Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: A.
Last name: T.
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

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

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

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Deborah
Last name: T.
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- 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, Deborah T.

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

Do the right thing. Protect ourselve by protecting 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, Greg T

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: John
Last name: T
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is John T 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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, John T

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: M
Last name: T
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is M T and I live in South Milwaukee, 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, M T

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

Clear cutting our forests has been proven to cause more ecological damage and to cause more extreme wilfires.

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

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Sara
Last name: T
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Sara T 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, Sara T

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/1/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: David
Last name: T Parrella M D
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: Chris
Last name: Tabacca
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 8:25:09 PM
First name: Linda
Last name: Tabb
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 Tongass National Forest needs to remain roadless. We need to protect this Forest for aid against global warming and conservation of bird and wildlife habitat.
SAVE THE TONGASS NATIONAL FOREST FOR THE NEXT GENERATION.

Sincerely,
Linda Tabb
North Hills, CA 91343

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Linda
Last name: Tabb
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

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

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

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

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Aude
Last name: Tabet
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- 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, Aude Tabet

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Laura
Last name: Tabili
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- 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, Laura Tabili

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/18/2019 6:18:07 PM
First name: Jean
Last name: Tabin
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 Tabin
Park City, UT 84098

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

Only 1-2% of old growth forests remain from what I understand. We can not allow them to be lost.

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

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

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

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Brittany
Last name: Tabler
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- 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, Brittany Tabler

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

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

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Regards, Karen Tablish

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: WILLIAM
Last name: TABOR
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is WILLIAM TABOR and I live in Duluth, 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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Any choice but the No Action alternative would also put wildlife and critical habitat at risk, threaten access to clean water, and be a step in the wrong direction on climate change jeopardizing Alaskans at a time when the state already faces severe challenges related to rising temperatures. I urge you not to abandon the Roadless Rule in Alaska and instead 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 TABOR

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

We must stop the 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, Linda Tabor-Beck

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Linda
Last name: Tabor-Beck
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

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

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

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Carol
Last name: Taccetta
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Carol Taccetta and I live in Thousand Oaks, 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, Carol Taccetta

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Janet
Last name: Tache
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
PLEASE support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on 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 Presidents plan is yet another attack from the his administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the HEART, THE BACKBONE to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear. It would be so unfair!!!

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

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

Thank you for heeding the warning, and taking care of our indigenous peoples and our few roadless forests and wildernesses. Our planet and wildlife will thank you too.

Regards, Janet Tache

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Janet
Last name: Tache
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Janet Tache and I live in Penn Valley, California.

And stop spraying coal ash from airplanes in the sky to mitigate 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.

OVER AND OVER, THROUGH THE YEARS, WE HAVE FOUGHT TO SAVE THE ALASKAN WILDERNESS. ONCE AGAIN, I ASK YOU TO STAND WITH US AND FOR WILD CREATURES.

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

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

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Jonathan
Last name: Tachibana
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Jonathan Tachibana 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, Jonathan Tachibana

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Jonathan
Last name: Tachibana
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

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

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

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

Stop the polluting of our air. Our children are dying.

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

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

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

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/12/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Greg
Last name: Tackett
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: Jill
Last name: Tackett
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

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

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

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

stupid is as stupid does. this administration is really stupid and dangerous to our health and safety.

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

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

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

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Mary
Last name: Taddiken
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

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

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

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/11/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Jason
Last name: Tady
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 12:00:00 AM
First name: Daela
Last name: Taeoalii-Tipton
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Daela Taeoalii-tipton and I live in Salt Lake City, UT. 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 a critical space for wildlife and carbon storage. We should be managing public lands with more foresight for how we can safeguard natural resources, not exploit them!

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, 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): 11/7/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Brent
Last name: Taft
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 12:00:00 AM
First name: Mattthew
Last name: taft
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Mattthew taft and I live in Dayton, Ohio.

Do not repeal any part of the roadless rule. The Tongass must be preserved as it is. The earth needs that rainforest more than some corporation needs more profits from destroying the environment and contributing to global warming. I am a registered republican and I will do my best to see every one of them voted out of office if this is allowed. Matthew Taft

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

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

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

Thank you for considering my comments.

Regards, Mattthew taft

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Richard
Last name: Tagaban
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC4877

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 weaver who heavily relies on the health & well being of the 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): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Ricky
Last name: Tagaban
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC6191

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]

Haa at.x?ayi aa *K*[text underlined for emphasis] ustiy?e*X*[text underlined for emphasis] sitee-

our food *is*[text underlined for emphasis] our way of life. The forest & the fish feed our souls. It's worth protecting.

Sincerely,

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

Yes *No*[Text circled]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/11/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: ann
Last name: tagawa
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is ann tagawa 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, ann tagawa

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Alexandra
Last name: Tager
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

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

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

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/10/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Denise
Last name: Taggart
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Protect the Tongass and Chugach national forests

Dear Secretary Perdue,

I have done sea kayaking in the Tongass, and I want to express my bitter disappointment with the U.S. Forest Service's proposed Alaska Roadless Rule and associated draft environmental impact statement.

I cannot believe that anyone thinks the proposed management plan to open vast tracts of America's remaining ancient forest to logging and road building is appropriate for this national jewel.

We are privileged that 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.

We need roadless area protections to sustain southeast Alaska's ancient forests, including specimens like the thousand-year-old sitka spruce, the western hemlock, and the western red cedar.

As if we haven't screwed over Native Americans and First Nation people enough, this draft would negatively impact the

tribal communities' ability for traditional uses of the Tongass dating back thousands of years.

Endangerment of endemic species including brown bears, wolves, eagles, black-tailed deer, and world-class salmon habitat that supports commercial and recreational fisheries would also result.

As a fan of wild Alaskan salmon, I am also severely concerned about the impact on the salmon harvest, given that the

Tongass produces 25 percent of the entire West Coast's annual salmon harvest, an estimated industry of $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

Alaska represents the great frontier of America, and the Tongass is near and dear to those of us who have had the incredible privilege of experiencing its magnificent beauty. We want to insure that those who come behind us are able to do so as well.

Stop the rollback of the important 2001 national Roadless Rule in Alaska. We need to be good stewards of God's natural wilderness, and the beauty that the National Forest program was invented to preserve for all. Protect the Tongass and Chugach national forests!

Sincerely,

Denise Taggart

Atlanta, Georgia

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Kathleen
Last name: Taggart
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

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

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

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Therese
Last name: Tague
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

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

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

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/18/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Albert
Last name: Tahhan
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Wild Alaska!

[Position]

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

I strongly oppose efforts to roll back the Roadless Area Conservation Rule (Roadless Rule) in Alaska or elsewhere. The Roadless Rule was implemented with unprecedented public support to protect some of our nations most pristine public lands, including large parts of the Tongass National Forest. You must choose the No Action alternative. Any other choice would ignore overwhelming public support and harm Alaskans, including Alaska Natives, and taxpayers across the nation.
In Southeast Alaska, tourism accounts for 28% of employment and generate an annual $1 billion in economic benefit, making it far more of an economic driver than the timber industry, which is less than 1% of the regional economy.
Any choice but the No Action alternative would also put wildlife and critical habitat at risk, threaten access to clean water, and be a step in the wrong direction on climate change jeopardizing Alaskans at a time when the state already faces severe challenges related to rising temperatures. I urge you not to abandon the Roadless Rule in Alaska and instead 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 Taiani

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/12/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Tom
Last name: Taicher
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: Shirley
Last name: Tail
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

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

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

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/24/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Line
Last name: Taillade
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Line Taillade and I live in Hope, [@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, Line Taillade

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/5/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Anon
Last name:
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Please maintain protections for the Tongass and Chugach National Forests

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. PLEASE keep 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.

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. It also saves untold millions of taxpayer dollars that might otherwise be spent to subsidize money-losing timber sales. I know you disregard the reality of human caused climate change, though I wonder if you are really that immune to scientific facts. Another fact is that one of the best carbon sinks is UNCUT old forest.

The value of the Roadless Rule in preventing environmentally damaging and 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,

Signed,

Taina

[Position]

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

Our environment is our only home. We need to treat it with ultimate respect.

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

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

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

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

Devastation of Wildlife, mud slides and run off soil. Use common sense, 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.

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

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

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/12/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Richard
Last name: Takagi
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Richard Takagi and I live in Fullerton, 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 Takagi

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Sue
Last name: Takaichi
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Sue Takaichi and I live in Los Gatos, 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, Sue Takaichi

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/16/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Julie
Last name: Takatsch
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Julie Takatsch and I live in Port Jervis, New York.

Old growth forests help to regulate the climate of this planet; we have no where to go if we 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, Julie Takatsch

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Alison
Last name: Takeo
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

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

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

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Monica
Last name: Takiguchi
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Monica Takiguchi and I live in Honolulu, Hawaii.

The more forests destroyed will increase the rise in climate temperatures, deplete our valuable and beautiful resources as well as being detrimental to wildlife. Bottom line means a quicker demise for all of 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, Monica Takiguchi

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/18/2019 3:43:27 PM
First name: Kathie
Last name: Takush
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,
Kathie E Takush
Reading, PA 19602

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

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/21/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: gary
Last name: talano
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is gary talano and I live in Westwood, 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, gary talano

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Susan
Last name: Talansky
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

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

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

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Gary
Last name: Talavera
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

The Tongass contains some of the largest intact old-growth temperate rainforest in the world, and its value in providing clean water for fish and wildlife habitat is essential to the economic and ecological 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, Gary Talavera

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 1/1/0001 12:00:00 AM
First name: Nina
Last name: Talawva
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: Nina
Last name: Talawva
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC1206

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: Nina
Last name: Talawva
Organization:
Title:
Comments:

Dear Secretary Perdue,

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Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 1/1/0001 12:00:00 AM
First name: Nina
Last name: Talawva
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: Nina
Last name: Talawva
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): 12/13/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Nina
Last name: Talawva
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC463

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?

Nina Talawva

Ketchikan, downtown

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.

ALL.

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

Recreation, mental health and education

Retreat, closeness to nature and teaching my small children respect for nature.

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.

Conservative, least minimal impact

Additional comments for the Forest Service:

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Nina Talawva

I want to receive a copy of the Draft Environmental Statement

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Michael
Last name: Talbert
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Michael Talbert and I live in Charlotte, North Carolina.

Please take care of this important issue. The protection of US citizens from harmful chemicals is a bipartisan issue.

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

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

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

[Position]

[Position]

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

Stop cutting 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, Edward talbot

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

protect the environment 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, Jane Talbot

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

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/12/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Chris
Last name: Talbot-Heindl
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Chris Talbot-Heindl 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 Talbot-Heindl

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Ardith
Last name: Talbott
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

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

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

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

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

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Barbara
Last name: Talcroft
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- 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 Talcroft

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Val
Last name: Talento
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Val Talento 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, Val Talento

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Michelle
Last name: Talhami
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- 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, Michelle Talhami

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

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

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

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

Please be mindful of the future of our grandchildren and 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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Roberta Taliaferro

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Joseph
Last name: Talianek
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC3156

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,

Joseph Talianek

Allentown, PA 18104

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 1/1/0001 12:00:00 AM
First name: Joseph
Last name: Talianek
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC3264

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,
Joseph Talianek
Allentown, PA 18104

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 1/1/0001 12:00:00 AM
First name: Joseph
Last name: Talianek
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
3156

U.S. Forest Service Alaska Roadless Rule
Comment Period

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Sincerely,
Joseph Talianek
Allentown, PA 18104

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Mason
Last name: Talkington
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: Wendy
Last name: Talkington
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Wendy Talkington and I live in Rosenberg, 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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Any choice but the No Action alternative would also put wildlife and critical habitat at risk, threaten access to clean water, and be a step in the wrong direction on climate change jeopardizing Alaskans at a time when the state already faces severe challenges related to rising temperatures. I urge you not to abandon the Roadless Rule in Alaska and instead 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 Talkington

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/18/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Thomas
Last name: Tallant
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC228

October 24, 2019

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am writing to voice my opposition to the lifting of Federal protections on the Tongass National Forest. No draft environmental impact statement can justify logging or other activities that damage the ecosystem of the Tongass.

Lifting the Roadless Rule enacted in 2001 will at minimum destroy 165,000 acres of old-growth and 20,000 acres of young-growth timber lands. Furthermore, millions of acres of fragile forest land will become threatened by lifting the rule and allowing logging and other ecology-damaging activities in the forest. The 17 million acres of the Tongass compromise a huge carbon sink that holds 8% of all carbon stored in the U.S. national forests. This resource protects our environment from climate change.

The Roadless Rule should be left in place to protect wildlife habitat, recreation, and industries such as fishing and tourism. These habitats, activities, and businesses will bring far more economic benefit to Alaska than the destruction of singularly rare and fragile forest land and wildlife habitats will.

I urge you to follow sound ecological sense and policy and to not exempt the Tongass from the Roadless Rule. Keep the Tongass National Forest safe from those who would destroy it.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Thomas Tallant

[Position]

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

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Tracye
Last name: Tallent
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

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

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

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Judy
Last name: Talley
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- 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, Judy Talley

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/10/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Kendall
Last name: Talley
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: Larry
Last name: Talley
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Larry Talley and I live in Homer, Louisiana.

There are some areas in the world that should not be tampered with under any circumstances. This is one of those.

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

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

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

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/10/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Sam
Last name: Talley
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): 11/10/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Sam
Last name: Talley
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
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Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/11/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Steve
Last name: Talley
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: Dr.
Last name: Tallman
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

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

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

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/11/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Michael
Last name: Tallman
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): 11/13/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Scott
Last name: Tallman
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Scott Tallman 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, Scott Tallman

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Stella
Last name: Tallmon
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC6370

Hello!

My name is Stella Tallmon. I'm 17 and have liven in Juneau all my life, and although I don't go into roadless areas very often, It's still important to me that ecosystems there remain undisturbed. We must save the Tongass and that is why I request a no-action alternative to the Roadless Rule.

Thank you!

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Patrick
Last name: Tally
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Patrick Tally and I live in Boston, Massachusetts.

Please stick to the roadless rule. The introduction of roads would impact the entire landscape. It's opposed by locals and the science.

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

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/12/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Brad
Last name: Talmage
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Honestly, would you be proud to tell your grand children or great grand children that you allowed this to happen under your tenure? Would you rather tell them that you helped to protect these areas? The areas that make the United States of America truly unique in this world?

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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[position]

[position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Alexandra
Last name: Talovich
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- 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, Alexandra Talovich

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

The one thing that we have that other countries have little or non is truly wild places. We are the envy of the world. People come from all over the world to see and experience our wild places. Let's protect our heritage and keep it that 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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.

Regards, Grace Tam

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Helen
Last name: Tam-Semmens
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
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Regards, Helen Tam-Semmens

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Helen
Last name: Tam-Semmens
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
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Regards, Helen Tam-Semmens

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/11/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Akiko
Last name: Tamano
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Akiko Tamano 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, Akiko Tamano

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/23/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Michael
Last name: Tamarack
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Michael Tamarack and I live in Tucson, Arizona.

Don't sell our soul for some pieces of silver. Save our wild 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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Michael Tamarack

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Bonnie
Last name: Tamblyn
Organization: NA
Title:
Comments:
To the Forest Service,As a US citizen, and taxpayer, I request that the forests remain protected from logging and development. The trees are our hope for the future battle against climate change. No money or commerce can be worth the destruction of our environment and the future of our children. We need more trees, not less.

Respectfully, Bonnie Tamblyn

[Position]

[Position]

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

We need to save our mother earth, before its too late.

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

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

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

Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Nawal Tamimi

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/12/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Troy
Last name: Tamminga
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 7:48:08 PM
First name: Sherry
Last name: Tamone
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Sherry Tamone and I live in Auke Bay, Alaska. I have been here 21 years and am a professor at the University of Alaska SE. I love hiking and foraging for berries and mushrooms and I love the smell of nature 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 healthy fish habitat, foraging and gathering wild foods, deer habitat and subsistence hunting, 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 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 We have got to start looking to a sustainable future!!! Fish and wildlife and our wild lands contribute more than we can quantify monetarily.. 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): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Kristen
Last name: Tan
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Kristen Tan 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, Kristen Tan

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Toni
Last name: Tan
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: Kathleen
Last name: Tandy
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Kathleen Tandy and I live in Oakland, California.

Trees protect our planet from 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, Kathleen Tandy

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/18/2019 3:13:06 PM
First name: Kathleen
Last name: Tandy
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.

Modification of the Roadless Rule is absolutely the wrong thing to do! We have very few truly wild places left in the world and we need to protect them, all of them.

Sincerely,
Kathleen Tandy
Oakland, CA 94611

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Kathleen
Last name: Tandy
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

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

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

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Binh
Last name: Tang
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

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

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

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Robert
Last name: Tang
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Do not open for logging. This is one of the few wild places in the US where, public land hunters have access to millions of acres. Teddy Roosevelt would never open a national treasure to exploitation.

[Positon]

[Positon]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/11/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Vicky
Last name: Tang
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Vicky Tang 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, Vicky Tang

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/14/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: J
Last name: Tangen
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Comments on Application of Roadless Rule to the Tongass National Forest

Please see attached.

Regards,

J. P. Tangen

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

J. P. Tangen

Attorney at Law (P.C.)

Hansville, WA 98340

December 14, 2019

Alaska Roadless Rule

U.S. Forest Service

Box 21628

Juneau, AK 99802-1628

Re: Application of Roadless Rule to the Tongass National

The Tongass National Forest should be fully exempt from the national Roadless Rule because the majority of the forest is already permanently set aside from timber harvesting and other development activities are difficult to achieve at best. Mining, energy development, and community access are severely inhibited by the Roadless Rule.

The National Forest Management Act planning regulations are the proper way to manage the remaining areas on the Tongass as a multiple-use forest. Exempting the Tongass from the Roadless Rule will not harm the region's fisheries. Fish habitat is fully protected in the national forest.

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) records show that salmon populations have doubled in the region since timber harvesting began in the mid-1950s. This could not have happened if logging had harmed the fish habitat. 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.

Most outdoor recreation on the forest takes place in or near the previously harvested areas because of the access provided by logging roads.

Timber harvesting has not impacted the tourism industry. Visitation to the region has sharply increased over the past 20 years. The forest products industry needs a larger timber supply in order to restore more year-around jobs and to help build stronger local communities and diversify the Southeast Alaska economy.

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.

The Preferred Alternative would allow forest managers to tap parts of the forest where logging could be more cost-effective. That, in turn, would help local sawmills and boost the economy in Southeast Alaska. Some proponents of the Roadless Rule claim that the timber program on the Tongass costs taxpayers too much. In truth, the agency gets more in revenue than it spends in the areas that are harvested.

Environmental appeals and litigation have resulted in the loss of more than a third of all timber sales that were prepared since the Roadless Rule was administratively imposed. Roughly two-thirds of all remaining timber sale projects are never sold. These abandoned sales represent a loss to the taxpayers, but the timber sales that are allowed to go forward provide a significant positive revenue for the federal government and provide a lot of local economic activity.

If you have any questions about the foregoing, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

J.P. Tangen, Attorney at Law (P.C.)

By:

[signature]

J.P. Tangen

[Position]

J. P. Tangen
Attorney at Law (P.C.)

Hansville, WA 98340
December 14, 2019

Alaska Roadless Rule
U.S. Forest Service
Box 21628
Juneau, AK 99802-1628

Re: Application of Roadless Rule to the Tongass National

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Environmental appeals and litigation have resulted in the loss of more than a third of all timber sales that were prepared since the Roadless Rule was administratively imposed. Roughly two-thirds of all remaining timber sale projects are never sold. These abandoned sales represent a loss to the taxpayers, but the timber sales that are allowed to go forward provide a significant positive revenue for the federal government and provide a lot of local economic activity.

If you have any questions about the foregoing, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,
J. P. Tangen, Attorney at Law (P.C.)

By: _____
J. P. Tangen

J. P. Tangen
Attorney at Law (P.C.)
Hansville, WA 98340

J. P. Tangen
Attorney at Law (P.C.)

Hansville, WA 98340
December 14, 2019

Alaska Roadless Rule
U.S. Forest Service
Box 21628
Juneau, AK 99802-1628

Re: Application of Roadless Rule to the Tongass National

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The National Forest Management Act planning regulations are the proper way to manage the remaining areas on the Tongass as a multiple-use forest. Exempting the Tongass from the Roadless Rule will not harm the region's fisheries. Fish habitat is fully protected in the national forest.

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) records show that salmon populations have doubled in the region since timber harvesting began in the mid-1950s. This could not have happened if logging had harmed the fish habitat. 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.

Most outdoor recreation on the forest takes place in or near the previously harvested areas because of the access provided by logging roads.

Timber harvesting has not impacted the tourism industry. Visitation to the region has sharply increased over the past 20 years. The forest products industry needs a larger timber supply in order to restore more year-around jobs and to help build stronger local communities and diversify the Southeast Alaska economy.

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.

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outcomes, including an annual harvest level of 45 million board feet, which is considered very conservative.

The Preferred Alternative would allow forest managers to tap parts of the forest where logging could be more cost-effective. That, in turn, would help local sawmills and boost the economy in Southeast Alaska. Some proponents of the Roadless Rule claim that the timber program on the Tongass costs taxpayers too much. In truth, the agency gets more in revenue than it spends in the areas that are harvested.

Environmental appeals and litigation have resulted in the loss of more than a third of all timber sales that were prepared since the Roadless Rule was administratively imposed. Roughly two-thirds of all remaining timber sale projects are never sold. These abandoned sales represent a loss to the taxpayers, but the timber sales that are allowed to go forward provide a significant positive revenue for the federal government and provide a lot of local economic activity.

If you have any questions about the foregoing, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,
J. P. Tangen, Attorney at Law (P.C.)

By: _____
J. P. Tangen

J. P. Tangen
Attorney at Law (P.C.)
Hansville, WA 98340

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: J.P.
Last name: Tangen
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
RE: ROADLESS RULE UPDATE

In case you need additional encouragement, here's what the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental studies has to say:

https://e360.yale.edu/features/let-it-be-why-we-must-save-alaskas-pristine-tongass-forest

Regards,

J. P. Tangen

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Anna
Last name: Tangi
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

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

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

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/31/2019 12:16:55 PM
First name: John
Last name: Tangney
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is John Tangney and I live in Happy Valley, Oregon. I do come to Alaska for photo trips. I especially come for the wildlife. I am very concerned about plans for the Tongass that could jeopardize the area due to the wildlife, and salmon it supports, and also because of its potential impact on 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, 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 4: 'roadless' Priority. 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 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 The exemption would provide short term dollars for a few while harming many.. 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.

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): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: DJ
Last name: Tanguay
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

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

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

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/25/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: James
Last name: Tanis
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: James
Last name: Tanis
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: Marge
Last name: Taniwaki
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Marge Taniwaki and I live in Denver, Colorado.

For the sake of humanity, you must reject any weakening of protections regarding 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.

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

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

Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Marge Taniwaki

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Molly
Last name: Tankersley
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Molly Tankersley and I live in Juneau, AK. I came to southeast Alaska two years ago, and stayed for its beauty and wildness. Hiking and exploring the forest and coasts is part of my daily routine, and I wouldn't be the person I am if it wasn't for my connection to this land. I depend on the forest to forage wild foods, enjoy it's beauty with friends, and as a piece of a relatively undisturbed landscape that is like nowhere is in the country. The forest nurtures rich soils and provides habitat to the wildlife that visitors come from across the world to see. I work at a research center, and the scientific value of this ecosystem to the global carbon budget is significant. 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 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 the northern mainland above Port Snettisham (around Juneau), 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 endangers the unique qualities that make southeast Alaska the place that its residents love. It also endangers the industries that we rely on, including tourism and fisheries. Once more of the Tongass is opened up for more access, we will begin the irreversible process of destroying one of the last holdouts of wilderness and large scale climate mitigation in the nation. 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.

[Position]

[Position]

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

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Bridgette
Last name: Tannehill
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Bridgette Tannehill and I live in Bull Shoals, Arkansas.

This is so wrong! One of the very few pristine forests left and the greedy, money grubbing timber industry wants to destroy it. This just cant happen. Is nothing sacred in this country anymore?

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

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

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

Thank you for considering my comments.

Regards, Bridgette Tannehill

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Brennan
Last name: Tanner
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC1377

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: Brennan
Last name: Tanner
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: Brennan
Last name: Tanner
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): 1/1/0001 12:00:00 AM
First name: Brennan
Last name: Tanner
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: Brennan
Last name: Tanner
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): 11/7/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Bryan
Last name: Tanner
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 12:00:00 AM
First name: Charlotte
Last name: Tanner
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Please do not remove the Tongass National Forest from the Roadless designation. I have lived in Alaska for 50 years and seen the degradation of this forest over the years. There is no viable timber industry, there are not enough trees left to support one. What trees are left are needed for the health, and peach of mind, of the people living and future generations.

Thank you for reading my comments. (this is only the one hundredth time I have commented on this subject, I sincerely hope it will be the last)

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/13/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Danelle
Last name: Tanner
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC362

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.

Sincerely,

Danelle Tanner

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Dante
Last name: Tanner
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

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

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

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/20/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Dawn
Last name: Tanner
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
The move to open up the Tongass to logging pressure and remove protections that are in place to maintain the ecosystem function, rare and endangered species, and watershed health is irresponsible and reprehensible.

This is yet another move by the current administration to remove environmental protections and weaken environmental policy to benefit commercial interests. The value of the Tongass National Forest far surpasses a simple, short-sighted economic return for lumber. The value that this forest provides includes ecosystem services and carbon sequestration. Alaska is already experiencing extreme changes that are a consequence of climate change. Additional protections for important habitat areas like the Tongass should be added and considered priority; not weakened and removed.

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Emalea
Last name: Tanner
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC6322

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,

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

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Gail
Last name: Tanner
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

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

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

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Hanna
Last name: Tanner
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC6323

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]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/10/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: James
Last name: Tanner
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is James Tanner 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.

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

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

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Jeanne
Last name: Tanner
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

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

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

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: JOHN
Last name: TANNER
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I oppose the opening of the Tongass forest to exploitation and eventual destruction. It is emblematic of what the Trumpists are doing to this country. If you allow this to happen your soul is surely a void. Perhaps that is too harsh ,but not by much.

[Position]

[Position]

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

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

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Mary
Last name: Tanner
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

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

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

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Mary
Last name: Tanner
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.
The Tongass contains some of the largest intact old-growth temperate rainforest in the world, and its value in providing clean water for fish and wildlife habitat is essential to the economic and ecological 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, Mary Tanner

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Nancy
Last name: Tanner
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC3565

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,

Nancy Tanner

Grand Junction, CO 81507

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 1/1/0001 12:00:00 AM
First name: Nancy
Last name: Tanner
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
3565

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,
Nancy Tanner
Grand Junction, CO 81507

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Rob
Last name: Tanner
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

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

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

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Theresa
Last name: Tanner
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I strongly oppose eliminating the roadless area protections in the Tongass National Forest. First, I believe that the current NEPA process has been predetermined by Secretary Perdue. Second, I do not believe that lifting the roadless rule is in the best interest of the American public or the Tongass NF ecosystem. Reopening these NFS lands to logging will damage two of Alaska's biggest economic industries, tourism and fisheries, both of which are sustainable and generate income for many, many individuals and communities across Southeast Alaska. Additionally, as a tax payer, I am opposed to subsidizing the high costs incurred by timber operations for roads and timber sales administration; taxpayers are already paying a steep price to restore watersheds previously damaged by logging operations. As a long-time resident of Alaska, I believe it is more important to prioritize protecting and sustaining the Forest's salmon resource and its habitat for future generations. As a Federal subsistence fisher and hunter, it is crucial that I and others like me have access to intact, healthy watersheds that will continue to produce food for our households and provide wild spaces for recreation. Removing the roadless rule will jeopardize an irreplaceable resource - one of the world's last intact temperate rainforests - for future generations.

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Thomas
Last name: Tanner
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
We need to honor real, accepted, science - not just look around for whatever rejected study seems to support what we want to do.

This is a travestry - as is the study they claim supports this nonsense.

Stop this logging.

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: WARREN
Last name: TANNER
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

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

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

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/13/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Wendy
Last name: Tanner
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC367

Dear Chief Christiansen,

Alaska's Tongass National Forest is part of the lungs of the planet. It is critical that we preserve the nature in order to provide habitat & healing.

We must preserve what we have left.

[Signature]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Lisa
Last name: Tansey
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Hello,

I have just heard that rules prohibiting road development and logging in the Tongass National Forest may be relaxed or eliminated.

This is a wrong action for at least two reasons.

1) these forests are of immense intrinsic value as they are - producing oxygen for all animals who need it, including ourselves, protecting fish habitats, sequestering carbon, and habitat for many other creatures pushed out of other areas already by us humans.

2) Existing rules should not be changed for temporary short-term gain. Old growth forests are a precious inheritance of ours from past generations that also did not destroy it. We have a duty to preserve these places for future generations to enjoy.

[Position]

[Position]

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

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

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

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/18/2019 6:51:26 PM
First name: Carol
Last name: Tao
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,
Carol Tao
Salinas, CA 93901

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/14/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Carol
Last name: Tao
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Carol Tao 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.

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

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

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/13/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Gary
Last name: Tao
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC622

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 interested in learning more!

Natural Beauty of this unique area needs to be preserved

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/11/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Russell
Last name: Tao
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: Morgen
Last name: Tapani
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: Barbara
Last name: Tapia
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Barbara Tapia and I live in Frisco, 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 Tapia

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Karla
Last name: Tapia
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Karla Tapia 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, Karla Tapia

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

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Lucia
Last name: Tappero
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC6245

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 *[Text circled] No

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Michael
Last name: Tappon
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

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

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

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Shenoa
Last name: Tara
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Shenoa Tara and I live in Boulder, Colorado.

