweltering heat, dusty air, and treeless, save for an occasional lone eagle tree that had long since died from sudden and terminal thirst. Descending into the caves there was always a noticeable drop in temperature, often chilly, with either the sight of or the sound of running water-water, from above-ground runoff meandering through the vast karst system, water vital for the spruce roots' survival.

9. China's Gobi Desert, some might argue, is not Southeast Alaska, however, an intact old growth forest in China in the 1950s does relate to the intact old growth coastal temperate rain forest, the Tongass, in Southeast Alaska in 2018. Anyone living in central and southern Southeast Alaska can honestly attest to our warming summers, warmer springs, falls and winters. Southeast's Tongass clearcuts and young growth stands during these warm spells can reach upwards of 10-15F warmer in temperature than in old growth canopied stands, with the latter's understory suffering less moisture and vegetation loss due to the effects of drought. 2018 has continued to be a record drought year. Locally, our canopied property attests to the temperature variance versus our neighbor's non-canopy property which can register 10-20F warmer.

10. The Tongass is fragmented (due to extensive and prolonged timber harvest) but its remaining Old Growth reserves are still functioning as living and breathing lungs, a very necessary part of Earth's infrastructure-the second growth (aka young growth consume carbon but are more susceptible to bug infestations including spruce aphids, hemlock sawtooth worm, and spruce bark beetle. The clearcut's logging debris adds to carbon pollution as it decomposes-selective group harvest helicopter logging increases hillside carbon pollution as unmarketable and discarded tops, butts and limbs remain upslope because helicopter removal would be cost prohibitive. The Tongass remains all inclusive in her capture of carbon pollutants - 25% of pollutants are collectively captured by the world's forests, 25% go into the world's oceans (ocean acidification), the remainder (50%) into Earth's upper atmosphere. Deforested and harvest land allows for increased surface land temperature versus forested land provides shade and reduced soil moisture reduction.

11. All forests contribute 20-30% to Earth's atmosphere through oxygen turnover-necessary for all oxygen-breathing beings, like you and me.

12. As a Southeast Alaska resident and commercial fisherman, I am very aware of the need for an intact Tongass conifer canopy which does, in fact, keep cool upslope channels and streams, the necessary tributaries for spawning salmon. The same conifer canopy protects out-migrating smolts in the spring that are in peril if released too early following early snow or ice melt or failed to freeze upslope ponds and lakes. Their premature early springtime release into larger warming waterbodies lack the presence of anthropods, terrestrial and aquatic insects, etc., affects juvenile body weight and greatly increases their risk for survival and susceptibility to ocean predators as they progress their outbound migration to the Pacific Ocean. The presence of ocean algae blooms due to warming ocean conditions has a lasting impact on the marine food web, often affecting the lifespan of out-migrating fish.

13. In 2015 and 2016, hundreds of thousands of Alaska seabirds were washed ashore, including tufted, and horned puffins, common murres, crested auklets. As noted in the USGS 8 December 2016 release, A Marine Mystery: What's Causing Seabird Die-Offs in Alaska?

Only a fraction of birds that die at sea become beached, and of those, only a small portion are observed by people before they are removed by scavengers. As a result, many more birds may be affected by the die-off than has been recorded.

To determine care of death, eight puffin carcasses-six tufted puffins and two horned puffins-were collected by ASCPI ECO biologists and sent to the USGS National Wildlife Health Center in Madison, Wisconsin, where scientists conducted necropsies, or animal autopsies, on the birds. The USGS found that these fish-eating puffin were severely emaciated and likely died of starvation. The animals showed no sign of disease.

Starvation of the birds could be related to a lack of prey or changes in prey distribution as a result of abnormal sea temperatures. Unusually high sea surface temperatures were recorded in October for the Bering, Beaufort and Chukchi Seas. Coupled with record low levels of sea ice, these temperatures could affect populations of forage fish and squid upon which seabirds like puffins depend.

In 2015-2016, the USGS and USFWS investigated and documented a large-scale die-off of common murres in the Gulf of Alaska with similar findings of starvation.

14. Alaska's Sea Birds: Where, when, and why they need us - AK on the GO, by Rebecca Duerr; On the Coast/CBC News' 14 September 2015 story Dead Whales in Pacific could be fault of the Blob

Scientists believe the mysterious deaths of more than two dozen whales [fin and humpback whales] in B.C. and Alaska since May [2015] are probably related to the so-called "Blob" of warm water in the Pacific Ocean. The Blob is a 1,600 kilometre wide patch of warmer-than-usual water that has been linked to several anomalies in the Pacific, including a massive toxic algae bloom that contaminates the krill and sardines that many whales eat.

[The whales] were attending a couple major parties, and unfortunately, they good food poisoning," said Andrew Trites, a UBC professor studying the dead whales. "Each krill body was essentially a gel capsule full of poison. And if they ate enough of it, it's going to cause braid damage, and eventually seizures.

in the worst cases . . . it causes death.

The toxic algae is eaten by creatures like sardines and krill, which are in turn eaten by larger creatures like whales. The toxins build up in creatures higher up in the food chain, multiplying the poison's effects.

When we look at the bodies that have washed ashore, the few that were recovered, they all looked to have been in pretty good condition. No signs of being hit by a ship, no signs of starvation, no fishing gear around them, and so right away we can start to rule these things out,"he said.

Although B.C., and Alaska have never seen anything like this before, Trites says a similar situation is unfolding in California, where creatures like sea lions, seals and seabirds - which also eat sardines - have also been dying since the algae bloom began.

15. Drought in a rainforest? Yes, by Leila Kheiry/KRBD (13 June 2018) included

Southeast Alaska is the kind of place where you can get a lot of rain but still be in the middle of a drought. It's home to the Tongass National Forest, the largest of about a half-dozen temperate rainforests in the world.

In August, Ketchikan easily broke the previous record for summertime rainfall, with 44.2 inches falling since June 1st. September, though, marked the start of lower-than-average rainfall. Communities scattered through the lush evergreen forest measure rainfall in feet. Ketchikan is one of the wettest, with about 12 feet of annual average precipitation.

Rick Thoman is a climate scientist with the National Weather Service. "Drought is one of those things that, it seems like, oh, everybody knows what a drought is. But the more you think about it, the harder it gets to pin down," he said. A drought is a deficiency of precipitation over an extended period of time. The deficiency level and the time period can vary, Thoman said. And, whether or not it becomes a "drought" also depends on how much demand there is on water resources - by people and the environment.

Considering all those variables, Southeast Alaska is in the middle of a drought. It started last fall, following a wetter-than-normal summer. Ketchikan, for example, received record rainfall levels in August.

But then, Thoman said, "starting in September, we see that precipitation in Ketchikan totaled a little over 11 inches. That doesn't sound like a drought to me, being a Fairbanksan. Sounds like an awful lot of precipitation. But by Ketchikan standards, that was actually below normal." Normal in September is closer to 15-16 inches. And then: "October, again, over 11 inches of rain, but that's well below normal in Ketchikan in October, followed by well-below normal precipitation in November, as well," Thoman said.

October usually sees 15-25 inches of rain; a typical November is slightly under that, but similar. November last year, though, was around 8 inches. December and January went back to average levels, Thoman said, but then February and March were dry - again by rainforest standards. All that means overall precipitation in Southeast Alaska since fall has been below normal. By a lot. "September to February: The driest of record in this analysis since, this would be since 1925-26 - southern Southeast has not had a drier September to February." October to March also was the driest for its time frame. Rainfall in April and May improved the situation somewhat, but a deficiency remains.

Aaron Jacobs is a senior hydrologist with the weather service's Juneau office. He said that deficiency has had an effect on the region. Hydroelectric power generation, for example, was hit hard. "The main reason for this type of an impact is the lack of precipitation in the wet season," he said. "If Southeast Alaska doesn't get that rain in that October, November and into December time frame, there could be deficits in water levels that may not be able to recover."

And when hydroelectric dams don't have enough water, communities need to use more-expensive diesel power.

Jacobs said a drought also affects community drinking water supplies, seafood processors, and the natural habitat of the entire forest. Salmon have a difficult time spawning when streams don't have enough water, Jacobs said, and yellow-cedar mortality increases when rainfall is lower than normal.

What will happen next? Thoman said there isn't a clear signal at this time. "We do have increasing signs of an el-Ni[ntilde]o developing for this fall and winter, and that often has a significant precipitation signal in Southeast Alaska," he said. "So, at this point I would say as we move towards the wet season for Southeast, stay tuned."

And, as rainforest residents know, keep your rain gear handy.

16. As a Southeast Alaska commercial fisherman, I have personally observed the foreign freighters transiting in Southern Southeast Alaska, loaded to the rails with raw, unprocessed logs for export from the Tongass (the Forest Service can export 60% of their harvest in the round). This totally invalidates the Alaska Forest Association's ongoing argument for the Forest Service to increase the available timber on the Tongass to save the dying mills in Southeast, and timber related jobs. Where is that same critical voice for the Alaska Mental Health Trust, Sealaska, University of Alaska and other large property owners who send 100% of their timber harvest overseas?

17. U.S. taxpayer subsidies have provided millions of dollar in corporate welfare for logging road construction and/or repair, culvert installation and/or replacement, haul costs from the stump to awaiting freighters; as well as costs related to pre-commercial thinning of second growth aka young growth.

The website www.justhefacts.com/nationaldebt.asp includes

As of October 4, 2018, the official debt of the United States government is $21.6 trillion ($21,599,377,345,082). This amounts to:

$65,710 for every person living in the U.S.

$171,119 for every household in the U.S.

106% of the U.S. gross domestic product.

623% of annual federal revenues.

Taxpayers for Common Sense article, Money-Losing Timber Sales: Tongass National Forest (18 March 2015) concludes

The federal government has a responsibility to ensure a fair return to the public for development of taxpayer-owned resources. The USFS is losing more than $20 million per year from timber sales on the Tongass, year after year. Timber spending in the Tongass is too wasteful to continue, and its burden should be shouldered by the companies that benefit from timber sales, not by taxpayers.

18. For decades, I have enjoyed living, hiking, hunting, and camping in the Tongass. Over the years, many of my favorite "go to" haunts have been uniformly clearcut, leaving behind a completely decimated environ-obliterating all productive habitat for brown and black bear, wolves, deer, moose, elk, birds and other migrating fauna.

A second growth mature canopy is now calculated out to 300 years. The punched through logging roads are often lesser quality in construction material and design, constructed for short-term use thereby reducing or eliminating multiple-use activities by the taxpaying public. These roads are often immediately water-barred with culverts removed following completion of contracted sale.

19. Several years ago I attended the first Petersburg Ranger District "Forest Stewardship Program" meeting hosted by then Petersburg Ranger District/Deputy Forest Supervisor Jason Anderson.

I asked whether the collective recommendations from these meetings would make it up the chain of command within the Forest Service? He advised "probably not" as the higher-ups had their own set of priorities. To another question regarding "productive habitat for deer and other forest dwellers" that was being eliminated on Kupreanof Island, the South Lindenburg Peninsula in particular, by continued extensive clearcutting, including the elimination of leave strips, he said the Forest Service "managed the forest for timber harvest not productive deer habitat".

I did not return for subsequent meetings since "public comment" was not going to be considered in the decision-making process. Reflecting on the call now for public comments on the "new" standalone Roadless Rule for Alaska might simply be another "box" checked off for "public comment"?

20. Earlier this century, Zarembo Island experienced a major deer die-off following a large timber harvest, a clearcut. The following spring after a cold and snowy winter, whole deer carcasses were found across the unit. The deer's productive habitat and canopy cover had been removed, only an expansive clearcut remained. Terrain, slope, elevation, soil stability, and exposure to prevailing storm winds come into effect throughout the Tongass - following timber harvest, unintended and consequential conditions occur.

21. The Alaska Department of Fish and Game Sitka Black-tailed Deer Species Profile includes

Summer and winter home range areas vary from 30-1,200 acres and, for radio-collared deer. The average distance between summer and winter home ranges is five miles for migratory deer and half a mile for resident deer. Movement of deer between watersheds appears to be minimal during winter. During winter, the distribution of deer at various elevations is influenced by changing snow depth. During extreme snow accumulation, many deer congregate in heavily timbered stands at lower elevations and some may even move on to the beach.

Deer research on Prince of Wales Island provides a general idea of how much habitat a Sitka black-tailed deer needs, and what deer densities are in good years in good habitat. That work indicates 20 to 25 deer per square mile. That's about one deer per 26 to 32 acres. A NFL football field is 160' x 360' feet or 1.3 acres. An area encompassing 20 to 25 football fields is about the area needed to support a deer, and that's good habitat with forage for winter and summer, with a mix of canopy cover and open areas.

22. The above comments support my love for the Tongass. For centuries, her flora has functioned as a non-stop life-sustaining lung exhausting oxygen; she has provided safe harbor for countless resident and migrating fauna; and she continues to consume carbon pollutants, benefiting Earth.

Continued clearcutting of the Tongass leaves her in jeopardy for the future, on a planet experiencing often unprecedented climatic changes - Alaska's own rising sea levels and eroding shorelines; her warming and acidic ocean conditions spawning algae blooms resulting in toxic poisoning affecting the marine food and killing

marine mammals and thousands of seabirds; her melting glaciers raising river and stream levels and overflowing banks, threatening neighborhoods and communities with flooding; unprecedented fluctuations in our jet stream and weather patterns; more wild fires; and drought conditions, etc.

For future life on Earth, and the Tongass, mankind needs to "think outside the box". Abandoning the comfort of the status quo in favor of researching and understanding the cause and effect of today's globally warming climate and carbon pollution problems is a start towards safeguarding planet Earth - currently, our only home - home to the poorest of the poor to the wealthiest; the ever increasing "refugee" population, worldwide, including those on drowning islands in the South Pacific or erosion-threatened islands in Western Alaska; the millions in drought-stricken communities across the African continent, the Middle East, and Yemen, dying of thirst and famine and adding to the world's refugee population - while here in Alaska some are wanting to further destroy another coastal temperate rain forest!

Safeguarding the Tongass from continued timber harvest is but one stabilizing effort that could be part of Alaska's, the United State's commitment towards enacting an international climate change protocol. Worldwide, all forests should be protected - their collective lung capacity and oxygen generator benefits all life. There are conifer and deciduous tree seeds and seedlings that could be be planted this month, this year, domestically and overseas as "tree farms" to capture carbon pollution, to meet future timber needs, locally and worldwide.

23. I support Alternative 1: "Alternative 1 takes no action and would leave all of Alaska under the 2001 Roadless Rule, including the Tongass National Forest."

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Suzanne
Last name: Wood
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Suzanne Wood and I live in Three Rivers, MichiganI 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, Suzanne Wood

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/26/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Thomas
Last name: Wood
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am a 72-year-old resident of Point Baker, and I've been on Prince of Wales Island since before I was born. I was scheduled to present my comments in person in Point Baker on November 14, but was unable to be present at the rescheduled meeting on November 19, due to a dental appointment.

I am a strong supporter of the No Action alternative, keeping the roadless regulations as they are. Roadless areas are what keep Alaska "Alaska." Roadless areas help to protect our fish streams and our subsistence-hunting habitat. Tourists come to see the "real Alaska", not something that looks and feels like the rest of America.

I spend a lot of time in the woods and the difference between a 60-year-old second-growth stand and an old-growth stand, what we call "the ancients," is painfully obvious.

Locals utilize the logging roads, but only to get to the roadless areas. The second-growth areas are barren and often impassable. If everything becomes roaded, there will be no "Alaska" left. As Alaskans have said for a century, "if you can get to it easily, it isn't worth getting to."

Please leave the roadless regulations as they are; No Action. Thank you.

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Trinity
Last name: Wood
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Trinity Wood and I live in Anchorage, Alaska.

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, Trinity Wood

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/13/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Whitney
Last name: Wood
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Whitney Wood and I live in Point Baker, AK. I grew up in Point Baker, the northeast corner of Prince of Wales Island in Southeast Alaska. Its an amazing small, tight-knit, roadless community that I care about deeply. Point Baker is so special because it is embedded in the Tongass, and the Tongass is embedded into our lives. Between subsistence hunting and fishing, foraging for berries and mushrooms, and sourcing peace of mind in their pursuit of happiness, the Tongass is a critical part of our lives. I am writing a comment on the Alaska Roadless Rule DEIS because I am concerned with how the Rule and the proposed full exemption will impact my fishing, hunting, subsistence harvesting, foraging for wild foods, the peace and solitude I find in nature, recreating, the status of the Tongass as a national and global treasure, the forest's ability to sequester carbon and mitigate climate change impacts, the conservation of resources for future generations .

Out of the alternatives described in the AKRR DEIS I support alternative 1: no action. It protects important fish and wildlife habitat from clearcutting and roadbuilding. I depend on roadless areas in the Tongass National Forest for healthy fish habitat, deer habitat and subsistence hunting, foraging and gathering wild foods, recreating and enjoying nature, carbon sequestration and local climate change mitigation, viewing wildlife, keeping public lands wild for future generations, fiscal responsibility and saving taxpayer dollars . A full exemption does not protect these values, nor does it effectively balance economic development and conservation of roadless area characteristics. A full exemption from the Roadless Rule and increased logging and roadbuilding will negatively impact the Tongass and what I and many others use and depend on the forest to provide for us.

The Roadless areas on the Tongass that are especially important to me are those on or around Prince of Wales Island, Kupreanof Island, and Kuiu Island, and I feel strongly for the locals who feel similarly to me advocating for all of the inventoried roadless areas on the Tongass Yakutat forelands, Revillagigedo Island (near Ketchikan), Wrangell and Etolin Islands, the southern mainland from Bradfield Canal to Dixon Entrance the central mainland from Hobart Bay to Stikine River, the northern mainland above Port Snettisham (around Juneau), Admiralty Island, Chichagof Island, and Baranof Island. I want the roadless areas in these locations to stay in roadless status in any alternative selected by the Forest Service, and be managed to provide for the uses and activities I listed above. It is important to me that the T77 and the TNC conservation priority areas retain their roadless protections.

I do not support the Forest Services preferred alternative of a full exemption. A full exemption is not in the interests of Southeast Alaskans who live in and use the Tongass National Forest, because The motion to grant full exemption to the Tongass feels like an assault on our lives and the lives of everyone else who lives and loves the Tongass. It would fundamentally change our existence.

It is endlessly frustrating to me that the USFS would consider this change when the people who live here have strongly expressed they do not want the full exemption. Everyone should be afforded the right to live in the environment they want - some want cities, some want very rural homes embedded in the surrounding ecology. I do not go to towns and cities in the lower 48 attempting to take away the most important things that make their local environment feel like home.

Furthermore, the Tongass is a national treasure not only just as a beautiful old growth forest but as a crucial part of the ecosystem that perpetuates and strengthens salmon populations (let alone trap carbon when the threat of climate change can no longer be ignored).

Please remember the communities of the Tongass are tax-paying American citizens, contributing to the whole country (in part by fiercely protecting and harvesting salmon for the country). And do not ignore their call to

protect the Tongass. We have already decimated so much. Let us let the Tongass second growth become as awe inspiring as the original old growth. The State of Alaska says that a full exemption is needed for rural economic development opportunities. However, a full exemption would not help create more rural economic development opportunities, it would instead harm our existing rural economies that are based on the visitor industry and commercial fishing industry.

It would further harm rural economic opportunities because pursuing the same outdated economic model of old growth clearcut harvesting for export stifles innovation and possibility in other sectors, such as mariculture, sustainable young growth harvest, and rural agriculture. If the Forest Service wants to support rural economic development, they should devote resources to support our fishing and visitor industries improve and streamline existing permitting processes for important community projects rather than rehashing old conflicts.