The time has come to begin massive restoration efforts in forests all around the world, not expanding logging projects. Our forests are one of our largest defenses in the face of catastrophic climate change - 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, Shenoa Tara

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Mary
Last name: Tarallo
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Mary Tarallo and I live in De Motte, 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, Mary Tarallo

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Alec
Last name: Taratula
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Alec Taratula 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, Alec Taratula

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

People over profits! Hold Big Coal accountable for their mess

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

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Phoenix Taredi

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

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Berto
Last name: Tarin
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

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

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

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/11/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Autumn
Last name: Tarleton
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Autumn Tarleton and I live in Brooklyn, 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.

Quite frankly I care about the Tongass because so few of the people I know have ever set foot in an Old Growth forest. It is rather magical, moving and will make you a steward to the land forever more. Why are we logging trees we can never replaceones so old and so storied that they make up a history that precedes us in ways cultural, historical and temporal? Ive never been to the Tongass but it has long been a place I intend to take pilgrimage to and I yearn to see it 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 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, 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): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: ML
Last name: Tarolli
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

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

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

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: ML
Last name: Tarolli
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

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

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

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: ML
Last name: Tarolli
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

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

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

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Ralph
Last name: Tarquino
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC3618

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,

Ralph Tarquino

Monument, CO 80132

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 1/1/0001 12:00:00 AM
First name: Ralph
Last name: Tarquino
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
3618

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,
Ralph Tarquino
Monument, CO 80132

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/23/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Christina
Last name: Tarr
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
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.

I am an ardent birder and I know how important it is for birds that there be some areas of forest that are left without roads. Roads create an edge -- some birds do well with edges, but other birds absolutely need a deep undisturbed wilderness in order to mate successfully. I am certain the Tongass provides this for some species of birds. In the wake of the study finding that we have lost 30% of our birds in the past 50 years, it is clear that we need to leave some portions of the wilderness unmolested.

I know this is true of some animals, as well -- wolverines, for example.

With humans having caused so much damage to this planet, and with so little true wilderness remaining, surely you can understand the necessity of leaving some pieces of wilderness intact and without roads, not to mention logging.

The value of the forest as is far exceeds whatever profit a logging company would make off it.

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.

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Joel
Last name: Tarr
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

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

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

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/12/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Valerie
Last name: Tarr
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Valerie Tarr and I live in Hamilton 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.

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

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

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Dustin
Last name: Tarrant
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- 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, Dustin Tarrant

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/23/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Cassina
Last name: Tarsia
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Cassina Tarsia and I live in Oceanside, California.

Clear cutting of our forests will not only disturb and upset the balance of nature with the animals and the entire ecosystem, but also it will upset the weather patterns in the earth, causing eventual draught and other changes in the weather. PLEASE, do NOT allow clear cutting of our wild forests in Alaska ... they must be preserved 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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.

Regards, Cassina Tarsia

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Christian
Last name: Tartaglia
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Christian Tartaglia 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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Christian Tartaglia

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

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Lauren
Last name: Tartaglia
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Lauren Tartaglia 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, Lauren Tartaglia

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

I'm including this line to indicate that I'm a real person and that this issue is important to me.

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

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Andre Tarverdians

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/28/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Eileen
Last name: Taschereau
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Eileen Taschereau 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, Eileen Taschereau

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Fred
Last name: Tashima
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

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

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

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 4:25:27 AM
First name: Charles
Last name: Tassel
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
NO LOGGING IN THE TONGASS

I am writing to request that the U.S. government respect the Roadless Rule currently in place in the Tongass forest of Alaska and that they keep the rule in place, and that they specifically do not allow logging in this area or any other practice that is even suspected to possibly harm the environment for any reason. Nothing is a higher priority than protecting these trees that act as a vital carbon sink for our planet at the most important and unstable time in our climate's history to-date. The negative effects of deforestation will have disastrous consequences for all on this planet and should not even be considered simply for the economic gain of a few individuals. If our government supports any further deforestation or any legislation that allows for deforestation, then it is a government that I will actively campaign against. Old growth trees like those found in the Tongass cannot simply be replaced overnight or "when the time is right." They must stay untouched, and our elected representatives must do all within their power to respect the wishes of their constituents, which in this case are very clear: DO NOT ALLOW DEFORESTATION IN THE TONGASS.

Thank you.

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

Money its no more important that home to many species of endangered of flora and fauna.

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

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

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

Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Niurys Tasset

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Marisa
Last name: Tassinari
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Marisa Tassinari and I live in Tuscany - Italy.

I am writing to express strong opposition to efforts to roll back the Roadless Area Conservation Rule (Roadless Rule) in Alaska or elsewhere. The Roadless Rule was implemented with unprecedented public support to protect some of our nations most pristine public lands, including large parts of the Tongass National Forest. You must choose the No Action alternative. Any other choice would ignore overwhelming public support and harm Alaskans, including Alaska Natives, and taxpayers across the nation.
In Southeast Alaska, tourism accounts for 28% of employment and generate an annual $1 billion in economic benefit, making it far more of an economic driver than the timber industry, which is less than 1% of the regional economy.
Any choice but the No Action alternative would also put wildlife and critical habitat at risk, threaten access to clean water, and be a step in the wrong direction on climate change jeopardizing Alaskans at a time when the state already faces severe challenges related to rising temperatures. I urge you not to abandon the Roadless Rule in Alaska and instead to put the public interest above corporate profits by choosing to keep the rule in place unchanged.
Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Marisa Tassinari

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

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Justine
Last name: Tatarsky
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

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

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

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Stephen
Last name: Tatarsky
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- 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 Tatarsky

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Annie
Last name: Tate
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- 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, Annie Tate

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/5/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Christopher
Last name: Tate
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: Donna
Last name: Tate
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- 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, Donna Tate

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Emily
Last name: Tate
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

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

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

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Devin
Last name: Tatro
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC6215

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]

It is vital to my community and my studnets health + wellbeing.

Sincerely, [Signature]

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

Yes *No*[Text circled]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Susan
Last name: Tatro
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Susan Tatro 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, Susan Tatro

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Craig
Last name: Tatum
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC3866

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,

Craig Tatum

Rockwall, TX 75087

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/4/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Craig
Last name: Tatum
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: Laura
Last name: Tatum
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

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

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

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Laura
Last name: Tatum
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- 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, Laura Tatum

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

the climate crisis is real. no more protections for the coal and gas 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, Nancy Tatum

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Eric
Last name: Taub
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- 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, Eric Taub

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Ross
Last name: Taub
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Ross Taub 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, Ross Taub

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Claire
Last name: Tauber
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Claire Tauber and I live in Sacramento, 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 am a biology student in California and I have learned about the importance that old growth forests have on the biodiversity and environment around them. They take hundreds and hundreds of years to form, and once they're gone, we're not getting them back.

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, support small-scale, sustainable logging, 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): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Ole
Last name: Taug
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC5650

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: Steve
Last name: Tauscheck
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Steve Tauscheck and I live in Anacortes, 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, Steve Tauscheck

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

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

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Cindy Tavares

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/13/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Margaret
Last name: Tavares
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Margaret Tavares and I live in Guerneville, 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, Margaret Tavares

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: jeff
Last name: tave
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is jeff tave and I live in El Lago, 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, jeff tave

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/18/2019 5:12:24 PM
First name: Charles
Last name: Tavender
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. Do your job and protect our wilderness areas instead of caving to big business and special interest groups.

Sincerely,
Charles Tavender
Saint Augustine, FL 32080

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

Trump has done enough to ruin our echo system. Please don't let him do any 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, Kay Taverne

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/14/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Brigitte
Last name: tawa
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Brigitte tawa 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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Any choice but the No Action alternative would also put wildlife and critical habitat at risk, threaten access to clean water, and be a step in the wrong direction on climate change jeopardizing Alaskans at a time when the state already faces severe challenges related to rising temperatures. I urge you not to abandon the Roadless Rule in Alaska and instead to put the public interest above corporate profits by choosing to keep the rule in place unchanged.

Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Brigitte tawa

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Brigitte
Last name: tawa
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Brigitte tawa 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, Brigitte tawa

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

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: William
Last name: Taygan
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC6017

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 KEEP THE ROADLESS RULE AS-IS! THESE AREAS ARE NOT- REPLACEABLE.

Sincerely,

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

Yes No

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/18/2019 3:52:03 PM
First name: allison
Last name: Taylor
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,
allison Taylor
Greensboro, NC 27410

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: allison
Last name: Taylor
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is allison Taylor 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.

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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, allison Taylor

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: amanda
Last name: taylor
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
This is Americas "Amazon forest".And Trump wants to open it to logging - to cut down trees that are more than 1,000 years old? ARe you f-ing KIDDING ME RIGHT NOW???

STOP THIS MADNESS. PROTECT OUR NATURAL RESOURCES. PROTECT OUR FORESTS, WILD HABITATS, WATERS, SOIL AND AIR. TO DEVELOP THIS LAND WILL ULTIMATELY KILL US.

The results of human development are already causing misery, disease, starvation and death around the planet. The oceans are full of deadzones without enough oxygen to support sea life. Ground water is poluted due to fracking. And our air quality is being destroyed by Trumps anti regulation attacks on the environment.

STOP THIS NOW.

To continue is UN AMERICAN. UN PATRIOTIC. INHUMANE AND IMMORAL.

Sincerely, Amanda Taylor

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: andrew
Last name: taylor
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC3658

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,

andrew taylor

Memphis, TN 38111

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 1/1/0001 12:00:00 AM
First name: andrew
Last name: taylor
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
3658

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,
andrew taylor
Memphis, TN 38111

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/24/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Andrew
Last name: Taylor
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
The recommended alternative, which is an exemption of the Tongass National Forest from the 2001 Roadless Rule, ignores the local community, particularly the tribal governments, and the science of climate change. Instead, this alternative completely favors short term profiteering for a select few individuals in the forest products industry, at the expense of all others. It is an unfair decision which chooses a few winners and many, many losers. The seemingly deliberate ignoring of so many concerned voices is deeply undemocratic.

The Tongass is a unique ecosystem as one of the world's most important carbon sinks, playing a critical role in mitigating climate change. Exposing this ecosystem to timber extraction would greatly diminish this role and contribute to future temperature rises, which will result in widespread economic destruction and public health and safety risks across the globe. People will literally die in part due to this proposed alternative.

When considering the benefits and drawbacks of the proposed management options, there is no question that ecosystem conservation achieves more critical goals for the local community and for all citizens of the United States. Therefore, I support the alternative to leave the 2001 Roadless Rule fully intact for all of Alaska.

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Armena
Last name: Taylor
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

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

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

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Aurora
Last name: Taylor
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC658

Dear Chief Christiansen,

I live and work on the lands and waters of Alaska. Do not exempt Alaska from the Roadless Rule because vital fishery habitat would be disturbed and I am a Fish & Game employee. Our culture equips us to travel without roads. This is unnecessary & destructive way to spend our budget. - Aurora

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Barbara
Last name: Taylor
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

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

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

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Beverly
Last name: Taylor
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Beverly Taylor and I live in [@advCity], Vermont.

Is money more important than the beauty and importance of old forests that keep our air clean. We can live without wealth. Pollution of the earth will kill 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, Beverly Taylor

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Bill
Last name: Taylor
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

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

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

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

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/13/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Bruce
Last name: Taylor
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Support No-Action Alternative 1

I support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Road Less rule, Alternative #1. This will keep the vital road less protections intact. 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. Under the proposed modification to the rule, 9 million acres are open to old growth clear cut logging, and also to the devastating transection and segmentation by roads.

The Tongass is our largest National Forest and is essential to addressing the climate crisis. Further, an intact Tongass National Forest is vital to maintain the economic, cultural, and ecosystem health benefits of biodiversity

The decision making process on this rule appears to be flawed and in violation of proper procedures and the Administrative Procedure Act since there are troubling concerns that:

(1) Misdirection of funds, since funds used for the flawed environmental analysis were actually allocated instead for helping communities prevent and suppress wildfires;

(2) More than $200,000 of the grant being given to the Alaska Forest Association, a timber industry group as it lobbied to open up access to Alaska's Tongass National Forest;

(3) The state of Alaska appears to have excluded groups that opposed opening up the forest to logging.

The proposed modification targets the most productive trees, the old growth trees. Although previous logging has cut only about 9% of the trees, 50% of the old growth trees have been harvested. Without the road less rule protection, the increased access will devastate the old growth trees. These trees are the keystone to the vital unlogged watersheds and ecosystems with high wildlife, fishery and recreational value. The Tongass supports economically, culturally and nutritionally valuable species such as the Pacific Salmon. Tourism will be negatively impacted harming the regional economy.

The temperate forests of Alaska that will be negatively impacted by this amendment are some of the largest carbon sinks. Logging under this amendment will quickly release immense amounts of carbon. Older forests sequester far more carbon than younger forests since trees carbon absorption rate increases as it ages. Replacing the less dense old growth with the larger numbers of dense new growth will only release more carbon. Logging of old growth will also increase erosion, decrease water quality and importantly increase fire risk.

Under this proposed modification, the Chugach National Forest is also targeted. This 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, with no analysis of impacts and extremely limited public comment.

You kill the soul of a forest by cutting it into pieces. What is left provides no real or sustainable economic gain, but instead a loss for America's future generations.

Support Alternative 1, which keeps the current Road Less rule in place.

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/7/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Cameron
Last name: Taylor
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: Carla
Last name: Taylor
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

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

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

The US has become the ultimate cannibal of itself. The point of national forests is to preserve, unsullied, part of our natural spaces as they are. We don't need more logging. We need to consume less. Leave the Tongass alone.

Regards, Carla Taylor

[Position]

[Position]

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

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

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Carolyn
Last name: Taylor
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Carolyn Taylor and I live in Wilmette, Illinois.

Do not destroy the wild. It is our heritage and it belongs to the public. Leave it untouched, 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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.

Regards, Carolyn Taylor

[Position]

[Position]

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

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/20/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Chris
Last name: Taylor
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Do NOT open this area for any industry other than least invasive hiking, camping, etc. these natural areas are our national heritage. I owe it to future generations of Americans to preserve what is left of our natural areas.

[Position]

[Position]

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

diesel is dirty, especially when idling. electric power is neither!

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

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Dave
Last name: Taylor
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- 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, Dave Taylor

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

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Dawn Taylor

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Deborah
Last name: Taylor
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Deborah Taylor 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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Deborah Taylor

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Diane
Last name: Taylor
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

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

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

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

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

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Edward Taylor

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/10/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Elizabeth
Last name: Taylor
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Elizabeth Taylor 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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Elizabeth Taylor

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

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Elizabeth
Last name: Taylor
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
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Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Elliott
Last name: Taylor
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
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Regards, Elliott Taylor

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First name: Elliott
Last name: Taylor
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
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Regards, Elliott Taylor

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

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

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

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

Protecting wildlife and environment is actually protecting the survival of human specie.

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

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, grace taylor

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/13/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Graham
Last name: Taylor
Organization: National Parks & Conservation Association
Title:
Comments:
Alaska Roadless Rulemaking #54511

Good morning,

The below comment was recorded on November 23, 2019 at the REI Flagship Store in Seattle, WA as part of a community meeting regarding the Alaska Roadless Rule. Washington Wild was given permission by the individual to submit this comment to the United States Forest Service on their behalf. Please add their comment into the record.

Thank you.

Graham Taylor, National Parks & Conservation Association

Hello, my name's Graham Taylor and I'm a Program Manager with the National Parks Conservation Association. We're a group that advocates for our National Parks and that includes the little historic sites that celebrate our history as well as the large landscapes that really allow us to experience the natural world. I'm here today to support the roadless rule on behalf of NPCA and thank Senator Cantwell for her leadership and protection of the roadless rule, our public lands and our national parks. But you know, the parks are not islands. They are a part of a larger mosaic of public lands that are important to the integrity of our national parks. Everything is connected as John Muir said to us. And so by protecting the roadless lands, we also protect our national parks and the other areas connected to them. But really this scheme to undo the roadless rule- it brings me to a question about who is going to profit, who is going to profit from this, the few or the many? Because right now we all profit from the clean air, the clean water, amazing outdoor recreation experiences, and the climate impacts. We all profit right now. But if we undo this, if we mess with the roadless rule, if we trust this administration who has burned us at every single opportunity to undo the roadless rule, then we're going down a path that not just our children and grandchildren will regret, but that we will regret. Because right now we all profit but under this plan, undoing the roadless act, we all suffer. So NPCA supports the no action alternative because the roadless areas protect our watersheds. They protect our landscapes and our wildlife that make these lands special and the people that inhabit this earth. Thank you so much.

Hillary Sanders, Member and Engagement Manager

She/Her

WASHINGTON WILD

206.633.1992 | wawild.org

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Guy
Last name: Taylor
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

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

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

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/14/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Hannah
Last name: Taylor
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Hannah Taylor and I live in Eleven Mile, Arizona.

I lived in Juneau, Ak, which sits in the Tongass National Forest. This forest area is my favorite place on earth. It's beautiful and one of the few places I've been in the United States where you can breathe beautiful, fresh, unpolluted air. The old growth forests of this area allow for the beauty and clean air to exist. Removing the trees will add to the negative effects of climate change and ruin one of the most beautiful places in the United States. I urge you to put nature before profit to protect this 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, Hannah Taylor

[Position]

[Position]

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

This forest is too vital and beautiful to spoil with logging as proposed. Please protect it! Choose NO 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.

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

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

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: J.P.
Last name: Taylor
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC3809

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,

J.P. Taylor

Trabuco Cnyon, CA 92679

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 1/1/0001 12:00:00 AM
First name: J.P.
Last name: Taylor
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
3809

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,
J.P. Taylor
Trabuco Cnyon, CA 92679

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Jamal
Last name: Taylor
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
The logging industry does not need access to these lands. It is nothing more that a pitiful attempt to take advantage of the current administrations utter disregard, nay, contempt for the environment to secure access to resources that belong to the American people before something changes and their opportunity vanishes.

The loggers are living in the now with no vision of long term sustainability, no desire to preserve areas of the country yet to be completely contaminated by man, and only their own profits and potential profits in mind. It is an act of pure greed, again, no born of necessity, but with the sole aim of felling as many trees they can sell at a profit as possible. This is an industry with a long, bloody history of clearcutting, and a greed driven disregard for the safety of their own workers whenever it comes into conflict with their quotas.

Leave the Alaskan territories alone. The ecological impact of letting them in is too great, and what few gains there might be will be hoarded by the logging companies and not reinvested in repopulating deforested lands.

Further, once they've got access, miners will follow close behind and destroying what's left.Allowing this access betrays the nation's welfare now and for the foreseeable future for the sake of short term profits, dead loggers, and destroyed habitats.

[POSITION]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: James
Last name: Taylor
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC3200

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 Taylor

Columbus, OH 43209

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

It is hard to stomach the effort of persons placed in government service to work for the people of this nation, to compromise our national assets for the benefit of 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, James Taylor

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Jane
Last name: Taylor
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

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

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

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Jane
Last name: Taylor
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- 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 Taylor

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

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Jeanette
Last name: Taylor
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Jeanette Taylor 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, Jeanette Taylor

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Jeffrey
Last name: Taylor
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- 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, Jeffrey Taylor

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

Please take care of your constituents and protect future generations from harmful 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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Jennifer Taylor

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/10/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Jessica
Last name: Taylor
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Jessica Taylor 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, Jessica Taylor

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: JOANNA
Last name: TAYLOR
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is JOANNA TAYLOR 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, JOANNA TAYLOR

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: John
Last name: Taylor
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I support the no action alternative on the Alaska roadless rule

John Taylor

M.S. Student, Oceanography

University of New Hampshire

[Position]

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

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

Climate change is REAL and threatens all of us, including you and your loved ones.

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

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/12/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Karen
Last name: Taylor
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Comments on final roadless rule

Karen Colligan-Taylor

Gustavus, Alaska

Tongass roadless letter, comments on final rule 12.12.19

The 2001 Federal Roadless Rule should remain in place with respect to the Tongass National Forest in Alaska. There should be no Alaska-specific roadless rule adopted. The existing Roadless Rule protects watersheds, wildlife, fisheries, tourism, and recreation interests, whose economic, subsistence, and ecological importance far outweighs timber interests that account for less than 1% of jobs in Southeast Alaska.

When ecosystems are degraded, society has to pay more for the goods and services it receives. There are many problems with the EIS. Road construction results in sedimentation of streams. When streams are silted in, we see fewer salmon. That means less fish for subsistence fishers, less for commercial fishers, and less fish at higher cost for the urban consumer. It means a declining fishing economy for Alaska. Roads also cause habitat fragmentation, changing deer behavior due to noise and increased predation. Roads bring urban hunters who have other food sources, and there is competition for a diminishing resource. In my community we all practice subsistence hunting, fishing, and gathering to some degree. Subsistence is a culture of living close to the land, of understanding and appreciating how our environment affects our lives and how our lives affect the environment. The more intact our Tongass ecosystems, the more intact our lives.

Most important, the Tongass National Forest offers critical carbon sequestration services. The IPCC report issued on October 8, 2018 indicates that global net CO2 emissions must be 45% less by 2030 than they were in 2010 to limit warming to 2.7 degrees F. The U.S., which has contributed more carbon pollution than any other country, must preserve existing forests and reforest as much as possible to achieve this goal. Salmon stock, critical to Alaska's economy, are already showing signs of being impacted by global warming. Maintaining the application of the 2001 Roadless Rule to Alaska will help ensure the long-term health of our fisheries, tourism, and recreation-dependent economy. Building roads and cutting timber in the Tongass is a losing proposition for the Federal treasury. The in-tact Tongass roadless areas do their vital jobs of carbon sequestration and biodiversity protection 24/7 at no cost to the taxpayer. The only reasonable alternative is a no-action alternative.

Why have science and governance been ignored in this decision-making process? The vast majority-well over 90 percent-of respondents supported the 2001 Federal Roadless Rule in the scoping process. Gifford Pinchot said in 1905: "where conflicting interests must be reconciled, the question will always be decided from the standpoint of the greatest good of the greatest number in the long run." When the Forest Service no longer adheres to this ethos, what does this say about its mission, its integrity, its role in maintaining American Democratic principles and governance processes? The 2001 Federal Roadless Rule should remain in place with respect to the Tongass National Forest in Alaska.

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/10/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Karla
Last name: Taylor
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Karla Taylor 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.

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

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

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/18/2019 4:09:23 PM
First name: Kaye
Last name: Taylor
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,
Kaye Taylor
Chelsea, MI 48118

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Kelli
Last name: Taylor
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC6421

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): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Kelly
Last name: Taylor
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Kelly Taylor and I live in Warren, 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, Kelly Taylor

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Kirsten
Last name: Taylor
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

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

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

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Kirsten
Last name: Taylor
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

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

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

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Larry
Last name: Taylor
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Larry Taylor 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, Larry Taylor

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Laura
Last name: Taylor
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Laura Taylor 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, Laura Taylor

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Lauren
Last name: Taylor
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC6458

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

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

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

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Lee
Last name: Taylor
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

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

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

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

As a true conservative and registered Republican, I understand that the word CONSERVE means SAVE.Stop selling off our national assets.The USA is NOT for sale!!Leave our assets for future generations. Long term beats short term 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, Linda Taylor

[Position]

[Position]

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

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Marilynn
Last name: Taylor
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

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

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

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Marilynn
Last name: Taylor
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

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

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

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Mark
Last name: Taylor
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

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

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

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: MaryAnn
Last name: Taylor
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

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

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

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

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Meghan
Last name: Taylor
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Save the trees!

Please do not renew road building or logging in the Tongass National Forest.

The giant, ancient trees are important for the planet for carbon storage. Once the 1000 year old trees are gone, they can it be replaced. Our planet is sufferring. Please don't add to that suffering.

Thank you,

Meghan Taylor

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/10/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Michael
Last name: Taylor
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My comments are included in the attached letter. I strongly favor Alternative 1, The No Action Alternative.

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

Comments on Alaska Roadless Rulemaking

Michael S. Taylor, MS

Gustavus, Alaska
December 10, 2019

The Nub:

The USFS 2001 Roadless Rule should remain intact for Alaska and the Tongass National Forest Roadless Areas should retain the full protection of the existing rule. There should be no exemption from the Roadless Rule for Alaska and there should be no Alaska-Specific Roadless Rule. The overarching values of the Tongass are as a carbon sink, storehouse of biodiversity, and provider of other vital ecosystem services. The value of intact old growth forest as a carbon sink and as a continually effective sequester of carbon to offset the releases from burning fossil fuels must be paramount.

My Reasons:

I am a long-time resident, City Council Member, and former Mayor of Gustavus, Alaska. I attended with many other residents the 2018 scoping meeting and the 2019 informational meeting in Gustavus. I studied materials provided by the USFS at the meetings, and reviewed the original Final Rule as posted in the January 12, 2001 Federal Register for further background. And I have studied the six alternatives for changes to the application of the Roadless Rule to Alaska and the Tongass National Forest. The Tongass boarders Gustavus at Pleasant Island and on Excursion Ridge, and lies within a short boat ride along both shores of Icy Strait. The northern Tongass is essential natural capital for Gustavus supporting our economy, particularly through tourism, and our lifestyles through recreation and subsistence activities. Some of the building materials in my own home came from the Tongass. Our community has a strong stake in the long-term health and natural function of the Tongass National Forest, but so does the rest of the world.

The Final 2001 Roadless Rule begins with a section titled [ldquo]Purpose and Need for the Roadless Area Conservation Rule.[rdquo] It sets forth clearly and definitively the values of retaining national forest roadless areas in their natural state, disallowing with few exceptions new roads and timber harvesting. The reasons in 2001 for selecting the (then) Alternative 3 and for rejecting an exemption alternative for the Tongass, are well-stated in the Federal Register. I don[rsquo]t need to restate them here. Please consider me in continuing support for those values and arguments.

However, the Final Rule failed to mention one additional key reason for retaining the roadless areas of the Tongass intact. The old-growth forest remaining in the Tongass is a major carbon sink and continues to

sequester a huge amount of atmospheric carbon year after year. Our nation, indeed the entire energy-hungry world, struggles to reduce our carbon emissions. The transitions are difficult and usually costly. Engineered carbon capture and storage is particularly expensive and technologies are uncertain. But as Bronson Griscom, et al, showed in their 2017 paper in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences: [ldquo]Natural Climate Solutions can provide 37% of cost-effective CO2 emission mitigation needed through 2030 for a >66% chance of holding warming to below 2C. Reforestation, avoided forest conversion, and natural forest management are at the top of the list of 20 cost-effective strategies reviewed by Griscom, et al. In June 2019, Moomaw, Masino and Faison published a paper titled [ldquo]Intact forests in the United States: Proforestation Mitigates Climate Change and Serves the Greatest Good[rdquo] in the journal Frontiers for Global Climate Change. This widely acclaimed paper demonstrates the extraordinary importance of protecting intact old growth forests [ldquo]as the most effective solution to dual global crises[mdash]climate change and biodiversity loss.[rdquo] The Roadless Areas of the Tongass are America[rsquo]s best opportunity to apply intact old-growth forests to these vital ends. Please review the Moomaw, et al paper and assure that it informs the final decision on application of the Roadless Rule to Alaska.

The Tongass is a massive carbon sink, and it[rsquo]s working for us to solve two major world problems for free. Gordon Orians and Dominick A. DellaSala reported in [ldquo]Alaska[rsquo]s old-growth forests are our climate-change insurance policy,[rdquo] (Seattle Times, March 15, 2018) that the Tongass alone absorbs approximately 8 percent of the nation[rsquo]s annual global warming pollution. No other national forest even comes close, making the Tongass the nation[rsquo]s premier climate insurance policy[rdquo]. The Griscom, et al paper further notes that nature-based strategies offer valuable ecosystem services [ldquo]improving soil productivity, cleaning our air and water and maintaining biodiversity.[rdquo] In SE Alaska, intact natural forests with their fabulous scenery and rich fish and wildlife are a major draw of visitors from around the globe, with economic benefits that dwarf logging. Those forests also support valuable sustainable commercial fisheries in SE Alaska.

So as we consider where the greatest value of the Tongass rests, it[rsquo]s not in providing trees to be stripped (once!) by a tiny handful of government-subsidized loggers and likely shipped overseas. Far more important regionally and globally, the Tongass is an absorber of massive amounts of atmospheric carbon, a treasure trove of wild biodiversity, and a source of many other valuable ecosystem services.

But realization of these true values of the Tongass requires that existing roadless areas stay free of roads and timber production. Roads and clearcuts not only remove stored carbon, they fragment the forest. Winston Smith (with long professional experience in the Tongass) in his scoping comment to you on 10-1-18 cautions against further fragmentation of wildlife habitat in roadless areas of the Tongass. He warns of underestimated extinction risk to key species populations in the Tongass Land Management Plan, Wildlife Conservation Strategy. His thesis is yet another reason for keeping the roadless areas intact.

It[rsquo]s long past time we begin to live within our wood products production means. I am originally from Oregon and proudly worked in the timber industry in the Pacific Northwest while in college in the 1960s. For decades the timber industry claimed it was cutting trees sustainably, but we are now down to the last bits of old growth forest nationwide and second-growth is deemed unattractive by timber interests. Some would cut old-growth forest until it[rsquo]s all gone. Then what? In SE Alaska accessible timber remains on private forest lands, State lands, and on already roaded areas of the Tongass. We should steward those resources sustainably, reforest and restore previously-developed forest areas wisely, and resolve to cut second growth trees only on sustainable long-term rotations. Such a strategy would apply the top three Natural Carbon Solutions promoted by Griscom et al. Leaving the Roadless Areas as intact forest forever applies the advice and wisdom of Moomaw, et al. It[rsquo]s not necessary to harvest the remaining wild forest areas of the Roadless Areas of the Tongass, which serves better as a major sequester of carbon.

Conclusion:

When President Teddy Roosevelt and Gifford Pinchot fought to establish our first national forests in the first decade of the 20th Century they intended to protect and sustain forest resources for the common people. They fought hard to keep wealthy special interests from cornering forest resources at the expense of the public[rsquo]s long term interest. They were largely successful and we have a wonderful national forest system today as a result. It is a core value of our democracy that governments govern through the consent of the governed. In 2001, Americans, through the USFS public process, consented to applying the Roadless Rule to the Tongass National Forest. In 2019 the USFS has come back to the public proposing to exempt the two forests in Alaska from the Roadless Rule. During the scoping period, the vast majority (>90 %!) of comments both from outside Alaska and within Alaska, favored retaining the Roadless Rule intact for Alaska, and particularly for the Tongass NF. The public is clearly saying [ldquo]No.[rdquo] You do not have the consent of the governed to remove the forests in Alaska from the Roadless Rule.

Those of us who care about the future of the Tongass, are sadly disappointed by the Dunleavey administration[rsquo]s insistence, against the great weight of public opinion, that the USFS exempt the Tongass from the Roadless Rule. The State position is short-sighted and panders to a tiny, obsolete, and dying industry at the expense of all the rest of us, and the needs of our Planet. Rather than urging the USFS to subsidize a handful of SE loggers and millers at great loss to the Treasury and to our forest health, the State should press the Service to employ residents in small communities to invest in forest health, restore forest in logged areas, remove fish passage barriers, and restore damaged streams and view sheds. The USFS should respond to the broader needs of Alaskans, Americans, and the World and reject the notion of expanding roads and timber production into the unroaded areas of the Tongass. The only reasonable alternative is 1, the No Action Alternative.

Sincerely,

Michael S. Taylor, MS
Gustavus, Alaska 99826

[Position]

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Comments on Alaska Roadless Rulemaking

Michael S. Taylor, MS

Gustavus, Alaska
December 10, 2019

The Nub:

The USFS 2001 Roadless Rule should remain intact for Alaska and the Tongass National Forest Roadless Areas should retain the full protection of the existing rule. There should be no exemption from the Roadless Rule for Alaska and there should be no Alaska-Specific Roadless Rule. The overarching values of the Tongass are as a carbon sink, storehouse of biodiversity, and provider of other vital ecosystem services. The

value of intact old growth forest as a carbon sink and as a continually effective sequester of carbon to offset the releases from burning fossil fuels must be paramount.

My Reasons:

I am a long-time resident, City Council Member, and former Mayor of Gustavus, Alaska. I attended with many other residents the 2018 scoping meeting and the 2019 informational meeting in Gustavus. I studied materials provided by the USFS at the meetings, and reviewed the original Final Rule as posted in the January 12, 2001 Federal Register for further background. And I have studied the six alternatives for changes to the application of the Roadless Rule to Alaska and the Tongass National Forest. The Tongass boarders Gustavus at Pleasant Island and on Excursion Ridge, and lies within a short boat ride along both shores of Icy Strait. The northern Tongass is essential natural capital for Gustavus supporting our economy, particularly through tourism, and our lifestyles through recreation and subsistence activities. Some of the building materials in my own home came from the Tongass. Our community has a strong stake in the long-term health and natural function of the Tongass National Forest, but so does the rest of the world.

The Final 2001 Roadless Rule begins with a section titled [ldquo]Purpose and Need for the Roadless Area Conservation Rule.[rdquo] It sets forth clearly and definitively the values of retaining national forest roadless areas in their natural state, disallowing with few exceptions new roads and timber harvesting. The reasons in 2001 for selecting the (then) Alternative 3 and for rejecting an exemption alternative for the Tongass, are well-stated in the Federal Register. I don[rsquo]t need to restate them here. Please consider me in continuing support for those values and arguments.

However, the Final Rule failed to mention one additional key reason for retaining the roadless areas of the Tongass intact. The old-growth forest remaining in the Tongass is a major carbon sink and continues to sequester a huge amount of atmospheric carbon year after year. Our nation, indeed the entire energy-hungry world, struggles to reduce our carbon emissions. The transitions are difficult and usually costly. Engineered carbon capture and storage is particularly expensive and technologies are uncertain. But as Bronson Griscom, et al, showed in their 2017 paper in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences: [ldquo]Natural Climate Solutions can provide 37% of cost-effective CO2 emission mitigation needed through 2030 for a >66% chance of holding warming to below 2C. Reforestation, avoided forest conversion, and natural forest management are at the top of the list of 20 cost-effective strategies reviewed by Griscom, et al. In June 2019, Moomaw, Masino and Faison published a paper titled [ldquo]Intact forests in the United States: Proforestation Mitigates Climate Change and Serves the Greatest Good[rdquo] in the journal Frontiers for Global Climate Change. This widely acclaimed paper demonstrates the extraordinary importance of protecting intact old growth forests [ldquo]as the most effective solution to dual global crises[mdash]climate change and biodiversity loss.[rdquo] The Roadless Areas of the Tongass are America[rsquo]s best opportunity to apply intact old-growth forests to these vital ends. Please review the Moomaw, et al paper and assure that it informs the final decision on application of the Roadless Rule to Alaska.

The Tongass is a massive carbon sink, and it[rsquo]s working for us to solve two major world problems for free. Gordon Orians and Dominick A. DellaSala reported in [ldquo]Alaska[rsquo]s old-growth forests are our climate-change insurance policy,[rdquo] (Seattle Times, March 15, 2018) that the Tongass alone absorbs approximately 8 percent of the nation[rsquo]s annual global warming pollution. No other national forest even comes close, making the Tongass the nation[rsquo]s premier climate insurance policy[rdquo]. The Griscom, et al paper further notes that nature-based strategies offer valuable ecosystem services [ldquo]improving soil productivity, cleaning our air and water and maintaining biodiversity.[rdquo] In SE Alaska, intact natural forests with their fabulous scenery and rich fish and wildlife are a major draw of visitors from around the globe, with economic benefits that dwarf logging. Those forests also support valuable sustainable commercial fisheries in SE Alaska.

So as we consider where the greatest value of the Tongass rests, it[rsquo]s not in providing trees to be stripped (once!) by a tiny handful of government-subsidized loggers and likely shipped overseas. Far more important regionally and globally, the Tongass is an absorber of massive amounts of atmospheric carbon, a treasure trove of wild biodiversity, and a source of many other valuable ecosystem services.

But realization of these true values of the Tongass requires that existing roadless areas stay free of roads and timber production. Roads and clearcuts not only remove stored carbon, they fragment the forest. Winston Smith (with long professional experience in the Tongass) in his scoping comment to you on 10-1-18 cautions against further fragmentation of wildlife habitat in roadless areas of the Tongass. He warns of underestimated extinction risk to key species populations in the Tongass Land Management Plan, Wildlife Conservation Strategy. His thesis is yet another reason for keeping the roadless areas intact.

It[rsquo]s long past time we begin to live within our wood products production means. I am originally from Oregon and proudly worked in the timber industry in the Pacific Northwest while in college in the 1960s. For decades the timber industry claimed it was cutting trees sustainably, but we are now down to the last bits of old growth forest nationwide and second-growth is deemed unattractive by timber interests. Some would cut old-growth forest until it[rsquo]s all gone. Then what? In SE Alaska accessible timber remains on private forest lands, State lands, and on already roaded areas of the Tongass. We should steward those resources sustainably, reforest and restore previously-developed forest areas wisely, and resolve to cut second growth trees only on sustainable long-term rotations. Such a strategy would apply the top three Natural Carbon Solutions promoted by Griscom et al. Leaving the Roadless Areas as intact forest forever applies the advice and wisdom of Moomaw, et al. It[rsquo]s not necessary to harvest the remaining wild forest areas of the Roadless Areas of the Tongass, which serves better as a major sequester of carbon.

Conclusion:

When President Teddy Roosevelt and Gifford Pinchot fought to establish our first national forests in the first decade of the 20th Century they intended to protect and sustain forest resources for the common people. They fought hard to keep wealthy special interests from cornering forest resources at the expense of the public[rsquo]s long term interest. They were largely successful and we have a wonderful national forest system today as a result. It is a core value of our democracy that governments govern through the consent of the governed. In 2001, Americans, through the USFS public process, consented to applying the Roadless Rule to the Tongass National Forest. In 2019 the USFS has come back to the public proposing to exempt the two forests in Alaska from the Roadless Rule. During the scoping period, the vast majority (>90 %!) of comments both from outside Alaska and within Alaska, favored retaining the Roadless Rule intact for Alaska, and particularly for the Tongass NF. The public is clearly saying [ldquo]No.[rdquo] You do not have the consent of the governed to remove the forests in Alaska from the Roadless Rule.

Those of us who care about the future of the Tongass, are sadly disappointed by the Dunleavey administration[rsquo]s insistence, against the great weight of public opinion, that the USFS exempt the Tongass from the Roadless Rule. The State position is short-sighted and panders to a tiny, obsolete, and dying industry at the expense of all the rest of us, and the needs of our Planet. Rather than urging the USFS to subsidize a handful of SE loggers and millers at great loss to the Treasury and to our forest health, the State should press the Service to employ residents in small communities to invest in forest health, restore forest in logged areas, remove fish passage barriers, and restore damaged streams and view sheds. The USFS should respond to the broader needs of Alaskans, Americans, and the World and reject the notion of expanding roads

and timber production into the unroaded areas of the Tongass. The only reasonable alternative is 1, the No Action Alternative.

Sincerely,

Michael S. Taylor, MS
Gustavus, Alaska 99826

[Position]

Comments on Alaska Roadless Rulemaking
Michael S. Taylor, MS
Gustavus, Alaska
December 10, 2019

The Nub:
The USFS 2001 Roadless Rule should remain intact for Alaska and the Tongass National Forest Roadless Areas should retain the full protection of the existing rule. There should be no exemption from the Roadless Rule for Alaska and there should be no Alaska-Specific Roadless Rule. The overarching values of the Tongass are as a carbon sink, storehouse of biodiversity, and provider of other vital ecosystem services. The value of intact old growth forest as a carbon sink and as a continually effective sequester of carbon to offset the releases from burning fossil fuels *must be paramount*.

My Reasons:
I am a long-time resident, City Council Member, and former Mayor of Gustavus, Alaska. I attended with many other residents the 2018 scoping meeting and the 2019 informational meeting in Gustavus. I studied materials provided by the USFS at the meetings, and reviewed the original Final Rule as posted in the January 12, 2001 Federal Register for further background. And I have studied the six alternatives for changes to the application of the Roadless Rule to Alaska and the Tongass National Forest. The Tongass boarders Gustavus at Pleasant Island and on Excursion Ridge, and lies within a short boat ride along both shores of Icy Strait. The northern Tongass is essential natural capital for Gustavus supporting our economy, particularly through tourism, and our lifestyles through recreation and subsistence activities. Some of the building materials in my own home came from the Tongass. Our community has a strong stake in the long-term health and natural function of the Tongass National Forest, *but so does the rest of the world*.

The Final 2001 Roadless Rule begins with a section titled "Purpose and Need for the Roadless Area Conservation Rule." It sets forth clearly and definitively the values of retaining national forest roadless areas in their natural state, disallowing with few exceptions new roads and timber harvesting. The reasons in 2001 for selecting the (then) Alternative 3 and for rejecting an exemption alternative for the Tongass, are well-stated in the Federal Register. I don't need to restate them here. Please consider me in continuing support for those values and arguments.

However, the Final Rule failed to mention one additional key reason for retaining the roadless areas of the Tongass intact. The old-growth forest remaining in the Tongass is a major carbon sink and continues to sequester a huge amount of atmospheric carbon year after year. Our nation, indeed the entire energy-hungry world, struggles to reduce our carbon emissions. The transitions are difficult and usually costly. Engineered carbon capture and storage is particularly expensive and technologies are uncertain. But as Bronson Griscom, *et al,* showed in their 2017 paper in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences: "Natural Climate Solutions can provide 37% of cost-effective CO2 emission mitigation needed through 2030 for a >66% chance of holding warming to below 2C. Reforestation, avoided forest conversion, and natural forest management are at the top of the list of 20 cost-effective strategies reviewed by Griscom, *et al*. In June 2019, Moomaw, Masino and Faison published a paper titled *"Intact forests in the United States: Proforestation Mitigates Climate Change and Serves the Greatest Good"* in

the journal Frontiers for Global Climate Change. This widely acclaimed paper demonstrates the extraordinary importance of protecting intact old growth forests "as the most effective solution to dual global crises—climate change and biodiversity loss." The Roadless Areas of the Tongass are America's best opportunity to apply intact old-growth forests to these vital ends. Please review the Moomaw, *et al* paper and assure that it informs the final decision on application of the Roadless Rule to Alaska.

The Tongass is a massive carbon sink, and it's working for us to solve two major world problems for free. Gordon Orians and Dominick A. DellaSala reported in "*Alaska's old-growth forests are our climate-change insurance policy*," (Seattle Times, March 15, 2018) that the Tongass alone absorbs approximately 8 percent of the nation's annual global warming pollution. No other national forest even comes close, making the Tongass the nation's premier climate insurance policy". The Griscom, *et al* paper further notes that nature-based strategies offer valuable ecosystem services "improving soil productivity, cleaning our air and water and maintaining biodiversity." In SE Alaska, intact natural forests with their fabulous scenery and rich fish and wildlife are a major draw of visitors from around the globe, with economic benefits that dwarf logging. Those forests also support valuable sustainable commercial fisheries in SE Alaska.

So as we consider where the greatest value of the Tongass rests, it's not in providing trees to be stripped (once!) by a tiny handful of government-subsidized loggers and likely shipped overseas. Far more important regionally and globally, the Tongass is an absorber of massive amounts of atmospheric carbon, a treasure trove of wild biodiversity, and a source of many other valuable ecosystem services.

But realization of these true values of the Tongass requires that existing roadless areas stay free of roads and timber production. Roads and clearcuts not only remove stored carbon, they fragment the forest. Winston Smith (with long professional experience in the Tongass) in his scoping comment to you on 10-1-18 cautions against further fragmentation of wildlife habitat in roadless areas of the Tongass. He warns of underestimated extinction risk to key species populations in the Tongass Land Management Plan, Wildlife Conservation Strategy. His thesis is yet another reason for keeping the roadless areas intact.

It's long past time we begin to live within our wood products production means. I am originally from Oregon and proudly worked in the timber industry in the Pacific Northwest while in college in the 1960s. For decades the timber industry claimed it was cutting trees sustainably, but we are now down to the last bits of old growth forest nationwide and second-growth is deemed unattractive by timber interests. Some would cut old-growth forest until it's all gone. Then what? In SE Alaska accessible timber remains on private forest lands, State lands, and on already roaded areas of the Tongass. We should steward those resources sustainably, reforest and restore previously-developed forest areas wisely, and resolve to cut second growth trees only on sustainable long-term rotations. Such a strategy would apply the top three Natural Carbon Solutions promoted by Griscom *et al*. Leaving the Roadless Areas as intact forest forever applies the advice and wisdom of Moomaw, *et al*. It's not necessary to harvest the remaining wild forest areas of the Roadless Areas of the Tongass, which serves better as a major sequester of carbon.

Conclusion:
When President Teddy Roosevelt and Gifford Pinchot fought to establish our first national forests in the first decade of the 20th Century they intended to protect and sustain forest resources for the common people. They fought hard to keep wealthy special interests from cornering forest resources at the expense of the public's long term interest. They were largely successful and we have a wonderful national forest system today as a result. It is a core value of our democracy that *governments govern through the consent of the governed.* In 2001, Americans, through the USFS public process, consented to applying the Roadless Rule to the Tongass National Forest. In 2019 the USFS has come back to the public proposing to exempt the two forests in Alaska from the Roadless Rule. During the scoping period, the vast majority (>90 %!) of comments both from outside Alaska and within Alaska, favored retaining the Roadless Rule intact for Alaska, and particularly for the Tongass NF. *The public is clearly saying "No." You do not have the consent of the governed to remove the forests in Alaska from the Roadless Rule.*

Those of us who care about the future of the Tongass, are sadly disappointed by the Dunleavey administration's insistence, against the great weight of public opinion, that the USFS exempt the Tongass from the Roadless Rule. The State position is short-sighted and panders to a tiny, obsolete, and dying industry at the expense of all the rest of us, and the needs of our Planet. Rather than urging the USFS to subsidize a handful of SE loggers and millers at great loss to the Treasury and to our forest health, the State should press the Service to employ residents in small communities to invest in forest health, restore forest in logged areas, remove fish passage barriers, and restore damaged streams and view sheds. The USFS should respond to the broader needs of Alaskans, Americans, and the World and reject the notion of expanding roads and timber production into the unroaded areas of the Tongass. The only reasonable alternative is 1, the *No Action Alternative.*

Sincerely,
Michael S. Taylor, MS
Gustavus, Alaska 99826

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: michelle
Last name: taylor
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is michelle taylor and I live in Boise, 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, michelle taylor

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Mike
Last name: Taylor
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC3015

I'm Mike Taylor, a Council Member of the City of Gustavus and a former Mayor. I have had a lifelong interest and love for forests. I grew up in a major timber state - Oregon. While in engineering school at Oregon State, I worked summers for the USFS on the Gifford Pinchot National Forest and for Crown Zellerbach Corp on their Tillamook Tree Farm, surveying logging roads and clearcuts. I've since explored and studied forests from Alaska to the tropics.

Gustavus appreciated the opportunity to comment on the Roadless Rule at the scoping meeting held at our Public Library. Many of us expressed our views then and in writing, indicating our strong preferences, grounded in schience and broad foreest experience, that the 2001 Roadless Rule should remain unchanged for the Tongass. Reflecting that sentiment the Gustavus City Council passed and submitted a resolution calling for keeping the 2001 Roadless Rule for Alaska unchanged.

I don't need to review all the reasons for keeping the Roadless Rule for Alakska. You have posted with your proposal an excellent summary as expressed by thousands of scoping commenters, many with strong professional science qualifications. *The great majority urged the Forest Service to keep the Roadless Rule intact for Alaska.*[Text italicized] But the Forest Service seems to give no weight to the public input it requested.

A fundamental principle of our democracy is that governments derive their just powers from the consent of the governed. [Text bolded for emphasis] The line appears as the second sentence of the Declaraton of Independence. We on the Gustavus City Council remind ourselves of this concept frequently. Key actions and proposals are subject to public hearing. Our public lets us know what they think. Sometimes we find that our planned action is not broadly supported by the public and we are obliged to drop it, despite our personal views on the matter. If we do not have the public's consent, we can't do it.

In the first decade of the 20th Century, Gifford Pinchot and President Teddy Roosevelt fought wealthy special interests trying to corner the public's resources for their personal private profit. Pinchot and Roosevelt persevered to establish our national forests for all the people of the United States. The Forests are the property of all Americans and they should determine how they are managed and used.

In 2001, when the National Roadless Rule was subject to national public comment, the public gave its consent and the rule was adopted. In 2019 you have returned to the public proposing to reverse the rule for Alaska. The public is clearly saying "No" !

*My questions for you today are: *[Text bolded for emphasis]

1. Given that the public response to your scoping process was so strongly in favor of a "no action alternative", i.e. keeping the 2001 Roadless Rule intact for Alaska, why does the Forest Service now propose exactly the opposite of what the public owners of the forest directed?

2. Do you not understand that you * do not* [Text underlined for emphasis0 have the consent of the governed to do away with the Roadless Rule in Alaska?

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/10/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Nancy
Last name: Taylor
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Nancy Taylor 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, Nancy Taylor

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Nannette
Last name: Taylor
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

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

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

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Nannette
Last name: Taylor
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- 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, Nannette Taylor

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Nicole
Last name: Taylor
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Nicole Taylor 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, Nicole Taylor

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/30/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Oakley
Last name: Taylor
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
It is shocking to me that such a consideration about this invasion of the wilderness is even being considered. I lived up in the Yukon for 8 years and this territory is sacred and should be treated as such. We cannot open up this public land for invasion of the public and big industry that will end up destroying this habitat for precious and worthy wildlife. We do not need to open this land up for big money industry. We must treat this area as precious and valuable in leaving it as it is. We cannot open this land up; it only belongs to the animals and trees which seem to be disappearing all the more with this current administration who has no regard for nature in any form. I am 100% opposed to any invasion of this northern territory in any way.

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Paula
Last name: Taylor
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC988

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 3:00:00 PM
First name: peggy
Last name: taylor
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is peggy taylor and I live in Nederland, Colorado.

STOP STOP STOP NO NO NO NO

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

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

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

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: R
Last name: Taylor
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is R Taylor and I live in Los Angeles, California.

Are those odious humans in gov't plain stupid or just innately corrupt? Wild Forests are more important for our Environment and for humanity well-being, unlike having corrupt, greedy and disgustingly rotten-to-their-souls gov't workers. Stop doing the rotten bidding of those despicable corporate asshats, immediately.

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

[Position]

[Position]

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

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Randy Taylor

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Robert
Last name: Taylor
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

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

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

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

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

I toured Alaska rainforest several times its extremely important to maintain the health of the rainforests and forest in Alaska. You will lose tourism dollars increase tempatures and frequency of forest fires.

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

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

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

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Simon
Last name: Taylor
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC5784

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: Sophie
Last name: Taylor
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Sophie Taylor 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, Sophie Taylor

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Stephen
Last name: Taylor
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Stephen Taylor and I live in Milford, 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, Stephen Taylor

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Stuart
Last name: Taylor
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC3229

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,

Stuart Taylor

Winston Salem, NC 27104

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Sue
Last name: Taylor
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Logging "America's Amazon" would be a travesty. We tell other nations not to log but will ravage our own resources for monetary gain. Anybody supporting this is only after MONEY.

In addition:

Trump's National Forest Service is using a refuted scientific theory to justify building roads in our country's largest national forest.

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.

Beverly Law, an Oregon State University professor, says the Trump administration's argument is "misinformation."

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.

Historically, large-scale industrial logging has damaged salmon streams. The Tongass is spawning ground for 40 percent of wild salmon along the West Coast.

[Position]

Federal Register

Friday,
January 12, 2001

Part VI

Department of Agriculture

Forest Service

36 CFR Part 294

Special Areas; Roadless Area Conservation; Final Rule

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

36 CFR Part 294

RIN 0596–AB77

Special Areas; Roadless Area Conservation

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Final rule and record of decision.

SUMMARY: The Department of Agriculture is adopting this final rule to establish prohibitions on road construction, road reconstruction, and timber harvesting in inventoried roadless areas on National Forest System lands. The intent of this final rule is to provide lasting protection for inventoried roadless areas within the National Forest System in the context of multiple-use management.

EFFECTIVE DATE: This rule is effective March 13, 2001.

ADDRESSES: For additional information, refer to the Roadless Area Conservation website (*roadless.fs.fed.us*). Written inquiries may be directed to USDA Forest Service, National Forest System Roadless Project, P.O. Box 96090, Washington, DC 20090–6090.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Scott Conroy, Project Director, Forest Service (703) 605–5299 or (800) 384–7623.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The following outline displays the contents of the preamble for this regulation.

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Purpose and Need for the Roadless Area Conservation Rule

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Fiscal Considerations
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Introduction

The Department of Agriculture is adopting this final rule to protect and conserve inventoried roadless areas on National Forest System lands. This preamble states the basis and purpose of the rule, includes responses to comments received on the proposed rule, and serves as the record of decision for this rulemaking. Preparation of the record of decision is required by the Council on Environmental Quality regulations (40 CFR 1505.2) implementing the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) (42 U.S.C. 4321). This document sets forth the reasons supporting the decision to adopt the final rule; the major policy issues that were raised in public comment; responses to public comment and changes adopted in response to comments; and the reasons this final rule was selected from among the alternatives considered to meet the agency's purpose and need, as described in the four volume final environmental impact statement (FEIS) and project record, which are incorporated by reference. Agency responses to comments on the draft environmental impact statement (DEIS) are contained in Volume 3 of the Forest Service Roadless Area Conservation FEIS (November 2000). Responses in Volume 3 relevant to the final rule are summarized in this document. Throughout this preamble and record of decision, citations to chapters and pages of the FEIS are provided for further information regarding the alternatives and effects analysis; for example, (FEIS Vol. 1, 3–237) refers to volume 1, chapter 3, page 237.

This final rule is available on the Forest Service website (*roadless.fs.fed.us*), along with the FEIS and much of the record supporting the decision for this final rule.

Purpose and Need for the Roadless Area Conservation Rule

The Department of Agriculture is responsible for managing National Forest System resources to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations. As noted in the USDA Forest Service Strategic Plan (2000 Revision) (*www.fs.fed.us/plan,* October 2000), demands for, and supplies of, renewable resources change over time in response to social values, new technology, and new information. In the future, expanding urban areas and increased fragmentation of private lands make it likely that the largest and most extensive tracts of undeveloped land will be those in public ownership.

This final rule prohibits road construction, reconstruction, and timber harvest in inventoried roadless areas because they have the greatest likelihood of altering and fragmenting landscapes, resulting in immediate, long-term loss of roadless area values and characteristics. Although other activities may also compromise roadless area values, they resist analysis at the national level and are best reviewed through local land management planning. Additionally, the size of the existing forest road system and attendant budget constraints prevent the agency from managing its road system to the safety and environmental standards to which it was built. Finally, national concern over roadless area management continues to generate controversy, including costly and time-consuming appeals and litigation (FEIS Vol. 1, 1–16 to 1–17). This final rule addresses these needs in the context of a national rulemaking.

Roadless Area Values and Characteristics

Inventoried roadless areas considered in this rule constitute roughly one-third of all National Forest System lands, or approximately 58.5 million acres. Although the inventoried roadless areas comprise only 2% of the land base in the continental United States, they are found within 661 of the over 2,000 major watersheds in the nation (FEIS Vol. 1, 3–50) and provide many social and ecological benefits.

As urban areas grow, undeveloped private lands continue to be converted to urban and developed areas, and rural infrastructure (such as roads, airports, and railways). An average of 3.2 million acres per year of forest, wetland, farmland, and open space were converted to more urban uses between 1992 and 1997. In comparison, 1.4 million acres per year were developed between 1982 and 1992. The rate of land development and urbanization between 1992 and 1997 was more than twice that of the previous decade, while the population growth rate remained fairly constant (FEIS Vol. 1, 3–12). In an increasingly developed landscape, large unfragmented tracts of land become more important. For example, from 1978 to 1994, the proportion of private forest ownerships of less than 50 acres nearly doubled (Birch, T.W. 1996. Private forest-land owners of the United States, 1994. Resource Bulletin NE–134. Radnor, PA: USDA Forest Service, Northeastern Experiment Station. 183 p). Subdivision and other diminishment of tract size of these lands can discourage long-term stewardship and conservation.

Inventoried roadless areas provide clean drinking water and 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 serve as bulwarks against the spread of non-native invasive plant species and provide reference areas for study and research (FEIS Vol. 1, 1–1 to 1–4).

The following values or features often characterize inventoried roadless areas (FEIS Vol. 1, 3–3 to 3–7):

High quality or undisturbed soil, water, and air. These three key resources are the foundation upon which other resource values and outputs depend. Healthy watersheds catch, store, and safely release water over time, protecting downstream communities from flooding; providing clean water for domestic, agricultural, and industrial uses; helping maintain abundant and healthy fish and wildlife populations; and are the basis for many forms of outdoor recreation.

Sources of public drinking water. National Forest System lands contain watersheds that are important sources of public drinking water. Roadless areas within the National Forest System contain all or portions of 354 municipal watersheds contributing drinking water to millions of citizens. Maintaining these areas in a relatively undisturbed condition saves downstream communities millions of dollars in water filtration costs. Careful management of these watersheds is crucial in maintaining the flow and affordability of clean water to a growing population.

Diversity of plant and animal communities. Roadless areas are more likely than roaded areas to support greater ecosystem health, including the diversity of native and desired nonnative plant and animal communities due to the absence of disturbances caused by roads and accompanying activities. Inventoried roadless areas also conserve native biodiversity by serving as a bulwark against the spread of nonnative invasive species.

Habitat for threatened, endangered, proposed, candidate, and sensitive species and for those species dependent on large, undisturbed areas of land. Roadless areas function as biological strongholds and refuges for many species. Of the nation's species currently listed as threatened, endangered, or proposed for listing under the Endangered Species Act, approximately 25% of animal species and 13% of plant species are likely to have habitat within inventoried roadless areas on National Forest System lands. Roadless areas support a diversity of aquatic habitats and communities, providing or affecting habitat for more than 280 threatened, endangered, proposed, and sensitive species. More than 65% of all Forest Service sensitive species are directly or indirectly affected by inventoried roadless areas. This percentage is composed of birds (82%), amphibians (84%), mammals (81%), plants (72%), fish (56%), reptiles (49%), and invertebrates (36%).

Primitive, Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized, and Semi-Primitive Motorized classes of dispersed recreation. Roadless areas often provide outstanding dispersed recreation opportunities such as hiking, camping, picnicking, wildlife viewing, hunting, fishing, cross-country skiing, and canoeing. While they may have many Wilderness-like attributes, unlike Wilderness the use of mountain bikes, and other mechanized means of travel is often allowed. These areas can also take pressure off heavily used wilderness areas by providing solitude and quiet, and dispersed recreation opportunities.

Reference landscapes. The body of knowledge about the effects of management activities over long periods of time and on large landscapes is very limited. Reference landscapes of relatively undisturbed areas serve as a barometer to measure the effects of development on other parts of the landscape.

Natural appearing landscapes with high scenic quality. High quality scenery, especially scenery with natural-appearing landscapes, is a primary reason that people choose to recreate. In addition, quality scenery contributes directly to real estate values in nearby communities and residential areas.

Traditional cultural properties and sacred sites. Traditional cultural properties are places, sites, structures, art, or objects that have played an important role in the cultural history of a group. Sacred sites are places that have special religious significance to a group. Traditional cultural properties and sacred sites may be eligible for protection under the National Historic Preservation Act. However, many of them have not yet been inventoried, especially those that occur in inventoried roadless areas.

Other locally identified unique characteristics. Inventoried roadless areas may offer other locally identified unique characteristics and values. Examples include uncommon geological formations, which are valued for their scientific and scenic qualities, or unique wetland complexes. Unique social, cultural, or historical characteristics may also depend on the roadless character of the landscape. Examples include ceremonial sites, places for local events, areas prized for collection of non-timber forest products, or exceptional hunting and fishing opportunities.