Thank you for listening. Please do not only take my and others' comments into "consideration," please listen carefully to the anger and hurt they are communicating in their words, and the love and loyalty they have for the Tongass, each other, and the future of America.

I urge the Forest Service to prioritize the voices of Southeast Alaskans over those of our political representation and corporate interests. Choosing a full exemption will not create a long lasting, durable solution for roadless areas on the Tongass. It will only increase the legal challenges, uncertainty for businesses, and conflict on the Tongass going forward.

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/5/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Larry
Last name: Woodall
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
About last night...

Dear USFS,

I went to your presentation last night on the proposed alternatives to the Tongass Roadless Rule. As with the vast majority of Alaskans I fully support Alternative #1 = No action. I have lived in Alaska for the past 40 years and have myself witnessed some of the destruction of our forrest by logging. No I don't want oil, gas and coal mining in the Tongass either.

Thanks,

Lawrence A Woodall

Juneau, AK 99801

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Betty
Last name: Woodard
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, Betty Woodard

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Debra
Last name: Woodard
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, Debra Woodard

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/7/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Dustin
Last name: Woodard
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): 11/8/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Jessica
Last name: Woodard
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Jessica Woodard and I live in Berkeley, California.

The first step is to preserve what we have. Tongass is a carbon sink and keeping it pristine is worth billions more than the timber industry.

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, Jessica Woodard

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/11/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Jessica
Last name: Woodard
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
The Forest Service needs to choose Alternative 1 from its DEIS since this would keep the Roadless Rule fully intact in the Tongass National Forest.

Some of the old growth forest areas of spruce, hemlock and cedar in the TNF include giant trees (over 200 feet) that are over 800 years old. Unfortunately half of the old growth forest area in the TNF has already been logged. Half of the remaining old growth area (around 165,000 acres) is protected under the Roadless Rule. It is important to maintain roadless area protection of the old growth forests for their incredibly rich biodiversity, superior ability to absorb carbon and naturally greater resistance to wildfires (they are cooler and damper than other parts of the forest).

The TNF contains many islands, much water, dramatic fiords, tall mountains, rocks, glaciers, bogs, bears, wolves (some rare), mountain goats, deer, the endangered Marbled Murrelet, an endangered subspecies of Northern Goshawk, the largest Bald Eagle population in the world, over 100 rare plant species and many marine animals. All 5 Pacific salmon species spawn and thrive in the TNF as do many trout species. Protecting the many streams in the TNF is important for protecting the drinking water of Juneau, Sitka and other towns in the TNF.

The TNF accounts for 80% of the Panhandle or Southeast Alaska Region and is responsible for a large share of that regions employment. This region has a population of 73,000, almost a tenth of the states population. In 2017 the tourism sector in the SE Alaska region employed 7,739 and was growing rapidly; the seafood industry employed 3,829, the mining industry 886 and the timber industry only 302.

Alaskan politicians have long pushed for opening the Tongass roadless areas to more logging claiming that it is necessary for job creation and economic growth. But there are much better ways to create jobs in this region. There is a backlog of salmon habitat restoration projects from previous periods of clearcutting as well as a backlog of general forest maintenance. Addressing permitting issues for the tourism and recreation sectors would also enable these sectors to grow faster.

The Tongass National Forest (TNF) is the largest intact temperate rainforest in the world. This forest is home to large and varied populations of wildlife and because of its cool wet forest floor stores more carbon per acre than any other forest on earth! At a time when we are threatened by global warming and the extinction of many species this is the last forest that should be made exempt from the Roadless Rule.

The Roadless Rule was adopted by the Forest Service in 2001 to protect our wild areas from development. It banned logging, road building and mineral extraction in the Inventoried Roadless Areas of national forests. It prevents habitat fragmentation and slows down global warming. Exempting the Tongass from this Roadless Rule protection is poor policy.

The proposed exemption would subsidize the lumber industry at the expense of the fisheries and tourism industries in Southeast Alaska. This is unjust and a money losing proposition. The tourism industry has been growing rapidly and is by far the most important industry in Southeast Alaska. It is flourishing because of the majestic fiords, mountains, glaciers, islands, tall trees and abundant wildlife that make up the Tongass.

In 2018 Glacier Bay (located near Juneau in the Tongass) was rated the best cruise ship destination in the world. The natural beauty and pristine environment of the TNF is what draws tourists to Southeast Alaska. Clearcutting does not attract tour boats. Maintaining the ban on logging in the roadless areas in the Tongass will allow the tourism industry to continue to flourish.

The fishing industry in Southeast Alaska that employs more than 12 times as many people as the lumber industry would also be damaged by the proposed Roadless Rule exemption. The cold, clean stream water that nourishes the salmon and trout in the TNF would be threatened with greater warming and sediment from logging.

According to Trout Unlimited the Tongass produces more salmon than all other national forests combined! The current Roadless Rule protection for the Tongass is needed to protect salmon. Improved forest maintenance and stream restoration rather than logging are better ways of improving the local economy.

Granting exemption to the Roadless Rule for the Tongass would open the door for other western states to seek exemptions.

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Jud
Last name: Woodard
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Jud Woodard and I live in Sutter Creek, 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, Jud Woodard

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 6:48:00 PM
First name: Kirsten
Last name: Woodard
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Kirsten Woodard and I live in Palmer, AK. I am writing a comment on the Alaska Roadless Rule DEIS because I am concerned with how the Rule and the proposed full exemption will affect the Tongass National Forest and the Chugach National Forest.

As an Alaskan resident and a US citizen, I urge the continued protection via the Roadless Rule of the Tongass National Forest and the Chugach National Forest. The changing climate as evidenced by the record breaking drought supports the need for its continued protection as an invaluable current and future resource for carbon storage. By ensuring that the Tongass National Forest is not fragmented, we are supporting a more productive and resilient ecosystem, supporting many functions, including those which benefit other US economies, such as strong fisheries. Upholding the Roadless Rule is proactive to ensure our natural resources provide the maximum benefit to all stakeholders in the long term.

I urge the Forest Service to select Alternative 1, the no action alternative, for the final decision on the Alaska Roadless Rule. This alternative protects the inventoried roadless areas in Alaska that are full of pristine wilderness and provide important fish and wildlife habitat, and already allows for important community and economic development projects. As an American citizen, I value the Tongass National Forest and the Chugach National Forest for its wild salmon populations and the world-class fishing opportunities, its huge swaths of intact ecosystems and all the biodiversity it contains, the recreational opportunities it provides, the lifestyles of the indigenous communities that the forest supports its status as America's best natural solution to climate change and its sequestering of millions of metric tons of carbon and mitigating climate change, the high density of incredible wildlife it contains, to keep public lands wild for future generations. A full exemption does not protect these priorities, nor does it effectively balance economic development with the countless other benefits provided by roadless areas. I would like the Forest Service to manage roadless areas for passive/active watershed restoration (stream and habitat) to improve/maintain roadless characteristics (culvert removal/replacement, improve fish passage, wildlife thinning, etc), medium-impact recreation (FS cabins, trails, mooring buoys, 3-sided shelters), low-impact recreation (camping, hiking, hunting, foraging, etc). It is important to me that high-value intact habitat including the T77 watersheds and the TNC conservation priority areas retain their roadless protections in any alternative selected.

The Forest Service is wasting taxpayers' valuable time and money by trying to prop up a failing timber industry in Southeast Alaska. The nonpartisan, independent taxpayer watchdog Taxpayers for Common Sense reported that the Tongass timber program has losses of over $600 million of taxpayers money in the past 20 years. I would rather see my taxpayer dollars used to restore salmon habitat that was hurt by past logging practices, support small-scale, sustainable logging, establish the economic value of the carbon stored in the Tongass, develop more recreational opportunities, like trails and cabins. We need to stop subsidizing the clearcutting of old growth on the Tongass through taxpayer funded roadbuilding. If a full exemption were chosen, it would not create opportunities and would instead prioritize the special interests of one industry over the interests of the entire American public.

The Tongass is Americas homegrown natural solution to climate change. The forest sequesters 8% of the carbon stored in forests throughout the contiguous US states, some 3 billion metric tons of it. We must take action to mitigate and adapt to climate change, and maintaining the Tongass in a roadless state is critical for a sustainable future.

I urge the Forest Service to listen to the voices of the American people and prioritize them over corporate interests. The Forest Service should strengthen public involvement in developing land management policy and focus on broadly supported work rather than allowing special corporate interests to guide policy changes. Attempting to exempt inventoried roadless areas on the Chugach National Forest from the Alaska Roadless Rule adds further insult to injury, and this proposal has not received any sufficient environmental impact analysis or public input. Choosing a full exemption will not create a long lasting, durable solution for roadless areas in Alaska it will only increase the legal challenges, uncertainty for businesses, and conflict over these forests going forward.

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Mary
Last name: Woodard
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Mary Woodard and I live in Sodus, New York.

These forests and habitats can not be replaced.

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, Mary Woodard

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Roger
Last name: Woodard
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Roger Woodard and I live in Buffalo, New York.

Continuation of the Roadless Rule is of the utmost importance fro preservation of this wilderness habitat. Please preserve it in place.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.

Regards, Roger Woodard

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Bill
Last name: Woodbridge
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, Bill Woodbridge

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Bill
Last name: Woodbridge
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.

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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, Bill Woodbridge

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Bill
Last name: Woodbridge
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, Bill Woodbridge

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Jennifer
Last name: Woodbridge
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Jennifer Woodbridge and I live in Shaw Island, Washington.

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, Jennifer Woodbridge

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Vivian
Last name: Woodburn
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Vivian Woodburn and I live in Brooklyn, New York.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Vivian Woodburn

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: George
Last name: Woodbury
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC6399

November 14, 2019

Alaska Roadless Rule.

These comments are on the Roadless Draft EIS.

The Tongass war will continue as long as there is no identification of acres for economic development to sustain the economic viability and infrastructure of the communities of SE Alaska. Tourism and Fisheries the 2 largest components of the SE economy do not provide steady family wage year round jobs and are below the potential of the timber related resource development.

The Roadless Issue is just one more battle in the war over management of the Tongass. There has been 6.5 million acres of the Tongass identified for single use Wilderness Management. There must be enough acres identified for Forest Management to support a significant timber industry that provides year round jobs and supports manufacture of the timber harvested from these acres.

Selection of Alternative 6 is a good start in restoring the timber industry as the 3rd leg of the economy of SE Alaska. The restoration can be designed to compliment the existing Fishing and Tourism components of the economy. The current industries are now utilizing the benefits of past timber industry infrastructure development and will benefit further in the future if the environment for timber harvest is restored.

In order to create the conditions to support a sustainable significant timber business environment there must be a reliable economic timber supply. This starts with an adequate number os acres dedicated to Regeneration Forest Management with the priority purpose of producing economic timber in perpetuity.

Best estimates of the umber of acres needed to make this happen range form 1.3 to 2.0 million acres. There acres should include at least 2/3 of the existing second growth acres that have been developed to date. To be successful these acres must have the following characteristics:

1) Lands capable of producing at least 30MBF/acre

2)Managed for timber production using Regenerative Forest Management

3)Be subject to the State of Alaska Forest Management Act requirements.

4) Not subject to NEPA requirements that conflict with Regeneration Management

5) Be under management that must generate positive returns in order to succeed,

6) No Government grants or funding, must be self sufficient.

7) Must support manufacture of the timber harvested from select acres.

8) Provide year round job opportunities.

Lessons of the past must be remembered in pursuing a solution to the Tongass War. There are elements of the public that have a goal of removing timber harvest from the Tongass. This must be remembered in selecting members of the public to participate in collaborative efforts in deciding the direction of the future on Tongass management. It takes only one dissident group to file appeals and bring law suits to destroy honest collaborative efforts. There are several efforts that have been made to come up with a solution that has a place in the management of the Forest for timber harvest. History shows that all that results from these efforts is a

shrinkage of the timber supply and an increase in acres removed from the timber base. The risk of continuing down this path is loss of the remaining timber infrastructure which includes loss of the tools necessary for forest management.

The preferred alternative 6 is a step in a direction that will restore hope that perhaps there is a turn around in management of the Tongass that will restore a balance that will allow for timber and other resource development. This is needed to strengthen the economy and restore jobs. The path that has been followed in the past 10 years will result in elimination of the timber industry in SE Alaska.

[Signature]

George Woodbury

Wrangell, Alaska

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Ross
Last name: Woodbury
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Ross Woodbury and I live in Nevada City, 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, Ross Woodbury

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Doug
Last name: Woodby
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC5586

Dear U.S. Forest Service,

CC: Alaska Congressional Delegation and Federal Administration

I support the no-action alternative to leave the 2001 Roadless Rule in place on the Tongass National Forest. We must continue to phase out old-growth clear-cut logging and instead prioritize restoring degraded watersheds and fish streams that contribute to the growing fisheries and tourism-based economies of Southeast. To that end, please conserve the Tongass 77 and TNC priority areas in the final Roadless Rule.

Sincerely,

Comments: *(Eg: list locations you recreate, or why you value Tongass fish & wildlife)* [Text italicized for emphasis]

[Box unchecked] I would like to get more involved in the campaign!

*By taking this action, you are consenting to receive future communications via phone, text message, email, or mail from Sitka Conservation Society and its partners working to protect the Tongass. * [Text italicized for emphasis]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Charlene
Last name: Woodcock
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Charlene Woodcock and I live in Berkeley, California.

It is deeply irresponsible to allow the continued clearcutting of our forests. Future generations will not forgive us.

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, Charlene Woodcock

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Diana
Last name: Woodcock
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Diana Woodcock and I live in Midlothian, Virginia.

Several years ago, I spent two weeks as a writer in Misty Fiords (National Forest Service/ Voices of the Wilderness program).

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, Diana Woodcock

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Gregory
Last name: Woodcock
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Gregory Woodcock and I live in Mesa, Arizona.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Gregory Woodcock

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Shirley
Last name: Wooden
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, Shirley Wooden

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/25/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Morgan
Last name: Wooderson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
The actions of the current appeal to exempt the Tongass National Forest is a State-based desecration of the federal efforts to preserve and protect natural and cultural resources of value and importance. Former appeals and exemptions, such as the 2003 turn over of the original 2001 Roadless Rule, and 2015 efforts to overturn the 2011 reinstatement to original protections, have caused excessive damage within the originally protected area. All but the No Action Alternative (Alternative 1) and the Full Exemption Alternative (Alternative 6) base actions, leading to further decimation of protected lands, on the foundation that areas are previously disturbed by former road construction and timber logging and this would simply be a continuation of such areas.

Although timber logging may be done sustainably (replanting harvested forests, etc), the expansion of infrastructure to encourage timber harvesting and mining will cause the irreversible decimation of natural and cultural resources (cultural irredeemably so).

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Morgan
Last name: Woodeson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC1033

Dear Secretary Perdue,

I live and work on the lands and waters of the Tongass National Forest. The health of the Tongass National Forest is critical to sustaining my way of life in this rugged region. From hunting and fishing, to hiking and camping, to our tourism and commercial fishing-based economies, we rely on the intact habitat that the roadless areas of the Tongass contain. That is why it is important to me that the 2001 Roadless Rule remain in place on the Tongass National Forest. A no-action alternative is the best option for Southeast Alaska.

Prioritizing one antiquated industry over private sectors is bad business, and bad for Southeast Alaska. I support the Tongass Transition and I would like the Forest Service to continue phasing out old growth clearcutting. Please prioritize conservation of the T77 and TNC conservation priority areas in any new Alaska Roadless Rule. This forest is a salmon forest, and the Forest Service should focus on restoring degraded watersheds and fish streams.

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Riley
Last name: Woodford
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC5498

Dear U.S. Forest Service,

CC: Alaska Congressional Delegation and Federal Administration

I support the no-action alternative to leave the 2001 Roadless Rule in place on the Tongass National Forest. We must continue to phase out old-growth clear-cut logging and instead prioritize restoring degraded watersheds and fish streams that contribute to the growing fisheries and tourism-based economies of Southeast. To that end, please conserve the Tongass 77 and TNC priority areas in the final Roadless Rule.

Sincerely,

Riley Woodford

Juneau, AK 99801

Comments: *(Eg: list locations you recreate, or why you value Tongass fish & wildlife)* [Text italicized for emphasis]

[Box unchecked] I would like to get more involved in the campaign!

*By taking this action, you are consenting to receive future communications via phone, text message, email, or mail from Sitka Conservation Society and its partners working to protect the Tongass. * [Text italicized for emphasis]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Albert
Last name: Woodhull
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, Albert Woodhull

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: J
Last name: Woodhull
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is J Woodhull and I live in Portsmouth, Virginia.

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, J Woodhull

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: peg
Last name: woodin
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is peg woodin and I live in Oroville, 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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, peg woodin

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Peg
Last name: Woodin
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, Peg Woodin

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Linda
Last name: Woodley
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Linda Woodley and I live in Burleson, Texas.

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, Linda Woodley

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/8/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Diane
Last name: Woodling
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Diane Woodling and I live in Montrose, Colorado.

I am a retired Forest Service employee who worked most of my career on the Tongass National Forest (Sitka & Ketchikan). We have to keep this precious forest protected!!

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, Diane Woodling

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/10/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Heather
Last name: Woodman
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Heather Woodman and I live in Alafaya, Florida.

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, Heather Woodman

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/11/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Ryan
Last name: Woodman
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): 11/8/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: STEPHEN
Last name: WOODMAN
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is STEPHEN WOODMAN and I live in Jacksonville, Florida.

This planet is all have. Leave it in good shape for our children's future. There is no good reason not to.

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, STEPHEN WOODMAN

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: James
Last name: Woodmansee
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, James Woodmansee

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Elaine
Last name: Woodriff
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Elaine Woodriff and I live in Petaluma, California.

The Tongass National Forest is a rare temperate rainforest. It would be a disaster to remove protections for the Forest and open it up to clearcutting of countless century-old trees.

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, native wildlife, and taxpayers across the nation.

In Southeast Alaska, tourism accounts for 28% of employment and generates 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, Elaine Woodriff

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/7/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Gary
Last name: Woodring
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): 11/26/2019 6:41:14 PM
First name: Aja
Last name: Woodrow
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Aja Woodrow and I live in Cle Elum, WA. I am writing a comment on the Alaska Roadless Rule DEIS because I am concerned with how the Rule and the proposed full exemption will affect the Tongass National Forest and the Chugach National Forest.

Large, intact terrestrial and fresh water habitat is rare and important to conserve. That is the reason Roadless Rules were adopted.

I urge the Forest Service to select Alternative 1, the no action alternative, for the final decision on the Alaska Roadless Rule. This alternative protects the inventoried roadless areas in Alaska that are full of pristine wilderness and provide important fish and wildlife habitat, and already allows for important community and economic development projects. As an American citizen, I value the Tongass National Forest and the Chugach National Forest for its wild salmon populations, its huge swaths of intact ecosystems and all the biodiversity it contains, and its status as the largest intact temperate rainforest in the world. A full exemption does not protect these priorities, nor does it effectively balance economic development with the countless other benefits provided by roadless areas. I would like the Forest Service to manage roadless areas for active watershed restoration (stream and habitat) to improvemaintain roadless characteristics (culvert removal / replacement, improve fish passage, wildlife thinning, etc). It is important to me that high-value intact habitat including the T77 watersheds and the TNC conservation priority areas retain their roadless protections in any alternative selected.

I would rather see my taxpayer dollars used to restore salmon habitat that was hurt by past logging practices, perform restorative actions that support wildlife populations on previously degraded landscapes that support wildlife populations, support small-scale, sustainable logging. We need to stop subsidizing the clearcutting of old growth on the Tongass through taxpayer funded roadbuilding. If a full exemption were chosen, it would not create opportunities and would instead prioritize the special interests of one industry over the interests of the entire American public.