Fiscal Considerations

The Department is also concerned about building new roads in inventoried roadless areas, when there presently exists a backlog of about $8.4 billion in deferred maintenance and reconstruction on the more than 386,000 miles of roads in the Forest Transportation System. The agency

estimates that at least 60,000 miles of additional unauthorized roads exist across National Forest System lands.

The agency receives less than 20% of the funds needed annually to maintain the existing road infrastructure. As funding needs remain unmet, the cost of fixing deteriorating roads increases exponentially every year. Failure to maintain existing roads can also lead to erosion and water quality degradation and other environmental problems and potential threats to human safety. It makes little fiscal or environmental sense to build additional roads in inventoried roadless areas that have irretrievable values at risk when the agency is struggling to maintain its existing extensive road system (FEIS Vol. 1, 1–5 and 3–22). The National Forest System was founded more than 100 years ago to protect drinking water supplies and furnish a sustainable supply of timber. Neither objective is fully achievable given the present condition of the existing road system. The risks inherent in building new roads in presently roadless areas threaten environmental, social, and economic values.

Development activities in inventoried roadless areas often cost more to plan and implement than on other National Forest System lands. Some planned timber sales in inventoried roadless areas are likely to cost more to prepare and sell than they realize in revenues received. Because of the level of public controversy and analytical complexity, projects in roadless areas often require development of costly environmental impact statements for most resource development activities, including timber harvesting, in inventoried roadless areas. In some cases, road construction costs are higher due to rugged terrain or sensitive ecological factors. Many development projects in inventoried roadless areas are appealed or litigated. These factors contribute to generally higher costs for the agency to plan and implement development activities in inventoried roadless areas.

National Direction vs. Local Decisionmaking

At the national level, Forest Service officials have the responsibility to consider the ''whole picture'' regarding the management of the National Forest System, including inventoried roadless areas. Local land management planning efforts may not always recognize the national significance of inventoried roadless areas and the values they represent in an increasingly developed landscape. If management decisions for these areas were made on a case-by-case basis at a forest or regional level, inventoried roadless areas and their ecological characteristics and social values could be incrementally reduced through road construction and certain forms of timber harvest. Added together, the nation-wide results of these reductions could be a substantial loss of quality and quantity of roadless area values and characteristics over time.

In 1972, the Forest Service initiated a review of National Forest System roadless areas generally larger than 5,000 acres to determine their suitability for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System. A second review process completed in 1979, known as Roadless Area Review and Evaluation II (RARE II), resulted in another nationwide inventory of roadless areas. In the more than 20 years since the completion of RARE II, Congress has designated some of these areas as Wilderness. Additional reviews have been conducted through the land management planning process and other large-scale assessments. The 58.5 million acres of inventoried roadless areas used as the basis for this analysis were identified from the most recent analysis for each national forest or grassland, including RARE II, land and resource management planning, or other large-scale assessments such as the Southern Appalachian Assessment.

Of the 58.5 million acres of inventoried roadless areas considered in the FEIS, approximately 34.3 million acres have prescriptions that allow road construction and reconstruction. The remaining 24.2 million acres are currently allocated to management prescriptions that prohibit road construction; however, protections in these existing plans may change after future forest plan amendments or revisions.

Over the past 20 years, roads have been constructed in an estimated 2.8 million of those 34.3 million acres of inventoried roadless areas. The agency anticipates that the trend of building roads in inventoried roadless areas will gradually decrease in the future even without this rule due to economic and ecological factors already discussed, changes in agency policy, increasing controversy and litigation, and potential listings under the Endangered Species Act. While these anticipated changes may reduce some of the impact to inventoried roadless areas, they would not eliminate the future threat to roadless area values (FEIS Vol. 1, 1–14 to 1–15).

On many national forests and grasslands, roadless area management has been a major point of conflict in land management planning. The controversy continues today, particularly on most proposals to harvest timber, build roads, or otherwise develop inventoried roadless areas. The large number of appeals and lawsuits, and the extensive amount of congressional debate over the last 20 years, illustrates the need for national direction and resolution and the importance many Americans attach to the remaining inventoried roadless areas on National Forest System lands (FEIS Vol. 1, 1–16). These disputes are costly in terms of both fiscal resources and agency relationships with communities of place and communities of interest. Based on these factors, the agency decided that the best means to reduce this conflict is through a national level rule.

Importance of Watershed Protection

Watershed protection is one of the primary reasons Congress reserved or authorized the purchase of National Forest System lands. Watershed health and restoration is also one of four emphasis areas in the agency's Natural Resource Agenda. Protecting the remaining healthy components of a watershed provides multiple benefits and a strong base to anchor future restoration in unprotected portions of these watersheds. Rivers, streams, lakes, and wetlands within a watershed are the circulatory system of ecosystems, and water is the vital fluid for inhabitants of these ecosystems, including people (FEIS Vol. 1, 1–1).

Inventoried roadless areas comprise a small fraction of the national landscape, representing less than 2% of the land base of the continental United States. They are, however, disproportionately important to the small percentage of the land base they occupy. Overall, National Forest System watersheds provide about 14% of the total water flow of the nation, about 33% of water in the West (FEIS Vol. 1, 3–46). Of the watersheds on National Forest System land, 661 contain inventoried roadless areas and 354 of those watersheds serve as source areas of drinking water used by millions of people across the nation. Therefore, the health of these watersheds is important to people's health throughout the United States.

Roads have long been recognized as one of the primary human-caused sources of soil and water disturbances in forested environments (FEIS Vol. 1, 3–44). For example, while landslides are a natural process, extensive research and other investigations in the West have closely associated land management activities, particularly roading and timber harvest, with accelerated incidence of landslides by several orders of magnitude (FEIS Vol.

1, 3–58). A joint study by the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management in Oregon and Washington found that of 1,290 landslides reviewed in 41 sub-watersheds, 52% were related to roads, 31% to timber harvest, and 17% occurred in undisturbed forest (FEIS Vol. 1, 3–59). Another evaluation of landslides initiated by the Siuslaw National Forest found that roads were the source of 41% of landslides, harvest units less than 20 years old were the source of 36%, while natural forest processes accounted for the remaining 23%. Without the disturbance caused by roads and associated activities, stream channels are more likely to function naturally (FEIS Vol. 1, 3–54). Current road construction and timber harvest practices reduce the potential for damage associated with the use of earlier and less sophisticated techniques. However, even with today's improved design standards for road construction and timber harvest, these activities can still result in adverse effects to watersheds. These effects include pollution, changes to water temperatures and nutrient cycles, and increased sediment from storm or runoff events that exceed road design standards (FEIS Vol. 1, 3–45 to 3–50).

Improving Ecosystem Health

Inventoried roadless areas provide large, relatively undisturbed blocks of important habitat for a variety of terrestrial and aquatic wildlife and plants, including hundreds of threatened, endangered, and sensitive species. In addition to their ecological contributions to healthy watersheds, many inventoried roadless areas function as biological strongholds and refuges for a number of species and play a key role in maintaining native plant and animal communities and biological diversity (FEIS Vol. 1, 3–123 to 3–124). For example, about 60% of unroaded or very low road density sub watersheds within the Interior Columbia Basin Ecosystem Management Project (ICBEMP) assessment area are aquatic strongholds for salmonid populations (FEIS Vol. 1, 3–161). Inventoried roadless areas are key to recovery of salmon and steelhead stocks in decline, providing habitat to protect species until longer-term solutions can be developed for migration, passage, hatchery, and harvest problems associated with the decline of anadromous fish.

Species richness and native biodiversity are more likely to be effectively conserved in larger undisturbed landscapes, such as inventoried roadless areas (FEIS Vol. 1, 3–142). For example, inventoried roadless areas cover approximately 21% of the centers of biodiversity for animals and 10% for plants identified in ICBEMP (FEIS Vol. 1, 3–144 and 3–173). Inventoried roadless areas also provide reference landscapes that managers can use to gauge the health and condition of other land areas.

Road construction, reconstruction, and timber harvesting activities can result in fragmentation of ecosystems, the introduction of non-native invasive species, and other adverse consequences to the health and integrity of inventoried roadless areas (FEIS Vol. 1, 3–128 to 3–136). As human-caused fragmentation increases, the amount of core wildlife habitat decreases. This fragmentation results in decreased connectivity of wildlife habitat and wildlife movement, isolating some species and increasing the risk of local extirpations or extinctions (FEIS Vol. 1, 3–133). The value of inventoried roadless areas as habitat for threatened, endangered, and sensitive species and as biological strongholds can also be diminished due to these activities. For example, 220 species that are listed as threatened, endangered, or proposed for listing under the Endangered Species Act and 1,930 agency-identified sensitive species rely on habitat within inventoried roadless areas (FEIS Vol. 1, 3–180). The Department of Agriculture believes that the risks associated with certain development activities in inventoried roadless areas should be minimized and that these areas should be conserved for present and future generations.

Need for Action

Promulgating this rule is necessary to protect the social and ecological values and characteristics of inventoried roadless areas from road construction and reconstruction and certain timber harvesting activities. Without immediate action, these development activities may adversely affect watershed values and ecosystem health in the short and long term, expand the road maintenance backlog which would increase the financial burden associated with road maintenance, and perpetuate public controversy and debate over the management of these areas. The new planning rules provide for review of other activities and allow for additional protection of roadless areas, if warranted. Adoption of this final rule ensures that inventoried roadless areas will be managed in a manner that sustains their values now and for future generations.

Public Comments on the Proposed Rule

How Was Public Involvement Used in the Rulemaking Process?

In January 1998, Forest Service Chief Mike Dombeck proposed to temporarily suspend road construction and reconstruction in most inventoried roadless areas and other adjacent unroaded areas, and provided advance notice of revisions to the regulations governing the management of the Forest Transportation System. After analyzing public comments on the proposal, the Agency issued an interim rule at 36 CFR part 212, Administration of the Forest Development Transportation System: Temporary Suspension of Road Construction and Reconstruction in Unroaded Areas (February 12, 1999; 64 FR 7290). This Interim Roads Rule suspended road construction and reconstruction in certain inventoried roadless areas for 18 months (March 1999 through August 2000), while a long-term forest transportation policy was developed. During the public comment period for the Interim Roads Rule, the Agency received approximately 119,000 public comments, many of which mentioned the need for ''permanent protection'' of inventoried roadless areas.

On October 13, 1999, President William J. Clinton directed the Forest Service to develop and propose for public comment regulations that would provide appropriate long-term protection for currently inventoried roadless areas. The public, and all interested parties, were to have the opportunity to review and comment on the proposed regulations.

To comply with this presidential directive, the agency published a notice of intent to prepare a DEIS in the **Federal Register** (64 FR 56306) on October 19, 1999, and announced the initiation of the public rulemaking process to propose the protection of certain roadless areas within the National Forest System. Section 553(a) of the Administrative Procedures Act exempts public property rules from the public involvement requirements set forth in section 553. In 1971, the United States Department of Agriculture published a voluntary waiver of the exemption from the notice and comments requirements of 5 U.S.C. 553(b) and (c) (36 FR 13804). Accordingly, the Forest Service published a proposed rulemaking in the **Federal Register** and provided opportunity for public participation during the development of the proposed and final rules. (*See Rodway* v. *USDA, 514 F.2d 809* (*D.C. Cir. 1975*)).

On May 10, 2000, the Forest Service issued a proposed rule in the **Federal Register** (65 FR 30276). The notice of availability of the DEIS was published in the **Federal Register** on May 19, 2000 (65 FR 31898). The public comment period on the proposed rule and DEIS closed on July 17, 2000. The notice of availability of the FEIS was published in the **Federal Register** on November 17, 2000 (65 FR 69513).

The agency's notice of intent to prepare an environmental impact statement drew about 16,000 people to 187 public meetings and elicited more than 517,000 responses. Although the purpose of the notice of intent was merely to solicit issues that the public thought should be addressed in the development of a DEIS, the Forest Service provided maps and other information to address public concerns and questions. On March 15, 2000, two months before release of the proposed rule and DEIS, news releases and letters were sent to news media, other Federal, State, and local government agencies, libraries, and Forest Service units to explain how to obtain the proposed rule and DEIS in a variety of electronic and hardcopy formats. The proposed action and other alternatives, background information, and a schedule of public meetings were posted on the agency's Roadless Area Conservation website (*roadless.fs.fed.us*).

The Forest Service hosted two cycles of meetings during the comment period on the DEIS and proposed rule—one for information sharing and discussion and the other to collect oral comments. Written comments were collected at both meetings. About 430 public meetings were held—about 230 for information sharing and written comments and about 200 for collecting oral and written comments. Every national forest and grassland hosted at least two meetings. These meetings drew over 23,000 people nationwide.

The Forest Service also received comments by postal and electronic mail and by telefax. By the close of the comment period, the agency received over 1 million postcards or other form letters; 60,000 original letters; 90,000 electronic mail messages; and several thousand telefaxes (FEIS Vol. 1, 1–7). The Forest Service's Content Analysis Enterprise Team in Salt Lake City, Utah, organized and analyzed the comments on the proposal. Some respondents focused their remarks on provisions of the proposed rule, others concentrated on the alternatives and analyses contained in the DEIS, and many comments applied to both documents.

Information from the formal public meetings, letters, emails, telefaxes, and other sources were all included in the FEIS analysis. The Forest Service reviewed, analyzed, and responded to those comments. Responses to comments directly related to the proposed rule are included in this preamble. An explanation of the comment analysis process and how the comments were used to clarify text, modify alternatives or analysis, or augment technical information is included in Volume 3 of the FEIS.

One of the major process concerns expressed was that the agency did not give the public and governmental entities, such as Tribes, States, and counties adequate notice or time to comment on the proposed action. The agency recognizes that many groups would have preferred additional time for review and comment. However, the time period was adequate to allow for more than 1.6 million comments to be received throughout the process. Throughout the process, the agency's website has provided up-to-date information for interested parties to learn about the proposed action. The straightforward nature of the proposed rule and the sheer volume of comments received are compelling evidence that there was an adequate opportunity for the public to be heard, and sufficient information for officials to make a reasoned and informed decision.

Since the publication of the FEIS, the agency has received comments on the FEIS and the preferred alternative. Generally, these comments mirror comments received on the NOI and DEIS. The majority of these respondents asked for the prohibitions to immediately take effect on the Tongass National Forest, and for additional prohibitions on off-highway vehicle use, grazing, and mining activities. Some respondents provided additional information on potential environmental and economic effects, which the agency has reviewed and determined fall within the range of effects disclosed in the FEIS. These comments were considered by the agency in the development of the final rule and are in the project record.

What General Issues Were Identified Regarding the Proposed Rule and Draft Environmental Impact Statement?

Overview. Comments on the notice of intent, the proposed rule, and the DEIS illustrated strongly held individual values and beliefs and a wide range of views on how to manage inventoried roadless areas. These comments can be divided into two basic and very different perspectives (FEIS Vol. 1, 1–8 to 1–9). One perspective is that decisions concerning management of inventoried roadless areas should be left to the local responsible official, without national intervention. The other perspective is that national prohibitions on road construction, reconstruction, and timber harvest in inventoried roadless areas, along with a stop to other activities, must occur from a national level, as local decisionmaking does not always reflect the national significance of the issues involved. The agency considered and attempted to balance both perspectives throughout this rulemaking.

These two viewpoints focused on six major categories of issues in the DEIS as follows: public access, identification of other unroaded areas, exemptions and exceptions, environmental effects, local involvement (decisionmaking), and the effect on forest dependent communities (FEIS Vol. 1, 1–9 to 1–14).

After reviewing and analyzing the public comments received during the comment period for the proposed rule and DEIS, the agency found that these major issue categories were still valid. Public comment within these categories is incorporated in the discussions of specific issues and comments related to each section of the proposed rule. These issues also have been used for the following purposes in the rulemaking process: to determine the scope of the proposal (type of decision to be made); to develop a range of alternatives; to identify possible mitigation measures; to direct the analysis of potential environmental, social, and economic effects; and to ensure that the agency is operating within its legal authorities.

Issues Raised by Those Opposed to Prohibitions. This group indicated that inventoried roadless areas should remain available for road construction and reconstruction to obtain resources, to provide increased motorized recreation opportunities, and for other uses. These individuals expressed the viewpoint that roadless areas, with active and prudent management, could support both intrinsic benefits and commodity uses, and that local responsible officials should make management decisions on inventoried roadless areas. This group also indicated that environmental concerns should not take precedence over human needs and desired uses, and that maintaining a healthy environment should not preclude resource production, motorized access, and developed recreation opportunities.

Many members of this group also stated that conservation requires active management, such as providing roads for: thinning forest vegetation, insect and disease treatment, commodity resource production, hazardous fuels

reductions, and the development of recreation facilities. They stressed that the failure to actively manage forests and grasslands could result in insect infestations and uncharacteristic wildfire effects, and asserted that prudent management would benefit people and wildlife. They expressed concern for the impact this rule would have on future generations that would not be able to participate in a lifestyle that is dependent on resource use and production. They said that if future generations would not be able to access the land, they would not value the land.

Issues Raised by Those Who Favor Prohibitions. These respondents indicated that they viewed forestlands as whole ecosystems and that they thought roadless areas should be conserved for their intrinsic values and for esthetic benefits to humans. In their view, roadless areas should be allowed to evolve naturally through their own dynamic processes, although some proponents agreed with the need for limited stewardship activity. This second group stressed that human desire for commodity production should take second place to needs for a healthy environment (both locally and globally), for quiet natural places, for spiritual and psychological regeneration, and to meet the needs of other living things. They indicated that the social and economic needs of forest-dependent users could be met through job retraining, through development of alternative materials, and by designating already developed areas for motorized recreation and other ground-disturbing activities.

Most of the respondents in this second group maintained that the proposed rule did not prohibit enough development activities. They stated that the final rule should immediately ban timber harvest, other commodity production, and motorized recreation from roadless areas 1,000 acres or larger, and that the agency should not defer conservation of roadless areas to future land management planning processes. They also stressed that the Tongass National Forest should be included in this conservation effort, an issue that the agency specifically requested comment on in the DEIS. Many respondents in this group expressed a desire that future generations receive the benefits of clean air and water, habitat adequate to assure species diversity, and other social and ecological values provided by inventoried roadless areas.

Issues Raised by Federal, Tribal, State and Local Public Officials. The agency received many comments from Federal, Tribal, State and local public officials and agencies across the country. Letters received from these sources during the comment period on the DEIS are published in Volume 4 of the FEIS. These comments reflect a cross-section of the comments received from the public at large.

Many public officials from States and counties concerned about access to and across National Forest System lands and concerned about forest dependent communities expressed strong opposition to the proposed rule, citing negative economic impacts to these communities and commodity production industries, as well as negative impacts to rural lifestyles. Access to State-owned lands and impacts to statutory rights-of-way across public lands were major concerns as well. In general, those Western States with the greatest roadless acreage (for example, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Utah, and Wyoming) tended to generate the greatest number of negative comments from Governors, agencies, and officials. Public officials from areas with larger urban populations generally supported the proposed rule because of their expressed desire for recreation opportunities, protection of water quality, and undisturbed landscapes.

The following examples illustrate these different views. In the State of Washington, some of the officials and agencies writing in support of the proposed rule included the Governor, King and Spokane Counties, and the Seattle City Council, while Stevens County, the City of Forks, and the City of Port Angeles were opposed (FEIS Vol. 4, 573, 579, 583 to 588). In Missouri, the Dent County Commission was opposed to the proposal while the State's Department of Natural Resources was supportive (FEIS Vol. 4, 250 to 252).

Comments from agencies also varied according to the anticipated effects to their management programs. For example, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission saw the proposed rule as resulting in positive benefits for native wildlife and plant communities, while the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries saw the proposal as harmful to wildlife and the management of wildlife (FEIS Vol. 4, 79 to 81, 571). Most responding Department of Transportation offices were concerned over access and maintenance issues.

Letters from Tribal officials provided mixed comments and concerns. Some Tribes were generally supportive of the proposed rule, with the provision that traditional uses of the land and access to cultural and sacred sites be allowed to continue. Other Tribes expressed concern about how the proposal might affect economic opportunities. Still others believed that the rule should further restrict certain activities in inventoried roadless areas that may affect adjacent Tribal lands.

What Specific Issues Were Raised on the Proposed Rule and What Changes Did the Agency Make From Proposed To Final Rules?

The following is a section-by-section discussion of issues raised and comments received on the proposed rule, the agency's response, and a description of changes made to the rule.

Proposed § 294.10—Purpose. This proposed section identified the agency's goal of providing lasting protection for inventoried roadless areas and other unroaded areas of the National Forest System in the context of multiple-use management.

Comment on Multiple-Use. Some respondents commented that the proposed rule did not provide for multiple-use of inventoried roadless areas, since resources cannot always be accessed and developed without roads and, therefore, for example, forest health issues could not be addressed.

Response. The Multiple-Use Sustained-Yield Act of 1960 (MUSYA) provides the Forest Service authority to manage national forest and grasslands ''for outdoor recreation, range, timber, watershed, and wildlife and fish purposes.'' The NFMA reaffirmed multiple-use and sustained-yield as the guiding principles for land management planning of National Forest System lands (16 U.S.C. 1600, 1604).

In defining ''multiple use,'' the MUSYA, as amended, clearly provides that under multiple-use management some land will be used for less than all of the possible resource uses of the national forests and grasslands. The act also provides that even the establishment of wilderness areas is consistent with the purposes and provisions of the act. The Roadless Area Conservation rule, unlike the establishment of wilderness areas, will allow a multitude of activities including motorized uses, grazing, and oil and gas development that does not require new roads to continue in inventoried roadless areas.

Currently, a wide range of multiple uses is permitted in inventoried roadless areas subject to the management direction in forest plans. A wide range of multiple uses will still be allowable under the provisions of this rule. The National Forest System contains an extensive system of roads measuring approximately 386,000 miles. This final rule will not close or otherwise block access to any of those roads; the final rule merely prohibits the construction of new roads and the

reconstruction of existing roads in inventoried roadless areas.

Under this final rule, management actions that do not require the construction of new roads will still be allowed, including activities such as timber harvesting for clearly defined, limited purposes, development of valid claims of locatable minerals, grazing of livestock, and off-highway vehicle use where specifically permitted. Existing classified roads in inventoried roadless areas may be maintained and used for these and other activities as well. Forest health treatments for the purposes of improving threatened, endangered, proposed, or sensitive species habitat or maintaining or restoring the characteristics of ecosystem composition and structure, such as reducing the risk of uncharacteristic wildfire effects, will be allowed where access can be gained through existing roads or by equipment not requiring roads. Also, see the response to proposed § 294.12 for further discussion of the MUSYA.

Comment on Forest Plan Amendments. Many respondents asserted that the rule would supersede forest plans, the National Forest Management Act, and land management planning regulations, and thus exceed existing statutory authority. Others contended that the rule would require an amendment to forest plans.

Response. The preamble to the recent NFMA planning regulations identify that ''[p]lanning will be conducted at the appropriate level depending on the scope and scale of the issues.'' The Department went on to note that ''[f]undamental to this rule is the notion that there is a hierarchy of scale to be considered when addressing resource management issues, and that it is the nature of the issue that guides the selection of the appropriate scale and level of the organization to address it'' (65 FR 67523). The use of rulemaking to address the conservation of inventoried roadless areas is both appropriate and consistent with the NFMA implementing regulations.

Just as development and approval of forest plans must conform to existing laws and regulations, new laws or regulations, including this rule, can supersede existing forest plan management direction. This rulemaking process does not require amendments or revisions to forest plans. However, a Forest or Grassland Supervisor may consider whether an amendment or revision is appropriate given overall circumstances for a particular administrative unit.

Comment on Roadless Areas in Forest Planning. A few respondents stated that the purposed section should require the incorporation of roadless area protection into forest plans.

Response. The recently revised regulations at 36 CFR part 219 guiding the development of forest plans (November 9, 2000; 65 FR 67571) contain a requirement at § 219.9(b)(8) that provides additional protection for unroaded and inventoried roadless areas. During the plan revision process, or at other times as deemed appropriate, the responsible official must identify and evaluate inventoried roadless areas and unroaded areas and then determine which, if any, of those areas warrant additional protection and the level of protection to be afforded. For this reason, there is no need to add the suggested language to the purpose section of the final rule. In fact, inclusion of these procedures in the new planning regulations is why the procedures proposed at § 294.13 have been removed from this rule.

Summary of Changes in Section 294.10 of the Final Rule. Having considered the comments received, the agency has retained the purpose section with two changes: (1) The sentence has been reorganized to emphasize that the goal of providing lasting protection of roadless areas must occur within the context of multiple-use management; and (2) the agency has removed the reference to ''other unroaded areas'' in this section, since, as already noted, the new land and resource management planning regulations at 36 CFR part 219 provide for evaluation of these areas at the time of land and resource management plan revision (FEIS Vol. 1, 1–16).

Proposed Section 294.11 Definitions. This section set out the terms and definitions used in the proposed rule. The proposed rule contained definitions for the following terms: ''inventoried roadless areas, responsible official, road, classified road, unclassified road, road construction, road maintenance, road reconstruction, (road) realignment, (road) improvement, (road) rebuilding, unroaded area, unroaded portion of an inventoried roadless area.''

Comment on ''Inventoried Roadless Area'' Definition. Some respondents requested a modification of the definition for ''inventoried roadless area'' to include ''undeveloped areas of 1,000 acres and larger'' rather than ''undeveloped areas exceeding 5,000 acres.'' Others thought that including references to the minimum criteria for wilderness made the definition too restrictive, eliminating otherwise deserving areas from protection. Some expressed confusion over which inventories were used to determine inventoried roadless areas, and the possibility of error in identifying inventoried roadless areas.

Response. The proposed definition of inventoried roadless area was based on a group of roadless areas that were evaluated for wilderness consideration beginning in the 1970's and through subsequent planning efforts. With the publication of the DEIS and now the FEIS, the agency can now define these inventoried roadless areas as those areas identified in the set of maps contained in Volume 2 of the FEIS or subsequent revisions. These maps are maintained at the national headquarters of the Forest Service and are the official maps for the final rule. In the event a modification to correct any clerical, typographical, or other technical error is needed, the change will be made to the national headquarters maps and corrected copies of the maps made available to other administrative units. This definition does not apply to future areas that may be inventoried for wilderness consideration or other purposes. This modification, which removed the historical context for the definition of inventoried roadless area, has been included in the final rule.

Comment on ''Unroaded Area'' Definition. The identification of unroaded areas other than those already inventoried was a major issue. It was unclear to some respondents whether the presence of unclassified roads would be a factor in determining whether an area qualified as an unroaded area. Others thought that the definition of ''unroaded area'' should not include unclassified roads because such areas could not foster isolation, independence, or an undisturbed setting. Others suggested that these issues are better resolved through local land management planning. The public suggested various criteria and processes for the protection and management of these other unroaded areas.

Response. These suggestions were considered under procedural alternatives A through D in the DEIS. Since the comment period on the DEIS closed, the consideration of other unroaded areas has been addressed in the context of the final planning regulations at 36 CFR part 219. The agency agreed with the respondents who believed these types of planning issues were more appropriately addressed in the context of the planning rule and local land management planning. Thus, comments on how to consider and manage these other unroaded areas were considered in the preparation of the planning rule. As explained in the discussion of the agency's response to proposed § 294.13

later in this preamble, the provisions of the proposed rule relevant to unroaded areas have been removed. Therefore, the term ''unroaded area'' is no longer needed.

Comment on ''Responsible Official'' Definition. Some respondents wanted to know whether the responsible official for activities within an inventoried roadless area would be a District Ranger, Forest Supervisor, or Regional Forester.

Response. The appropriate responsible official, as defined in the proposed rule, depends on the decision under consideration. For example, District Rangers often make decisions regarding trail construction, special use authorizations, and wildlife habitat improvement projects. Forest Supervisors typically make decisions on major developed recreation sites, large timber sales, and ski area developments. This rule does not alter existing delegations of authority for Forest Service responsible officials. Because the scope of a proposed decision determines who will make the decision, the definition of ''responsible official'' must be broad enough to embrace the various possibilities. Therefore, the final rule retains, without change, the definition in the proposed rule.

Comment on ''Road'' Definition. Respondents expressed concern that the definition of a road was ambiguous and failed to recognize the primitive travelways used by motorized recreationists. Some respondents were concerned that the definition indicated permission for the construction of a travelway over 50 inches wide for off-road vehicles if the road was determined to be a trail. Other respondents thought that the definition of classified roads should include Revised Statute (R.S.) 2477 roads.

Response. For agency consistency, this final rule includes the same definitions of ''road,'' ''classified road,'' ''unclassified road,'' and ''temporary road'' that are contained in the National Forest System Road Management regulations (36 CFR part 212) and policy (Forest Service Manual 7700 and 7710) transmitted on January 4, 2001 for publication in the **Federal Register**. Based on consideration of public comment received on the road management proposal, these definitions were revised for clarity and a definition for ''temporary road'' was added.

A trail is established for travel by foot, stock, or trail vehicle, and can be over, or under, 50 inches wide. Nothing in this paragraph as proposed was intended to prohibit the authorized construction, reconstruction, or maintenance of motorized or non-motorized trails that are classified and managed as trails pursuant to existing statutory and regulatory authority and agency direction (FSM 2350). Nor was anything in this paragraph intended to condone or authorize the use of user created or unauthorized roads or trails. These decisions are made subject to existing agency regulations and policy and that intent has been retained in the final rule.

Future claims and existing rights for R.S. 2477 roads would not be affected by this rule. The agency recognizes valid R.S. 2477 rights-of-way. However, the validity of R.S. 2477 assertions must be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. Therefore, there is no need to modify the definition of classified road for this purpose.

Comment on Road Management Terms. Some respondents thought the definitions of ''road construction,'' ''maintenance,'' ''reconstruction,'' ''realignment,'' ''improvement,'' and ''rebuilding'' were confusing. Others wanted clarification on whether the terms applied only to classified roads, or to unclassified roads as well.