Choosing a full exemption will not create a long lasting, durable solution for roadless areas in Alaska it will only increase the legal challenges, uncertainty for businesses, and conflict over these forests going forward.

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Jean
Last name: Woodrow
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Jean Woodrow and I live in Los Angeles, California.

We need every tree to fight climate change. The era of incessant destruction of forest ecosystems has been historically proven to be suicidal.

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, Jean Woodrow

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Scott
Last name: Woodrow
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC4044

U.S. Forest Service Alaska Roadless Rule Committee:

I'm a geologist. I have been there. I have relative near there. We have torn up plenty of Alaska for nothing other than the economic gain of a few companies at the expense of the rest of us and the salmon!

The Roadless Rule has been instrumental in conserving the Tongass National Forest and in supporting its 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. 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.

Sincerely,

Scott Woodrow

Grand Junction, CO 81507

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Scott
Last name: Woodrow
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC3619

U.S. Forest Service Alaska Roadless Rule Committee:

We do not "need" to do this. There are plenty of alternatives to the continued used of wood harvested from pristine areas, to benefit paper and wood producing corporations at the expense of the rest of us. If these timber based corporations need to continue their operations, they should be responsible and plan, plant, grow and harvest on their own property not the public lands owned by me and the American public. The Tongass and Chugach are keystone parts of the overall Alaskan salmon habitat that should not be disturbed for any reason unless it is absolutely necessary which is definitely not the case.

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,

Scott Woodrow

Grand Junction, Co 81507

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 1/1/0001 12:00:00 AM
First name: Scott
Last name: Woodrow
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
4044

U.S. Forest Service Alaska Roadless Rule Committee:

I'm a geologist. I have been there. I have relative near there. We have torn up plenty of Alaska for nothing other than the economic gain of a few companies at the expense of the rest of us and the salmon!

The Roadless Rule has been instrumental in conserving the Tongass National Forest and in supporting its 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. 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.

Sincerely,
Scott Woodrow
Grand Junction, CO 81507

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 1/1/0001 12:00:00 AM
First name: Scott
Last name: Woodrow
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
3619

U.S. Forest Service Alaska Roadless Rule Committee:

We do not "need" to do this. There are plenty of alternatives to the continued used of wood harvested from pristine areas, to benefit paper and wood producing corporations at the expense of the rest of us. If these timber based corporations need to continue their operations, they should be responsible and plan, plant, grow and harvest on their own property not the public lands owned by me and the American public. The Tongass and Chugach are keystone parts of the overall Alaskan salmon habitat that should not be disturbed for any reason unless it is absolutely necessary which is definitely not the case.

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,
Scott Woodrow
Grand Junction, Co 81507

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/11/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Amy
Last name: Woodruff
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Amy Woodruff and I live in Kilauea, HI. I am writing a comment on the Alaska Roadless Rule DEIS because I am concerned with how the Rule and the proposed full exemption will affect the Tongass National Forest and the Chugach National Forest.

The Tongass forest is valuable to our life on this planet. The wisdom within these canopies is ancient. How can we pretend to understand what is living, THRIVING within it? We need to protect what is sacred and the Tongass is one of the most important Forest we have.

I urge the Forest Service to select Alternative 1, the no action alternative, for the final decision on the Alaska Roadless Rule. This alternative protects the inventoried roadless areas in Alaska that are full of pristine wilderness and provide important fish and wildlife habitat, and already allows for important community and economic development projects. As an American citizen, I value the Tongass National Forest and the Chugach National Forest for its status as America's best natural solution to climate change and its sequestering of millions of metric tons of carbon and mitigating climate change, its wild salmon populations and the world-class fishing opportunities, its huge swaths of intact ecosystems and all the biodiversity it contains, its status as the largest intact temperate rainforest in the world, the recreational opportunities it provides, the high density of incredible wildlife it contains, to keep public lands wild for future generations, its status as a national and global treasure, the lifestyles of the indigenous communities that the forest supports. A full exemption does not protect these priorities, nor does it effectively balance economic development with the countless other benefits provided by roadless areas. I would like the Forest Service to manage roadless areas for passiveactive watershed restoration (stream and habitat) to improvemaintain roadless characteristics (culvert removalreplacement, improve fish passage, wildlife thinning, etc). It is important to me that high-value intact habitat including the T77 watersheds and the TNC conservation priority areas retain their roadless protections in any alternative selected.

The Forest Service is wasting taxpayers' valuable time and money by trying to prop up a failing timber industry in Southeast Alaska. The nonpartisan, independent taxpayer watchdog Taxpayers for Common Sense reported that the Tongass timber program has losses of over $600 million of taxpayers money in the past 20 years. I would rather see my taxpayer dollars used to restore salmon habitat that was hurt by past logging practices, perform restorative actions that support wildlife populations on previously degraded landscapes that support wildlife populations. We need to stop subsidizing the clearcutting of old growth on the Tongass through taxpayer funded roadbuilding. If a full exemption were chosen, it would not create opportunities and would instead prioritize the special interests of one industry over the interests of the entire American public.

The Tongass is Americas homegrown natural solution to climate change. The forest sequesters 8% of the carbon stored in forests throughout the contiguous US states, some 3 billion metric tons of it. We must take action to mitigate and adapt to climate change, and maintaining the Tongass in a roadless state is critical for a sustainable future.

I urge the Forest Service to listen to the voices of the American people and prioritize them over corporate interests. The Forest Service should strengthen public involvement in developing land management policy and focus on broadly supported work rather than allowing special corporate interests to guide policy changes. Attempting to exempt inventoried roadless areas on the Chugach National Forest from the Alaska Roadless

Rule adds further insult to injury, and this proposal has not received any sufficient environmental impact analysis or public input. Choosing a full exemption will not create a long lasting, durable solution for roadless areas in Alaska it will only increase the legal challenges, uncertainty for businesses, and conflict over these forests going forward.

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/12/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Caitlin
Last name: Woodruff
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): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Charter
Last name: Woodruff
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC3062

Dear Alaska Roadless Rule Planning Committee,

I am a resident to the lands and waters of Alaska. The wild, intact roadless area in the Tongass National forest and the Chugach NF are a large part of why I am here. Visitors like me come to witness the vast, beautiful stands of old-growth threes that cannot be found on such a scale anywhere else in the United States. We come to crew on commercial fishing boats. We come to hunt, fish, and hike in America's largest and 2nd largest National Forest. That is why it is important to me that the 2001 Roadless Rule remain in place on the Tongass National Forest. *Please select Alternative 1, the no-action alternative,*[text bolded for emphasis] and the best option for Alaskans.

I strongly oppose any efforts to weaken protections for Roadless areas in the Tongass National Forest and the Chugach National Forest. The Forest Service needs to continue phasing out old-growth clearcutting. Please prioritize conservation of the T77 and TNC conservation priority areas in any new Alaska Roadless Rule. The Forrest Service should focus on restoring degraded watersheds and fish streams and carbon sequestration.

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Darren
Last name: Woodruff
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Possible to leave this area alone?

No more roads please

Darren Woodruff

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: James
Last name: Woodruff
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is James Woodruff and I live in Seattle, Washington.

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, James Woodruff

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Louise
Last name: Woodruff
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, Louise Woodruff

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Stefan
Last name: Woodruff
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): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Susan
Last name: Woodruff
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, Susan Woodruff

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Suzan
Last name: woodruff
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, Suzan woodruff

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Toni
Last name: Woodruff
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Toni Woodruff and I live in Sunnyvale, 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, Toni Woodruff

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/12/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Will
Last name: Woodruff
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.
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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): 11/5/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Woody
Last name: Woodruff
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): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Akia
Last name: Woods
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, Akia Woods

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/20/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: CINDIE
Last name: WOODS
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Cindie Woods and I live in Dana Point California.
Respectfully:
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. Please, 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, CINDIE WOODS

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Cindy
Last name: Woods
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC6238

Dear U.S. Forest Service:

The Roadless Rule has been instrumental in conserving the Tongass National Forest and in supporting its fish and wildlife-based industries for more than 20 years. *Please uphold the Rule's protections for important fish and wildlife areas, including the Tongass 77.* [Text bolded for emphasis] 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 are protection for habitat that our irreplaceable fish and wildlife populations need to survive.* [Text bolded for emphasis]

Customize your comment by listing reasons the Tongass is important to you or why you value Alaska Roadless areas: (ex: specific locations you recreate, activities you do, or why you value fish & wildlife) [Text italicized]

The Tongass is a beautiful area which draws me for recreational reason. Please do not develop the area!

Sincerely,

Would you like to volunteer with TU Alaska to Help America's Salmon Forest?

Yes[Text circled] No

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/23/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: DAVID
Last name: WOODS
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Roadless Rule

To whom it may concern.

I am completely for the "removal" or abolishment if you will of the Roadless Rule in SE Alaska.

It makes no sense, it limits both commerce and recreation.

I and my family will be happy to see it removed.

Thank you.

Cheers

David Woods

Travel Tech LNPN

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/23/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: David
Last name: Woods
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Goodbye roadless rule

Lets GET RID OF IT!!!!!

--

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: John
Last name: Woods
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is John Woods and I live in New York, New York.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, John Woods

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/26/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Lilianna
Last name: Woods
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC184

The Tongass is stunning, wild, & gorgeous. Lets keep it that way! [Images of heart and tree]

Love, Lilianna from Utah

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Mary
Last name: Woods
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, Mary Woods

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/10/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Michael
Last name: Woods
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Michael Woods and I live in Snohomish, Washington.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Michael Woods

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/7/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Michael
Last name: Woods
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.
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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): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Michael
Last name: Woods
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.

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Regards, Michael Woods

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/11/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Nick
Last name: Woods
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.
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Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Paula
Last name: Woods
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
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Regards, Paula Woods

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Paula
Last name: Woods
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
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Regards, Paula Woods

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Rebecca
Last name: Woods
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.

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Regards, Rebecca Woods

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Rebecca
Last name: Woods
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Rebecca Woods and I live in Rockville, Maryland.

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, Rebecca Woods

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/10/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Rocquelle
Last name: Woods
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Rocquelle Woods and I live in Huntsville, Alabama.

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, Rocquelle Woods

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Rocquelle
Last name: Woods
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Rocquelle Woods and I live in Huntsville, Alabama.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Rocquelle Woods

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/29/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: ROTH
Last name: WOODS
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is ROTH WOODS and I live in Ann Arbor, Michigan.

I beg to do everything it takes to save ourprecious lands and wildlife...it is all we have

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, ROTH WOODS

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/25/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Steven
Last name: Woods
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Preserving old growth forests across the US is important not only for climate regulation, it is essential to the understanding of US and North American history. Logging in any old-growth forest will irreparably damage not only our air and land, but the way we see the world around us for thousands of years in the future.

As a result of this monumental weight of human and natural history kept in the trees themselves and the environment they are part of, no logging should be authorized in Alaskan National Forests or any other old growth stands.

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Susan
Last name: Woods
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, Susan Woods

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Tansy
Last name: Woods
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Tansy Woods and I live in San Diego, 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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Tansy Woods

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Teresa
Last name: Woods
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Teresa Woods and I live in Wesley Chapel, Florida.

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Regards, Teresa Woods

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First name: Virginia
Last name: Woods
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
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Regards, Virginia Woods

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Zane
Last name: Woods
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
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Regards, Zane Woods

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: David
Last name: Woodsmall
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
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Regards, David Woodsmall

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Tristan
Last name: Woodsmith
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Greetings, I want to provide my input that I think opening up the Tongass NF for logging is not the right decision. The ecosystem services provided by the intact forest are far more valuable and bode better for the national economy than timber products. I work in fisheries and am very concerned about the impacts of forest biology on G&F industries like salmon.

Please do not open up the Tongass for logging and generation of timber products. I would support other means of producing value from our national forests.

Respectfully,

Tristan Woodsmith

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: R
Last name: Woodson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is R Woodson and I live in Oak Park, Illinois.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, R Woodson

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Noah
Last name: Woodstock
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Noah Woodstock and I live in Belle Isle, Florida.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Noah Woodstock

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Byerly
Last name: Woodward
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
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Regards, Byerly Woodward

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Ellis
Last name: Woodward
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Ellis Woodward and I live in Baltimore, Maryland.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
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Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Harry
Last name: Woodward
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
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Regards, Harry Woodward

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Mark
Last name: Woodward
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC5114

U.S. Forest Service Alaska Roadless Rule Committee:

Please stop this action immediately. The tourist industry is the life blood of Alaska and opening the up the Tongass to development is not the answer to creating more money for the state. The Tongass needs to stay a pristine wilderness period, no roads period. We have already destroyed enough old growth forest in this world. The politician in power simply want to line their pockets the same way Trump is doing by having the G7 at his Doral resort. Please help keep their grubby hands off of the one thing that makes America still great, it's truly pristine wilderness.

The Roadless Rule has been instrumental in conserving the Tongass National Forest and in supporting its 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. 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,

Mark Woodward

El Segundo, CA 90245

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/18/2019 5:02:51 PM
First name: Nancy
Last name: Woodward
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Comments to oppose modification to the Roadless Rule

Dear U.S. Forest Service,

We criticize Brazil for allowing the deforestation of the Amazon, so we must insist on protecting our own temperate rain forest.

The Roadless Rule helps protect old-growth habitat for birds like the Prince of Wales Spruce Grouse and Northern Goshawk, as well as for mammals like wolves and deer. Opening roadless areas to more logging and roads will fragment the forest and eliminate more of the big old trees that these animals rely on.

Yet, all of the action alternatives in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement allow more roadbuilding and logging across the Tongass National Forest. Logging roads and timber operations cost tens of millions of taxpayer dollars every year, with zero return on investment. Meanwhile, these destructive activities degrade the naturally sustainable wealth of salmon, wildlife watching, and tourism opportunities.

It is time to stop opening more and more acres to the timber industry and instead bolster protections to the old-growth forests and wild areas on the Tongass. I urge you to select the "No Action" Alternative (Alternative 1) and allow the Roadless Rule to remain intact on the Tongass National Forest.

Sincerely,
Nancy Woodward
Santa Fe, NM 87505

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Steve
Last name: Woodward
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Steve Woodward and I live in Fairfax, California.

Destroying one of the best managed, productive salmon fisheries does nothing to serve our country, or the magnificent forests we should be carefully stewarding.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.

Regards, Steve Woodward

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Susan
Last name: Woodward
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Susan Woodward and I live in Tucson, Arizona.

Please stop the destruction of our earth and our precious resources.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Susan Woodward

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: William
Last name: Woodward
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is William Woodward and I live in Meridian, Idaho.

We need to finish cleaning up the air Americans breathe, not roll back standards that protect our health and those of our children. Do the right thing. Finish cleaning up the nation's air. There is much left to do.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.

Regards, William Woodward

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Bria
Last name: Woodworker-Schmid
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
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Last name: Woodworker-Schmid
Organization:
Title:
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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, Bria Woodworker-Schmid

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 1/1/0001 12:00:00 AM
First name: Hannah
Last name: Woodworth
Organization:
Title:
Comments:

Dear Secretary Perdue,

I live and work on the lands and waters of the Tongass National Forest. The health of the Tongass National Forest is critical to sustaining my way of life in this rugged region. From hunting and fishing, to hiking and camping, to our tourism and commercial fishing-based economies, we rely on the intact habitat that the roadless areas of the Tongass contain. That is why it is important to me that the 2001 Roadless Rule remain in place on the Tongass National Forest. A no-action alternative is the best option for Southeast Alaska.

Prioritizing one antiquated industry over private sectors is bad business, and bad for Southeast Alaska. I support the Tongass Transition and I would like the Forest Service to continue phasing out old growth clearcutting. Please prioritize conservation of the T77 and TNC conservation priority areas in any new Alaska Roadless Rule. This forest is a salmon forest, and the Forest Service should focus on restoring degraded watersheds and fish streams.

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 1/1/0001 12:00:00 AM
First name: Hannah
Last name: Woodworth
Organization:
Title:
Comments:

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Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Hannah
Last name: Woodworth
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC1108

Dear Secretary Perdue,

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Last name: Woodworth
Organization:
Title:
Comments:

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Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 1/1/0001 12:00:00 AM
First name: Hannah
Last name: Woodworth
Organization:
Title:
Comments:

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Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/10/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: J.
Last name: Woodworth
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is J. Woodworth and I live in Newman Lake, Washington.

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, J. Woodworth

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: James
Last name: Woodworth
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, James Woodworth

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/12/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Benjamin
Last name: Woody
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): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Clay
Last name: Woody
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.

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Regards, Clay Woody

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Leigh
Last name: WOODY
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Please take no action and keep the Tongass roadless. We need public land that is left wild and a refuge for wildlife. We need old growth forest and not logging to benefit a few. We can't replace trees that are over 800 years old. Please keep Tongass roadless

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/5/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Travis
Last name: Woody
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.
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Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Doug
Last name: Woodzy
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
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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, Doug Woodzy

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: John
Last name: Wooldridge
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
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Regards, John Wooldridge

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/10/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Mary
Last name: Wooldridge
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Mary Wooldridge and I live in Annapolis, Maryland.

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, Mary Wooldridge

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Elizabeth
Last name: Woolery
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
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Regards, Elizabeth Woolery

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/10/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: James
Last name: Wooley
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.
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Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/5/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: James
Last name: Wooley
Organization:
Title:
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Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Jo
Last name: Wooley
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
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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, Jo Wooley

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Ken
Last name: Wooley
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Ken Wooley and I live in Hudson, Wisconsin.

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, Ken Wooley

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/11/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Stacie
Last name: Wooley
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Stacie Wooley and I live in Cypress, Texas.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Stacie Wooley

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/7/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Chris
Last name: Woolheater
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.
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Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Ruth
Last name: Woollett
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, Ruth Woollett

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/13/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: David
Last name: Woolley
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Enough is enough damnit. Leave it roadless. Do not exempt any of it from the Roadless designation. Opening yet ANOTHER location to commercial timber harvest is infuriating. Option 1 should be chosen. The destruction of a place that is irreplaceable within any of our lifetimes, or our children's or theirs, is 100% unacceptable.

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: John
Last name: Woolley
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is John Woolley and I live in Sequim, Washington.

Too cool to ruin

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, John Woolley

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Nancy
Last name: Woolley
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Nancy Woolley and I live in Stoughton, Massachusetts.

There's no secnd chance. Once gone these wild forests are gone forever.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Nancy Woolley

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Jim
Last name: Woolly
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC5293

U.S. Forest Service Alaska Roadless Rule Committee:

ONCE YOU PUT IN MULTIPLE ROADS AND ALLOW LOGGING AND OTHER COMMERCIAL OPERATIONS, YOU CAN NEVER GO BACK THE QUALITY OF THE HABITAT AND OF THE CARBON REMOVAL EFFICACY OF THE FOREST, WILL BE SEVERELY DIMINISHED. I am writing in support of the 'no action' alternative to leave the Roadless Rule unchanged in Alaska.

I am concerned that changes to the rule would lead to greatly expand clear-cut logging of old growth timber and costly road building in undeveloped, wild areas of both the Tongass and Chugach Forests. These activities increase sedimentation, hurt water quality, often block salmon migration, and add to an already large backlog of needed road maintenance and restoration.

Our fisheries and wild forests are critical to the economy of Alaska. To grow these sectors of our economy, we need intact habitat. Please leave the Alaska Roadless Rule in place.

Sincerely,

Jim Woolly

Little Rock, AR 72227

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Jim
Last name: Woolly
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Jim Woolly and I live in Little Rock, Arkansas.

THE TONGASS IS FAR MORE IMPORTANT TO ALASKA, THE US AND THE WORLD AS A HEAT SINK, CARBON RECEPTOR AND OXYGEN GENERATOR, THAN IT IS FOR A N Y AMOUNT OF FOREST PRODUCTS THAT IT COULD PRODUCE.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.

Regards, Jim Woolly

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Steven
Last name: Woolpert
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Steven Woolpert and I live in Lyle, Washington.

The 'Roadless Rule' helps keep our national forests more intact for the benefit of people & wildlife and protecting many water sources many US residents depend on. These benefits far outweigh in importance any monetary gain a few companies can make from extracting logs in areas opened by rolling back this long-term rule. The national forests were established to protect them for future generations and the 'Roadless Rule' has helped to do that in the 21st century. Keep it intact!

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.

Regards, Steven Woolpert

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: John
Last name: Woolschlager
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I believe that the Tongass National Forest should not be opened up to road development but maintain the Roadless Rule that is in place. If you want to do anything go in and fix and maintain existing roads, some that are in great need of repair. I also wish this wasn't under the guise of helping the economy. Logging in this area has never been cost effective. The more remote a location, the more money that will need to be spent on infrastructure and mitigation of effects of building new roads. Then you have the one mill left out there, that is out of date and the owner states they can not even handle anything other than old growth trees or large grade trees. That is not the way a modern mill should be run. We will always need trees but how and which ones are important. There is no reason to be in the Tongass and that is why it was originally included in the Roadless Rule and why it should stay that way.

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Barbara
Last name: Woolsey
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, Barbara Woolsey

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/19/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Caitlin
Last name: Woolsey
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I'm writing to urge lawmakers to NOT overturn the roadless rule. The Tongass National Forest is not just a local resource to Southeast Alaskans, it is a global resource in the fight against catastrophic climate change. In-tact temperate rainforests (of which the Tongass is the largest remaining) take in CO2 consistently, year round. They provide habitat for salmon, contributing to a huge economic industry. It is so important to preserve in-tact ecosystems, if we don't there will soon be NONE left.

The Tongass is NOT a good resource for logging, because it takes so long for the trees to grow. On top of that, the government has lost over $600 million dollars in the short history of logging in the Tongass. There is no reason to keep investing in harvesting the Tongass, economically or environmentally. It is much more economically valuable to us as habitat, carbon capture and storage, soil stabilization, micro climate control, and a visitor destination. It is one of the most incredible natural wonders of the world.

Keeping the roadless rule is logical, smart, and the right thing to do.

Thank you!

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Carri
Last name: Woolsey
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Carri Woolsey and I live in Santa Rosa, 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, Carri Woolsey

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: michael
Last name: woolsey
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is michael woolsey and I live in Portland, Oregon.

Be smart, don't cut the forest. tourism has 28% more value year after year. You cut down the trees that's gone for at least a generation.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.

Regards, michael woolsey

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Kathleen
Last name: Woolum
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, Kathleen Woolum

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Moriah
Last name: Woolworth
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.

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Regards, Moriah Woolworth

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Moriah
Last name: Woolworth
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Moriah Woolworth and I live in Cupertino, 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, Moriah Woolworth

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Alison
Last name: Woomert
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Alison Woomert and I live in Chapel Hill, North Carolina.

We must take care of our earth now to protect the public health and well being of earth's population now and into the future, we must not sacrifice our precious environment to corporate and business interests.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.

Regards, Alison Woomert

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/18/2019 3:21:36 PM
First name: Cathy
Last name: Wootan
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Comments to oppose modification to the Roadless Rule

Dear U.S. Forest Service,

The Roadless Rule helps protect old-growth habitat for birds like the Prince of Wales Spruce Grouse and Northern Goshawk, as well as for mammals like wolves and deer. Opening roadless areas to more logging and roads will fragment the forest and eliminate more of the big old trees that these animals rely on.

Yet, all of the action alternatives in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement allow more roadbuilding and logging across the Tongass National Forest. Logging roads and timber operations cost tens of millions of taxpayer dollars every year, with zero return on investment. Meanwhile, these destructive activities degrade the naturally sustainable wealth of salmon, wildlife watching, and tourism opportunities.

It is time to stop opening more and more acres to the timber industry and instead bolster protections to the old-growth forests and wild areas on the Tongass. I urge you to select the "No Action" Alternative (Alternative 1) and allow the Roadless Rule to remain intact on the Tongass National Forest.

Sincerely,
Cathy Wootan
Cleveland, OH 44109

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/10/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Cathy
Last name: Wootan
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Cathy Wootan and I live in Cleveland, Ohio.

We used to live down the street from a place where toxic waste had been dumped. We had no idea -- I used to let my children play there. I am upset that their health was jeopardized in this way. Please protect future generations from toxic pollutants in the air, the water and the land.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.

Regards, Cathy Wootan

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/10/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Dawn
Last name: Wooten
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Dawn Wooten and I live in Mahomet, Illinois.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Dawn Wooten

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Deborah
Last name: Wooten
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.

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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, Deborah Wooten

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/21/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Jeremy
Last name: Wooten
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
That's pretty selfish and irresponsible to destroy something that can't be replaced in several lifetime, all for a temporary gain. Sad and illogical.

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Mara
Last name: Wooten
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Mara Wooten and I live in Pittsboro, North Carolina.

No clear cutting!

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Mara Wooten

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Joyce
Last name: Wootten
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Joyce Wootten and I live in Germantown, Maryland.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Joyce Wootten

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Ruth
Last name: Wootten
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
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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. As a person of faith, I take seriously the mandate to care for all of creation.
Regards, Ruth Wootten

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Jean
Last name: Woppert
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Jean Woppert and I live in Verona, Wisconsin.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Jean Woppert

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Eric
Last name: Worch
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, Eric Worch

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Elizabeth
Last name: Worchesin
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Elizabeth Worchesin and I live in Sausalito, 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, Elizabeth Worchesin

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Lindsey
Last name: Word
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Lindsey Word and I live in Atlanta, Georgia.

My name is Lindsey Word and I live in Atlanta and I oppose the efforts to roll back the Roadless Area Conservation Rule.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.

Regards, Lindsey Word

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/30/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Noel
Last name: Worden
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
The idea of lifting the Roadless Area Conservation Rule for the Tongass National Forest seems very short sighted. The monetary gains (if any) are temporary, but the negative consequences will live on for generations.

Please leave this area as it is, thank you.

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: R.
Last name: Worden
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, R. Worden

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Susan
Last name: Worden
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Susan Worden and I live in Rio Vista, California.

I just have to ask, why is everything on this planet about use and exploitation? Why is nothing and no one valued for its intrinsic essence? That this forest issue should even arise at this time is a complete moral abomination.

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, Susan Worden

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Max
Last name: Worhatch
Organization: United Southeast Alaska Gillnetters
Title:
Comments:
The following text was copy/pasted from an attached letter. The system cannot display the formatting, graphics, or tables from the attached original.

Tongass Roadless Exemption Comments

United Southeast Alaska Gillnetters is a commercial fisheries advocacy group that represents the interests of 473 drift gillnetters in the SE region of the state of Alaska, which is surrounded by the Tongass National Forest. We have declined to choose an alternative from the 6 proffered, recognizing that our membership has greatly varying views on this particular issue. Roughly eighty percent of our fishery participants reside in the region.

Our common property fishing is managed on wild salmon. Habitat is vital to having healthy wild salmon stocks, and we would say that whatever alternative is chosen, that habitat protections instilled throughout the past 30 years be adhered to and practiced. Stream and watershed protections must be monitored to ensure any roads or logging will not impact viable, natural salmon runs that we depend on for our livelihood.

Furthermore, any past damage that has occurred and left unmediated should be of the highest priority, including replacement of culverts in old and existing roads that are constricting viable salmon habitat. Much of the opposition to this exemption has to do with the Forest Service[rsquo]s inability or lack of interest in mitigating past damages that could be having a deleterious effect on spawning and rearing habitat in certain locations. Consequently, we would recommend that the Forest Service address these long-standing issues as a matter of public trust. The Tongass National Forest is managed for multiple use, and it would be disingenuous to neglect water flows necessary for a healthy salmon environment that have been marginalized in past projects. Poor practices in the past haunt the logging industry, and while those poor practices have been addressed going forward, the ability to address damages from those poor practices has not. In an effort to diffuse the mistrust, we would recommend the Forest Service be proactive in making a keen effort to clean up messes from the past.

Sincerely,

Max Worhatch

Executive Director, USAG

[Position]

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Tongass Roadless Exemption Comments

United Southeast Alaska Gillnetters is a commercial fisheries advocacy group that represents the interests of 473 drift gillnetters in the SE region of the state of Alaska, which is surrounded by the Tongass National Forest. We have declined to choose an alternative from the 6 proffered, recognizing that our membership has greatly varying views on this particular issue. Roughly eighty percent of our fishery participants reside in the region.

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Sincerely,

Max Worhatch

Executive Director, USAG

[Position]

UNITED SOUTHEAST ALASKA GILLNETTERS

USAG'S MAIN PURPOSE IS TO PROTECT, SERVE AND ENHANCE SOUTHEAST ALASKA'S COMMERCIAL GILLNET FISHERY

Tongass Roadless Exemption Comments

United Southeast Alaska Gillnetters is a commercial fisheries advocacy group that represents the interests of 473 drift gillnetters in the SE region of the state of Alaska, which is surrounded by the Tongass National Forest. We have declined to choose an alternative from the 6 proffered, recognizing that our membership has greatly varying views on this particular issue. Roughly eighty percent of our fishery participants reside in the region.

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Sincerely,

Max Worhatch
Executive Director, USAG

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Mr.
Last name: Workingclass
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, Mr. Workingclass

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Beth
Last name: Workman
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Do not allow these roads or logging of any kind.I can not put it more plainly. NO ROADS, LOGGING, OR FRACKING.

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Danielle
Last name: Workman
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.

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Regards, Danielle Workman

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/20/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Erin
Last name: Workman
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Please do not harm the Tongass forest in Alaska. No roads need to be built there. I live in Anchorage Alaska. Hunting, fishing, and tourism are some of our biggest industries. Please dont take that away from Alaskans and everyone who comes here to visit. That forest is not anyones to destroy with a road. Please leave it alone.

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Jaymee
Last name: Workman
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.

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Regards, Jaymee Workman

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Jaymee
Last name: Workman
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.

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Regards, Jaymee Workman

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Krysta
Last name: Workman
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Krysta Workman and I live in Burlington, North Carolina.

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, Krysta Workman

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Mary
Last name: Workman
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Mary Workman and I live in Deland, Florida.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Mary Workman

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Ray
Last name: Workman
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Ray Workman and I live in Morrisville, Missouri.

The earth is under assault and this is a greed driven offense. If we have any chance of saving our planet and ourselves we need to start s deliberate effort to conserve nature instead of exploiting her for short term profiteering. Killing the planet is the same as humans collectively committing suicide for short term wealth.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.

Regards, Ray Workman

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Mike
Last name: Workman-Morelli
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Mike Workman-Morelli and I live in Newberg, Oregon.

EPA stands for Environmental Protection Agency, not Enable Profiteering Agency!

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Mike Workman-Morelli

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: David
Last name: Worley
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is David Worley and I live in Reno, Nevada.

Bare in mind that we have lost 30 percent of our birds in the last 30 years, and habitat loss is a key factor in those declines. Time to stop the loss.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.

Regards, David Worley

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/7/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Evan
Last name: Worley
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): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Gail
Last name: Worley
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, Gail Worley

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Gail
Last name: Worley
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
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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, Gail Worley

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/4/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Jason
Last name: Worley
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): 11/26/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Kathleen
Last name: Worley
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Kathleen Worley and I live in Portland, Oregon.

Standing trees are one of our strongest defenses against climate catastrophe. Both the passage of the Roadless Rule and protection of the Tongass National Forest have had strong public support over the years and continue to be supported by all who consider the health of the planet to be more important than short-term financial gain for the wealthy few. PLEASE choose the "No Action" alternative.

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, Kathleen Worley

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Kelly
Last name: Worley
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Kelly Worley and I live in Greensburg, Pennsylvania.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Kelly Worley

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/26/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Daniel
Last name: Worlock
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
As someone who has recently visited the Tongas Rain Forrest please dont support this action, logging previously destroyed local ecosystems and habitat for animals that are just now coming back. We already are struggling with climate change as our salmon populations as beginning to decrease, I can't imagine was more logging would do. I appreciate your support

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Sharon
Last name: Wormhoudt
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Sharon Wormhoudt and I live in Loma Mar, California.

This is no time to go backwards with our efforts to limit green house gases. Do not weaken current limits.

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.

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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, Sharon Wormhoudt

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: joel
Last name: Wormley
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is joel Wormley and I live in Newton, Iowa.

All actions taken must be done bearing in mind the effect upon the seventh generation unborn.

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, joel Wormley

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Peter
Last name: Wormley
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Peter Wormley and I live in New Berlin, Wisconsin.

The impacts of Climate Change continue to threaten myself, my family and our National Security per the U.S. Military!! The Tongass National Forest is absolutely Critical to fighting climate change and the devistaion it will bring to our way of life!! It is part of the Public Trust and as such belongs to ALL THE AMERICAN PEOPLE. It should NOT be destroyed for private and personal gain!!!!!!!!!!!!!

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.

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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, Peter Wormley

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Peter
Last name: Wormley
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 STRONGLY 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, Peter Wormley

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Gillian
Last name: Wormood
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): 11/8/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Claudia
Last name: Wornum
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Claudia Wornum and I live in Oakland, California.

Heavy commercial trucks are super polluters. Please implement a higher than 4% Mandate of electric vehicle technology. We all breathe air and need to curb climate change.

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, Claudia Wornum

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/11/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Courtney
Last name: Worrall
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Courtney Worrall and I live in Hampton, Virginia.

We must protect ourselves and our environment

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, Courtney Worrall

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/9/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: John
Last name: Worrell
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am wholeheartedly opposed to ending the 2001 roadless rule in the Tongass. I completely understand the State of Alaska's and the Agriculture Department's wishes to open the land to resource extraction in order to build a weakened local economy. However, this is a short-term solution to a larger problem. Once the extraction takes place, the economy will fall back into a contractionary period, essentially leaving the local economy no better than it was to begin with. Perhaps we can not just look at the easy solution, and develop answers that take into consideration the fragility and essential nature of this region of the world. Perhaps we can look into further developing the outdoor recreation industry - the same industry that produces $3 of privately generated economic activity for every $1 of public money invested. This is a long-term solution to the slow local economy.

Furthermore, once this area has been logged, it will be altered forever - there is no replacing it. Canada has protected 85% of the Great Bear Rainforest in conjunction with interested First Nations to protect their temperate rainforest - surely we can figure it out too. Let's not make the mistake of being a profit-at-all-cost nation, and be a global leader for smart conservation with economic benefit.

Thank you,

John Worrell

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: M.
Last name: Worrell
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is M. Worrell and I live in Canandaigua, New York.

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, M. Worrell

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Susan
Last name: Worrell
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Susan Worrell and I live in Kennett Square, Pennsylvania.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Susan Worrell

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Shellie
Last name: Worsfold
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, Shellie Worsfold

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Vicky
Last name: Worsham
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.

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Regards, Vicky Worsham

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Braxton
Last name: Worth
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Braxton Worth and I live in Tempe, Arizona.

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, Braxton Worth

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/12/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: jim
Last name: worth
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is jim worth and I live in Roxbury, Connecticut.

Just when we see further encroachments in the Amazon we must continue to save our largest forrest from destruction for short term profits. Not only for more tourist dollars, or continued habitat for many species but so we can breath, continue to sequester carbon, and not plunge us ever more speedily into climate disaster.

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.

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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, jim worth

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: paul
Last name: worth
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, paul worth

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Richard
Last name: Worth
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC3695

U.S. Forest Service Alaska Roadless Rule

Comment Period:

Comment Period Alaska Roadless Rule:

I am writing in support of the 'no action' alternative to leave the Roadless Rule unchanged in Alaska. I am concerned that changes to the rule would lead to greatly expand clear-cut logging of old growth timber and costly road building in undeveloped, wild areas of both the Tongass and Chugach Forests. These activities increase sedimentation, hurt water quality, often block salmon migration, and add to an already large backlog of needed road maintenance and restoration.

Our fisheries and wild forests are critical to the economy of Alaska. To grow these sectors of our economy, we need intact habitat. Please leave the Alaska Roadless Rule in place.

Sincerely,

Richard Worth

Newton, NJ 07860

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Richard
Last name: Worth
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC3322

U.S. Forest Service Alaska Roadless Rule

Comment Period

Comment Period Alaska Roadless Rule:

The Roadless Rule has been instrumental in conserving the Tongass National Forest and in supporting its 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. 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,

Richard Worth

Newton, NJ 07860

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 1/1/0001 12:00:00 AM
First name: Richard
Last name: Worth
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
3695

U.S. Forest Service Alaska Roadless Rule
Comment Period:

Comment Period Alaska Roadless Rule:

I am writing in support of the 'no action' alternative to leave the Roadless Rule unchanged in Alaska. I am concerned that changes to the rule would lead to greatly expand clear-cut logging of old growth timber and costly road building in undeveloped, wild areas of both the Tongass and Chugach Forests. These activities increase sedimentation, hurt water quality, often block salmon migration, and add to an already large backlog of needed road maintenance and restoration.
Our fisheries and wild forests are critical to the economy of Alaska. To grow these sectors of our economy, we need intact habitat. Please leave the Alaska Roadless Rule in place.

Sincerely,
Richard Worth
Newton, NJ 07860

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Shane
Last name: Worth
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, Shane Worth

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/17/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Wendy
Last name: Worth
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Wendy Worth and I live in Orlando, Florida.

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, Wendy Worth

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Wendy
Last name: Worth
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Wendy Worth and I live in Orlando, Florida.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Wendy Worth

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Roger
Last name: Wortham
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC3782

U.S. Forest Service Alaska Roadless Rule

Comment Period:

Comment Period Alaska Roadless Rule:

I am writing in support of the 'no action' alternative to leave the Roadless Rule unchanged in Alaska. I am concerned that changes to the rule would lead to greatly expand clear-cut logging of old growth timber and costly road building in undeveloped, wild areas of both the Tongass and Chugach Forests. These activities increase sedimentation, hurt water quality, often block salmon migration, and add to an already large backlog of needed road maintenance and restoration.

Our fisheries and wild forests are critical to the economy of Alaska. To grow these sectors of our economy, we need intact habitat. Please leave the Alaska Roadless Rule in place.

Sincerely,

Roger Wortham

Burns, TN 37029

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 1/1/0001 12:00:00 AM
First name: Roger
Last name: Wortham
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
3782

U.S. Forest Service Alaska Roadless Rule
Comment Period:

Comment Period Alaska Roadless Rule:

I am writing in support of the 'no action' alternative to leave the Roadless Rule unchanged in Alaska. I am concerned that changes to the rule would lead to greatly expand clear-cut logging of old growth timber and costly road building in undeveloped, wild areas of both the Tongass and Chugach Forests. These activities increase sedimentation, hurt water quality, often block salmon migration, and add to an already large backlog of needed road maintenance and restoration.
Our fisheries and wild forests are critical to the economy of Alaska. To grow these sectors of our economy, we need intact habitat. Please leave the Alaska Roadless Rule in place.

Sincerely,
Roger Wortham
Burns, TN 37029

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: victoria
Last name: wortham
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is victoria wortham and I live in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, victoria wortham

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Allan
Last name: Worthing
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Allan Worthing and I live in Fort Collins, Colorado.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Allan Worthing

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Brian
Last name: Worthington
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): 11/10/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Rachel
Last name: Worthington
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Rachel Worthington and I live in Bethesda, Maryland.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Rachel Worthington

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/19/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Crista
Last name: Worthy
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
To the U.S. Forest Service:

I strenuously object to the proposal to exempt the Tongass National Forest from the 2001 Roadless Rule. The Roadless Rule was passed by the U.S. Congress and signed by the President. It is the rule of law. The State of Alaska, which clearly cares more about exploiting its resources than conserving them, then petitioned to exempt the Tongass. This exemption was then subjected to layers of court decisions, with the result being that the Tongass should remain protected by the Roadless Rule law.