Response. As previously noted in this preamble, this final rule includes the definitions of road management terms adopted in the final National Forest System Road Management Rule and policy. The definition of ''rebuilding'' has been removed; the definition of ''road'' has expanded to include ''temporary road;'' and the other terms were revised in the final road management policy and are used verbatim in this rule for consistency.

Comment on ''Unroaded Portion of an Inventoried Roadless Area'' Definition. Many respondents considered the term and definition of ''unroaded portion of an inventoried roadless area'' confusing and remarked that they did not understand how it would be applied. In response to the identified preferred alternative in the FEIS, which would have applied the prohibitions to developed portions of inventoried roadless areas, respondents questioned why the agency would seek to protect roadless area values and characteristics in areas that have already been roaded and had timber harvest, thereby negating the very characteristics this rule seeks to protect.

Response. One of the primary objectives of this rulemaking was to resolve the longstanding controversies surrounding management of inventoried roadless areas. Without additional clarification, the definition of ''unroaded portion of an inventoried roadless area'' could have begun a new round of land management plan inventories and controversy about how to identify the boundary between the roaded and unroaded portions of these areas. This had the potential to increase rather than reduce the number of appeals and lawsuits surrounding inventoried roadless area management.

The agency agreed that the terminology and definition in the proposed rule were confusing. Therefore, it proposed in the FEIS eliminating this definition and applying the prohibitions to the entire area within an inventoried roadless area boundary.

To resolve the agency's concern about extending the controversy to future land management planning and to address the public concern about precluding timber harvesting in the portions of inventoried roadless areas that no longer possess roadless characteristics, § 294.13(b)(4) has been added. This paragraph allows timber to be cut, sold, or removed in the portions of inventoried roadless areas where roadless values and characteristics have been substantially altered due to road construction and subsequent timber harvest after the area was inventoried. No new road construction would be allowed. Decisions on whether or not an inventoried roadless area's characteristics have been substantially altered would occur during project planning and decisionmaking.

In response to the proposed rule, some respondents questioned why the agency would only exempt those portions developed after an area was inventoried, rather than exempting all developed portions regardless of when the road construction and timber harvest occurred. Some inventoried roadless areas, particularly those in the East, contained roads at the time of their inventory and timber may also have been harvested in these areas. However, the agency assumes that these prior existing developments and activities did not substantially alter the areas' roadless values and characteristics, or they would not have been inventoried for possible wilderness consideration.

For the reasons described, the term ''unroaded portion of an inventoried roadless area'' is no longer necessary and has been removed from the definitions in the final rule.

Comment on ''Roadless Area Characteristics.'' Some respondents wanted additions to the list of roadless area characteristics identified in proposed § 294.13(a), more specific characteristics for each inventoried roadless area, clarification as to their meaning, and to know how they would be used in the evaluation of inventoried roadless areas and unroaded areas during forest plan revision.

Response. Although the term ''roadless area characteristics'' was not defined in the proposed rule, proposed § 294.13 did include the list of characteristics. While proposed § 294.13 was not retained in the final rule for reasons described in the section of this preamble entitled ''Consideration of Roadless Area Conservation During Forest Plan Revision,'' the roadless area characteristics remain fundamental to the environmental analysis of the alternatives considered in this rulemaking and are critical to evaluating whether trees may be cut, removed, or sold from inventoried roadless areas pursuant to the provisions at § 294.13(b). For these reasons, the list of roadless area characteristics has been reformatted with minor changes for clarification and added to the definitions in § 294.11 of the final rule.

The definition of roadless area characteristics includes ''other locally identified unique characteristics'' to capture unique characteristics specific to individual inventoried roadless areas identified during local land management planning. Therefore, it is not necessary to identify, in this rule, characteristics for each inventoried roadless area or to add to the list in the definition. A more detailed description of these characteristics is in the section of this preamble entitled ''Roadless Area Values and Characteristics''.

Summary of Changes in § 294.11 of the Final Rule. The definitions section of the final rule reflects the preceding responses to comments received. Revisions have been made in the road management definitions included in § 294.11 to achieve consistency with the final National Forest System Road Management Rule as well as with the provisions of the final National Forest System Land and Resource Management Planning Rule. The terms ''unroaded portion of an inventoried roadless area'' and ''unroaded area'' were removed from the definitions. The first sentence was removed from the proposed rule's definition of ''inventoried roadless area'' because, while the sentence provided historical context, it was not necessary for the definition. The definition of ''roadless area characteristics'' has been added.

Proposed Section 294.12. Prohibition on road construction and reconstruction in inventoried roadless areas. This section of the proposed rule identified the road construction and reconstruction prohibitions, and exemptions and exceptions to the prohibitions. Paragraph (a) of proposed § 294.12 prohibited road construction and reconstruction in the unroaded portions of inventoried roadless areas, except for the circumstances listed in proposed paragraphs (b)(1) through (b)(4) and paragraph (c).

Comment on Agency Authority. The agency received many comments questioning whether the Forest Service had the authority to prohibit road construction through this rulemaking process, and whether the proposed rule was in conflict with existing environmental and land management laws and policies.

Response. The Forest Service routinely makes decisions to construct or not construct roads for a variety of purposes. The Secretary has clear authority to promulgate this rule, and this rule does not conflict with existing law and policy. The foundation for any exercise of power by the Federal government is the United States Constitution. The Constitutional provision that provides authority for management of public lands is the Property Clause (Article IV, Section 3). The Property Clause states that Congress has the power to dispose of and make all needful rules and regulations respecting land or other property belonging to the United States. Using this authority, Congress entrusted the Secretary of Agriculture with broad powers to protect and administer the National Forest System by passing laws, such as 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).

The duties that Congress assigned to the Secretary include regulating the occupancy and use of National Forest System lands and preserving the forests from destruction (16 U.S.C. 551). Through the MUSYA, Congress directed the Secretary to administer the National Forest System for multiple-use and sustained-yield of renewable resources without impairment of the productivity of the land (16 U.S.C. 528–531), thus establishing multiple-use as the foundation for management of national forests and grasslands. These multiple uses include outdoor recreation, range, timber, watershed, and wildlife and fish purposes. The statute defines ''multiple use'' broadly, calling for management of the various uses in the combination that will best meet the needs of the American people (16 U.S.C. 531). Under this framework, courts have recognized that the MUSYA does not envision that every acre of National Forest System land be managed for every multiple use, and does envision some lands being used for less than all of the resources. As a consequence, the agency has wide discretion to weigh and decide the proper uses within any area (*Wind-River Multiple-use Advocates* v. *Espy,* 835 F. Supp. 1362, 1372 (D.Wyo.1993)).

In passing the MUSYA, Congress also affirmed the application of sustainability to the broad range of resources the Forest Service manages, and did so without limiting the agency's broad discretion in determining the appropriate resource emphasis and mix of uses. Some of the agency's past decisions have been challenged in court, leading to judicial decisions interpreting the extent of Forest Service discretion, or judgment, in managing National Forest System lands. Courts have routinely held that the Forest Service has wide discretion in deciding the proper mix of uses within any area of National Forest System lands. In the words of the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, the agency's authority pursuant to the MUSYA ''breathes discretion at every pore.'' (*Perkins* v. *Bergland*, 608 F.2d 803, 806 (9th Cir.1979)).

The NFMA reaffirmed multiple-use and sustained-yield as the guiding principles for land management planning of National Forest System lands (16 U.S.C. 1600, 1604). Together with other applicable laws, the NFMA authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to promulgate regulations governing the administration and management of the National Forest Transportation System (16 U.S.C. 1608) and other such regulations as the Secretary determines necessary and desirable to carry out the provisions of the NFMA (16 U.S.C. 1613). These laws complement the long-standing authority of the Secretary to regulate the occupancy and use of the National Forest System (16 U.S.C. 551).

Comment on National Prohibitions vs. *Local Decisionmaking.* Many respondents supported the proposed national prohibition on new road construction in inventoried roadless areas. Other respondents felt there should not be a national prohibition because this would eliminate the option of making local decisions based on public input. Others felt the decisions regarding construction of roads in inventoried roadless areas should be made when forest plans are revised.

Response. The agency has addressed this issue in detail at the outset of this final rule. At the national level, Forest Service officials have the responsibility to consider the ''whole picture'' regarding the management of the National Forest System, including inventoried roadless areas. Local land management planning efforts may not always recognize the national significance of inventoried roadless areas and the values they represent in an increasingly developed landscape. If

management decisions for these areas were made on a case-by-case basis at a forest or regional level, inventoried roadless areas and their ecological characteristics and social values could be incrementally reduced through road construction and certain forms of timber harvest. Added together, the nation-wide results of these reductions could be a substantial loss of quality and quantity of roadless area values and characteristics over time.

On many national forests and grasslands, roadless area management has been a major point of conflict in land management planning. The controversy continues today, particularly on most proposals to harvest timber, build roads, or otherwise develop inventoried roadless areas. The large number of appeals and lawsuits, and the extensive amount of congressional debate over the last 20 years illustrates the need for national direction and resolution and the importance many Americans attach to the remaining inventoried roadless areas on National Forest System lands (FEIS Vol. 1, 1–16). These disputes are costly in terms of both fiscal resources and agency relationships with communities of place and communities of interest. Based on these factors, the agency decided that the best means to reduce this conflict is through a national level rule.

Comment on Access. The agency received many comments questioning how the proposed rule would affect access to lands that the agency does not manage, such as State lands or private inholdings, and access pursuant to the General Mining Law of 1872.

Response. This rule does not affect a State's or private landowner's right of access to their land. The proposed rule did not close any roads or off-highway vehicle (OHV) trails. The proposed rule provided for the construction and reconstruction of roads in inventoried roadless areas where needed pursuant to existing or outstanding rights, or as provided for by statute or treaty, including R.S. 2477 rights, access to inholdings under the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) provisions, or circumstances where a valid right-of-way exists.

The most common right of access to non-federally owned property surrounded by National Forest System lands is a road constructed or reconstructed on those National Forest System lands. The final rule at § 294.12(b)(3) provides for construction or reconstruction of a road in an inventoried roadless area ''if the Responsible Official determines that * * * a road is needed pursuant to reserved or outstanding rights, or as provided for by statute or treaty.'' For example, the ANILCA provides a landowner a right of access across National Forest System lands in certain circumstances, and this rule does not amend or modify that statute.

Title 36 part 251 of the Code of Federal Regulations implements the ANILCA access provisions and sets forth the procedures by which landowners may apply for access across National Forest System lands; this rule does not amend or modify that regulation. Access to non-Federal land does not have to be a road in all cases, nor does it have to be the most economical, direct, or convenient for the landowner, although the agency tries to be sensitive to the cost in time and money to the inholder. The cost to construct or reconstruct road access to non-Federal lands is usually the responsibility of the inholder, not the Forest Service. During the application process for such access, applicable laws, such as the National Environmental Policy Act and the Endangered Species Act, still must be considered.

Access for the exploration of locatable minerals pursuant to the General Mining Law of 1872 is not prohibited by this rule. Nor is reasonable access for the development of valid claims pursuant to the General Mining Law of 1872 prohibited. In some cases, access other than roads may be adequate for mineral activities. This access may include, but is not limited to, helicopter, road construction or reconstruction, or non-motorized transport. Determination of access requirements for exploration or development of locatable minerals is governed by the provisions of 36 CFR part 228.

Comments on Effect on Fire Suppression. Numerous respondents expressed concern with the effect of a road construction prohibition on fire fighter safety and access to suppress wildland fires.

Response. Proposed § 294.12(b)(1) allowed road construction and reconstruction in inventoried roadless areas when a road is needed to protect public health and safety in cases of an imminent threat of flood, fire, or other catastrophic event. In addition, using such suppression resources as smokejumpers and fire crews delivered by helicopters, the current fire suppression organization has been effective in suppressing at a small size approximately 98% of wildland fire starts in inventoried roadless areas. The agency also typically prioritizes fighting roadless and wilderness fires lower than fighting fires in more accessible and populated areas. The Agency has a long history of successfully suppressing fires in inventoried roadless areas and this high level of suppression performance is expected to continue. Furthermore, the agency rarely builds new roads to suppress fires. Building roads into inventoried roadless areas would likely increase the chance of human-caused fires due to the increased presence of people. Fire occurrence data indicates that prohibiting road construction and reconstruction in inventoried roadless areas would not cause an increase in the number of acres burned by wildland fires or in the number of large fires (FEIS Vol. 1, 3–115).

Comment on Including Other Unroaded Areas. Some respondents asserted that prohibitions should be applied to all roadless areas, not just inventoried roadless areas.

Response. The agency had adequate information to assess the effects of implementing the prohibition of road construction and limited timber harvesting in inventoried roadless areas. There was not sufficient information to make a decision regarding other uninventoried unroaded areas. Furthermore, the agency decided that these uninventoried unroaded areas would be better evaluated in the context of the new planning regulations at 36 CFR part 219.

Comment on Relationship to Other Rulemakings. Some respondents have questioned whether the agency has adequately integrated the decision to prohibit road construction and timber harvesting in inventoried roadless areas with other agency rulemaking efforts.

Response. The objective of conserving inventoried roadless areas reflects current scientific understanding of the importance of inventoried roadless area ecosystems and changing values of society as evidenced by comments received on this proposal.

This final roadless area conservation rule is entirely consistent with other Forest Service rulemaking and policy efforts, including the agency's final planning rule at 36 CFR part 219 (November 9, 2000; 65 FR 67514) and newly adopted National Forest System Road Management regulations (36 CFR part 212) and policy (Forest Service Manual 7700 and 7710). It is also consistent with the report of Secretaries Babbitt and Glickman to the President, *Managing the Impacts of Wildfire on Communities and the Environment* (September 8, 2000), the agency's *Protecting People and Sustaining Resources in Fire-Adapted Ecosystems: A Cohesive Strategy* (November 9, 2000; 65 FR 67480), and ongoing efforts to reduce the risk of fire to communities and the environment.

The planning rule provides the overall framework for planning and management of the National Forest System. No provisions in the Roadless Area Conservation rule would require land management or project planning, although managers may decide to initiate plan revisions. However, this final rule does complement the key sustainability, science, and spatial decisionmaking issues raised by the planning rule.

The planning rule also requires that during the plan revision process, or at other times as deemed appropriate, the responsible official must identify and evaluate inventoried roadless areas and unroaded areas and then determine which inventoried roadless areas and unroaded areas warrant additional protection and the level of protection to be afforded. This provision is similar to the procedural requirements proposed in May 2000, as part of the proposed Roadless Area Conservation Rule. Given their inclusion in the final planning rule, the procedural provisions have been removed from this final rule. As disclosed in the DEIS, the proposed procedures do not directly result in adverse physical or biological environmental effects, nor do the procedures cause irreversible or irretrievable resource commitments (DEIS Vol. 1, 3–223). The FEIS disclosed the combined effects of the final planning rule and the final roadless rule as being complementary, not additive (FEIS Vol. 1, 3–397; see also 65 FR 67529).

The National Forest System Road Management regulations and policy are designed to make the agency's existing road system more safe, responsive to public needs, environmentally sound, and affordable to manage. Elements of the regulation and policy requiring planning would be completed using the new planning rules. For example, under the road management policy, national forests and grasslands would have to complete an analysis of their existing road system and then incorporate this analysis into their land management plans. Consistent with the planning rule, this would be accomplished by using a science-based analysis procedure and by working cooperatively with other agency partners and the public.

Together, these requirements ensure that roadless areas and their important social and ecological characteristics will be conserved for present and future generations based on the principles of sustainability, sound science, and collaboration. The Forest Service has coordinated development of each of these rulemakings to ensure that the rules are integrated and consistent. In addition, consistency in the definitions and program emphases has been assured. The resulting rulemaking efforts efficiently align priorities and resources to implement the agency's statutory responsibilities (FEIS Vol. 1, 1–18 to 1–20).

Comment on Application to the Tongass National Forest. The agency received many comments regarding the Tongass National Forest. Many respondents stated that the Tongass should not be exempt from the provisions of the proposed rule. Others, concerned that local communities had already experienced substantial social and economic effects due to the recent revision of the Tongass Land and Resource Management Plan and other factors, thought that the Tongass should be exempt from the provisions of the proposed rule. Some respondents stated that the Forest Service should defer action on the Tongass National Forest until the next plan revision.

Response. In both the DEIS and FEIS, using the best available science and data, the agency has considered the alternatives of exempting and not exempting the Tongass National Forest, as well as deferring a decision per the proposed rule. Social and economic considerations were key factors in analyzing those alternatives, along with the unique and sensitive ecological character of the Tongass National Forest, the abundance of roadless areas where road construction and reconstruction are limited, and the high degree of ecological health. In developing the proposed action, the agency sought to balance the extraordinary ecological values of the Tongass National Forest against the needs of the local forest dependent communities in Southeast Alaska.

With the recent closure of pulp mills and the ending of long-term timber sale contracts, the timber economy of Southeast Alaska is evolving to a competitive bid process. About two-thirds of the total timber harvest planned on the Tongass National Forest over the next 5 years is projected to come from inventoried roadless areas. If road construction were immediately prohibited in inventoried roadless areas, approximately 95 percent of the timber harvest within those areas would be eliminated (FEIS Vol. 1, 3–202).

The Tongass National Forest is part of the northern Pacific coast ecoregion, an ecoregion that contains one fourth of the world's coastal temperate rainforests. As stated in the FEIS, the forest's high degree of overall ecosystem health is due to its largely undeveloped nature including the quantity and quality of inventoried roadless areas and other special designated areas. Alternatives that would immediately prohibit new road construction and timber harvest in all inventoried roadless areas would most effectively protect those values. Other alternatives that exempt, delay, or limit the application of the prohibitions would offer less protection. The environmental impacts of these alternatives are disclosed in Chapter 3 of the FEIS.

The proposed rule would have deferred a decision on whether or not the prohibitions should be applied to the Tongass National Forest until April 2004. This would have allowed an adjustment period for the timber program in Southeast Alaska to occur under provisions of the 1999 Record of Decision for the Tongass Land and Resource Management Plan Revision, but would not have assured long-term protection of the Forest's unique ecological values and characteristics.

In response to public comments, an optional social and economic mitigation measure was considered under the Tongass Not Exempt alternative that would require implementation of the final rule on the Tongass, but delay this implementation until April 2004, to provide a transition period for local communities to adjust to changes that would occur when the prohibitions take effect.

The final rule applies immediately to the Tongass National Forest but adopts a mitigation measure that both assures long-term protection and a smooth transition for forest dependent communities. The final rule provides that the prohibitions do not apply to road construction, reconstruction, and the cutting, sale or removal of timber from inventoried roadless areas on the Tongass National Forest where a notice of availability for a draft environmental impact statement for such activities has been published in the **Federal Register** prior to the date of publication of this rule in the **Federal Register**. This mitigation measure allows an adjustment period for the timber program in Southeast Alaska, but will also assure more certain long-term protection of the Forest's unique ecological values and characteristics.

Allowing road construction and reconstruction on the Tongass National Forest to continue unabated would risk the loss of important roadless area values. The agency had sufficient information to analyze the environmental, social, and economic effects of prohibiting road construction, reconstruction, and limited timber harvesting on the Tongass National Forest and did not see the value in

deferring the issue to further study prior to making a decision.

Moreover, this course of action is consistent with the provisions of the Tongass Timber Reform Act (TTRA). While the TTRA urges the Forest Service to ''seek to meet market demand'' for timber from the Tongass National Forest, the TTRA does not envision an inflexible harvest level, but a balancing of the market, the law, and other uses, including preservation. (*Alaska Wilderness Recreation and Tourism Ass'n* v. *Morrison, 67 F.3d 723, 731 (9th Cir. 1995)).* The record for this rulemaking fully supports the imposition of the prohibitions on the Tongass National Forest. However, in inventoried roadless areas the Tongass National Forest has 261 MMBF of timber under contract and 386 MMBF under a notice of availability for a DEIS, FEIS, or Record of Decision. In addition, the Tongass has 204 MMBF available in roaded areas that is sold, has a Record of Decision, or is currently in the planning process. This total of 851 MMBF is enough timber volume to satisfy about 7 years of estimated market demand.

Based on the analysis contained in the FEIS, a decision to implement the rule on the Tongass National Forest is expected to cause additional adverse economic effects to some forest dependent communities (FEIS Vol. 1, 3–326 to 3–350). During the period of transition, an estimated 114 direct timber jobs and 182 total jobs would be affected. In the longer term, an additional 269 direct timber jobs and 431 total jobs may be lost in Southeast Alaska. However, the Department believes that the long-term ecological benefits to the nation of conserving these inventoried roadless areas outweigh the potential economic loss to those local communities and that a period of transition for affected communities would still provide certain and long term protection of these lands.

The special provision at § 294.14(d) of the final rule allowing road construction, reconstruction, and the cutting, sale, or removal of timber from inventoried roadless areas on the Tongass National Forest where a notice of availability of a draft environmental impact statement for such activities has been published in the **Federal Register** prior to the date of publication of this rule in the **Federal Register** is considered necessary because of the unique social and economic conditions where a disproportionate share of the impacts are experienced throughout the entire Southeast Alaska region and concentrated most heavily in a few communities.

Comment on Exceptions and Conflict with Purpose of the Rule. Another major issue was whether there should be exemptions or exceptions from the prohibitions. A few respondents stated that the exceptions and exemptions to the prohibitions set out in proposed § 294.12 conflicted with the stated purpose of the rule. A summary of the major comments on this issue and the agency's responses follow.

Response. The exceptions to the prohibitions on road construction in inventoried roadless areas found at proposed § 294.12 responded to specific circumstances where the prohibitions might conflict with legal responsibilities to provide for public health and safety or environmental protection (FEIS Vol. 1, 2–13 to 2–14). In some cases, the exceptions could result in effects contrary to the purpose stated in the proposed rule, but the agency determined that they were necessary to honor existing law or address social or economic concerns. While the exceptions and exemptions place limited restrictions on the application of the prohibition, the stated purpose of the rule remains valid. These exceptions were only relevant to FEIS action Alternatives 2 through 4, as Alternative 1 (no action) did not prohibit any activities.

The public health and safety exception at paragraph (b)(1) in the final rule applies only when needed to protect public health and safety in cases of an imminent threat of a catastrophic event that might result in the loss of life or property. It does not constitute permission to engage in routine forest health activities, such as temporary road construction for thinning to reduce mortality due to insect and disease infestation.

The exception in paragraph (b)(2) permits entry for activities undertaken pursuant to the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) and other identified statutes. An example of an allowable CERCLA activity is mitigating the leaching of toxic chemicals from an abandoned mine.

Paragraph (b)(3) permits the construction and reconstruction of a road pursuant to rights granted in statute or treaty, or pursuant to reserved or outstanding rights. These include, but are not limited to, rights of access provided in ANILCA, highway rights-of-way granted under R.S. 2477, and rights granted under the General Mining Law of 1872, as amended. Rights of reasonable access for mineral exploration and development of valid claims would be governed by the General Mining Law under any of the alternatives considered in the FEIS. These rights of access may or may not include new road construction as discussed elsewhere in this preamble. Therefore, rights of access to locatable mineral exploration and development of valid claims would not be affected by the final rule or any of the alternatives analyzed in the FEIS (FEIS Vol. 1, 3–254).

Paragraph (b)(4) in the final rule permits realignment of an existing classified road when it is found to cause irreparable resource damage because of its design, location, use, or deterioration. The road must be essential for public or private access, natural resource management, or public health and safety. For the realignment exception to apply, the original road must have caused the resource damage and the resource damage cannot be corrected or mitigated by maintenance alone. Following realignment, treatment of the old roadway may include a variety of methods, such as decommissioning or by converting it to another use. An example of a situation where realignment may be appropriate is the presence of a classified road contributing sediment to a stream that is important spawning or rearing habitat for an endangered species of fish, and the sediment is having an adverse impact on the fish or its habitat. Realignment of the classified road and decommissioning the old roadway to eliminate the sediment caused by the old roadway is appropriate.

After considering the public comment on the proposed rule and conducting further analysis, three other exceptions were added to the final rule at § 294.12(b). New paragraph (5) is an exception to the prohibition to allow for reconstruction of a classified road if needed for safety based on accident experience or accident potential on that road. This exception allows for realignment or improvement in situations where road location or design is a threat to health or safety, and reconstruction would reduce that threat. New paragraph (6) was added to mitigate potential social and economic impacts in response to comments on the effects this rule might have on some State highway projects proposed as part of the National Highway System. These exceptions were not a major consideration in evaluating differences among the FEIS action alternatives because they apply to all of the prohibition alternatives. The agency considered other exemptions and exceptions, but eliminated them from detailed study (FEIS Vol. 1, 2–21 to 2–22).

An additional optional exception was considered in detail in the FEIS as a social and economic mitigation measure and was available for selection with any alternative. This exception would have allowed road construction or reconstruction where a road is needed for prospective mineral leasing activities in inventoried roadless areas (FEIS Vol. 1, 2–9). If road construction and reconstruction were allowed for all future mineral leasing, an estimated 59 miles of new roads could be constructed in inventoried roadless areas over the next five years. Road construction or reconstruction in support of future mineral leasing could continue at this level or in greater amounts into the foreseeable future. The agency estimates more than 10 million acres of inventoried roadless area could be roaded for exploration and development of leasable minerals, although the agency believes it is unlikely that more than a small percentage of these acres would contain minerals sufficient for economic development (FEIS Vol. 1, 3–250 to 260 and 313 to 321). Mineral leasing activities not dependent on road construction, such as directional (slant) drilling and underground development, would not be affected by the prohibition.

The Department has decided not to adopt the exception for future discretionary mineral leasing as identified in the FEIS because of the potentially significant environmental impacts that road construction could cause to inventoried roadless areas. Existing leases are not subject to the prohibitions. The Department has decided to adopt a more limited exception at 36 CFR 294.12(b)(7) to allow road construction needed in conjunction with the continuation, extension, or renewal of a mineral lease, on lands that were under lease by the Secretary of the Interior as of the date of publication of this rule in the **Federal Register**. Additionally, road construction needed in conjunction with a new lease may be allowed on these same lands if the lease is issued immediately upon expiration of the existing lease. The lessee would be required to start the process for issuance of a new lease prior to the expiration of the existing lease. Such road construction or reconstruction must be conducted in a manner that minimizes effects on surface resources, prevents unnecessary or unreasonable surface disturbance, and complies with all applicable lease requirements, land and resource management plan direction, regulations, and laws. Roads constructed or reconstructed pursuant to this paragraph must be obliterated when no longer needed for the purposes of the lease or upon termination or expiration of the lease, whichever is sooner.

This provision allows, but does not require, road construction and reconstruction. These decisions would be made through the regular NEPA process. For example, this paragraph does not supersede land management plan prescriptions that prohibit road construction. This exception only applies to lands in inventoried roadless areas that are currently under mineral lease. The agency has less than 1 million acres of high potential oil and gas currently under mineral lease. This provision maintains the status quo for entities that currently hold mineral leases, while at the same time limiting the potential impacts on roadless area characteristics within this identified set of lands.

Comment on Potential Misuse of Exceptions. Some respondents felt there should not be any exceptions to the prohibition on construction of roads in inventoried roadless areas, out of fear that the exceptions would be used in situations not intended. These respondents wanted to know who would review decisions granting the exceptions.

Response. The Department believes that exceptions to the prohibitions on road construction and reconstruction are warranted to address legal, social, economic, and environmental concerns. Projects proposed under any of the exceptions would still have to comply with all legal requirements and agency policy related to environmental analysis and public involvement. Depending on the specific circumstances of a particular exception, decisions would be subject to administrative appeal or internal review.

Comment on Multiple-Use Exception. Some respondents requested an additional exception to the road construction prohibition, whereby the Department would insert ''A road is needed to carry out the multiple-uses provided for in the authorities cited for these regulations.'' in § 294.12(b) of the proposed rule.

Response. The addition of the proposed exception would allow road construction in inventoried roadless areas for any multiple-use purpose, which would be counter to the purpose of protecting roadless areas.

Comment on Private Land and Utility Company Exceptions. Some respondents stated that the construction of roads should be allowed to access State or private lands and water diversions and dams. Utility companies expressed concern that they would be unable to access existing facilities in an emergency, such as a pipeline rupture or a transmission line toppled by a landslide, and that the exception at proposed paragraph (b)(1) should be expanded to accommodate access to utility facilities in order to ensure their safe operation.

Response. The proposed rule did not suspend or modify existing permits, contracts, or other legal instruments authorizing the use and occupancy of National Forest System lands. Existing roads or trails would not have been closed by the proposed rule, and existing rights of access were recognized. The final rule retains all of the provisions that recognize existing rights of access and use. Where access to these facilities is needed to ensure safe operation, a utility company may pursue necessary authorizations pursuant to the terms of the existing permit or contract. Additionally, the examples described by the utility companies could qualify for an emergency exception under paragraph (b)(1) of the final rule depending on local circumstances and risk to public health and safety.

Comment on Federal and State Highway Exceptions. Some respondents stated that the final rule should permit road construction, realignment, and reconstruction of Federal and State highways.

Response. In response to public comments, the agency has included an exception that would allow road projects funded under Title 23 of the United States Code (23 U.S.C. 317) to occur in inventoried roadless areas. The final rule at § 294.12(b)(6) allows for construction, reconstruction, or realignment of a Federal Aid Highway where the Secretary determines that the project is in the public interest or consistent with the purposes for which the land was reserved or acquired, is reasonable and prudent, and no other feasible alternative exists (FEIS Vol. 1, 2–9 to 2–14).

Summary of Changes in section 294.12 of the Final Rule. Paragraph (a) of the final rule has been revised consistent with the changes in the definitions of ''inventoried roadless areas'' and ''road'', to remove the phrases ''the unroaded portions of'' and ''This prohibition covers classified and unclassified roads,'' respectively.

Paragraph (b) in the final rule sets out certain limited exceptions to the prohibition on road construction and road reconstruction. The first four exceptions were adopted essentially as proposed with minor editing for clarity and three more exceptions were added.