Now the USDA Forest Service seeks to arbitrarily remove this protection in a particular national forest, again, the Tongass. You cannot simply make exceptions to laws every time you don't like something. If ever there were ANY national forest in the United States that deserves complete protection of its current roadless areas, it is the Tongass above all.

We are in a global crisis, actually two of them. We are in a global climate crisis and we are in a global extinction crisis. Cutting trees in the Tongass and building roads in its roadless areas will exacerbate both of these crises. It is so obvious, and I am appalled that the Forest Service is even considering this ill-advised proposal. Clearly, it is driven by ideologues in the Trump administration.

In addition to wolves, moose, and bears, to name a few important mammal species that call this forest home, the Tongass hosts exceptional birds, including the Prince of Wales spruce grouse and the Queen Charlotte goshawk, a subspecies of northern goshawk found in southeast Alaska and coastal British Columbia that hunts and breeds exclusively in old-growth forests. The marbled murrelet-a seabird that nests in tufts of moss found on massive limbs of large coastal trees and is considered endangered on the International Union for Conservation of Nature's Red List-also finds refuge here. Cutting the old-growth woods and building roads where these creatures live fragments their habitat, which can affect breeding success for some species.

The Tongass is the world's largest temperate rainforest. We need more of this forest, not less, to help sequester carbon. Logging here will release copious quantities of carbon into the atmosphere. Have you seen what's happening in Brazil, to the rainforest? Why do you want to add to this problem?

Every summer now, Alaska is on fire. Millions and millions of acres are burning. The same is happening in British Columbia. We are losing millions of acres of forests. We do not need to cut the Tongass just so people can make money off the spectacular trees that grow in the Tongass National Forest. This great, primeval forest should be left intact for future generations. Shame on you for even considering this proposal.

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/26/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Crista
Last name: Worthy
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC281

October 19, 2019

I strenuously object to the proposal to exempt the Tongass National Forest from the 2001 Roadless Rule. The Roadless Rule was passed by the U.S. Congress and signed by the President. The State of Alaska, which clearly cares more about exploiting its resources than conserving them, then petitioned to exempt the Tongass. This exemption was then subjected to layers of court decisions over a period of years, with the result being that the Tongass remained firmly under the protection of the Roadless Rule law.

Now the USDA Forest Service seeks to arbitrarily remove this protection in a particular national forest, again, the Tongass. You cannot simply make exceptions to laws every time you don't like something. If ever there were ANY national forest in the United States that deserves *complete protection* [text italicized for emphasis] of its current roadless areas, it is the Tongass-above all.

We are in a global crisis-actually, two of them. We are in a global climate crisis and we are in a global extinction crisis. Cutting trees in the Tongass and building roads in its roadless areas will exacerbate both of these crises. It is so obvious, and I am apalled that the Forest Service is even considering this ill-advised proposal.

In addition to wolves, moose, and bears, to name a few important mammal species that call this forest home, the Tongass hosts exceptional birds, including the Prince of Wales spruce goose and the Queen Charlotte goshawk, a subspecies of nothern goshawk found in Southeast Alaska and coastal British Columbia that hunts and breeds *exclusively* [text italicized for emphasis] old-growth forests. The marbled murrelet-a seabird that nests in tufts of moss found on massive limbs of large coastal trees and is considered endangered on the International Union for Conservation of Nature's Red List-also finds refuge here. Cutting the old-growth woods and building roads where these creatures live fragments their habitat, which can affect breeding success for some species.

The Tongass is the world's largest temperate rainforest. We need more of this forest, not less, to help sequester carbon. Logging here will release copious quantities of carbon into the atmosphere. Have you seen what's happening in Brazil, to the tropical rainforest? This is a worldwide problem. Why do you want to add to it?

Every summer now, Alaska is on fire. Millions and millions of acres are burning. The same is happening in British Columbia. We are losing millions of acres of forests. We do not need to cut the Tongass just so people can make money off the spectacular trees that grow in the Tongass National Forest.

Have you ever walked in the Tongass National Forest? Gazed up at the giant old-growth trees? Listened to the life all around, without the disturbance of vehicles and machinery? I have, and I will never forget it. This great, primeval forest should be left intact for future generations. Shame on you for even considering this proposal.

Crista Worthy

Boise, ID 83714

[Signature]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/10/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Nina
Last name: Wouk
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Nina Wouk and I live in Redwood City, California.

Wilderness is easy to ruin and impossible to restore. It's best to preserve it in the first place.

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.

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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, Nina Wouk

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Chris
Last name: Wozniak
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, Chris Wozniak

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Chris
Last name: Wozniak
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
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Regards, Chris Wozniak

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Elliot
Last name: Wozniak
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Alternative One

Hello,

My name is Elliot Wozniak and I am from Muskegon, MI. I am writing to tell you that I choose Alternative One. Please, please don't let any logging or construction take place in the Tongass Forest. We must act to preserve as much Nature in this country as possible.

Thank you for your time,

Elliot Wozniak

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/20/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Matt
Last name: Wozniak
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I feel strongly that the Tongass National Forest should not be opened up for additional logging. The national forest should be able to be enjoyed by all Americans and for all of our benefit, not for the profit of logging companies. It should be for hunting, fishing, birdwatching and enjoying nature, please dont ruin it.

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Robert
Last name: Wozniak
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Robert Wozniak and I live in Columbia, New Jersey.

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, Robert Wozniak

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Steve
Last name: Wozniak
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Steve Wozniak and I live in Encinitas, 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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Steve Wozniak

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Lacey
Last name: Wozny
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.

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Regards, Lacey Wozny

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: S
Last name: Wraight
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is S Wraight and I live in Ithaca, New York.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, S Wraight

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Amanda
Last name: Wray
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Amanda Wray and I live in Baltimore, Maryland.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Amanda Wray

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: anthea
Last name: wray
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is anthea wray and I live in Houston, Texas.

Poisoning people is CRIMINAL!!!

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, anthea wray

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Jerald
Last name: Wray
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Jerald Wray and I live in Champaign, Illinois.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Jerald Wray

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Jerald
Last name: Wray
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Jerald Wray and I live in Champaign, Illinois.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Jerald Wray

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Cindy
Last name: Wren
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, Cindy Wren

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/5/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Daniel
Last name: Wren
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): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Janice
Last name: Wrentmore
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
During the Trump administration we have seen many roll backs of environmental protection. Few of these hit closer to home than the recent attempt to exempt the Tongass Forest from the protections afforded in the Roadless Rule. The magnificent landscapes that underpin our economy, our lifestyle, and our ecosystem are at risk. Testimony against this exemption was overwhelming but at Dunleavy's request and Trump's directive, the US Forest Service chose full exemption which will open our forests, including old growth trees, to wide-scale logging. Changes to the Roadless Rule will result in long-term impacts to our primary industries of tourism, recreation and fisheries.

This is an important issue for Skagway and our industry. It will directly affect the experiences of our visitors. I have operated tourism businesses in Skagway since 1978. Our industry is a major employer in the region. I support no action: keeping the roadless rule in place.

Thank you

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Janice
Last name: Wrentmore
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
During the Trump administration we have seen many roll backs of environmental protection. Few of these hit closer to home than the recent attempt to exempt the Tongass Forest from the protections afforded in the Roadless Rule. The magnificent landscapes that underpin our economy, our lifestyle, and our ecosystem are at risk. Testimony against this exemption was overwhelming but at Dunleavy's request and Trump's directive, the US Forest Service chose full exemption which will open our forests, including old growth trees, to wide-scale logging. Changes to the Roadless Rule will result in long-term impacts to our primary industries of tourism, recreation and fisheries.

This is an important issue for Skagway and our industry. It will directly affect the experiences of our visitors. I have operated tourism businesses in Skagway since 1978. Our industry is a major employer in the region. I support no action: keeping the roadless rule in place.

Thank you

[See attachment containing the following technical resources: " Municipality of Skagway Alaska Resolution" and "USDA Forest Service Seeks Public Comment on DEIS, Alternatives to a Proposed Alaska Roadless Rule"]

[Position]

[See attachment containing the following technical resources: " Municipality of Skagway Alaska Resolution" and "USDA Forest Service Seeks Public Comment on DEIS, Alternatives to a Proposed Alaska Roadless Rule"]

[Position]

Proposed by:	**Mayor Cremata**
Attorney Review:	**10/16/2019**
Vote:	**__ Aye __ Nay __ Absent**

MUNICIPALITY OF SKAGWAY, ALASKA
RESOLUTION NO. 19-32R

A RESOLUTION OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF SKAGWAY, ALASKA EXPRESSING THE MUNICIPALITY OF SKAGWAY'S SUPPORT FOR ALTERNATIVE 1 OF THE DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF INVENTORIED ROADLESS AREAS WITHIN THE TONGASS NATIONAL FOREST.

WHEREAS, the community of Skagway is highly dependent on tourism as its main economic driver; and

WHEREAS, tourism in Skagway, the Inside Passage, and the broader region of Southeast Alaska is dependent on maintaining pristine, wild landscapes of the surrounding coastal temperate rainforest and the iconic wildlife it supports; and

WHEREAS, in 2001, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) finalized a management plan for the Tongass National Forest, which includes the National Roadless Area Conservation Rule (Roadless Rule) in response to disappearing wildlands and a road maintenance backlog of $8.4 billion; and

WHERES, the intent of the Roadless Rule was to protect the social, economic, and ecological values and characteristics of inventoried roadless areas from road construction and reconstruction and certain timber harvest activities; and

WHEREAS, at the time of promulgation in 2001, the Roadless Rule had the most extensive public involvement of any rulemaking process in the history of federal rulemaking, generating over 1.6 million comments, the vast majority of which supported the creation of a strong national policy protecting roadless areas; and

WHEREAS, inventoried roadless areas provide large, relatively undisturbed blocks of important habitat for a variety of terrestrial and aquatic wildlife and plants; contribute to healthy watersheds and clean drinking water; and provide extensive opportunities for outdoor recreation and tourism; and

WHEREAS, the Roadless Rule protects some of the last remaining tracts of old-growth forest habitat in the Tongass that contribute to the absorption of global warming pollution and protect native animal species that rely on them; and

WHEREAS, roadless areas support subsistence lifestyles through hunting and fishing, and support outdoor recreation and tourism industries; and

WHEREAS, the Roadless Rule contains a variety of exceptions that allow roadbuilding for community access, hydropower projects, utility connectors, and other economic development projects when they serve a legitimate public interest; and

WHEREAS, protection of these roadless areas in the Tongass National Forest is of local and national importance; and

WHEREAS, in 2018, the State of Alaska petitioned the USDA to craft a state-specific roadless rule and requested that a full exemption be pursued from the 2001 Roadless Rule; and

WHEREAS, in 2018 the USDA accepted the State of Alaska's petition and initiated a National Environmental Policy Act review, an environmental impact statement (EIS), and public rulemaking process to address the management of inventoried roadless areas within Alaska, and to evaluate the exemption set forth in the petition. The USDA rulemaking is administrative and separate from any action Congress may take; and

WHEREAS, the majority of comments received by the USDA following its notice of intent of proposed rulemaking opposed changing the Roadless Rule for Alaska; and

WHEREAS, the draft EIS provides an analysis of six alternatives related to roadless management in Alaska, ranging from no action to a full exemption from the Roadless Rule on the Tongass National Forest; and

WHEREAS, the USDA has identified Alternative 6, which is a full exemption, as the preferred alternative at this time; and

WHEREAS, the Municipality of Skagway opposes Alternative 6 and feels that Alternative 1, which requests no action and would maintain the 2001 Roadless Rule on the Tongass National Forest, best protects public interests while also protecting the unique ecosystem of the Tongass; and

WHEREAS, the USDA is seeking public comment on the draft EIS from October 18, 2019 to December 17, 2019 and will issue its decision regarding and Alaska Roadless Rule in June of 2020;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT: the Skagway Borough Assembly expresses its opposition to Alternative 6, and its support for Alternative 1 of the draft environmental impact statement for the management of inventoried roadless areas within the Tongass National Forest.

PASSED AND APPROVED by a duly constituted quorum of the Borough Assembly of the Municipality of Skagway this __ day of _____, 2019.

_____
Andrew Cremata, Mayor

ATTEST:

_____
Emily A. Deach, Borough Clerk

(SEAL)

Emily Deach

Subject: USDA Forest Service Seeks Public Comment on Draft Environmental Impact Statement, Alternatives to a Proposed Alaska Roadless Rule

USDA Forest Service Seeks Public Comment on Draft Environmental Impact Statement, Alternatives to a Proposed Alaska Roadless Rule

Development of a proposed state-specific rule is in response to a petition from the State of Alaska

JUNEAU, ALASKA, Oct. 15, 2019 – The U.S. Department of Agriculture is seeking public comment on a draft environmental impact statement offering a range of alternatives to roadless management and a proposed Alaska Roadless Rule. If adopted, the proposed rule would exempt the Tongass National Forest from the 2001 Roadless Rule.

The USDA Forest Service will publish the documents in the Federal Register this week. The publication will begin a 60-day public comment period on the proposed rule, and on each alternative outlined in the draft environmental impact statement.

The draft environmental impact statement, prepared under the National Environmental Policy Act, provides an analysis of six alternatives, which are options, choices, or courses of action related to roadless management in Alaska. The alternatives range from no action to the removal of the Tongass from the 2001 Roadless Rule. The

Department has identified Alternative 6, which is a full exemption, as the preferred alternative at this time. The full range of options are:

- Alternative 1 takes no action and would leave all of Alaska under the 2001 Roadless Rule, including the Tongass National Forest.
- Alternative 2 provides regulatory protection for the majority (89%) of key watersheds inside roadless areas and would convert 18,000 old-growth acres and 10,000 young-growth acres previously identified as unsuitable timber lands to suitable timber lands.
- Alternative 3 provides regulatory protections for all key watersheds inside and outside roadless areas, creates a community priority roadless designation that allows for recreational development and timber sales under 1 million board feet, and would convert 76,000 old-growth acres and 14,000 young-growth acres previously identified as unsuitable timber lands to suitable timber lands.
- Alternative 4 restricts harvest and road-building activities in scenic viewsheds and most (88%) key watersheds inside roadless areas and would convert 158,000 old-growth acres and 15,000 young-growth acres previously identified as unsuitable timber lands to suitable timber lands.
- Alternative 5 would remove 2.3 million acres from roadless area designation, protects some (59%) key watersheds, and would convert 165,000 old-growth acres and 17,000 young-growth acres previously identified as unsuitable timber lands to suitable timber lands.
- Alternative 6 (preferred) would exempt the Tongass National Forest from the 2001 Roadless Rule and is fully responsive to the State of Alaska's petition. The alternative would remove all 9.2 million acres of inventoried roadless acres and would convert 165,000 old-growth acres and 20,000 young-growth acres previously identified as unsuitable timber lands to suitable timber lands. Conservation of roadless values would be achieved through other means, including the Tongass Land Management Plan. This is specific to the Tongass National Forest. The Chugach National Forest would remain under the 2001 Roadless Rule.

The Forest Service is scheduling a series of public meetings and subsistence hearings. A list of those meeting locations will be available on the Alaska Roadless Rule project website.

The public has until midnight Alaska time on Dec. 17, 2019, to submit comments on the documents. The documents are posted in the Federal Register and on the agency's Alaska Roadless Rule website.

These are the ways the public can submit written comments once the notice is published:

- Web: www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=54511
- Email: akroadlessrule@fs.fed.us
- Mail: USDA Forest Service, Attn: Alaska Roadless Rule, P.O. Box 21628, Juneau, Alaska, 99802
- Fax: 907-586-7852

- In-person delivery to Forest Service, 709 W. 9th Street, Room 535B, Juneau, Alaska 99801

Written comments will help inform USDA as it moves toward a final decision about an Alaska-specific roadless rule. The Secretary of Agriculture is expected to make a final decision by June 2020.

The Tongass stretches over the 500-mile-long Southeast Alaska Panhandle and covers 80 percent of the land. It is rich in natural resources and cultural heritage. Developed areas cover about 8 percent of the land. There are 32 communities, including the state capitol of Juneau, in Southeast Alaska.

News media inquiries should be made to the Forest Service Press Desk at pressoffice@fs.fed.us or call 202-205-1134.

#

Alaska Roadless Rulemaking Questions and Answers

Updated April 16, 2019

What is the 2001 Roadless Rule?

The National Roadless Area Conservation Rule (Roadless Rule) was adopted in January 2001 to protect the social and ecological values and characteristics of inventoried roadless areas from road construction and reconstruction and certain timber harvest activities. Inventoried roadless areas provide large, relatively undisturbed blocks of important habitat for a variety of terrestrial and aquatic wildlife and plants; contribute to healthy watersheds and clean drinking water; and provide extensive opportunities for outdoor recreation and tourism. Protection of these roadless areas on both the Tongass and Chugach National Forests is of local and national importance. Inventoried roadless areas in the Alaska Region include 9.2 million acres (55 percent) of the Tongass National Forest and 5.4 million acres (99 percent) of the Chugach National Forest.

What does the 2001 Roadless Rule prohibit?

The 2001 Roadless Rule generally prohibits construction or reconstruction of roads in inventoried roadless areas of the National Forest System, but with some exceptions. The Roadless Rule allows the USDA Forest Service Line Officer to authorize construction or reconstruction of a road in an inventoried roadless area if he or she determines it is needed for specific reasons including some timber harvest as outlined in the Rule. Since the Roadless Rule has been in effect in Alaska, more than 50 projects including mines, hydropower and intertie, a timber sale, road reconstruction, and a U.S. Coast Guard GPA antenna among others have been approved.

What is the history of the Roadless Rule application to Alaska's National Forests?

The 2001 Roadless Rule is currently in effect in the Tongass and Chugach National Forests. The Roadless Rule was adopted in January 2001, but due to litigation did not become effective and operational until April 2003. After three months of being in effect on the Chugach and Tongass National Forests, the Roadless Rule was again judicially enjoined on a nationwide basis and was not operational for the next three years. In September 2006, the Roadless Rule was judicially reinstated and became operational on the Chugach National Forest, but the Tongass National Forest remained exempt from the Rule because USDA had issued a temporary rule in 2003 exempting the Tongass National Forest from the Roadless Rule while it examined whether a state-wide exemption was appropriate. In 2011, the U.S. District Court for the District of Alaska set aside the 2003 Tongass Exemption and reinstated the Roadless Rule (with special instructions) on the Tongass National Forest. The District Court's ruling was upheld by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit and the Supreme Court declined further review.

Alaska Petition and USDA Forest Service Actions

Why is the USDA Forest Service initiating a rulemaking process now to develop an Alaska Roadless Rule for the Tongass National Forest?
At the direction of the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture, the USDA Forest Service is responding to the State of Alaska's petition which requested an exemption of the Tongass National Forest from the 2001 Roadless Rule. The decision to pursue a state-specific rule seeks to address concerns raised over roadless area management and access. A state-specific roadless rule would determine which currently designated roadless areas in the Tongass National Forest might require a different management approach to further Alaska's economic development or other needs, while still conserving roadless areas for future generations.

Is the state-specific roadless rulemaking connected to congressional action?
The USDA Forest Service rulemaking is administrative and separate from any action Congress may take. The Forest Service has issued a Notice of Intent (NOI) initiating a public rulemaking process in response to a petition filed pursuant to the Administrative Procedure Act to develop a state-specific roadless rule focused on the Tongass National Forest.