Paragraph (c) of the proposed rule, which described the rule's application to the Tongass National Forest, has been removed. This change immediately applies the prohibitions in the rule to the Tongass National Forest, except as provided in a new paragraph applicable to the Tongass National Forest, which is added at § 294.14(d).

Proposed paragraph (d) is redesignated as paragraph (c) in the final rule. This paragraph permits maintenance activities for classified roads included in an inventoried roadless area, and is adopted essentially as proposed but with minor editing for clarity.

Final section 294.13. Prohibition on timber cutting, sale, or removal in inventoried roadless areas. The final rule adds a new prohibition on timber harvesting (the cutting, sale, or removal of timber): except for clearly defined, limited purposes; when incidental to the implementation of an activity not otherwise prohibited by this rule; for personal and administrative uses; or where roadless characteristics have been substantially altered in a portion of an inventoried roadless area due to the construction of a classified road and subsequent timber harvest. Both the road construction and subsequent timber harvest must have occurred after an area was designated an inventoried area. Even though this provision was not in the proposed rule, the DEIS analyzed timber harvesting prohibition alternatives for public comment and the FEIS identified a preferred alternative that included both timber harvesting and road construction prohibitions. Therefore, the public had sufficient opportunity to comment on this provision and there is adequate information to make a reasoned and informed decision.

Alternative 3 in the FEIS would prohibit timber harvesting except for stewardship and other limited purposes. Concerns over potential confusion of the interpretation of ''stewardship'' have led the agency to clearly define at § 294.13(b)(1) through (b)(4) the limited circumstances where the cutting, sale, or removal of timber in inventoried roadless areas is permitted. The final rule embodies Alternative 3, but, in contrast to the FEIS, the term ''stewardship'' does not appear in the final rule.

The cutting, sale, or removal of trees must be clearly shown through project level analysis to contribute to the ecological objectives described in § 294.13(b)(1), or under the circumstances described in paragraphs (b)(2) through (b)(4). Such management activities are expected to be rare and to focus on small diameter trees. Thinning of small diameter trees, for example, that became established as the result of missed fire return intervals due to fire suppression and the condition of which greatly increases the likelihood of uncharacteristic wildfire effects would be permissible.

Because of the great variation in stand characteristics between vegetation types in different areas, a description of what constitutes ''generally small diameter timber'' is not specifically included in this rule. Such determinations are best made through project specific or land and resource management plan NEPA analyses, as guided by ecological considerations such as those described below.

The intent of the rule is to limit the cutting, sale, or removal of timber to those areas that have become overgrown with smaller diameter trees. As described in the FEIS (Vol. 1, 3–76), areas that have become overgrown with shrubs and smaller diameter trees creating a fuel profile that acts as a ''fire ladder'' to the crowns of the dominant overstory trees may benefit ecologically from thinning treatments that cut and remove such vegetation. The risk of uncharacteristic fire intensity and spread may thus be reduced, provided the excess ladder fuels and unutilized coarse and fine fuels created by logging are removed from the site (FEIS Vol. 1, 3–91). Also, in some situations, cutting or removal of small diameter timber may be needed for recovery or conservation of threatened, endangered, proposed or sensitive species to improve stand structure or reduce encroachment into meadows or other natural openings.

In any event, all such determinations of what constitutes ''generally small diameter timber'' will consider how the cutting or removal of various size classes of trees would affect the potential for future development of the stand, and the characteristics and inter-relationships of plant and animal communities associated with the site and the overall landscape. Site productivity due to factors such as moisture and elevational gradients, site aspect, and soil types will be considered, as well as how such cutting or removal of various size classes of standing or down timber would mimic the role and legacies of natural disturbance regimes in providing the habitat patches, connectivity, and structural diversity critical to maintaining biological diversity. In all cases, the cutting, sale, or removal of small diameter timber will be consistent with maintaining or improving one or more of the roadless area characteristics as defined in § 294.11.

Comment on Scope of the Prohibitions. Many respondents urged the agency to expand the prohibitions to prohibit timber harvesting, mining, and other activities that harm the undeveloped characteristics of inventoried roadless areas.

Response. In preparing the FEIS, the scope of prohibited actions considered in detail was limited to road construction, road reconstruction, and timber harvesting, because these activities pose disproportionately greater risks of altering and fragmenting natural landscapes at regional and national scales (FEIS Vol. 1, 1–15 to 1–16). In addition, the agency can analyze potential social and ecological effects based on the five-year timber sale program of each national forest. Other uses, although potentially as harmful to roadless area values and characteristics, are not scheduled in such a fashion and are more appropriately reviewed through land and resource management planning.

The agency has decided to prohibit timber harvesting because it provides additional protection for roadless area characteristics beyond that provided by a prohibition on road construction alone. However, the agency agrees with those respondents who asserted that science-based forest management might require some level of vegetative management in inventoried roadless areas. Thus, the agency has decided to allow some timber harvesting for clearly defined purposes in the final rule at 294.13(b)(1) through (b)(4).

Comment on Wildlife Habitat Management. Many respondents, including some State wildlife management agencies, were concerned that a timber harvest prohibition would preclude all wildlife habitat management opportunities.

Response. As provided by final 294.13(b)(1), tree cutting for wildlife habitat improvement could proceed if it is designed to maintain or help restore ecosystem composition or structure to conditions within the range of variability that would be expected to occur under natural disturbance regimes of the current climatic period. This will allow the agency to manage for the full range of habitat types needed to support the diversity of native and desired non-native species.

Comments on Uncharacteristic Wildfire Effects. Of particular interest to many respondents because of the severity of the 2000 fire season, was how the agency would manage inventoried roadless areas to reduce the risk of uncharacteristic wildfire effects.

Response. The effects of uncharacteristic wildfires often include unnatural increases in wildfire size, severity, and resistance to control and the associated impacts to people and property. These uncharacteristic effects have been caused primarily by past wildfire suppression, and past timber harvesting and grazing practices. These have contributed to often-dramatic changes in some areas in wildfire frequency, size, and severity (FEIS Vol. 1, 3–72 to 3–73). The vegetative structure, density, and composition of these areas have changed when compared to less altered ecosystems (FEIS Vol. 1, 3–144).

The use of timber harvesting, as permitted by this rule, and other fuel management techniques will help maintain ecosystem composition and structure within its historic range of variability at the landscape scale. Treatment priorities will be consistent with those identified in the report Protecting People and Sustaining Resources in Fire-Adapted Ecosystems: A Cohesive Strategy (November 9, 2000; 65 FR 67480). These include wildland-urban interface areas, readily accessible municipal watersheds, and threatened and endangered species habitat. Since wildland-urban interface areas and readily accessible municipal watersheds rarely occur in or adjacent to inventoried roadless areas, most fire hazard reduction work would not begin in inventoried roadless areas for at least 20 years, the estimated time it would take to address the extremely hazardous fuel situations outside inventoried roadless areas (FEIS Vol. 1, 3–78). However, hazardous fuels treatment in inventoried roadless areas is not prohibited by this rule, so long as road construction or reconstruction is not necessary. Vegetative management would focus on removing generally small diameter trees while leaving the overstory trees intact. The cutting, sale, or removal of trees pursuant to 294.13(b)(1) must be clearly shown through project level analysis to contribute to the ecological objectives described. Such management activities are expected to be rare and to focus on small diameter trees. Thinning of small diameter trees, for example, that became established as the result of missed fire return intervals due to fire suppression and the condition of which greatly increases the likelihood of uncharacteristic wildfire effects would be permissible.

Summary of Changes in new section 294.13 of the Final Rule. The final rule adds a new prohibition on timber harvesting except for clearly defined, limited purposes, when incidental to the implementation of a management activity not otherwise prohibited by this rule; for personal or administrative use; or where roadless characteristics have been substantially altered in a portion of an inventoried roadless area due to the construction of a classified road and subsequent timber harvest. Paragraph (a) establishes a prohibition on timber cutting, sale, or removal in inventoried roadless areas except as provided in paragraph (b). Paragraph (b) makes clear that the cutting, sale, or removal of timber in inventoried roadless areas is expected to be infrequent, but allows timber cutting, sale, or removal as identified in paragraphs (b)(1) through (b)(4).

Paragraph (b)(1) allows generally small diameter timber to be cut, sold, or removed in inventoried roadless areas where it maintains one or more of the roadless area characteristics as defined in § 294.11 and: (1) improves habitat for threatened, endangered, proposed or sensitive species or (2) maintains or restores the characteristics of ecosystem composition and structure, such as to reduce uncharacteristic wildfire effects, within the range of variability that would be expected to occur under natural disturbance regimes of the current climatic period.

Paragraph (b)(2) allows timber cutting, sale, or removal in inventoried roadless areas when incidental to implementation of a management activity not otherwise prohibited by this rule. Examples of these activities include, but are not limited to trail construction or maintenance; removal of hazard trees adjacent to classified roads for public health and safety reasons; fire line construction for wildland fire suppression or control of prescribed fire; survey and maintenance of property boundaries; other authorized activities such as ski runs and utility corridors; or for road construction and reconstruction where allowed by this rule.

Paragraph (b)(3) allows timber cutting, sale, or removal for personal or administrative use as provided for at 36 CFR part 223. Personal use includes activities such as Christmas tree and firewood cutting. Administrative use includes providing materials for activities such as construction of footbridges and fences.

Paragraph (b)(4) allows the cutting, sale, or removal of timber where roadless characteristics have been substantially altered in a portion of an inventoried roadless area due to the construction of a classified road and subsequent timber harvest. The road construction and subsequent timber harvest must have occurred after the area was designated an inventoried roadless area and prior to the date of publication of this rule in the **Federal Register**. Timber may be cut, sold, or removed only in the substantially altered portion of the inventoried roadless area. This exception recognizes that road construction and timber harvesting in inventoried roadless areas may have altered the roadless characteristics to the extent that the purpose of protecting those characteristics cannot be achieved. Timber harvest should not expand the area already substantially altered by past management. This exception is subject to applicable laws, regulations, and land and resource management planning direction. Refer to the previous discussion in ''Comment on Unroaded Portion of an Inventoried Roadless Area'' in the ''Proposed § 294.11 Definitions'' section of this preamble for more information on this subject.

Proposed 294.13. Consideration of roadless area conservation during forest plan revision. This section of the proposed rule would have required the responsible official to evaluate the quality and importance of roadless area characteristics and determine whether and how to protect these characteristics in the context of multiple-use objectives during forest plan revision.

Comment on Integration with the Planning Rule. Respondents from a cross section of timber industry and business interests, State, county and Federal representatives, professional associations, and the public expressed concern that this section did not provide adequate direction on how to consider and implement the criteria and procedures during forest plan revision, leading to confusion over integration of this section with the proposed planning and road management rulemaking initiatives.

Response on Proposed Section 1294.13. The Department has decided that the appropriate place for considering protections for inventoried roadless areas, in addition to those in this rule, and protections for uninventoried unroaded areas is during the planning process pursuant to the new planning regulations at 36 CFR part 219, Subpart A.

The framework for planning allows for the development of issues leading to the proposal of special designations, and also gives ample opportunity for the public and others to collaborate on the issue at all levels of planning. Based on public comment, specific requirements for evaluating inventoried roadless areas and unroaded areas are included in § 219.9(b)(8) of the final planning rule (65 FR 67571) to emphasize that the

responsible official must evaluate these areas during the plan revision process.

The new planning regulations provide for consideration of roadless areas in the forest planning process in a fashion similar to that set out in the proposed rule at § 294.13. Based on the comments received and reasons stated previously, the Department has determined that those requirements are better considered in the context of 36 CFR part 219. Elimination of proposed § 294.13 from the final rule will not have a significant effect on the purpose or scope of the final rule or on the protections provided to inventoried roadless areas because evaluation of inventoried roadless areas and unroaded areas are now integrated into the final planning rule.

Proposed Section 294.14. Scope and applicability. Proposed paragraph (a) of this section of the proposed rule provided that existing contracts, permits, or other legal instruments authorizing the occupancy and use of National Forest System land would not be suspended or modified by the rule.

Comment on Existing Authorized Activities. Some respondents were concerned about the impact of the rule on special uses and requested clarification regarding the ability to construct or maintain roads in inventoried roadless areas to access electric power or telephone lines, pipelines, hydropower facilities, and reservoirs. Some suggested that proposed § 294.12(b)(3) be revised to read, ''A road is needed pursuant to reserved or outstanding rights or as permitted by statute, treaty or other authorities.''

Response. Section 294.14(a) of the proposed rule stated that the rule would not suspend or modify any existing permit, contract, or other legal instrument authorizing the use and occupancy of National Forest System lands. Existing authorized uses would be allowed to maintain and operate within the parameters of their current authorization, including any provisions regarding access. Adding the wording ''other authorities'' to this paragraph is not necessary as the term ''other legal instrument'' adequately covers other existing authorizations.

Under paragraph (a), road construction or reconstruction associated with ongoing implementation of special use authorizations would not be prohibited. For example, all activities anticipated and described in an authorized ski area's master plan, such as construction or maintenance of ski trails and ski runs, the use of over snow vehicles or off-highway vehicles necessary for ski area operations, including associated road construction, would not be prohibited even if a specific decision authorizing road construction has not been made as of the date of publication of this rule in the **Federal Register**. Likewise, activities necessary to a mineral lease authorization issued prior to the date of publication of this rule would not be prohibited even if a specific decision authorizing road construction has not been made as of the date of publication of this rule in the **Federal Register**. A phrase has been added to clarify that this paragraph only applies to permits, contracts, or other legal instruments issued before the date of publication of this rule in the **Federal Register**. The term ''revoke'' has been added to this provision to clarify that this final rule will not revoke existing permits, contracts, or other legal instruments.

Proposed § 294.14(b) made clear that the final rule would not require units to initiate land management plan amendments or revisions.

Comment on Land Management Plan Amendments. Some respondents commented that the proposed rule is a ''massive change'' in existing land management plan direction or land allocation, without amendment or revision of land management plans as required by the National Forest Management Act. Some respondents suggested that amendments were necessary in order to consider site-specific biological and socio-economic information.

Response. The Secretary has extensive rulemaking authority governing forest management and development of land management plans. Just as development and approval of land management plans must conform to existing laws and regulations, new laws or regulations can supersede land management plan management direction. Requiring ''conforming amendments'' to land management plans would be redundant of the rulemaking process.

Local responsible officials' discretion to initiate land and resource management plan amendments, as deemed necessary, would not be limited by this provision. There may be instances where a local responsible official elects to initiate amendment or revision of forest and grassland plans following final promulgation of this final rule. While the analysis undertaken at the national scale is sufficient for the prohibitions established pursuant to this rulemaking, the Department appreciates that additional management issues may need to be addressed, both within and outside of inventoried roadless areas. The local official is best positioned to assess whether any such adjustment is necessary. For example, although the local official is not free to re-examine the prohibitions established by this rule, it may be appropriate to consider amendments to land and resource management plans regarding plan decisions that guide the use of inventoried roadless areas in light of the final rule.

Forest Service officials have several mechanisms that allow for evaluation of forest and grassland plan implementation, including plan-specific monitoring provisions, the amendment and revision process, and project-level decisionmaking. A determination to amend or revise a land and resource management plan is based on a variety of factors. Forest Supervisors and Regional Foresters have substantial discretion in determining whether or not to initiate plan amendments or revisions.

In the early stages of forest plan amendment or revision, or any decisionmaking process involving land management practices, Regional Foresters, Forest Supervisors, and District Rangers must actively seek input and participation by State, local, and Tribal officials and other affected or interested parties. Therefore, this provision is retained without change in the final rule.

Paragraph (c), as proposed, provided that the regulation, if adopted, would not suspend or modify any decision made prior to the effective date of the final rule.

Comment on Effect on Project Planning. Some respondents questioned whether implementation of the rule would prohibit projects where planning is already underway. Most of the comments on this paragraph were related to current and future ski area development, although other land uses would be treated in a similar manner. Some respondents asserted that exemptions from the rule should include all lands or activities described in existing ski area special use permits or master development plans. Specifically listed were White Pass, Arapahoe Basin, Sierra at Tahoe, Pallavicini, Alleys Trails, Mammoth Mountain, June Mountain, Tamarack Resort and Cross Country Skiing Center, and Mammoth Snowmobile Adventures. Respondents also stated that the proposed Pelican Butte Ski Area and expansion of the Sipapu Ski Area should be allowed to continue their current planning processes and that the agency should also allow expansion of commercial recreation activities to benefit local people. Others took an opposing view, stating that the agency should not exempt from the rule any

new ski areas or expansion of any existing ski areas at Pelican Butte, Mount Ashland, Copper Creek, Sherwin, Beaver Creek, Mammoth Mountain, June Mountain, and others.

Response. Road construction and timber harvest for expansion of ski areas, resorts, or other recreation developments in inventoried roadless areas would be allowed under paragraph (a) as previously discussed, subject to existing Forest Service procedures, if special use permits are in existence prior to the date of publication of this rule in the **Federal Register** and proposed activities take place within the boundaries established by the special use authorization (FEIS Vol. 1, 3–226). The requirement that a permit be in existence prior to the effective date of this rule has been changed in the final rule to require that the permit be in existence prior to the date of publication of this rule in the **Federal Register**. This change was necessary because the effective date of this rule is delayed 60 days from the date of publication.

Road construction and timber harvest would also be allowed for new ski areas, or expansions of existing ski areas outside the existing special use permit boundaries, in inventoried roadless areas provided that the expansion or construction was approved by a signed Record of Decision, Decision Notice, or Decision Memorandum before the date of publication of the rule in the **Federal Register** (FEIS Vol. 1, 3–226). Under paragraph (c), project decisions for any activity made prior to the date of publication of the final rule in the **Federal Register** would be altered.

Summary of Changes in § 294.14 of the Final Rule. Under paragraph (a) of the final rule, road construction, road reconstruction, and timber harvest associated with ongoing implementation of special use authorizations are not prohibited. The term ''revoke'' and the date of publication of this rule in the **Federal Register** were added to clarify agency intent.

Paragraph (b) makes clear that the final rule would not require units to initiate land management plan amendments or revisions and is adopted without change.

Paragraph (c) states that project decisions made prior to the date of publication of the final rule in the **Federal Register** would not be altered. The term revoke was added to clarify agency intent. The requirement in the proposed rule that a project decision be in existence prior to the effective date of this rule has been changed in the final rule to require that the project decision be in existence prior to the date of publication of this rule in the **Federal Register**. This change was necessary because the effective date of this rule is delayed 60 days from the date of publication.

Proposed paragraph (d) was a ''severability'' or ''savings'' clause. This provision identifies the Department's intention that, in the event any provision is determined invalid, the remaining portions of the rule would remain in force. No comments were received on this provision; it has been redesignated as paragraph (f) in the final rule and retained without change.

A new paragraph (d) has been added to the final rule which provides that the prohibitions in the final rule do not apply to road construction, reconstruction, or the cutting, sale or removal of timber from inventoried roadless areas on the Tongass National Forest where a notice of availability for a draft environmental impact statement for such activities has been published in the **Federal Register** prior to the date of publication of this rule in the **Federal Register**. This mitigation measure allows an adjustment period for the timber program in Southeast Alaska, but will also assure the long-term protection of the Forest's unique ecological values and characteristics. Refer to the previous discussion in the section entitled, ''Comment on Application to the Tongass National Forest,'' in, ''Proposed § 294.12. Prohibition on road construction and reconstruction in inventoried roadless areas.''

To replace and serve the same purpose as proposed § 294.13(f), a new § 294.14(e) has been added to the final rule to address the recently adopted planning regulations at 36 CFR part 219, which require the responsible official to determine which inventoried roadless areas warrant additional protection. Consistent with the original proposal, this new paragraph (e) makes clear that, in determining whether additional protections are needed for any inventoried roadless area, the responsible official cannot reconsider or set aside the prohibitions established in § 294.12 or § 294.13.

What Other Issues Were Considered in the Final Environmental Impact Statement?

Environmental Effects. Another major issue among those who commented on the proposed rule and DEIS was the environmental effects of the alternatives on inventoried roadless area characteristics. It was also the most important consideration in selection of an alternative. The purpose and need for this proposed action is based on the premise that inventoried roadless areas have characteristics that should be conserved and maintained. Road construction, reconstruction, and timber harvesting are the activities most likely to harm the characteristics that the agency is seeking to protect. The FEIS documents the contribution of inventoried roadless area characteristics to watershed health and water quality, to biological strongholds for terrestrial and aquatic species, and to habitat for threatened, endangered, and sensitive species. The effects of road construction, reconstruction, and timber harvesting on those characteristics are also documented.

Additionally, some respondents commented on the discussion of spiritual values of inventoried roadless areas in chapter 3 of the DEIS. Some thought it was inappropriate to discuss spiritual values in an environmental analysis produced by the Federal government. Others thought these values were important to consider in the rulemaking process because inventoried roadless areas provided an important setting for their personal spiritual renewal. Reconciling divergent viewpoints on spiritual values is beyond the scope of this proposal. The decision for this rulemaking was not based on the beliefs or principles of one religion or another, but based on the science, policies and laws that guide the decisionmaking process.

Alternative 1 in the FEIS is the no action alternative and, if selected, would not have restricted activities in inventoried roadless areas. While it would not fund, authorize, compel, or carry out any activity in an inventoried roadless area, this alternative does have the greatest potential for adverse impact on the characteristics the agency seeks to protect. It allows the most roads to be constructed and reconstructed and the most timber to be harvested.

Action Alternatives 2, 3, and 4 in the FEIS all provide ecological benefits from prohibiting road construction and reconstruction. The major difference among these alternatives is that Alternative 2 does not restrict timber harvesting; Alternative 3 prohibits timber harvesting for commodity purposes, but allows timber harvesting for clearly defined purposes and circumstances; and Alternative 4 prohibits all timber cutting (except that which may be needed for protection or recovery of threatened, endangered, or proposed species). In alternatives 2, 3, and 4, personal and administrative use harvest, including firewood and Christmas tree cutting, would be permitted. Limited tree cutting could occur incidental to other management activities, such as trail construction or

maintenance, hazard tree removal adjacent to classified roads for public health and safety reasons, fire line construction for wildland fire suppression or control of prescribed fire, or survey and maintenance of property boundaries.

The preferred alternative in the FEIS would prohibit all timber harvest activities in inventories roadless areas except for clearly defined purposes. The final rule provides for the cutting, sale or removal of timber in substantially altered portions of inventoried roadless areas for any purpose as long as the activities do not require additional road construction or reconstruction. By allowing some additional level of timber harvest activity compared to the FEIS preferred alternative, there is an increase in the likelihood of related environmental impacts and decrease in the environmental benefits accrued through the more stringent prohibition in the preferred alternative.

The DEIS estimated that approximately 2.8 million of the 58.5 million acres of inventoried roadless areas had been roaded since the areas were designated as inventoried roadless areas. Some portion of these roaded areas had also been impacted by subsequent management activities facilitated by the road access. It is unknown exactly what portion of these 2.8 million acres has sustained sufficient road construction and timber harvest to substantially alter their roadless characteristics. The determination of whether roadless characteristics have been substantially altered is to be made following a site-specific evaluation. Before any project is authorized that allows the cutting, sale, or removal of timber in an inventoried roadless area, it will subject to site-specific analysis following existing laws and regulations.

Current timber harvesting practices have less impact on the environment than they have had in the past. Increased knowledge, new equipment and techniques, and the application of best management practices have helped to reduce the adverse environmental impacts of timber harvest activities. However, timber-harvesting practices still impact roadless area characteristics, contributing to the fragmentation of habitat and threatening their ability to function as biological strongholds, reference areas, and provide other roadless values.

The final rule allows timber harvesting of generally small diameter timber for limited purposes when it maintains or improves one or more roadless area characteristics and: (1) Improves threatened, endangered, proposed, and sensitive species habitat or (2) maintains or restores the characteristics of ecosystem composition and structure, such as to reduce the risks of uncharacteristic wildfire effects. The final rule also allows timber to be cut, sold, or removed where roadless characteristics have been substantially altered in a portion of an inventoried roadless area due to the construction of a classified road and subsequent timber harvest, and such road construction and subsequent timber harvest occurred after the area was designated an inventoried roadless area. Roadless area characteristics are identified in § 294.11 as: (1) High quality or undisturbed soil, water, and air; (2) sources of public drinking water; (3) diversity of plant and animal communities; (4) habitat for threatened, endangered, proposed, candidate, and sensitive species and for those species dependent on large, relatively undisturbed areas of land; (5) primitive, semi-primitive non-motorized, and semi-primitive motorized classes of dispersed recreation; (6) reference landscapes; (7) naturally appearing landscapes with high scenic quality; (8) traditional cultural properties and sacred sites; and (9) other locally identified unique characteristics (FEIS Vol. 1, 3–3 to 3–7).

Forest Dependent Communities. Impacts to forest dependent communities were a major issue among those who commented on the proposed rule and DEIS. Under Alternative 1 of the FEIS, the flow of goods and services would continue according to current policies and land management direction. Alternatives 2 through 4 could reduce future timber harvest, mineral exploration and development, and other activities such as ski area development in inventoried roadless areas. Communities with significant economic activities in these sectors could be adversely impacted. However, the effects on national social and economic systems are minor. For example, the total timber volume affected by this rule is less than 0.5 percent of total United States production, and the total oil and gas production from all National Forest System lands is currently about 0.4 percent of the current national production. None of the alternatives are likely to have measurable impacts compared to the broader social and economic conditions and trends observable at these scales, however the effects of the alternatives are not distributed evenly across the United States (FEIS Vol. 1, 3–326 to 3–350).

To reduce the economic impact of this decision, the Chief of the Forest Service will seek to implement one or more of the following provisions of an economic transition program for communities most affected by application of the prohibitions in inventoried roadless areas (FEIS Vol. 1, 2–14):

(1) Provide financial assistance to stimulate community-led transition programs and projects in communities most affected by application of the prohibitions in inventoried roadless areas;

(2) Through financial support and action plans, attract public and private interests, both financial and technical, to aid in successfully implementing local transition projects and plans by coordinating with other Federal and State agencies and;

(3) Assist local, State, Tribal and Federal partners in working with those communities most affected by the final roadless area decision.

Local Decisionmaking. The potential effect of the proposed rule on local involvement in decisionmaking was a major issue identified by many respondents to the DEIS. As described in both the DEIS and FEIS, Alternative 1 would allow local land managers the discretion on whether to construct or reconstruct roads or harvest timber for commodity purposes in inventoried roadless areas. Alternatives 2, 3, and 4 would remove the local decisionmaking authority only for these specific activities. All other management decisions regarding inventoried roadless areas would be made through National Forest System planning procedures. Under all alternatives, management decisions for unroaded areas would be made under the provisions of the new planning regulations at 36 CFR part 219. As explained in the ''*National Direction* v. *Local Decisionmaking*'' discussion, the agency has determined that national direction is needed to address the issues regarding road construction, reconstruction, and timber harvesting in inventoried roadless areas.

The Final Rule and Alternatives Considered

What Alternatives and Mitigation Measures Were Considered by the Agency?

The agency identified two methods to conserve the remaining inventoried roadless areas in the notice of intent for the proposed rule. The first method evaluated whether road construction, reconstruction, and timber harvest should be prohibited in inventoried roadless areas. The second method examined the establishment of procedures to evaluate and conserve roadless area characteristics during land

and resource management plan revisions. These methods were incorporated into the proposed rule and alternatives analyzed in the DEIS. Since publication of the proposed rule, the agency has published final Land and Resource Management Planning Regulations at 36 CFR part 219. The draft and subsequent final planning regulations also provided direction to integrate the consideration of roadless area characteristics into the amendment and revision procedures of land and resource management plans for National Forest System lands. This detailed direction in the final planning regulations eliminated the need for the procedures considered in the Roadless Area Conservation DEIS and proposed rule. Therefore, these procedures have been omitted from the FEIS and final rule.

Public comments on the notice of intent identified a variety of suggestions for alternatives, including different types and combinations of prohibitions, procedures, and exemptions (Summary of Public Comment for the Notice of Intent, Content Analysis Enterprise Team, 2000). Comments on the DEIS and proposed rule provided detailed ways in which to modify the alternatives (Summary of Public Comment for the DEIS, Content Analysis Enterprise Team, 2000).

Summaries of public comment on the notice of intent, proposed rule and the DEIS are part of the record for this rulemaking, and can be viewed at the agency's roadless website (*roadless.fs.fed.us*). The agency's response to comments on the DEIS and proposed rule can be found in Volume 3 of the FEIS. This information was used in forming the alternatives in the FEIS (Chapter 2), which frame the choices for this final rule.

With the removal of the procedures, the agency had two basic decisions to make, with four alternatives for each decision. The first decision was whether road construction, reconstruction, or timber harvesting should be prohibited in National Forest System inventoried roadless areas, or some combination of the three. The second decision was whether the proposed national prohibitions should be applied to the Tongass National Forest or modified to meet the unique situation on the Tongass.

Four alternatives, including a no action alternative, were developed to cover the range of possible prohibited activities in inventoried roadless areas consistent with the stated purpose and need. Four alternative ways of applying the prohibitions to the Tongass National Forest were developed as well (FEIS Vol. 1, 2–3 to 2–12). Various other alternatives were considered but eliminated from detailed study (FEIS Vol. 1, 2–15 to 2–22).

Prohibition Alternatives. Alternative 1 allowed road construction and reconstruction to continue, subject to existing land management plan prescriptions. There was no national restriction on timber harvesting. This was the no action alternative.

Prohibition Alternative 2 prohibited road construction and reconstruction activities, including temporary road construction, in inventoried roadless areas. There was no national restriction on timber harvesting.

Prohibition Alternative 3 prohibited road construction and reconstruction activities, including temporary road construction, in inventoried roadless areas. Timber harvesting was allowed for clearly defined stewardship purposes only, where harvesting could only be used when it maintained or improved roadless characteristics and: (1) improved habitat for threatened, endangered, proposed or sensitive species, (2) reduced uncharacteristic wildfire effects, or (3) restored ecological structure, function, process or composition. Timber harvest for commodity purposes was prohibited.