Why did the Alaska Roadless Rulemaking continue during the recent government shutdown? Are there any plans to delay or adjust the timeline?
The USDA Forest Service Alaska Region moved forward with several high-priority projects during the most recent government shutdown, one of which was the Alaska Roadless Rule. A decision was made to stay as close to the original project timeline, since there was prior year funding available and a limited number of USDA Forest Service employees, working in exempt status, were able to be called back to complete focused work and move the project forward in a timely manner.

Who makes the final decision on the Alaska Roadless Rule?
The final decision resides with the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture. The Alaska Regional Forester has important input and influence and will ensure the Region is represented throughout the rulemaking process.

Alaska-Specific Roadless Rulemaking Process

What does a Rulemaking Process entail?
The USDA Forest Service is conducting a public rulemaking process pursuant to the Administrative Procedures Act (APA). In late August 2018, the USDA Forest Service issued a Notice of Intent (NOI) in the Federal Register to initiate the rulemaking process. The NOI opened a scoping and public comment period. As part of the scoping period, the USDA Forest

Service hosted community meetings to provide information and answer questions about the rulemaking process. Public comments received during the scoping period are helping the USDA Forest Service on the development of a range of preliminary alternatives to be analyzed in the Alaska Roadless Rule Environmental Impact Statement.

What is the timeframe for completion of the Alaska Roadless Rulemaking process?

These dates are projected and subject to change:

- *July 2019*–publish a draft Environmental Impact Statement and start a 60-day comment period
- *April 2020*–publish a final Environmental Impact Statement
- *June 1, 2020*–publish a final Alaska Roadless Rule

Proposed Alternatives

When will a summary of proposed alternatives for the Alaska Roadless Rulemaking be made available, and will we have an opportunity to review them and provide comments?
The alternatives are expected to be included in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The Statement and a proposed Alaska Roadless Rule could be published in mid-summer 2019.

Do any of the proposed alternatives affect the Tongass Land Management Plan?
The proposed Alaska Roadless Rule would not amend the Tongass Land and Resource Management Plan. However, there are possibilities that there could be a need for an administration change to the plan regarding overall suitability of land for timber production.

Cooperating Agencies

How will the State of Alaska be involved in the rulemaking process?
The State of Alaska is a cooperating agency and will work closely with USDA Forest Service during all phases of the rulemaking process. The State established an advisory group that will report to the Governor and inform the State's input to the USDA Forest Service during the rulemaking process. Additionally, as a cooperating agency the State will work closely with the NEPA Interdisciplinary Team.

How will Alaska Tribes be involved in the rulemaking process?
The USDA Forest Service invited federally recognized tribes to participate as cooperating agencies in the Alaska Roadless Rulemaking effort, alongside the State of Alaska. Six tribes have signed Memorandums of Understanding with the agency to establish protocols and processes for participation in the NEPA analysis as cooperating agencies. Tribes bring specialized expertise on land management, subsistence, natural resources, and potential impacts

to specific communities and traditional territories within Alaska. The benefits of cooperating status include establishing trust and cooperation and the ability to participate directly in the processes early in and throughout the analysis. Cooperating agency status does not replace Government-to-Government Consultation obligations, which is available at any time at the request of all tribes, and the region is proactively scheduling consultation through the completion of this project.

Who are the Cooperating Agencies?
As of February 2019, the Forest Service signed Memorandums of Understanding with the state and six federally recognized tribes. The seven Cooperating Agencies are:

- State of Alaska
- Angoon Community Association
- Hoonah Indian Association
- Hydaburg Cooperative Association
- Organized Village of Kake
- Organized Village of Kasaan
- Central Council Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska

Public Engagement

Where can I find a summary of the public comments submitted during the Notice of Intent comment period in the fall of 2018?
Comments received during from the public scoping period in the fall of 2018 as well a summary of those comments is available online at https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=54511. Seventeen public meetings were conducted across Southeast Alaska, Washington, D.C., and Anchorage, Alaska in the fall of 2018 to explain the rulemaking process. Approximately 140,000 written entries were logged; all written comments were considered and summarized.

Are there more opportunities for the public to comment and participate in the rulemaking process?
Following publication of the draft Environmental Impact Statement in July 2019, the USDA Forest Service will open a public comment period. During this time. Written comments may be submitted via the project website or email. The USDA Forest Service also has online mapping tool that will allow users to submit geographic-based comments during the comment period. Additionally, the USDA Forest Service will host public meetings to share information about the anticipated schedule for the remainder of the rulemaking process and to answer questions about the draft and the preliminary alternatives.

How can I provide input?
During the public comment period, written comments can be submitted electronically at https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=54511. All comments, including names and addresses, will be placed in the record and are available for public inspection and copying.

In addition, written comments can be submitted via hard-copy mail to:

Alaska Roadless Rule
USDA Forest Service
Alaska Region Ecosystem Planning and Budget Staff
P.O. Box 2628, Juneau, Alaska 99802-1628

or email akroadlessrule@fs.fed.us

Alaska Roadless Rule Results

Will a new Alaska Roadless Rule automatically authorize projects that include road construction or reconstruction and/or timber harvest that could affect fish, wildlife, and other subsistence resources, or other uses of the forest?
The Alaska Roadless Rule would determine which currently designated inventoried roadless areas would have a different roadless management approach that would allow for activities that are currently prohibited under the 2001 Roadless Rule, but would not automatically authorize any specific projects. Any projects would still need to comply with the Tongass Land Management Plan and would undergo further review under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

Is this process focused only on road building and timber?
It is about opening opportunities to support rural communities on the Tongass National Forest. A state-specific roadless rule will determine appropriate management direction for roadless areas within the State of Alaska, including appropriate exceptions to address essential infrastructure, timber, energy, mining, access, and transportation systems necessary to support economic development within some industry sectors, while at the same time conserving roadless areas in Alaska for future generations.

How will the Alaska Roadless Rule affect the implementation of the Tongass Land Management Plan and the transition from primarily old-growth harvest to a young-growth timber program?

The Alaska Roadless Rule will not make any changes to the 2016 Tongass Land Management Plan or projects currently being implemented or proposed to implement the transition to a primarily young-growth timber program. Following a final decision on a state-specific roadless rule, the Tongass National Forest Land Management Plan could be amended or revised to reflect any management designations established by the state-specific rule.

What are the expected economic benefits of the Alaska Roadless Rule?
During the rulemaking process, the USDA Forest Service will analyze and present the social and economic impacts of all proposed alternatives, including a no-action alternative. The range of alternatives will address how different management designations could facilitate rural prosperity and support sustainable communities and economies in southeast Alaska.

Are activities such as mining, cell tower construction, hydropower and geothermal power, transmission line, and infrastructure development prohibited under the 2001 Roadless Rule? If not, then why are they being discussed during the state-specific rulemaking process? The 2001 Roadless
Rule does not prohibit these activities. Under the current policy, most projects within inventoried roadless areas must be submitted to the Regional Forester for review and approval. In the Tongass National Forest, more than 57 projects have been approved. Some stakeholders with an interest in roadless areas, such as utility companies, mining interests, and local communities have raised concerns about how the 2001 Roadless Rule affects permits, contracts and other special uses involving access, road construction, and road maintenance in inventoried roadless areas. These issues are likely to remain part of the conversation.

Will important fish and wildlife habitat be protected?
The Roadless rulemaking process would determine whether currently designated roadless areas should have a different management designation that may allow for activity which is currently prohibited. It will not supersede other laws, including the Tongass Timber Reform Act, which provide specific protections for fish and wildlife habitat. Also, a state-specific rule will not authorize any specific project. Any projects would still need to comply with the 2016 Tongass Land Management Plan standards for fish and wildlife habitat and its impacts analyzed through a separate process under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The USDA Forest Service will uphold our mission to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations.

Information Resources

Where can I find all the information, comments, frequently asked questions and other details about the Alaska Roadless Rulemaking process from start to now?

Find all the information on the Alaska Roadless Rulemaking process on line at https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=54511

Where can I find maps and information?
Maps and other information will be posted online at https://www.fs.usda.gov/roadmain/roadless/alaskaroadlessrule

Where can I find information about the 2001 Roadless Rule?
Information on the 2001 Roadless Rule and its application on the Tongass and Chugach National Forests is posted online at: https://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/r10/home/?cid=fseprd595482

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/18/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Dana
Last name: Wrich
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Comments to oppose modification to the Roadless Rule

Dear U.S. Forest Service,

The Roadless Rule helps protect old-growth habitat for birds like the Prince of Wales Spruce Grouse and Northern Goshawk, as well as for mammals like wolves and deer. Opening roadless areas to more logging and roads will fragment the forest and eliminate more of the big old trees that these animals rely on.

Yet, all of the action alternatives in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement allow more roadbuilding and logging across the Tongass National Forest. Logging roads and timber operations cost tens of millions of taxpayer dollars every year, with zero return on investment. Meanwhile, these destructive activities degrade the naturally sustainable wealth of salmon, wildlife watching, and tourism opportunities.

It is time to stop opening more and more acres to the timber industry and instead bolster protections to the old-growth forests and wild areas on the Tongass. I urge you to select the "No Action" Alternative (Alternative 1) and allow the Roadless Rule to remain intact on the Tongass National Forest.

Sincerely,

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/7/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Aaron
Last name: Wright
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): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Aaron
Last name: Wright
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.
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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): 10/18/2019 3:15:03 PM
First name: Agustina
Last name: Wright
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Comments to oppose modification to the Roadless Rule

Dear U.S. Forest Service,

The Roadless Rule helps protect old-growth habitat for birds like the Prince of Wales Spruce Grouse and Northern Goshawk, as well as for mammals like wolves and deer. Opening roadless areas to more logging and roads will fragment the forest and eliminate more of the big old trees that these animals rely on.

Yet, all of the action alternatives in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement allow more roadbuilding and logging across the Tongass National Forest. Logging roads and timber operations cost tens of millions of taxpayer dollars every year, with zero return on investment. Meanwhile, these destructive activities degrade the naturally sustainable wealth of salmon, wildlife watching, and tourism opportunities.

It is time to stop opening more and more acres to the timber industry and instead bolster protections to the old-growth forests and wild areas on the Tongass. I urge you to select the "No Action" Alternative (Alternative 1) and allow the Roadless Rule to remain intact on the Tongass National Forest.

Sincerely,
Agustina Wright
Valrico, FL 33594

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Alex
Last name: Wright
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Alex Wright and I live in Freeland, Maryland.

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, Alex Wright

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/14/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Alisa
Last name: Wright
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Alisa Wright and I live in Wilmington, North Carolina.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Alisa Wright

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Andrew
Last name: Wright
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC916

Dear Secretary Perdue,

I am a visitor to the lands and waters of Southeast Alaska. The Tongass National Forest is a large part of why I am here. Visitors like me come to witness the vast, beautiful stands of old-growth trees that can't be found on such a scale anywhere else in the United States. We come to crew on commercial fishing boats. We come to hunt, fish and hike in America's largest National Forest. That is why it is important to me that the 2001 Roadless Rule remain in place on the Tongass National Forest. A no-action alternative is the best option for Alaskans and Americans.

I support the Tongass Transition and I would like the Forest Service to continue phasing out old growth clearcutting. This forest is a salmon forest, and the Forest Service should focus on restoring degraded watersheds and fish streams. Please prioritize conservation of the T77 and TNC conservation priority areas in any new Alaska Roadless Rule. Tourism and commercial fishing are at the heart of Southeast's economy, not the antiquated timber industry.

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Anita
Last name: Wright
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, Anita Wright

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Ann
Last name: Wright
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Ann Wright and I live in Ypsilanti, Michigan.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Ann Wright

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Armin
Last name: Wright
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
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Regards, Armin Wright

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Aura
Last name: Wright
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Aura Wright and I live in Myrtle Point, Oregon.

Please choose to save our beautiful planet and not destroy it!

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Aura Wright

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Bob
Last name: Wright
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Bob Wright and I live in Blacksburg, Virginia.

Earth First.The history of humanity has been the conquest of our home Earth. Beginning in the 20th Century, humanity had essentially 'won', beaten Earth into submission for the sake of money. In the 21st century, right now, we the people must begin the triage to save the life if our home Earth. Do Not diminish any laws that protect the environment. Reject Trump the Terrible

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.

Regards, Bob Wright

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/14/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Brenda
Last name: Wright
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Tongass roadless rule

Hello,

thank you for listening to the residents of our beautiful surrounding Tongass National Forest

Brenda Wright

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

December 14, 2019

Juneau, AK 99801

Re: Tongass Roadless Rule

Dear Forest Service,

I very strongly urge you to choose the decision of alternative 1 for the Tongass National Forest Roadless Rule.

I was a fish biologist on the Tongass National Forest for 24 years with my specialty in fresh water habitat for salmonids. I can not stress strongly enough the massive loss of fish habitat I observed from road failures, culvert failures, and poor road design and culvert placement. I know that a tremendous number of miles of fresh water stream habitat are no longer available due to the over 5000 miles of road already in existence on the Tongass National Forest. I have measured the water temperature differences between clear cut areas, re-growth, and old growth forests. Old growth forests provide shade to keep our water cooler. As our temperatures increase with climate change, a simple difference in a few degrees in stream temperature will mean survival or death for our salmonid fishes.

Simple economics should also be used in deciding this very important decision on more road building or clear cutting. There are many more jobs available in fisheries and tourism then any logging or commercial lumber harvest.

Please allow the forest to supply us with cooler water, good salmon habitat, and fewer roads.

Climate change is coming very rapidly and we should be putting all our resources into protecting our existing fisheries by completing long overdue maintenance on the 1000[rsquo]s of miles of road already in existence.

Please move in favor of Alternative 1 (no action) to preserves the truly important functions of the Tongass National Forest.

Sincerely,

Brenda Wright

Retired fish Biologist Pacific NW Experimental Station

USDA Forest Service

[Position]

December 14, 2019
17430 Andreanoff Dr.
Juneau, AK 99801

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Sincerely,

Brenda Wright
Retired fish Biologist Pacific NW Experimental Station
USDA Forest Service

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Brian
Last name: Wright
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Brian Wright and I live in Hoboken, New Jersey.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Brian Wright

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 1/1/0001 12:00:00 AM
First name: Britainy
Last name: Wright
Organization:
Title:
Comments:

Dear Chief Christiansen,

I live and work on the lands and waters of the Tongass National Forest. The health of the Tongass National Forest is critical to sustaining my way of life in this rugged region. From hunting and fishing, to hiking and camping, to our tourism and commercial fishing-based economies, we rely on the intact habitat that the roadless areas of the Tongass contain. That is why it is important to me that the 2001 Roadless Rule remain in place on the Tongass National Forest. A no-action alternative is the best option for Southeast Alaska.

Prioritizing one antiquated industry over private sectors is bad business, and bad for Southeast Alaska. I support the Tongass Transition and I would like the Forest Service to continue phasing out old growth clearcutting. Please prioritize conservation of the T77 and TNC conservation priority areas in any new Alaska Roadless Rule. This forest is a salmon forest, and the Forest Service should focus on restoring degraded watersheds and fish streams.

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First name: Britainy
Last name: Wright
Organization:
Title:
Comments:

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Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 1/1/0001 12:00:00 AM
First name: Britainy
Last name: Wright
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC1262

Dear Chief Christiansen,

I live and work on the lands and waters of the Tongass National Forest. The health of the Tongass National Forest is critical to sustaining my way of life in this rugged region. From hunting and fishing, to hiking and camping, to our tourism and commercial fishing-based economies, we rely on the intact habitat that the roadless areas of the Tongass contain. That is why it is important to me that the 2001 Roadless Rule remain in place on the Tongass National Forest. A no-action alternative is the best option for Southeast Alaska.

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First name: Britainy
Last name: Wright
Organization:
Title:
Comments:

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First name: Britainy
Last name: Wright
Organization:
Title:
Comments:

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Last name: Wright
Organization:
Title:
Comments:

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Comments:

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Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/13/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Britainy
Last name: Wright
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC645

Dear Secretary Perdue and Senator Murkowski,

I am currently on a boat cruise in Redoubt Bay, an iconic local subsistence and recreation site. Located just twelve miles from the city of Sitka, Redoubt Falls is one of Sitka's most important subsistence fishing spots. We dipnet for Redoubt sockeye to stock our freezers and cupboards with the rich red flesh of this all-important fish. In recent years, the Forest Service has estimated that Redoubt has provided up to 60% of the total sockeye subsistence harvest in the Sitka Management Area. We feed our families out of Tongass watershed like Redoubt Bay.

The Forest Service supports our subsistence harvest by maintaining a weir system at Redoubt to monitor and count the fish entering the lake. The Forest Service coordinates with the Alaska Department of Fish & Game to make management decisions based on the data collected throughout the season, which determines the safe allotment limit for our subsistence harvest. Our harvest of salmon depends entirely on the intact ecosystem and productivity of Tongass watersheds. Healthy forests support our ability to fulfill our subsistence needs at Redoubt, as well as supporting commercial and sport salmon fisheries across the Tongass.

Currently, Redoubt ay is listed as a T77 watershed. T77 watersheds are areas of the Tongass National Forest identified as particularly prolific, intact salmon habitat. Much of the 15,000 miles of streams on the Tongass support salmon populations, but the T77 watersheds are especially critical to protect. It is important to me that the 2001 Roadless Rule remains in place on high value salmon watersheds like the T77, and throughout the Tongass National Forest. Opening up these areas to more clearcutting and roadbuilding will jeopardize our way of life, and will sacrifice the spirit of Sitka that brings so many people to this special place. I support keeping the 2001 Roadless Rule in effect on the Tongass, and I urge the Secretary to select a no action alternative in the Alaska-specific Roadless rulemaking process. Please protect this land for future generations to enjoy in perpetuity.

Personal Comments: I am not interested in learning more!

Please help us protect this invaluable & unique bay for our wildlife & livlihood & pleasure for many years to come.

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 1/1/0001 12:00:00 AM
First name: Britainy
Last name: Wright
Organization:
Title:
Comments:

Dear Chief Christiansen,

I live and work on the lands and waters of the Tongass National Forest. The health of the Tongass National Forest is critical to sustaining my way of life in this rugged region. From hunting and fishing, to hiking and camping, to our tourism and commercial fishing-based economies, we rely on the intact habitat that the roadless areas of the Tongass contain. That is why it is important to me that the 2001 Roadless Rule remain in place on the Tongass National Forest. A no-action alternative is the best option for Southeast Alaska.

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Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/13/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Britainy
Last name: Wright
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC454

Dear Roadless Rule Planning Team,

The health of the Tongass National Forest is important to me. I depend on the Tongass which is a unique and global treasure.

The freshwater streams where salmon and old growth forest of the Tongass provide spawning habitat for these fish, which in turn feed a matrix of bears, birds, insects, and other wildlife that Alaska is so famous for. The health of our economy, which is heavily dependent on the fishing and tourism industries, also depends on the salmon, wildlife and presence of old growth forests. A sustainable future for Southeast Alaska requires protecting expansive areas of intact habitat - in short, it requires keeping our Roadless areas roadless! I urge the Forest Service and the Secretary to protect important salmon spawning habitat, maintain old growth forests for winter deer habitat, and keep the places I like to recreate free of clearcuts and roadbuilding.

WHO I AM: [text bolded for emphasis] Include your name, where you live, and any relevant biographical information. Do you live or work on the Tongass National Forest? What is your relationship to the Tongass?

Britainy Wright, Sitka, AK. I live in the Tongass routinely walk/hike/bike/bird sail through the Tongass, & work literally nestled into the Tongass @ the Alaska Raptor Center. (with eagles that also inhabit the Tongass)

PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE: [text bolded for emphasis] The Forest Service will choose how to proceed from a number of different alternatives. If you want the Roadless Rule to remain on the Tongass, write "No Action."