The definition of timber harvesting for stewardship purposes was reviewed and refined between the proposed rule and the FEIS to more clearly state the agency's intent and to ensure effective protection of roadless characteristics. In the DEIS, timber harvesting for stewardship purposes could be interpreted to accommodate any non-timber production resource management objective that required removal of forest vegetation. Many respondents were concerned about the agency's broad use of timber harvest for stewardship purposes on National Forest System lands. They believed that stewardship purpose timber harvest in inventoried roadless areas needed to be more clearly defined.

The agency agreed that it needed to clearly state the intended purposes for stewardship harvest in inventoried roadless areas. The FEIS identified the range of allowable objectives that are consistent with timber harvesting for stewardship purposes in inventoried roadless areas. In doing so, local decisions about timber harvesting within inventoried roadless areas must maintain or improve one or more roadless characteristics, while focusing on improving threatened, endangered, proposed, or sensitive species habitat; reducing the risk of uncharacteristic wildfire effects; or restoring ecological processes.

Alternative 4 prohibited road construction and reconstruction activities, including temporary road construction, in inventoried roadless areas. No timber cutting was allowed for stewardship or commodity purposes, except where it was necessary for the protection of threatened or endangered species.

Exceptions and Mitigation Measures. The agency identified an initial set of exceptions to the prohibition alternatives, as set out in the DEIS and proposed rule. The exceptions addressed the following circumstances where the prohibitions did not apply and are set out in the final rule at § 294.12(b)(1) through (b)(4). These include circumstances where a road is needed to: (1) protect public health and safety; (2) to conduct an environmental response action; (3) pursuant to reserved or outstanding rights or as provided for by statute or treaty; or (4) road realignment is needed to prevent irreparable resource damage by a classified road.

Based on comments received on the proposed rule and the DEIS, the agency developed and considered additional optional exceptions that mitigated the effects of the prohibition alternatives (FEIS Vol. 1, 2–8 to 2–9). These exceptions were available for selection as part of the final rule to reduce or eliminate undesirable social and economic impacts. Any or none of these optional exceptions could have been selected as part of the final rule. If selected, these exceptions would state that the responsible official may authorize road construction or reconstruction in inventoried roadless areas where: (1) reconstruction is needed to implement road safety improvements; (2) the Secretary determines that a Federal Aid Highway project is in the public interest or consistent with the purposes for which the land was reserved or acquired; or (3) a road is needed for prospective mineral leasing activities in inventoried roadless areas.

Tongass National Forest Alternatives. The second decision was to select one of the four alternatives created specifically for the Tongass National Forest (FEIS Vol. 1, 2–9). Based on public comments and the agency's decision to integrate procedures for evaluating roadless area characteristics into the planning rule, some of the Tongass alternatives presented in the DEIS were modified accordingly.

The Tongass Not Exempt alternative applied the same prohibition alternative to the Tongass National Forest that applied to the rest of National Forest System lands. An optional social and

economic mitigation measure was developed for the Tongass Not Exempt alternative that delayed implementation of the selected prohibition alternative on the Tongass National Forest until April 2004 in order to provide a transition period for communities most affected by changes that may result if this alternative were enacted.

The Tongass Exempt alternative did not apply a national prohibition to the Tongass National Forest. It allowed road construction and reconstruction on the Tongass to continue subject to existing land management plan prescriptions. Future proposals for road activities in inventoried roadless areas would be considered on a case-by-case basis.

The Tongass Deferred alternative postponed the decision on whether to apply prohibitions to the Tongass National Forest until April 2004, when an evaluation to determine whether the prohibitions against road construction and reconstruction should apply to any or all inventoried roadless areas would be conducted as part of the scheduled 5-year review of the April 1999 Tongass Land and Resource Management Plan.

The Tongass Selected Areas alternative applied the prohibitions on road construction and reconstruction within inventoried roadless areas located in certain land use designations (LUDs) identified in the Tongass Land and Resource Management Plan, specifically those of Old Growth Habitat, Semi-Remote Recreation, Remote Recreation, and LUD II. See Appendix E of Volume 1 of the FEIS for a complete description of these land use designations.

What is the Environmentally Preferred Alternative?

Under the National Environmental Policy Act, the agency is required to identify the environmentally preferred alternative (40 CFR 1505.2(b)). This is interpreted to mean the alternative that would cause the least damage to the biological and physical components of the environment, and, which best protects, preserves, and enhances historic, cultural, and natural resources (Council on Environmental Quality, Forty Most Asked Questions Concerning CEQ's National Environmental Policy Act Regulations, 46 FR 18026). Factors considered in identifying this alternative include: (1) fulfilling the responsibility of this generation as trustee of the environment for future generations, (2) providing for a productive and aesthetically pleasing environment, (3) attaining the widest range of beneficial uses of the environment without degradation, (4) preserving important natural components of the environment, including biodiversity, (5) balancing population needs and resource use, and (6) enhancing the quality of renewable resources.

The agency believes the alternative that best meets these objectives is Alternative 3 combined with the Tongass Not Exempt alternative, without any social or economic mitigation. Alternative 3 protects inventoried roadless areas from adverse environmental impacts associated with road construction, reconstruction, and timber harvesting for commodity purposes, as identified in Chapter 3 of the FEIS.

Alternative 4, by prohibiting timber cutting of any kind (except for protection or recovery of threatened, endangered, and proposed species), does not allow for the array of vegetation management potentially necessary to maintain or improve roadless characteristics, reduce the risks of uncharacteristic wildfire effects, or restore ecological structure, function, processes, or composition. Timber harvesting for the limited purposes under Alternative 3 would allow needed biological treatments to promote a healthy forest for future generations. Alternative 2, although providing for protection from road construction and reconstruction, would still permit harvesting of trees for commodity purposes that could conflict with protecting the physical and biological environment.

Alternative 3, like the other alternatives, contains exceptions that allow road construction and reconstruction for important human and environmental protection measures, such as protection of public health and safety from imminent threats of flood and fire, treatment to clean up hazardous pollution sites, and road realignment to prevent irreparable resource damage. These are important exceptions needed to enhance the productivity and esthetics of the environment. Social and economic mitigation measures are not part of this environmentally preferred Alternative 3 because these measures, although important to reduce the social and economic effects of the action alternatives, do not contribute to the protection of the physical or biological environment.

The Tongass National Forest is part of the northern Pacific coast ecoregion, an ecoregion that contains one fourth of the world's coastal temperate rainforests. As stated in the FEIS, the forest's high degree of overall ecosystem health is largely due to its quantity and quality of inventoried roadless areas and other special designated areas. The ''Tongass Not Exempt'' alternative would immediately apply prohibitions to all inventoried roadless areas and is the environmentally preferred alternative. The other Tongass alternatives either delay or limit the inventoried roadless area land base to which the prohibitions would apply, or defer the decision regarding prohibitions altogether. The adverse environmental impacts of these alternatives are disclosed in Chapter 3 of the FEIS.

What Is in the Final Rule and What Are the Reasons for Selecting That Alternative?

Selection of an alternative to be adopted in the final rule requires careful consideration of the environmental effects, including cumulative, social, and economic impacts, and the relative values of the various resources to arrive at a fair and reasoned decision to achieve the stated purpose and need for inventoried roadless area protection (FEIS Vol. 1, 3–392 to 3–403). As stated previously, courts have held that the agency has wide discretion in weighing and deciding the proper administration of National Forest System lands.

The Department's judgment regarding the appropriate administration of these lands is embodied in the policies described in this final rule. First and foremost, the Department wants to ensure that inventoried roadless areas sustain their values for this and future generations. By sustaining these values, a continuous flow of benefits associated with healthy watersheds and ecosystems is provided. These benefits include sources for clean drinking water, fish habitat, wildlife habitat, biological diversity, and dispersed outdoor recreational opportunities. Not only are short-term economic and environmental factors considered, but also the long-term productivity of these lands which are so critical to strong, productive economies.

Evaluation of these considerations for this decision is based primarily on these qualitative factors. Quantitative factors, such as volume of timber offered for sale, or roadless acres protected, were also considered and are helpful to distinguish and compare the alternatives (FEIS Vol. 1, 2–24 to 2–38), and their effects (FEIS Chapter 3).

Prohibition Alternatives. Alternative 1 in the FEIS has the greatest potential for adverse impact on watershed health and water quality by allowing increased sedimentation and disruption of hydrologic processes; the greatest potential for adverse impact on biodiversity by fragmenting habitat for threatened, endangered, and sensitive

species; the greatest potential for adverse impact on aquatic and terrestrial habitat; and the greatest potential for increase in competition from invasive non-native species. This alternative was not selected because it did not meet the specified purpose and need for this action.

Action Alternatives 2, 3, and 4 in the FEIS all provide ecological benefits from prohibiting road construction and reconstruction. The major difference among these alternatives is that Alternative 2 allows timber harvesting without restriction; Alternative 3 prohibits timber harvesting for commodity purposes, but allows timber harvesting for clearly defined purposes and limited circumstances; and Alternative 4 prohibits all timber cutting (except that which may be needed for protection or recovery of threatened, endangered, or proposed species). Personal and administrative use harvest, including firewood and Christmas tree cutting, would be permitted. Tree removal could occur when associated with management activities not otherwise prohibited by the final rule, such as trail construction or maintenance, hazard tree removal adjacent to classified roads for public health and safety reasons, fire line construction for wildland fire suppression or control of prescribed fire, or survey and maintenance of property boundaries.

Alternative 2 was not selected because it posed more risks to roadless characteristics than Alternatives 3 or 4. Timber harvesting for clearly defined, limited purposes can be a valuable tool for conserving and improving roadless area values and should be available as a management option for the local responsible official. Therefore, the Department did not select Alternative 4 and is selecting Alternative 3.

Reducing the risk of uncharacteristic wildfire effects is one way of restoring ecological processes. The final rule recognizes this by eliminating ''reducing the risk of uncharacteristic wildfire effects'' as a separate purpose and instead uses it as an example of restoring ecological processes. Also, to address concern about the meaning and implementation of stewardship purpose timber harvest that ''restores ecological structure, function, processes, and composition'' described in the FEIS, the final rule eliminates use of the term ''stewardship''. Instead, the rule relies on the purposes specifically listed and mirrors language from the new planning regulations at 36 CFR part 219 stating that timber harvest is allowed in order to maintain or restore the characteristics of ecosystem composition and structure within the range of variability that would be expected to occur under natural disturbance regimes of the current climatic period.

Alternatives 2 through 4 could reduce future timber harvest, mineral exploration and development, and other activities such as ski area development in inventoried roadless areas. Communities with significant economic activities in these sectors could be adversely impacted. However, the effects on the social and economic situation nationally are minor. For example, the reduction in timber harvest from National Forest System lands is less than 3%, which is less than 0.5 percent of total United States timber production. The total oil and gas production from all National Forest System lands is about 0.4 percent of the current national production, and the oil and gas resources located inside inventoried roadless areas are an insignificant portion of total resources.

Rights of reasonable access to prospect and explore lands open to mineral entry and to develop valid claims, would be unaffected under these alternatives as provided by the General Mining Law. Reasonable rights of access may include, but are not limited to, road construction and reconstruction, helicopters, or other nonmotorized access (FEIS Vol. 1, 3–254). None of the alternatives are likely to have measurable impacts compared to the broader social and economic conditions and trends observable at these scales; however, the effects of the alternatives are not distributed evenly across the United States (FEIS Vol. 1, 3–329 to 3–350).

Comment was received concerning the cumulative relationship of the Roadless Area Conservation Rule with the Bureau of Land Management's proposed rule for Mining Claims Under the General Mining Laws; Surface Management, published on February 9, 1999 (64 FR 6422). Since that comment was received, the Mining Claims rule became final (65 FR 69998, November 21, 2000). Both the final Roadless Area Conservation Rule and the final Bureau of Land Management mining rule have comparable goals to prevent unnecessary or undue degradation of public lands. However, the Roadless Area Conservation Rule at 294.12(b)(3) does not affect rights of reasonable access to prospect and explore lands open to mineral entry and to develop valid claims. Reasonable access includes, road construction or reconstruction for mining activities covered under the General Mining Law, while the performance standards at proposed 3809.420(c) would require that permitted roads and structures be designed, constructed, and maintained to control or prevent erosion, siltation, and air pollution and to minimize impacts to resources. Cumulative effects of these two rules are expected to be minimal because of the exception for locatable minerals under § 294.12(b)(3) in the final roadless rule.

Exceptions. The Department is adopting the exceptions for road safety projects and for Federal Aid Highway projects. The exception for road safety projects is a narrow exception that only allows road reconstruction where past experience or expert opinion has indicated that the road design would present a threat to public safety. The Department decided to adopt the Federal Aid Highway exception to allow road construction based on social considerations and Federal-State relationships. The Department believes that this exception will have a very limited application, and the Secretary of Agriculture retains the discretion to approve or deny authorization when warranted (23 U.S.C. 317). The analysis in the FEIS identified only one application of this exception in the next five years for a proposed 5.5-mile State highway relocation project on the Chugach National Forest in Alaska (FEIS Vol. 1, 3–33).

After publication of the FEIS for Roadless Area Conservation, the Department of Energy (DOE) and the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) received and shared with the Forest Service several letters from mining interests outlining their concerns with the preferred alternative. The Forest Service also received comments directly from the National Mining Association. DOE provided an analysis of potential impacts related to oil and gas resources, and compiled information on coal resources as well. Upon being informed of these concerns, the Forest Service evaluated the information provided by DOE and others. The Forest Service also met with and discussed these concerns with DOE.

The FEIS analysis focused on impacts to coal, phosphate, and oil and gas resources, based on input from the national forests and grasslands and from public comment on the draft environmental impact statement (DEIS) and proposed rule (May 10, 2000; 65 FR 30276). Comment received from DOE on the DEIS was focused only on transmission line corridors. Potential economic impacts related to existing coal and phosphate operations with known plans to expand into inventoried roadless areas were quantified in the FEIS (Vol. 1, pp. 3–308 to 3–324). Areas of known high potential for coal,

phosphate, and oil and gas were also discussed (Vol. 1. pp. 3–254 to 3–260). With respect to oil and gas, no attempt was made to estimate the proportion of these resources within inventoried roadless areas because of the high degree of uncertainty of these estimates.

After publication of the FEIS for Roadless Area Conservation, the Department of Energy (DOE) raised concerns about the potential impacts on leasable energy minerals, particularly for natural gas and coal, if the final Roadless Area Conservation Rule did not allow road building in support of exploration and development for leasable minerals.

Currently, the NFS lands play a minor role in providing natural gas resources, only about 0.4% of national production (76.4 billion cubic feet) in 1999. The resource estimates by DOE were made assuming that the resources are homogenously distributed across play areas, which is generally not the case with oil and gas resources. It is reasonable to assume, under the current demand conditions, that there will be increased interest in development of natural gas resources on federal lands and elsewhere. Some of these areas are not currently available for leasing, as a result of leasing decisions or local forest and grassland plan decisions. Moreover, current access restrictions would make many of these resources unavailable in the near future. In addition, the steep terrain that is typical of many inventoried roadless areas often makes these areas difficult to access for environmental and/or economic reasons. The likelihood of resources being recovered from inventoried roadless areas even in the absence of a final roadless rule is small, except where leases already exist. Finally, where accessible, exploration and development of these resources would likely take about 5–10 years before production would begin.

The FEIS described the coal production from NFS lands as accounting for about 7% of national production in 1999. The analysis acknowledged the increasing national demand for coal, particularly the low-sulfur coal found primarily in the western U.S. About 2.5 million acres of coal-bearing rock were estimated to occur within inventoried roadless areas in the interior West.

A concern raised by DOE and others was the potential effect on users of this low sulfur coal, primarily electric utilities in the East. According to DOE, many utility and industrial boilers have been designed to blend the western coal with other higher sulfur coal to meet their Clean Air Act compliance goals. The DOE analysis did not provide any information on the availability of substitute sources of coal if supply from existing mines is reduced.

Overall, the U.S. has abundant coal reserves. Also, alternative sources of low-sulfur coal do exist, concentrated in the western U.S., mostly in Colorado, Montana, and Wyoming. Additionally, the abundant sources of low cost-coal and available technology, such as scrubbers, will enable electric utilities to meet their Clean Air Act compliance goals.

Several commentators on the DEIS, including the Governor of the State of Utah, had questions about access to state-owned coal. As discussed in the FEIS, access based on existing rights would not be affected by the final rule, therefore, access is guaranteed to coal held under existing rights.

The FEIS identified potential impacts on future phosphate mining on the Caribou National Forest, the only area of active phosphate mining on NFS lands. The FEIS acknowledged that phosphate production from the Caribou accounts for about 12% of national production, and is used to supply regional producers of phosphate fertilizer products and elemental phosphorous. The analysis included an estimate of phosphate resources within inventoried roadless areas of 873.3 million tons, and a description that about 8,000 acres of the area of Known Phosphate Lease Areas are within inventoried roadless areas.

In a letter to OMB, the National Mining Association provided estimates of phosphate reserves in Idaho, Wyoming, Utah, and Montana potentially impacted by the final rule. The company currently mining on the Caribou made these estimates. No documentation was provided for the basis of the estimates. However, their open pit mining estimates for Idaho were less than the resources identified in the FEIS in inventoried roadless areas alone.

In conclusion, the information provided by DOE and others provides additional context to the analysis. However, for coal and phosphate, the impacts noted in these comments fall within the range of effects disclosed in the FEIS. For oil and gas, the Forest Service continues to believe there is a high degree of uncertainty in the available information. Moreover, it seems likely that even if resources do underlie inventoried roadless areas, they would be among the last areas entered for exploration and development for the reasons described above. After careful review of the information provided by DOE and private parties, the agency has determined that the information does not materially alter the environmental analysis disclosed in the FEIS and does not constitute significant new circumstances or information relevant to environmental concerns bearing on the rulemaking effort.

The Department has decided not to adopt the exception for future discretionary mineral leasing because of the potentially significant environmental impacts that road construction could cause to inventoried roadless areas, but instead determined a more limited exception is appropriate. Existing mineral leases are not subject to the prohibitions, nor is the continuation, extension, or renewal of an existing mineral lease on lands under lease by the Secretary of the Interior as of the date of publication of this rule in the **Federal Register**. Additionally, road construction or reconstruction may be authorized for new leases on these same lands in the event that application for a new lease is made prior to termination or expiration of the existing lease.

The Department recognizes that this decision may have major adverse economic impacts on a few communities dependent on mineral leasing from inventoried roadless areas. However, if road construction and reconstruction were allowed for future mineral leasing on lands not under mineral lease as of the date of publication of this rule in the **Federal Register**, an estimated 59 miles of new roads would be constructed in inventoried roadless areas over the next five years. Road construction or reconstruction in support of future mineral leasing on lands not presently under mineral lease could continue at this level or in greater amounts into the foreseeable future. Over an estimated 10 million acres of inventoried roadless areas could be roaded for exploration and development of leasable minerals, although the agency believes it is unlikely that more than a small percentage of these acres would contain minerals sufficient for economic development.

The effects of road construction over time could substantially alter valuable roadless area characteristics by fragmenting habitat, increasing soil disturbance, decreasing water quality, and providing new avenues for the invasion of non-native invasive species. Mineral leasing activities not dependent on road construction, such as directional (slant) drilling and underground development, would not be affected by the prohibition.

The final rule extends indefinitely the timeframe for which roads can be

constructed on areas currently under lease, which are estimated to be less than 1 million acres in extent, or less than 2 percent of the total acreage of inventoried roadless areas. The environmental effects of this extension fall between those described in the FEIS for the preferred alternative, which would have allowed road construction or reconstruction only for the duration of an existing lease, and those described in the FEIS under the potential social and economic mitigation measures, which would have provided an exception for mineral leasing activities within all inventoried roadless areas, with no limitations.

Relative to the preferred alternative, the final rule will somewhat diminish the potential beneficial effects of the overall prohibition on road construction and reconstruction in the areas affected by the minerals leasing exception, due to the greater amount of area potentially disturbed and the effects of associated activities. However, by limiting the area potentially affected to only those areas currently under lease, the potential extent of these activities and their impacts are identified and limited.

Tongass National Forest Alternatives. The Tongass Exempt alternative described in the FEIS was not selected. Allowing road construction and reconstruction on the Tongass National Forest to continue unabated would risk the loss of important roadless area values.

The Tongass Deferred alternative was not selected because the agency presently has sufficient information to make this decision, and the decisionmaking processes used have identified the environmental, social, and economic issues that must be addressed. There is no need to postpone the decision.

The Tongass Selected Areas alternative did not meet the purpose and need as well as the selected alternative. Important roadless area values would be lost or diminished because of the road construction, reconstruction, and timber harvesting activities that this alternative allowed.

By applying the final rule to the Tongass National Forest immediately, but allowing road construction, reconstruction, and the cutting, sale, and removal of timber from inventoried roadless areas where a notice of availability for a draft environmental impact statement for such activities has been published in the **Federal Register** prior to the date of publication of this rule in the **Federal Register**, a period of transition is available to affected communities while providing certainty for long term protection of these lands.

The Tongass National Forest has 261 MMBF of timber under contract and 386 MMBF under a notice of availability of a DEIS, FEIS, or Record of Decision. In addition, the Tongass has 204 MMBF available in roaded areas that is sold, has a Record of Decision, or is currently in the planning process. This total of 852 MMBF is enough timber volume to satisfy about seven years of estimated market demand. During the period of transition, an estimated 114 direct timber jobs and 182 total jobs would be affected. In the longer-term, an additional 269 direct timber jobs and 431 total jobs could be lost in Southeast Alaska if current demand trends continue and no other adjustments are provided to allow for more harvest from other parts of the forest. The exception for projects with a notice of availability for a draft environmental impact statement on the Tongass National Forest is because of the unique social and economic conditions where a disproportionate share of the impacts are experienced throughout the entire Southeast Alaska region and most heavily in a few communities.

Decision Summary. It is the decision of the Secretary of Agriculture to select Prohibition Alternative 3 and the Tongass Not Exempt Alternative identified in the FEIS as the final rule, with modifications. These modifications include: (1) an exception to the prohibition on road construction and reconstruction for mineral leasing in areas under mineral lease as of the date of publication of this rule in the **Federal Register**; (2) an exception to the timber harvest prohibition for the cutting, sale, or removal of timber in portions of inventoried roadless areas where construction of a classified road and subsequent timber harvest have substantially altered the roadless characteristics, and the road construction and subsequent timber harvest occurred after the area was designated an inventoried roadless area and prior to the date of publication of this rule in the **Federal Register**; and (3) the immediate application of the prohibitions to the Tongass National Forest with a provision that exempts road construction, road reconstruction, and the cutting, sale, or removal of timber if a notice of availability for a DEIS for such activities has been published in the **Federal Register** prior to the date of publication of this rule in the **Federal Register**. The final rule best meets the agency's goal of maintaining the health and contributions of existing inventoried roadless areas by preserving the relatively undisturbed characteristics of those areas, thereby protecting watershed health and ecosystem integrity. In evaluating the comments received from the public, the Department believes that there is adequate relevant information to assess reasonably foreseeable significant adverse impacts (40 CFR 1502.22). The FEIS for this final rule documents the adverse impacts road construction and timber harvesting can have in inventoried roadless areas. This final rule reduces potential impacts to a greater degree and with more certainty than Prohibition Alternatives 1 and 2 and the other Tongass National Forest alternatives.

The final rule retains the ability to use timber harvesting for clearly defined purposes where necessary to meet ecological needs, allowing accomplishment of ecological objectives that Alternative 4 would preclude. Allowing clearly defined, limited timber harvest of generally small diameter trees will maintain a valuable management option for the agency to help improve habitat for threatened, endangered, proposed, or sensitive species recovery and to help restore ecological composition and structure, such as reducing the risk of uncharacteristic wildfire effects. As habitat fragmentation, subdivision, and urbanization of lands continues nationally, this decision allows the agency to avoid most human-caused fragmentation of National Forest System inventoried roadless areas to preserve management options for future generations. Finally, these inventoried roadless areas will remain available to all Americans for a variety of dispersed recreation opportunities.

The final rule:

(1) Recognizes that the agency's first and highest priority is to ensure sustainability for resources under its jurisdiction. It protects inventoried roadless areas from the activities that most directly threaten their fundamental characteristics through the alteration of natural landscapes and fragmentation of forestlands.

(2) Protects public health by promoting watershed health and maintaining important sources of clean drinking water for current and future generations.

(3) Responds to the major issues identified in public comments.

(4) Is fiscally responsible, and does not increase the financial burden by adding expensive roads the agency cannot afford to maintain.

(5) Exemplifies the agency's responsibility as a world leader in natural resource conservation by setting an example for the global community.

(6) Recognizes that some communities, such as those in Southeast Alaska, bear a disproportionate share of the burden, and offers assistance to mitigate those impacts.

This decision is expected to cause additional adverse economic effects to forest dependent communities because of the potential reduction in future timber harvest, mineral leasing, and other activities (FEIS Vol. 1, 3–326 to 3–350). However, the Department believes that the long-term ecological benefits to the nation of conserving these inventoried roadless areas outweigh the potential economic loss to those local communities. To reduce the economic impacts of this decision, the Chief of the Forest Service will seek to implement one or more of the following provisions of an economic transition program for communities most affected by application of the prohibitions in inventoried roadless areas:

(1) Provide financial assistance to stimulate community-led transition programs and projects in communities most affected by application of the prohibitions in inventoried roadless areas;

(2) Through financial support and action plans, attract public and private interests, both financial and technical, to aid in successfully implementing local transition projects and plans by coordinating with other Federal and State agencies; and

(3) Assist local, State, Tribal and Federal partners in working with those communities most affected by the final roadless area decision.

Regulatory Certifications

This final rule was reviewed under USDA procedures, Executive Order (E.O.) 12866 on Regulatory Planning and Review, and the major rule provisions of the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement and Fairness Act (5 U.S.C. 800). The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) has determined that this is a major rule, because this rule may have an annual effect of $100 million or more on the economy or, in some sectors, may affect productivity, competition, or jobs. Consequently, the rule is subject to OMB review under E.O. 12866 and a regulatory impact analysis has been prepared for this final rule. This rule is not expected to interfere with an action taken or planned by another agency nor raise new legal or policy issues. This action will not alter the budgetary impact of entitlements, grants, user fees, or loan programs or the rights and obligations of recipients of such programs.

Regulatory Impacts

Summary of the Results of the Regulatory Impact Analysis. Many of the benefits and costs associated with the final rule were not quantifiable. Therefore, many of the costs and benefits are described qualitatively. Although the analysis does not provide a quantitative measure of net benefits, the Department believes the benefits of the rule outweigh the costs.

Local-level analysis cannot easily incorporate the economic effects associated with nationally significant issues. Therefore, the Department believes the aggregate transactions costs (costs associated with the time and effort needed to make decisions) of local level decisions would be much higher than the transactions costs of a national policy, because of the controversy surrounding roadless area management.

National Forest System lands provide a variety of goods and services to the American public. Use of the national forests and grasslands for both commodities and amenity services varies over time, in response to changing market conditions, consumer preferences, and other factors. For the purpose of this analysis, the baseline describes the likely mix of goods and services from the national forests and grasslands in the near future in the absence of the final rule, which is likely to affect some goods and services, while having no effect on others. Details on the environmental effects of the final rule can be found in the Forest Service Roadless Area Conservation Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS).

Most of the benefits of the rule result from maintaining roadless areas in their current state, and, therefore, maintaining the current stream of benefits from these areas. The costs are primarily associated with lost opportunities, since the final rule would limit some types of development activities that might have occurred in the future without this rule. Table 1 summarizes the potential benefits and costs of the rule.

Potential Benefits Of The Roadless Rule. Undisturbed landscapes provide a variety of monetary and non-monetary benefits to the public. Many of these benefits are associated with the protection of ecological, social, and economic values in inventoried roadless areas.

Air and water quality would be maintained at a higher level than under the baseline. Higher water quality provides a higher level of protection for drinking water sources, reduces treatment costs for irrigation, reservoirs, and other downstream facilities and maintains the value of water-based recreation activities. Higher air quality protects not only values associated with human health, but also improves visibility and benefits recreation and adjacent private property values.

A greater degree of protection of biological diversity and threatened and endangered species would occur if roads and commodity timber harvest were prohibited in inventoried roadless areas as opposed to the baseline. As a result, ecological values would be maintained. Passive use values related to the existence of biological diversity and threatened and endangered species would be maintained, as well as values associated with protecting these areas for future generations.

A number of other benefits are associated with maintaining healthy wildlife and fish populations at a level higher than under the baseline. Some game species are likely to benefit from this protection, which would maintain quality hunting and fishing experiences both within inventoried roadless areas and beyond. Other types of recreation experiences, such as wildlife viewing, also would benefit.

Inventoried roadless areas are important in providing remote recreation opportunities. A greater number of acres in these recreation settings would be maintained than under the baseline. Remote areas are also important settings for many outfitter and guide services. Maintaining these areas increases the ability of the agency to accommodate additional demand for these types of recreation special use authorizations.

Inventoried roadless areas provide a remote recreation experience without the activity restrictions of Wilderness (for example, off-highway vehicle use and mountain biking). Maintaining roadless areas would likely lessen visitation pressure on Wilderness compared to the baseline.

The risk of introducing non-native invasive species would be reduced if road access were not available. This is beneficial to grazing permittees with allotments in inventoried roadless areas, and to collectors of non-timber forest products by maintaining forage quality and quantity, and forest products that cannot compete with invasive species. The reduced probability of introduction would also benefit forest health in inventoried roadless areas and would contribute to the maintenance of biological diversity.