NO ACTION [text double underlined for emphasis] PLEASE!!!!!!!

WHY I PREFER THIS ALTERNATIVE: [text bolded for emphasis] How would this alternative affect you and Southeast Alaskans?

Besides my leisure activities, it hosts a wealth of wildlife that can only nest or survive nestled deep within the forest. Think about how unbalanced SE would be if we were to displace all of it's naturual residents.

AREAS: [text bolded for emphasis] Are there specific islands, watersheds, or mountains that you depend on? Name the most important areas that the Roadless Rule to protect. Examples include the Tenakee Inlet, Nakwasina Sound, Fish Bay, Ushk Bay, Northern Prince of Wales, T77 salmon watershed areas, Audobon TNC ecological priority areas, etc.

Everything! I know it's great to be specific but working directly with Alaska's birds has proven to me all of this sacred forest is important. We receive birds from all over Alaska -> from the tiniest villages that send them to us by float. Bald eagles alone inhabit & nest in the first mile of old growth from the coast. These birds, like many others, return to the same nest site over & over again. It would be catastrophic to demolish.

USE: [text bolded for emphasis] What activities do you use the Tongass National Forest for? Hunting, fishing, recreation, subsistence, business, tourism, etc.

I use the Tongass National Forest for the hiking, camping, subsistence, foraging, fishing, hunting, & tourism. It's lush canopy is a great place to escape to for any reason.

SUGGESTION: [text bolded for emphasis] How should the Forest Service manage the Tongass National Forest, rather than old-growth clearcut logging? More sustainable alternatives to timber harvest include salmon watershed restoration, visitor industry infrastructure, deer habitat enhancement, young growth thinning, and maintenance of recreation infrastructure such as trails and cabins.

To think appropriately - the, 2nd, 3rd & 4th & down growth should be thinned. Never, ever clear cutting & only taking what will benefit the ecosystem as a whole. The Forestry Service should return to their roots & sustainably manage the forest - not be profiting or destroying the forest itself.

Additional comments for the Forest Service:

Don't forget what you are protecting & fighting. Your decisions impact so many -> not just people, but the wildlife, communities, economy, & watersheds. You can't regrow old growth. Don't mess up a good thing.

Sincerely,

Britainy Wright

I want to receive a copy of the Draft Environmental Statement

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Britainy
Last name: Wright
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC1310

Dear Chief Christiansen,

I live and work on the lands and waters of the Tongass National Forest. The health of the Tongass National Forest is critical to sustaining my way of life in this rugged region. From hunting and fishing, to hiking and camping, to our tourism and commercial fishing-based economies, we rely on the intact habitat that the roadless areas of the Tongass contain. That is why it is important to me that the 2001 Roadless Rule remain in place on the Tongass National Forest. A no-action alternative is the best option for Southeast Alaska.

Prioritizing one antiquated industry over private sectors is bad business, and bad for Southeast Alaska. I support the Tongass Transition and I would like the Forest Service to continue phasing out old growth clearcutting. Please prioritize conservation of the T77 and TNC conservation priority areas in any new Alaska Roadless Rule. This forest is a salmon forest, and the Forest Service should focus on restoring degraded watersheds and fish streams.

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/10/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Caleb
Last name: Wright
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): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Carolyn
Last name: Wright
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. I object to having tax dollars wasted by subsidizing logging companies to ruin national forests, the Tongass in particular.
Regards, Carolyn Wright

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Carolyn
Last name: Wright
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.
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Regards, Carolyn Wright

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Catherine
Last name: Wright
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, Catherine Wright

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Catherine
Last name: Wright
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Catherine Wright and I live in New York, New York.

Please save the Tongass National Forest from logging & Corporate greed. The health of the Tongass is so important to the wellbeing of the planet!!

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, Catherine Wright

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Chadwick
Last name: Wright
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Chadwick Wright and I live in Lewis Center, Ohio.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Chadwick Wright

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Charles
Last name: Wright
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Charles Wright and I live in Missoula, Montana.

Help prevent global warming by keeping the trees in the ground and ALIVE!

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Charles Wright

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Christopher
Last name: Wright
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, Christopher Wright

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Daniel
Last name: Wright
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.

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Regards, Daniel Wright

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Darcy
Last name: Wright
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Darcy Wright and I live in Vista, 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, Darcy Wright

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Dawn
Last name: Wright
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, Dawn Wright

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Diana
Last name: Wright
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.

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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, Diana Wright

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Don
Last name: Wright
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC5613

Dear U.S. Forest Service,

CC: Alaska Congressional Delegation and Federal Administration

I support the no-action alternative to leave the 2001 Roadless Rule in place on the Tongass National Forest. We must continue to phase out old-growth clear-cut logging and instead prioritize restoring degraded watersheds and fish streams that contribute to the growing fisheries and tourism-based economies of Southeast. To that end, please conserve the Tongass 77 and TNC priority areas in the final Roadless Rule.

Sincerely,

Comments: *(Eg: list locations you recreate, or why you value Tongass fish & wildlife)* [Text italicized for emphasis]

[Box unchecked] I would like to get more involved in the campaign!

*By taking this action, you are consenting to receive future communications via phone, text message, email, or mail from Sitka Conservation Society and its partners working to protect the Tongass. * [Text italicized for emphasis]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Emily
Last name: Wright
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Emily Wright and I live in Juneau, AK. My name is Emily Wright. Ive lived in Alaska for 7 years and plan on calling this home forever. I just had a daughter named Nola in May and I am looking forward to sharing the wild and untouched beauty of the Tongass rainforest with her. Its this raw beauty that made me fall in love with Alaska and want to stay. Im a registered nurse and hiking and being in nature is how I unwind from my high stress job. My family relies on the Tongass to hunt and fish for our food and the deer, the mountain goat, the ptarmigan and the bears need us to protect them because these animals need trees and cannot speak up for themselves. If we dont persevere these resources then future generations will not be able to partake in subsistence living as Alaskans have always done. I have seen the ugly effects of deforestation in the rest of the United States. Please preserve the wild beauty of the Tongass and do not take action on the roadless rule. Im writing this letter because as an Alaskan resident I value wilderness and I am hoping these places can be preserved for future generations like my daughters. Thank you. I am writing a comment on the Alaska Roadless Rule DEIS because I am concerned with how the Rule and the proposed full exemption will impact my fishing, hunting, subsistence harvesting, foraging for wild foods, the peace and solitude I find in nature, recreating, the status of the Tongass as a national and global treasure, the forest's ability to sequester carbon and mitigate climate change impacts, the conservation of resources for future generations .

Out of the alternatives described in the AKRR DEIS I support alternative 1: no action. It protects important fish and wildlife habitat from clearcutting and roadbuilding. I depend on roadless areas in the Tongass National Forest for healthy fish habitat, deer habitat and subsistence hunting, foraging and gathering wild foods, recreating and enjoying nature, carbon sequestration and local climate change mitigation, viewing wildlife, keeping public lands wild for future generations. A full exemption does not protect these values, nor does it effectively balance economic development and conservation of roadless area characteristics. A full exemption from the Roadless Rule and increased logging and roadbuilding will negatively impact the Tongass and what I and many others use and depend on the forest to provide for us.

The Roadless areas on the Tongass that are especially important to me are those on or around Admiralty Island, the northern mainland above Port Snettisham (around Juneau), Baranof Island, the central mainland from Hobart Bay to Stikine River, the southern mainland from Bradfield Canal to Dixon Entrance Kupreanof Island, Kuiu Island, Wrangell and Etolin Islands, Prince of Wales Island, Revillagigedo Island (near Ketchikan), Yakutat forelands, all of the inventoried roadless areas on the Tongass. I want the roadless areas in these locations to stay in roadless status in any alternative selected by the Forest Service, and be managed to provide for the uses and activities I listed above. It is important to me that the T77 and the TNC conservation priority areas retain their roadless protections.

I do not support the Forest Services preferred alternative of a full exemption. A full exemption is not in the interests of Southeast Alaskans who live in and use the Tongass National Forest, because Alaskans have always relied on subsistence living in wild places and need to continue to be allowed to do so. Keep the Tongass wild.. The State of Alaska says that a full exemption is needed for rural economic development opportunities. However, a full exemption would not help create more rural economic development opportunities, it would instead harm our existing rural economies that are based on the visitor industry and commercial fishing industry.

It would further harm rural economic opportunities because pursuing the same outdated economic model of old growth clearcut harvesting for export stifles innovation and possibility in other sectors, such as mariculture, sustainable young growth harvest, and rural agriculture. If the Forest Service wants to support rural economic

development, they should improve and streamline existing permitting processes for important community projects rather than rehashing old conflicts invest in creating and maintaining recreation infrastructure.

Again please persevere this wilderness so my daughter and other young Alaskans can continue to enjoy it.

I urge the Forest Service to prioritize the voices of Southeast Alaskans over those of our political representation and corporate interests. Choosing a full exemption will not create a long lasting, durable solution for roadless areas on the Tongass. It will only increase the legal challenges, uncertainty for businesses, and conflict on the Tongass going forward.

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/11/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Emma
Last name: Wright
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Emma Wright and I live in San Diego, 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, Emma Wright

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Fran
Last name: Wright
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, Fran Wright

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Fran
Last name: Wright
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.

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Regards, Fran Wright

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/5/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Geoffrey
Last name: Wright
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): 11/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Georgina
Last name: Wright
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Georgina Wright and I live in North Las Vegas, Nevada.

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, Georgina Wright

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Glenn
Last name: Wright
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Glenn Wright and I live in Waterford Township, Michigan.

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, Glenn Wright

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Harriet
Last name: Wright
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, Harriet Wright

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/10/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Jake
Last name: Wright
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): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: James
Last name: Wright
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, James Wright

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/12/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: James
Last name: Wright
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.
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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): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Jared
Last name: Wright
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
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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, Jared Wright

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Jimmy
Last name: Wright
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Jimmy Wright and I live in Keller, Texas.

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, Jimmy Wright

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/18/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: johanna
Last name: wright
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is johanna wright and I live in Encinitas, California.

Thank you for your immediate response and assistance, which is deeply meaningful for ourselves and future generations.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.

Regards, johanna wright

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/14/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Joshua
Last name: Wright
Organization: Mr.
Title:
Comments:
I am a 16-year-old long-time resident of the Pacific Northwest and a frequent visitor to the Tongass National Forest. The proposed rule changes, namely alternatives six, five, four, three and, two are not in the interests of biodiversity or climate stability. Additionally, they would hurt the region's tourism and fishing economies and damage the ways of life of subsistence gatherers. This proposed rule change is a travesty, opening up 9,000,000 acres of forest to industrial logging in an era of unprecedented biodiversity loss and global climate change is reckless, irresponsible and a betrayal of my generation. I fully support alternative one in this proposal. The no-action alternative is the only sane and responsible decision. I ask that the USDA take no action and all leave current protections fully in place.

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Joshua
Last name: Wright
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC1016

Dear Chief Christiansen,

I am a visitor to the lands and waters of Southeast Alaska. The Tongass National Forest is a large part of why I am here. Visitors like me come to witness the vast, beautiful stands of old-growth trees that can't be found on such a scale anywhere else in the United States. We come to crew on commercial fishing boats. We come to hunt, fish and hike in America's largest National Forest. That is why it is important to me that the 2001 Roadless Rule remain in place on the Tongass National Forest. A no-action alternative is the best option for Alaskans and Americans.

I support the Tongass Transition and I would like the Forest Service to continue phasing out old growth clearcutting. This forest is a salmon forest, and the Forest Service should focus on restoring degraded watersheds and fish streams. Please prioritize conservation of the T77 and TNC conservation priority areas in any new Alaska Roadless Rule. Tourism and commercial fishing are at the heart of Southeast's economy, not the antiquated timber industry.

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Justin
Last name: Wright
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): 10/18/2019 2:56:14 PM
First name: Katherine
Last name: Wright
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Comments to oppose modification to the Roadless Rule

Dear U.S. Forest Service,

The Roadless Rule helps protect old-growth habitat for birds like the Prince of Wales Spruce Grouse and Northern Goshawk, as well as for mammals like wolves and deer. Opening roadless areas to more logging and roads will fragment the forest and eliminate more of the big old trees that these animals rely on.

Yet, all of the action alternatives in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement allow more roadbuilding and logging across the Tongass National Forest. Logging roads and timber operations cost tens of millions of taxpayer dollars every year, with zero return on investment. Meanwhile, these destructive activities degrade the naturally sustainable wealth of salmon, wildlife watching, and tourism opportunities.

It is time to stop opening more and more acres to the timber industry and instead bolster protections to the old-growth forests and wild areas on the Tongass. I urge you to select the "No Action" Alternative (Alternative 1) and allow the Roadless Rule to remain intact on the Tongass National Forest.

Sincerely,
Katherine Wright
West Linn, OR 97068

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Katherine
Last name: Wright
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Katherine Wright and I live in Freeland, Washington.

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, Katherine Wright

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Katherine
Last name: Wright
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Katherine Wright and I live in West Linn, Oregon.

Our national parks are a legacy, not pollution sites!

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Katherine Wright

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Kathy
Last name: Wright
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Kathy Wright and I live in Aberdeen, North Carolina.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Kathy Wright

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Kenneth
Last name: Wright
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Kenneth Wright and I live in Santa Rosa, 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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Kenneth Wright

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: kerry
Last name: wright
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, kerry wright

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: kerry
Last name: wright
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.

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Regards, kerry wright

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/10/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: kimberly
Last name: wright
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is kimberly wright and I live in San Diego, 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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, kimberly wright

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/10/2019 6:29:34 PM
First name: Larry
Last name: Wright
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Lawrence Wright and I live in Sitka, AK. I was born in Sitka in 1954 and have lived here my entire life. I was raised by my grandfather, who was both a logger and a fisherman in his earlier years. I believe the current roadless rule is vitally necessary for the preservation of our old-growth forest and salmon fishing industry. Logging on watersheds, particularly those that feed into salmon streams threatens the most valuable renewable resource Alaska has; its salmon. I am writing a comment on the Alaska Roadless Rule DEIS because I am concerned with how the Rule and the proposed full exemption will impact my fishing, subsistence harvesting, recreating, the peace and solitude I find in nature, practicing my culture, the status of the Tongass as a national and global treasure, the forest's ability to sequester carbon and mitigate climate change impacts, the conservation of resources for future generations .

Out of the alternatives described in the AKRR DEIS I support alternative 1: no action. The rule is working fine as it is by balancing the conservation of our fish and wildlife habitat with important development projects.. I depend on roadless areas in the Tongass National Forest for healthy fish habitat, deer habitat and subsistence hunting, recreating and enjoying nature, practicing my culture, viewing wildlife, keeping public lands wild for future generations. A full exemption does not protect these values, nor does it effectively balance economic development and conservation of roadless area characteristics. A full exemption from the Roadless Rule and increased logging and roadbuilding will negatively impact the Tongass and what I and many others use and depend on the forest to provide for us.

The Roadless areas on the Tongass that are especially important to me are those on or around Baranof Island, Chichagof Island, Admiralty Island, all of the inventoried roadless areas on the Tongass. I want the roadless areas in these locations to stay in roadless status in any alternative selected by the Forest Service, and be managed to provide for the uses and activities I listed above. It is important to me that the T77 and the TNC conservation priority areas retain their roadless protections.

I do not support the Forest Services preferred alternative of a full exemption. A full exemption is not in the interests of Southeast Alaskans who live in and use the Tongass National Forest, because The current rule is working. If it aint broke, don't fix it.. The State of Alaska says that a full exemption is needed for rural economic development opportunities. However, a full exemption would not help create more rural economic development opportunities, it would instead harm our existing rural economies that are based on the visitor industry and commercial fishing industry.

It would further harm rural economic opportunities because pursuing the same outdated economic model of old growth clearcut harvesting for export stifles innovation and possibility in other sectors, such as mariculture, sustainable young growth harvest, and rural agriculture. If the Forest Service wants to support rural economic development, they should devote resources to support our fishing and visitor industries transition to second growth logging invest in creating and maintaining recreation infrastructure improve and streamline existing permitting processes for important community projects rather than rehashing old conflicts.

no

I urge the Forest Service to prioritize the voices of Southeast Alaskans over those of our political representation and corporate interests. Choosing a full exemption will not create a long lasting, durable solution for roadless areas on the Tongass. It will only increase the legal challenges, uncertainty for businesses, and conflict on the Tongass going forward.

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/10/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Lewis
Last name: Wright
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): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Linda
Last name: Wright
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Linda Wright and I live in Seattle, Washington.

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, Linda Wright

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Madeline
Last name: Wright
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, Madeline Wright

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/12/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Madeline
Last name: Wright
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Madeline Wright and I live in Los Angeles, 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, Madeline Wright

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/11/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Mary
Last name: Wright
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Mary Wright and I live in Columbus, Ohio.

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, Mary Wright

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Melinda
Last name: Wright
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, Melinda Wright

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Melinda
Last name: Wright
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Melinda Wright and I live in Brunswick, Maine.

Please keep our National Forests and other environmental resources protected.

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, Melinda Wright

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Nancy
Last name: Wright
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, Nancy Wright

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Nancy
Last name: Wright
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, Nancy Wright

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/10/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Nicole
Last name: Wright
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Nicole Wright and I live in Boston, Massachusetts.

The Tongass Forest is a treasure of the American people and critical to the animals who live there. It is vital to keep it intact and roadless for our climate. This proposal to roll back the Roadless Rule is extremely shortsighted. It will enrich a few at the expense of all. I strongly oppose it.

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, Nicole Wright

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: P.S.
Last name: Wright
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is P.S. Wright and I live in Pueblo, Colorado.

Nobody can live without water. Keep it clean.

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, P.S. Wright

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: pam
Last name: wright
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is pam wright and I live in Pasadena, California.

The Tongass belongs to the people...not to the lumber industry!

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, pam wright

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/7/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Perry
Last name: Wright
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): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: R
Last name: Wright
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, R Wright

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/13/2019 1:33:46 PM
First name: Rebecca
Last name: Wright
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Rebecca Wright and I live in Manistee, MI. I am writing a comment on the Alaska Roadless Rule DEIS because I am concerned with how the Rule and the proposed full exemption will affect the Tongass National Forest and the Chugach National Forest.

Once gone cannot return. Saving for future generations is not only a right but mandatory!

I urge the Forest Service to select Alternative 1, the no action alternative, for the final decision on the Alaska Roadless Rule. This alternative protects the inventoried roadless areas in Alaska that are full of pristine wilderness and provide important fish and wildlife habitat, and already allows for important community and economic development projects. As an American citizen, I value the Tongass National Forest and the Chugach National Forest for its status as America's best natural solution to climate change and its sequestering of millions of metric tons of carbon and mitigating climate change, its wild salmon populations and the world-class fishing opportunities, its huge swaths of intact ecosystems and all the biodiversity it contains, its status as the largest intact temperate rainforest in the world, the recreational opportunities it provides, the high density of incredible wildlife it contains, to keep public lands wild for future generations, its status as a national and global treasure, the lifestyles of the indigenous communities that the forest supports. A full exemption does not protect these priorities, nor does it effectively balance economic development with the countless other benefits provided by roadless areas. I would like the Forest Service to manage roadless areas for passiveactive watershed restoration (stream and habitat) to improvemaintain roadless characteristics (culvert removalreplacement, improve fish passage, wildlife thinning, etc). It is important to me that high-value intact habitat including the T77 watersheds and the TNC conservation priority areas retain their roadless protections in any alternative selected.

The Forest Service is wasting taxpayers' valuable time and money by trying to prop up a failing timber industry in Southeast Alaska. The nonpartisan, independent taxpayer watchdog Taxpayers for Common Sense reported that the Tongass timber program has losses of over $600 million of taxpayers money in the past 20 years. I would rather see my taxpayer dollars used to perform restorative actions that support wildlife populations on previously degraded landscapes that support wildlife populations. We need to stop subsidizing the clearcutting of old growth on the Tongass through taxpayer funded roadbuilding. If a full exemption were chosen, it would not create opportunities and would instead prioritize the special interests of one industry over the interests of the entire American public.

The Tongass is Americas homegrown natural solution to climate change. The forest sequesters 8% of the carbon stored in forests throughout the contiguous US states, some 3 billion metric tons of it. We must take action to mitigate and adapt to climate change, and maintaining the Tongass in a roadless state is critical for a sustainable future.

I urge the Forest Service to listen to the voices of the American people and prioritize them over corporate interests. The Forest Service should strengthen public involvement in developing land management policy and focus on broadly supported work rather than allowing special corporate interests to guide policy changes. Attempting to exempt inventoried roadless areas on the Chugach National Forest from the Alaska Roadless Rule adds further insult to injury, and this proposal has not received any sufficient environmental impact analysis or public input. Choosing a full exemption will not create a long lasting, durable solution for roadless areas in Alaska it will only increase the legal challenges, uncertainty for businesses, and conflict over these forests going forward.

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Richard
Last name: Wright
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC5147

U.S. Forest Service Alaska Roadless Rule Committee:

I support conservation and restoration of wildlife and fisheries in particular. Incremental steps in opening roadless areas and development are wrongheaded and shortsighted. "Gains" for humans have not proved beneficial fisheries anywhere. I hope to visit AK again soon and add to their economic wellbeing by contributing to the outdoor/fishing industry.

The Roadless Rule has been instrumental in conserving the Tongass National Forest and in supporting its fish and wildlife-based industries for more than 20 years. Please uphold the Rule's protections for important fish and wildlife areas, including the Tongass 77. 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,

Richard Wright

Bothell, WA 98011

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Rita
Last name: Wright
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Rita Wright and I live in Asbury Park, New Jersey.

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, Rita Wright

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/27/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Robert
Last name: Wright
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
The proposal to allow logging in the Tongass National Forest, specifically the old-growth portion, is an act which will impact future generations. Old-growth forests exhibit the highest amount of biodiversity and act as habitats for more species of animal than a new-growth forest. Given that there are countless acres dedicated to new-growth lumber and other logging activities, the old growth forests must be maintained in accordance with the Wilderness Act of 1964. This act declared that we must preserve areas where man himself is a visitor; where his works are unseen, and it must be left untrammelled.

The Tongass national forest also has special importance to indigenous persons. The nations largest national forest deserves to remain intact. The parcels removed from federal oversight and placed into private ownership must be reincorporated, and the entire area must be placed into protection as a national park, rather than a national forest. This distinction could generate more in annual tourism and conservation funding efforts than allowing the irreplaceable habitat to be destroyed for a little temporary profit.

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/10/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Robin
Last name: Wright
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Robin Wright and I live in Lawton, Oklahoma.

Our forests are important to our environment and wildlife. Leave them alone.

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, Robin Wright

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/10/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Seth
Last name: Wright
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): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Stephanie
Last name: Wright
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Appalling that old growth logging is even being considered given the abundance of "farm raised" new growth forests. Keep the Tongass Forest pristine...do not change current rules. The people who want economic development at the cost of degrading one of North America's last remaining old growth forests must seek opportunities elsewhere to provide the next generation an opportunity to at least know that old growth forests remain on this earth.

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Susan
Last name: Wright
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Susan Wright and I live in Crestline, Ohio.

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, Susan Wright

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/17/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Susan
Last name: Wright
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Susan Wright and I live in Bakersfield, 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, Susan Wright

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/14/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Susan
Last name: Wright
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Susan Wright and I live in Bakersfield, 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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Susan Wright

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: W
Last name: Wright
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is W Wright and I live in El Paso, Texas.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, W Wright

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Wendy
Last name: Wright
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, Wendy Wright

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Wendy
Last name: Wright
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
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Regards, Wendy Wright

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Kay
Last name: Wright-Kaiser
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Kay Wright-Kaiser and I live in Brainerd, Minnesota.

Must we destroy our entire planet in the name of greed?

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Kay Wright-Kaiser

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/10/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Gina
Last name: Writz
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Gina Writz and I live in Littleton, Colorado.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Gina Writz

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Gina
Last name: Writz
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.

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Regards, Gina Writz

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Bob
Last name: Wrobel
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Bob Wrobel and I live in Seven Hills, Ohio.

How will the public benefit by this opening of Federal (owned by the public) lands to these destructive uses? Will the benefits just be to private interests?

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.

Regards, Bob Wrobel

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: James
Last name: Wroble
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
keep the tongas roadless

Keep the Tongas roadless.

Thanks

James Wroble

Fort Bragg, CA 95437

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/7/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Leonard
Last name: Wroblewski
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): 10/21/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Darryl
Last name: Wrona
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Are you so afraid of this NAZI administration that you will help destroy the planet? THINK about your CHILDREN you fools

Dear U.S. Forest Service,

I strongly oppose the Forest Service's plan to eliminate "Roadless Rule" protections for the Tongass National Forest and urge you to select the "no action" alternative instead.

As you know the Tongass is America's wildest remaining national forest, with more than 9 million acres of roadless areas. And it's home to a wide range of wildlife, including Alexander Archipelago wolves, grizzly bears and salmon. It also stores a vast amount of carbon, with its centuries-old trees serving as a carbon-reserve life raft in this time of climate change. Logging releases most of that carbon into the atmosphere.

Your proposal to open the door to clearcutting and bulldozing is irresponsible and fundamentally threatens these values. The Tongass belongs to all Americans and shouldn't be sacrificed to the timber industry, which provides a small fraction of the jobs and income in Southeast Alaska compared to tourism and fishing - both of which rely on intact forests to thrive. It's even more important to save these last remaining roadless forests because your agency has fragmented and logged so much of our national forests, harming wildlife and waters along the way.

Further, I oppose your plan to allow the agency to open any of the 5 million acres of roadless areas on the Chugach National Forest to bulldozing and clearcutting for logging. This is simply a backdoor repeal of the 2001 Roadless Rule, which protects all roadless lands because of the critical role they play in protecting pure water, secure wildlife habitat and remote recreation.

Please - think of future generations by selecting the "no action" alternative to maintain "Roadless Rule" protections for the Tongass and Chugach.

Sincerely,

Darryl Wrona

Billings, MT

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/23/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Jonathan
Last name: Wrubel
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I object to the proposal to remove the roadless rule for the Tongass National Forest in Alaska. The United States must take a leadership role in addressing climate change and increasing logging in a old-growth forest is the last step we should take. We need to work with other countries with rain forest to decrease logging. We must lead by finding creative solutions to growing local economies while preserving irreplaceable natural carbon sinks. Please do not remove the roadless designation.

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/23/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Melissa
Last name: Wrzesien
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I'm concerned that lifting protections on the Tongass National Forest will have far-reaching negative consequences. Has a thorough study been done to assess how large-scale logging will impact atmospheric carbon dioxide? What will be local environmental impacts? Will boat traffic increase to move fallen trees? If so, has the impacts on the local wildlife been studied?

Perhaps most importantly, are local communities in favor of lifting protections? From my understanding, some parts of the forest are considered to be sacred to local tribes.

I do not support the expansion of logging. This is a region that should remain untouched by human exploitation.

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Marsha
Last name: Wterbury
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, Marsha Wterbury

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Kerry
Last name: Wtterstorm
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC5244

U.S. Forest Service Alaska Roadless Rule Committee:

I grew up on the West Coast, and visited Alaska with my father in my youth. Places such as Chugach and Tongass National Forest make Alaska the special place it is, so please keep the Roadless Rule in place!

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 more than 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,

Kerry K Wtterstorm

Millersville, PA 17551

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Blake
Last name: Wu
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Blake Wu and I live in Lafayette, 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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Blake Wu

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Carol
Last name: Wuchter
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.

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Regards, Carol Wuchter

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: THEODORE
Last name: WUERSLIN
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is THEODORE WUERSLIN and I live in Waukesha, Wisconsin.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, THEODORE WUERSLIN

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/10/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Linda
Last name: Wuethrich
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Linda Wuethrich and I live in Young Harris, Georgia.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Linda Wuethrich

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Carleen
Last name: Wuitschick
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
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Regards, Carleen Wuitschick

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Kristina
Last name: Wulbern
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Kristina Wulbern and I live in Flagstaff, Arizona.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Kristina Wulbern

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Maureen
Last name: Wulf
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
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Regards, Maureen Wulf

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Maureen
Last name: Wulf
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Maureen Wulf and I live in Hamden, Connecticut.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Maureen Wulf

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: C.
Last name: Wulff
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is C. Wulff and I live in Clayton, Missouri.

My grandchildren are drinking water polluted by coal ash ponds.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, C. Wulff

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/7/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Renee
Last name: Wulff
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): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Angie
Last name: Wulfow
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, Angie Wulfow

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Dana
Last name: Wullenwaber
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Dana Wullenwaber and I live in Redding, 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, Dana Wullenwaber

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Denise
Last name: Wunderlich
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. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone of their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.
The Tongass contains 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, Denise Wunderlich

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/3/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Jason
Last name: Wuoti
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): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Elizabeth
Last name: Wurdak
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, Elizabeth Wurdak

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Gloria
Last name: Wurst
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Gloria Wurst and I live in Ogden, Utah.

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, Gloria Wurst

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Gloria
Last name: Wurst
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, Gloria Wurst

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: William
Last name: Wurst
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.

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Regards, William Wurst

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/19/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: sean
Last name: wurster
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Opening the Tongass to logging is stupid. It should never be exempted from rules to regulate ooening of roads and development in an otherwise pristine forest. On top of it, why LOSE money logging?

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/10/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: William
Last name: Wurtz
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is William Wurtz and I live in New York, New York.

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, William Wurtz

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Sharon
Last name: Wushensky
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.

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Regards, Sharon Wushensky

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/10/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Sharon
Last name: Wushensky
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Sharon Wushensky and I live in Kennett Square, Pennsylvania.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Sharon Wushensky

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Sharon
Last name: Wushensky
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.

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Regards, Sharon Wushensky

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/23/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Jean
Last name: Wyamn
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Jean Wyamn and I live in Portland, Oregon.

Cut down your environment, and you'll be cut down.

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, Jean Wyamn

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Mary
Last name: Wyant
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Mary Jane Wyant and I live in Maryland.
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, Mary Wyant

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Mary
Last name: Wyant
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.
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 TAXPAYERS 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, Mary Wyant

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: James
Last name: Wyatt
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.

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Regards, James Wyatt

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Jennifer
Last name: Wyatt
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Jennifer Wyatt and I live in Seattle, Washington.

We have only one planet, this one.

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, Jennifer Wyatt

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/4/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Jill
Last name: Wyatt
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.
Please 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): 12/11/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Nathan
Last name: Wyatt
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.
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Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/10/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Rose
Last name: Wyatt
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Rose Wyatt and I live in Oldsmar, Florida.

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, Rose Wyatt

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/5/2019 8:28:03 PM
First name: Shae
Last name: Wyatt
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Shae Wyatt and I live in Kirkland, WA. I am writing a comment on the Alaska Roadless Rule DEIS because I am concerned with how the Rule and the proposed full exemption will affect the Tongass National Forest and the Chugach National Forest.

I care about the Tongass National Forest and want to protect it and the wildlife because public lands are key to environmental protections. We need to preserve land now in order to conserve it for our future.

I urge the Forest Service to select Alternative 1, the no action alternative, for the final decision on the Alaska Roadless Rule. This alternative protects the inventoried roadless areas in Alaska that are full of pristine wilderness and provide important fish and wildlife habitat, and already allows for important community and economic development projects. As an American citizen, I value the Tongass National Forest and the Chugach National Forest for its status as America's best natural solution to climate change and its sequestering of millions of metric tons of carbon and mitigating climate change, its huge swaths of intact ecosystems and all the biodiversity it contains, the high density of incredible wildlife it contains, to keep public lands wild for future generations, the lifestyles of the indigenous communities that the forest supports. A full exemption does not protect these priorities, nor does it effectively balance economic development with the countless other benefits provided by roadless areas. I would like the Forest Service to manage roadless areas for passiveactive watershed restoration (stream and habitat) to improvemaintain roadless characteristics (culvert removalreplacement, improve fish passage, wildlife thinning, etc). It is important to me that high-value intact habitat including the T77 watersheds and the TNC conservation priority areas retain their roadless protections in any alternative selected.

The Forest Service is wasting taxpayers' valuable time and money by trying to prop up a failing timber industry in Southeast Alaska. The nonpartisan, independent taxpayer watchdog Taxpayers for Common Sense reported that the Tongass timber program has losses of over $600 million of taxpayers money in the past 20 years. I would rather see my taxpayer dollars used to restore salmon habitat that was hurt by past logging practices, perform restorative actions that support wildlife populations on previously degraded landscapes that support wildlife populations, establish the economic value of the carbon stored in the Tongass. We need to stop subsidizing the clearcutting of old growth on the Tongass through taxpayer funded roadbuilding. If a full exemption were chosen, it would not create opportunities and would instead prioritize the special interests of one industry over the interests of the entire American public.

The Tongass is Americas homegrown natural solution to climate change. The forest sequesters 8% of the carbon stored in forests throughout the contiguous US states, some 3 billion metric tons of it. We must take action to mitigate and adapt to climate change, and maintaining the Tongass in a roadless state is critical for a sustainable future.

I urge the Forest Service to listen to the voices of the American people and prioritize them over corporate interests. The Forest Service should strengthen public involvement in developing land management policy and focus on broadly supported work rather than allowing special corporate interests to guide policy changes. Attempting to exempt inventoried roadless areas on the Chugach National Forest from the Alaska Roadless Rule adds further insult to injury, and this proposal has not received any sufficient environmental impact analysis or public input. Choosing a full exemption will not create a long lasting, durable solution for roadless areas in Alaska it will only increase the legal challenges, uncertainty for businesses, and conflict over these forests going forward.

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/11/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Matthew
Last name: Wyble
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Matthew Wyble and I live in Panama City, Florida.

Save all of are forests. And tax all corporations that exploit our natural resources and use that money to research sustainable alternatives and preserve restore what wilds we have left.

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.

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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, Matthew Wyble

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/20/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Doug
Last name: Wybourn
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
This is totatally irresponsible.It is almost like your are hooked up with Trump.That seems to be his method of complaing about one thing and the doing the total opposite.

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/10/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Paula
Last name: Wyche
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Paula Wyche and I live in Fort Worth, Texas.

We've all got to breathe.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Paula Wyche

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Kimberly
Last name: Wyke
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Kimberly Wyke and I live in Camden, Maine.

NOW!!!!

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Kimberly Wyke

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: G.
Last name: Wykes
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC863

Dear Secretary Perdue,

I am a visitor to the lands and waters of Southeast Alaska. The Tongass National Forest is a large part of why I am here. Visitors like me come to witness the vast, beautiful stands of old-growth trees that can't be found on such a scale anywhere else in the United States. We come to crew on commercial fishing boats. We come to hunt, fish and hike in America's largest National Forest. That is why it is important to me that the 2001 Roadless Rule remain in place on the Tongass National Forest. A no-action alternative is the best option for Alaskans and Americans.

I support the Tongass Transition and I would like the Forest Service to continue phasing out old growth clearcutting. This forest is a salmon forest, and the Forest Service should focus on restoring degraded watersheds and fish streams. Please prioritize conservation of the T77 and TNC conservation priority areas in any new Alaska Roadless Rule. Tourism and commercial fishing are at the heart of Southeast's economy, not the antiquated timber industry.

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Keri
Last name: Wykoff
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, Keri Wykoff

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Keri
Last name: Wykoff
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.

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Regards, Keri Wykoff

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: jak
Last name: wyld
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, jak wyld

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Caitlin
Last name: Wylde
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Caitlin Wylde and I live in Los Angeles, 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, Caitlin Wylde

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Caleb
Last name: Wylie
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I support 'No Action' alternative: Conserve the Roadless Rule in Alaska

Dear Comment Period Alaska Roadless Rule,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. Myself, friends, family and community are incredibly lucky to live in the Tongass and recreate, hunt, and fish year round. I support the No Action alternative. Please don't exempt the Tongass from the Roadless Rule. We should preserve, respect, and share out wild spaces and not turn them over to industry to make a short-sighted dollar.

Respectfully,

Caleb Wylie

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,

Caleb Wylie

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Mary
Last name: Wylie
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Mary Wylie and I live in Ballwin, Missouri.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Mary Wylie

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/11/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Scott
Last name: Wylie
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): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Silet
Last name: Wylie
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Silet Wylie and I live in Atlantic Beach, Florida.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Silet Wylie

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Elisabeth
Last name: Wyllie
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Elisabeth Wyllie and I live in Beaverton, Oregon.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Elisabeth Wyllie

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/23/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Janet
Last name: Wyllie
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Janet Wyllie and I live in Vallejo, California.

We must protect OUR public lands.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Janet Wyllie

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Connor
Last name: Wyman
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, Connor Wyman

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First name: Connor
Last name: Wyman
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
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Regards, Connor Wyman

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Lawrence
Last name: Wyman
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Lawrence Wyman and I live in Gig Harbor, Washington.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Lawrence Wyman

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Mark
Last name: Wyman
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
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Regards, Mark Wyman

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Caela
Last name: Wynd
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.

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Regards, Caela Wynd

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Caela
Last name: Wynd
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
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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, Caela Wynd

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Caela
Last name: Wynd
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
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Regards, Caela Wynd

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Carol
Last name: Wyndham
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Carol Wyndham and I live in Peterborough, New Hampshire.

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, Carol Wyndham

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/5/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Clay
Last name: Wynn
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
The State of Alaska's Petition to remove the Roadless rule is a blatant state land grab to remove protections and destroy the beautiful forest that we the federal tax payer have subsidized for years.

Our public lands are for our heritage and for those yet unborn as Teddy Roosevelt. The fact we are even considering stripping them bare for a tiny economic boost is disgraceful, and should NOT be continued. Please continue with Alternative 1, and leave Alaska in its wild and pristine state.

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/11/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Dianna
Last name: Wynn
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Dianna Wynn and I live in Silver City, New Mexico.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Dianna Wynn

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Peggy
Last name: Wynn
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Peggy Wynn and I live in Hendersonville, North Carolina.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Peggy Wynn

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Scott
Last name: Wynn
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Scott Wynn and I live in New York, New York.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Scott Wynn

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Tina
Last name: Wynn
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
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Regards, Tina Wynn

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Janet
Last name: Wynne
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
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Regards, Janet Wynne

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Janet
Last name: Wynne
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Janet Wynne and I live in Bellingham, Washington.

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, Janet Wynne

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Barbara
Last name: Wynroth
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Barbara Wynroth and I live in Burlington, Vermont.

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Barbara Wynroth

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Susan
Last name: Wyoral
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Susan Wyoral and I live in Duxbury, Massachusetts.

No roads, "No Action" through Tongass National Forest. Please!

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Susan Wyoral

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: margo
Last name: wyse
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is margo wyse and I live in Hanover, New Mexico.

trump NEEDS TO BE IMPEACED! HE IS RESPONSIBLE FOR TURNING THIS ONCE BEAUTIFUL PLANET INTO A BLEAK TOXIC WASTE SITE!!!!!

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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.

Regards, margo wyse

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Allan
Last name: Wysocki
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Allan Wysocki and I live in Glen Rock, Pennsylvania.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Allan Wysocki

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/5/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Lukas
Last name: Wyss
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): 12/10/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Luke
Last name: Wyss
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
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