Some planned timber sales in inventoried roadless areas are likely to cost more to prepare and sell than they realize in revenues received. To the extent that these sales will not take

place, a financial efficiency savings would be realized. Implementing the rule could result in agency cost savings. First, local appeals and litigation about some management activities in roadless areas could be reduced, which would avoid future costs. Secondly, the reduction in new miles of roads constructed would reduce the number of miles the agency is responsible for maintaining in the future, resulting in avoiding up to an additional $219,000 per year of costs.

Potential Costs Of The Roadless Rule. The prohibition on road construction, reconstruction, and timber harvest except for clearly defined, limited purposes would reduce development of roaded access to resources within inventoried roadless areas compared to the baseline. Roads are required for most timber sales to be economically feasible. For those sales that are financially profitable, the rule would reduce net revenues. In addition to lost revenue, there would be an estimated immediate impact of 461 fewer timber jobs and 841 total jobs, with an associated annual loss of $20.7 million in direct income and $36.2 million in total income. In the longer term, an additional 269 timber jobs and 431 total jobs could be affected from harvest reductions on the Tongass National Forest. The longer-term income effect was estimated at $12.4 million in direct income and $20.2 million in total income. A reduction in the timber program could also affect about 160 Forest Service jobs, with an additional 100 jobs affected on the Tongass in the longer term.

Jobs associated with road construction and reconstruction for timber harvest and other activities would also be fewer than under the baseline. Initially, between 43 and 51 direct jobs and between 88 and 104 total jobs could be affected by reduced road construction and reconstruction. An additional 39 direct jobs and 78 total jobs could be affected by harvest reductions on the Tongass National Forest in the longer term.

The impact on mineral resources will vary, depending on factors such as prices, technology change, and substitutes. Reasonable access to conduct exploration and development of valid claims for locatable minerals (metallic and nonmetallic minerals subject to appropriation under the General Mining Law of 1872) would continue. Such access may involve some level of road construction that, depending on the stage of exploration or development, could range from helicopters, temporary or unimproved roads, more permanent, improved roads, or nonmotorized transport.

Exploration for and development of leasable minerals (such as oil, gas, coal, and geothermal) on areas not already under lease would likely be limited because roads are often needed for these activities. In the short-term, up to 546 direct and 3,095 total jobs could be affected, with direct annual income effects of $36 million and total income effects of $128 million. Payments to states could be reduced by about $3.2 million per year. Between 308 and 1,371 million tons of coal resources on the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre, and Gunnison and Manti-LaSal National Forests could be unavailable for development as a result of this rule. About 873 million tons of phosphate resources on the Caribou National Forest may also be unavailable. Other inventoried roadless areas may contain additional coal and phosphate resources. An estimated mean of 11.3 trillion cubic feet of undiscovered natural gas and 550 million barrels of undiscovered oil resources could also be affected. Effects on saleable minerals (such as sand, gravel, stone, and pumice) are expected to be negligible.

New roads have the potential to reduce current operating costs for other users, for example grazing permittees and collectors of non-timber forest products, by allowing faster and easier access. These potential cost reductions would not be realized if road construction is prohibited. The agency, however, builds few roads for recreation, grazing, or collection of non-timber forest products, and this pattern is unlikely to change. New roads built for other purposes may provide additional access for recreationists, including hunters and anglers. Prohibiting construction of new roads would have minimal impacts on these groups, since all temporary roads and many of the other planned roads would be closed once the intended activity is concluded. Therefore, the number of additional road miles that would be available for recreational or other uses would be small.

Opportunities for some types of recreation special uses may be limited in the future. Developed recreation use and road-based recreation uses in general are more likely to occur at higher densities outside of inventoried roadless areas than under the baseline, since expansion into inventoried roadless areas would not occur. However, roads are rarely constructed into inventoried roadless areas for recreation purposes. The development of new ski areas within inventoried roadless areas would be unlikely. Other, new non-recreation special uses may be limited in the future as well. Such special uses include communication sites and energy-related transmission uses (such as ditches and pipelines, and electric transmission lines).

There could be a slight increase in the risk from uncharacteristic wildland fire or insect and disease as a result of reduced opportunities for forest health treatments. However, the Forest Service would likely treat few acres of inventoried roadless areas regardless of the issuance of the Roadless Rule, since moderate and high risk forests in inventoried roadless areas would be given a low priority for treatment, unless there was an imminent threat to public safety, private property, water quality, or threatened and endangered species. While overall fire hazard can still be reduced without roads, restricted road access would likely increase the cost of treatments, which would result in fewer acres treated. Some fuel treatment techniques available under the baseline would not be economically or logistically feasible. Of the 14 million acres in inventoried roadless areas identified as potentially requiring fuel treatment, 6.5 million could still be treated with prescribed fire without mechanical pretreatment. The use of timber harvest for fuel management would be limited to those activities that reduce uncharacteristic wildfire effects through the cutting, sale, or removal of small diameter timber that maintains or improves one or more of the roadless characteristics. For the next five years, about 22,000 acres could be treated by the limited timber harvest allowed under the final rule. Although this is a significant decline in treatment acres compared to acres that would have been harvested under the baseline, the total acreage affected is less than 1 percent of all inventoried roadless area that potentially require mechanical pretreatment.

Agency costs could increase compared to the baseline for some types of activities. Fuel treatment and other ecological restoration treatment costs in inventoried roadless areas would likely increase, but the impact on agency costs is likely to be negligible since treatment in most inventoried roadless areas is a lower priority.

The goods and services that could not be produced from inventoried roadless areas without road construction are likely to be produced either on other parts of National Forest System land or on other lands. Substitute production could result in adverse environmental effects on these other lands. The following Table 1 summarizes the costs and benefits of the final rule.

TABLE 1.—SUMMARY OF COSTS AND BENEFITS OF THE ROADLESS AREA CONSERVATION RULE COMPARED TO THE BASELINE

Category	Baseline	Final rule
Air quality [1]	Potential increase in dust, vehicle emissions associated with road use and management activities in inventoried roadless areas.	Air quality is maintained in inventoried roadless areas.
Water quality [1]	Potential increase in sediment associated with roads and management activities in inventoried roadless areas.	Water quality is maintained in inventoried roadless areas.
Land base available for dispersed recreation activities [1].	Decrease in remote settings, increase in developed settings on National Forest System lands.	Current land base for remote and developed settings is maintained on National Forest System lands.
Quality of fishing and hunting for recreation, commercial, and subsistence users [1]..	Potential habitat degradation, increase in roaded access, and decrease in remote hunting and fishing opportunities.	Existing hunting and fishing quality and access in inventoried roadless areas maintained. Opportunities for remote experiences are maintained.
Forage quality for livestock grazing [1]	Increased risk of non-palatable invasive species.	Existing forage quality is maintained.
Non-timber forest products [1]	Increased risk of invasive species displacing desired products.	Non-timber forest products maintained at current levels.
Existence and bequest values [1]	Potential decrease due to loss of biological diversity and increased risks to threatened and endangered species habitat in inventoried roadless areas.	Values maintained at existing levels due to conservation of biological diversity and habitat for threatened and endangered species in inventoried roadless areas.
Agency costs associated with planning activities [1].	No change in current costs associated with appeals and litigation on roadless area management.	Savings in costs associated with appeals and litigation on roadless area management.
Agency cost associated with road maintenance [2].	Increase up to $219,000 per year in maintenance cost associated with new roads in inventoried roadless areas.	No increase in road maintenance costs in inventoried roadless areas.
Projected timber harvest (average annual) from inventoried roadless areas [3].	146.7 million board feet	74.3 million board feet.
Timber related jobs [4]	No change to current estimates of future timber associated direct and total jobs.	Estimated job loss of 461 direct jobs and 841 total jobs. An additional 269 direct and 431 total jobs could be affected in Alaska in the longer term.
Timber related income [4]	No change to current estimates of future timber associated direct and total income.	Estimated annual income loss of about $20.7 million direct income and $36.2 million total income. An additional $12.4 million direct income and $20.2 million total income could be affected in Alaska in the longer term.
Road construction jobs [5]	No change to current estimates of future road construction direct jobs.	Projected annual job loss ranging from 43 to 51 direct jobs and between 88 and 104 total jobs. An additional 39 direct and 78 total jobs could be affected in Alaska in the longer term.
Exploration and development for locatable minerals (gold, silver, lead, etc.) [1].	Existing mineral availability continues subject to General Mining Law of 1872.	Access continues subject to General Mining Law of 1872.
Exploration and development for leasable minerals (oil, gas, coal, etc.) [1].	Existing mineral availability continues along with current exploration and development costs.	Exploration and development in areas not under lease as of the date of publication of this rule and requiring roads would be precluded.
Leasable minerals related jobs [6]	No change to current estimates of future mineral associated direct and indirect jobs.	Potential effect on mining related employment is a decrease of 546 direct and 3,095 total jobs.
Leasable minerals related income [6]	No change to current estimates of future minerals associated direct and total income.	Potential effect on mining related annual income is $36.2 million less direct and $127.8 million less total income.
Payments to states for leasable minerals	Payments will continue to vary as extraction varies over time.	Payments associated with coal and phosphate could be reduced by $3.2 million per year.
Leasable mineral resources	No change to current estimates of available leasable resources.	About 873 million tons of phosphate and 308 to 1,371 million tons of coal would likely be unavailable for development. About 11.3 trillion cubic feet of undiscovered gas and 550 million barrels of undiscovered oil resources may be unavailable.
Exploration and development for salable minerals (sand, stone, gravel, pumice, etc.) [1].	Existing mineral availability continues along with current exploration and development costs.	In a few isolated cases, development requiring roads may be precluded or costs may increase.
Operating costs for grazing permittees [1]	Increased access can potentially decrease cost.	No change in operating costs.

TABLE 1.—SUMMARY OF COSTS AND BENEFITS OF THE ROADLESS AREA CONSERVATION RULE COMPARED TO THE BASELINE—Continued

Category	Baseline	Final rule
Operating costs for collectors of non-timber products [1].	Increased access can potentially decrease cost.	No change in operating costs.
Special-use authorizations (such as communications sites, electric transmission lines, pipelines) [1].	Current use and occupancies	Current use and occupancies not affected, future developments requiring roads excluded in inventoried roadless areas unless one of the exceptions applies.
Forest health [1]	Potential lower cost of treatment due to increased access.	Slightly increased risk because of fewer treatment opportunities. Cost of current treatments remains unchanged.

[1] Analysis based on qualitative discussion.
[2] Analysis based on historic Agency data on expenditures.
[3] Analysis based on forest-level data on projected timber volumes in inventoried roadless areas.
[4] Analysis based on Agency data from Timber Sales Program Information System Reporting System (TSPIRS) and IMPLAN model multipliers.
[5] Analysis based on Agency estimates of historic expenditures and IMPLAN model multipliers.
[6] Analysis based on Agency production estimates and IMPLAN model multipliers.

Summary of the Results of the Final Regulatory Flexibility Analysis. The Department is promulgating a final rule for roadless area conservation that does not impose regulations on small entities. The rule would not suspend or modify any existing permit, contract, or other legal instrument authorizing the occupancy and use of National Forest System land.[1] The rule could affect future opportunities for small entities, but the agency cannot predict at any given time what authorized uses a small entity might want to pursue on National Forest System lands.

Data are limited for linking the proposed rule to effects on small businesses. The agency does not typically collect information about the size of businesses that seek permission to operate on National Forest System lands. The agency sought information to the extent possible by specifically requesting additional information in the initial regulatory flexibility analysis.

The rulemaking has the potential to affect a subset of small businesses that may seek opportunities on National Forest System lands in the future. The primary effect of the rule on small businesses is the potential to affect the future supply of commodity outputs or commercial opportunities for businesses. The change in resource availability is expected to be small across most regions in the country. Therefore, future business opportunities are not likely to be reduced to any great extent in comparison to continuation of current management policies. However, the effects may be more pronounced in the Intermountain and Alaska Regions, with the effects in Alaska increasing in the longer term.

Small businesses in the wood products sector most likely to be affected are logging and sawmill operations. Reductions in the harvest of softwood sawtimber, particularly in the western U.S., are most likely to affect small businesses, since these sectors are dominated by small business. With the exception of the Intermountain (Utah, Nevada, western Wyoming, and southern Idaho) and Alaska Regions, reductions in harvest are estimated to range from less than one percent to four percent. The reduction in the Intermountain Region is estimated to be nine percent. Harvest effects on the Tongass National Forest will be reduced about 18 percent in the short-term, but in the longer-term, harvest could be reduced by about 60 percent absent further adjustments to the Tongass Land and Resource Management Plan.

In the mining sector, small businesses most likely to be affected are businesses involved in the exploration and development of leasable minerals. The final Roadless Area Conservation rule will affect exploration and development for leasable minerals in inventoried roadless areas in the future where road construction is required, except in areas presently under lease.

The potential effects on small businesses involved in livestock grazing and the collection of non-timber forest products are expected to be negligible. There will be fewer roads available for use in the future under the final rule, but the number of miles that would have been built in the next five years and that would have remained open for use is minor compared to the entire National Forest System road system.

Special use authorizations on National Forest System land could be affected by the final rule, if road access is required. Most of the special uses potentially affected are dominated by large businesses, such as businesses in communication, electric services, gas production and distribution, and resort development. Small businesses with outfitter and guide permits are expected to benefit from the final rule, since these businesses are often dependent on providing services to recreationists interested in remote recreation activities that are often found in inventoried roadless areas.

The effect of the final rulemaking on small governmental jurisdictions is tied to possible reductions in commodity outputs in cases where some portion of federal receipts is returned to the states for distribution to counties, and to changes in the jurisdiction's economic base from changes in employment and business opportunities related to National Forest System outputs and management. Payments to states from timber receipts will be unaffected by the final Roadless Rule through 2006 because the ''Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000'' was signed into law on October 30 (Pub. L. 106–393). This legislation allows counties to select a payment based on historic payment levels rather than payments based on current receipts. However, this legislation does not affect revenue sharing of federal receipts from mineral leasing on national grasslands and from public domain lands of the national forests. Therefore, the final rule may result in a reduction in those receipts in the future, which would affect revenues shared with states and counties. The agency has also chosen to pursue funds to assist communities undergoing economic transition resulting from implementation of the final Roadless Rule. Such assistance could include financial assistance to stimulate community-led transition programs and projects, support to attract public and

[1] Because the roadless rule does not directly regulate small entities, the Department does not believe the Regulatory Flexibility Act applies to this rule.

private interests in implementing local transition projects, coordination with other Federal and State agencies, and assisting local, State, Tribal, and Federal partners to work with the most affected communities. The Forest Service will pursue a six-year economic transition program. The Economic Adjustment Program will be used to fund or support projects that will be specific to the needs of individual communities and important to the national forest or grassland. The Forest Service anticipates requesting $72.5 million in support of these activities between fiscal years 2001 and 2006.

Environmental Impact

The Endangered Species Act of 1973, As Amended. A biological evaluation was prepared which analyzed the potential effects of the action alternatives on threatened, endangered, and proposed species. This evaluation, along with other supporting documentation for the rule, was provided to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service as part of consultation and conferencing under the Endangered Species Act. Both agencies concurred with the determination in the biological evaluation that all of the action alternatives analyzed in the biological evaluation may affect, but are not likely to adversely affect threatened or endangered species or adversely modify designated critical habitat; are not likely to jeopardize proposed species or adversely modify proposed critical habitat; and may beneficially affect threatened, endangered, and proposed species and critical habitat. Copies of these letters of concurrence are in the project record and can be viewed at the Roadless Area Conservation project website.

Other Required Disclosures. The agency has prepared a final environmental impact statement in concert with this rule. In it, the direct, indirect, and cumulative effects of the final rule and alternatives are disclosed. None of the prohibition alternatives are an action that requires consultation under the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act because they do not require water to be impounded or diverted. The FEIS may be obtained from various sources as indicated in the **ADDRESSES** section of this document.

The Indiana Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) questioned whether the agency had adequately taken into account effects on historic properties and expressed concern that the rule would cause ''neglect of historic properties.'' The IDNR urged the Forest Service to consult with the Indiana State Historic Preservation Officer pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). First, the FEIS does evaluate and display the effects of the final rule regarding cultural resources (FEIS Vol. 1, 3–232 to 3–237). The FEIS also makes clear that the prohibitions will not inhibit existing access to historic sites. As for the Section 106 NHPA process, this rulemaking does not constitute an ''undertaking'' as defined in 36 CFR 800.16. The regulations established by the Advisory Council for Historic Preservation make clear that once an agency determines that it has no undertaking, or that its undertaking has no potential to affect historic properties, the agency has no further Section 106 obligations.

Controlling Paperwork Burdens on the Public

This rule does not contain any record keeping or reporting requirements or other information collection requirements as defined in 5 CFR part 1320 and, therefore, imposes no paperwork burden on the public. Accordingly, the review provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501, *et seq.*) and implementing regulations at 5 CFR part 1320 do not apply.

Unfunded Mandates Reform

Pursuant to Title II of the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995 (2 U.S.C. 1531–1538), the Department has assessed the effects of this proposed rule on State, local, and Tribal governments, and on the private sector. This proposed rule does not compel the expenditure of $100 million or more by any State, local, or Tribal government, or anyone in the private sector. Therefore, a statement under Section 202 of the Act is not required.

No Takings Implications

This rule has been reviewed for its impact on private property rights under Executive Order 12630. The Department determined that this proposed rule does not pose a risk of taking Constitutionally protected private property; in fact, the proposed rule honors access to private property pursuant to statute and to outstanding or reserved rights.

Civil Justice Reform Act

This rule has been reviewed under Executive Order 12988, Civil Justice Reform. The proposed revision: (1) preempts all State and local laws and regulations that are found to be in conflict with or that would impede its full implementation; (2) does not retroactively affect existing permits, contracts, or other instruments authorizing the occupancy and use of National Forest System lands; and (3) does not require administrative proceedings before parties may file suit in court challenging these provisions.

Federalism and Consultation with Tribal Governments

The agency considered this rule under the requirements of Executive Order 12612 and found the rule will not have substantial direct effects on the States, on the relationship between the national government and the States, or on the distribution of power and responsibilities among the various levels of government. Therefore, the agency determined that no further assessment on federalism implications is necessary at this time. In addition, the consultation requirements under Executive Order 13132, effective November 2, 1999 were reviewed. This new Order calls for enhanced consultation with State and local government officials and emphasizes increased sensitivity to their concerns.

Forest Service line officers in the field were asked to make contact with Tribes to ensure awareness of the initiative and of the rulemaking process. Outreach to Tribes has been conducted at the national forest and grassland level, which is how Forest Service government-to-government dialog with Tribes is typically conducted.

Outreach to State and local governments has taken place both in the field and Washington offices. Forest Service officials have contacted State and local governmental officials and staffs to explain the notice of intent and the rulemaking process. The agency met with and responded to a variety of information requests from local officials and State organizations, such as the National Governors Association and the Western Governors Association.

In the development of this rule comments received from States, Tribes, and local governments in response to the notice of intent to prepare an environmental impact statement published October 19, 1999 (64 FR 56306) were carefully considered. Following publication of the proposed rule, the agency met with State, Tribal, and local government officials to explain and clarify the proposed rule and the accompanying environmental impact statement. The extent to which additional consultation was appropriate under Executive Order 13132 was considered. In addition, the Forest Service responsible official will seek input and participation by State, local, and Tribal officials in the early stages of forest and project planning regarding

subsequent decisions for inventoried roadless areas.

List of Subjects in 36 CFR Part 294

Forests and forest products, Highways and roads, Land and resource management planning, National forests, Navigation (air), Recreation and recreation areas, and Wilderness areas.

For the reasons set forth in this preamble, part 294 of Title 36 of the Code of Federal Regulations is amended as follows:

PART 294—SPECIAL AREAS

1. Add and reserve §§ 294.3–294.9, designate §§ 294.1 through 294.9 as subpart A, and add a subpart heading to read as follows:

Subpart A—Miscellaneous Provisions

2. Remove the authority citations that follow §§ 294.1 and 294.2 and add an authority citation for the newly designated Subpart A to read as follows:

Authority: 16 U.S.C. 472, 551, and 1131.

3. Add a new Subpart B to read as follows:

Subpart B—Protection of Inventoried Roadless Areas

Sec.
294.10 Purpose.
294.11 Definitions.
294.12 Prohibition on road construction and road reconstruction in inventoried roadless areas.
294.13 Prohibition on timber cutting, sale, or removal in inventoried roadless areas.
294.14 Scope and applicability.

Authority: 16 U.S.C. 472, 529, 551, 1608, 1613; 23 U.S.C. 201, 205.

Subpart B—Protection of Inventoried Roadless Areas

§ 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.

§ 294.11 Definitions.

The following terms and definitions apply to this subpart:

Inventoried roadless areas. 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.

Responsible official. The Forest Service line officer with the authority and responsibility to make decisions regarding protection and management of inventoried roadless areas pursuant to this subpart.

Road. A motor vehicle travelway over 50 inches wide, unless designated and managed as a trail. A road may be classified, unclassified, or temporary.

(1) *Classified road.* A road wholly or partially within or adjacent to National Forest System lands that is determined to be needed for long-term motor vehicle access, including State roads, county roads, privately owned roads, National Forest System roads, and other roads authorized by the Forest Service.

(2) *Unclassified road.* A road on National Forest System lands that is not managed as part of the forest transportation system, such as unplanned roads, abandoned travelways, and off-road vehicle tracks that have not been designated and managed as a trail; and those roads that were once under permit or other authorization and were not decommissioned upon the termination of the authorization.

(3) *Temporary road.* A road authorized by contract, permit, lease, other written authorization, or emergency operation, not intended to be part of the forest transportation system and not necessary for long-term resource management.

Road construction. Activity that results in the addition of forest classified or temporary road miles.

Road maintenance. The ongoing upkeep of a road necessary to retain or restore the road to the approved road management objective.

Road reconstruction. Activity that results in improvement or realignment of an existing classified road defined as follows:

(1) *Road improvement.* Activity that results in an increase of an existing road's traffic service level, expansion of its capacity, or a change in its original design function.

(2) *Road realignment.* Activity that results in a new location of an existing road or portions of an existing road, and treatment of the old roadway.

Roadless area characteristics. Resources or features that are often present in and characterize inventoried roadless areas, including:

(1) High quality or undisturbed soil, water, and air;

(2) Sources of public drinking water;

(3) Diversity of plant and animal communities;

(4) Habitat for threatened, endangered, proposed, candidate, and sensitive species and for those species dependent on large, undisturbed areas of land;

(5) Primitive, semi-primitive non-motorized and semi-primitive motorized classes of dispersed recreation;

(6) Reference landscapes;

(7) Natural appearing landscapes with high scenic quality;

(8) Traditional cultural properties and sacred sites; and

(9) Other locally identified unique characteristics.

§ 294.12 Prohibition on road construction and road reconstruction in inventoried roadless areas.

(a) A road may not be constructed or reconstructed in inventoried roadless areas of the National Forest System, except as provided in paragraph (b) of this section.

(b) Notwithstanding the prohibition in paragraph (a) of this section, a road may be constructed or reconstructed in an inventoried roadless area if the Responsible Official determines that one of the following circumstances exists:

(1) A road is needed to protect public health and safety in cases of an imminent threat of flood, fire, or other catastrophic event that, without intervention, would cause the loss of life or property;

(2) A road is needed to conduct a response action under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) or to conduct a natural resource restoration action under CERCLA, Section 311 of the Clean Water Act, or the Oil Pollution Act;

(3) A road is needed pursuant to reserved or outstanding rights, or as provided for by statute or treaty;

(4) Road realignment is needed to prevent irreparable resource damage that arises from the design, location, use, or deterioration of a classified road and that cannot be mitigated by road maintenance. Road realignment may occur under this paragraph only if the road is deemed essential for public or private access, natural resource management, or public health and safety;

(5) Road reconstruction is needed to implement a road safety improvement project on a classified road determined to be hazardous on the basis of accident experience or accident potential on that road;

(6) The Secretary of Agriculture determines that a Federal Aid Highway project, authorized pursuant to Title 23 of the United States Code, 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

(7) A road is needed in conjunction with the continuation, extension, or

renewal of a mineral lease on lands that are under lease by the Secretary of the Interior as of January 12, 2001 or for a new lease issued immediately upon expiration of an existing lease. Such road construction or reconstruction must be conducted in a manner that minimizes effects on surface resources, prevents unnecessary or unreasonable surface disturbance, and complies with all applicable lease requirements, land and resource management plan direction, regulations, and laws. Roads constructed or reconstructed pursuant to this paragraph must be obliterated when no longer needed for the purposes of the lease or upon termination or expiration of the lease, whichever is sooner.

(c) Maintenance of classified roads is permissible in inventoried roadless areas.

§ 294.13 Prohibition on timber cutting, sale, or removal in inventoried roadless areas.

(a) Timber may not be cut, sold, or removed in inventoried roadless areas of the National Forest System, except as provided in paragraph (b) of this section.

(b) Notwithstanding the prohibition in paragraph (a) of this section, timber may be cut, sold, or removed in inventoried roadless areas if the Responsible Official determines that one of the following circumstances exists. The cutting, sale, or removal of timber in these areas is expected to be infrequent.

(1) The cutting, sale, or removal of generally small diameter timber is needed for one of the following purposes and will maintain or improve one or more of the roadless area characteristics as defined in § 294.11.

(i) To improve threatened, endangered, proposed, or sensitive species habitat; or

(ii) To maintain or restore the characteristics of ecosystem composition and structure, such as to reduce the risk of uncharacteristic wildfire effects, within the range of variability that would be expected to occur under natural disturbance regimes of the current climatic period;

(2) The cutting, sale, or removal of timber is incidental to the implementation of a management activity not otherwise prohibited by this subpart;

(3) The cutting, sale, or removal of timber is needed and appropriate for personal or administrative use, as provided for in 36 CFR part 223; or

(4) Roadless characteristics have been substantially altered in a portion of an inventoried roadless area due to the construction of a classified road and subsequent timber harvest. Both the road construction and subsequent timber harvest must have occurred after the area was designated an inventoried roadless area and prior to January 12, 2001. Timber may be cut, sold, or removed only in the substantially altered portion of the inventoried roadless area.

§ 294.14 Scope and applicability.

(a) This subpart does not revoke, suspend, or modify any permit, contract, or other legal instrument authorizing the occupancy and use of National Forest System land issued prior to January 12, 2001.

(b) This subpart does not compel the amendment or revision of any land and resource management plan.

(c) This subpart does not revoke, suspend, or modify any project or activity decision made prior to January 12, 2001.

(d) This subpart does not apply to road construction, reconstruction, or the cutting, sale, or removal of timber in inventoried roadless areas on the Tongass National Forest if a notice of availability of a draft environmental impact statement for such activities has been published in the **Federal Register** prior to January 12, 2001.

(e) The prohibitions and restrictions established 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.

(f) If any provision of the rules in this subpart or its application to any person or to certain circumstances is held invalid, the remainder of the regulations in this subpart and their application remain in force.

Dated: January 5, 2001.

Dan Glickman,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 01–726 Filed 1–5–01; 3:45 pm]

BILLING CODE 3410–11–P

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Susan
Last name: Taylor
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

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

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

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Susan
Last name: Taylor
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I strongly urge the Forest Service to retain the "Roadless Rule" in the Tongass Forest.

I have lived in Port Alexander, part of the Tongass Forest on Baranof Island, for over 40 years. I have commercially fished, taught high school for SISD, and started the Laughing Raven Lodge, a sport fishing lodge, in 1994. These endeavors have supported my family for three generations.

Both locally, and globally, it is short sighted to open this area to resource exploitation. Not only does my family and community depend on a healthy ecosystem in the Tongass, it is an increasingly important carbon sink and wildlife habitat for the entire country. Moreover, Government-sponsored road building was a benefit to logging companies, but not to the taxpayers who footed the bill.

Thank you for your consideration, and hope my reasons resonate, and help you decide to keep the Tongass roadless.

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Susan
Last name: Taylor
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is [Susan] Taylor and I live in Elk Park, North Carolina.

The lungs of our planet are under attack for profit. I lived in the state of Washington for over 14 years, and watch as basically one family raped and destroyed the old growth forest. NO trees no oxygen. That's not rocket science. Stop the destruction 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, Susan Taylor

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Tamara
Last name: Taylor
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

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

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

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

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/13/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Tanya
Last name: Taylor
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Tanya Taylor and I live in Capitola, 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, Tanya Taylor

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Terese
Last name: Taylor
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC1022

Dear Secretary Perdue,

I am visiting on the lands and waters of the Tongass National Forest. The health of the Tongass National Forest is critical to sustaining peoples' 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: Terri
Last name: Taylor
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Terri Taylor and I live in Glen Burnie, 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, Terri Taylor

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Terri
Last name: Taylor
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

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

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

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/7/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Thomas
Last name: Taylor
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: Thomas
Last name: Taylor
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: Timothy
Last name: Taylor
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): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Vernetta
Last name: Taylor
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Vernetta Taylor and I live in Greenport, 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, Vernetta Taylor

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Victoria
Last name: Taylor
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

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

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

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Wendy
Last name: Taylor
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

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

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

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/12/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Zachary
Last name: Taylor
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): 11/24/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Clem
Last name: Taylor Roth
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): 11/7/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Catherine
Last name: Taylorqq
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: Tammy
Last name: Tayman
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Tammy Tayman and I live in Fairfax, Virginia.

We are stewards of this planet. As such, we must protect it and all life on it for our future and that of our children and their children. These trees are not replaceable. Please do the right thing and stop this madness before it starts. 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, Tammy Tayman

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Sarah
Last name: Taysan
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC6033

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: Glen
Last name: Taysom
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Glen Taysom and I live in Roseville, 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, Glen Taysom

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Charles
Last name: Tazzia
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Charles Tazzia and I live in Grosse Pointe Farms, Michigan.

I have spent a great deal of time in the magnificent forests of South East Alaska. These rolls areas are national treasure, leaving these forests in tact are chosen one of our best buffers against 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, Charles Tazzia

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Charles
Last name: Tazzia
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Keeping the Tongass National Forest roadless is in the best interest of the United States. WE need this forest for recreation and as a buffer against climate change.
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.
The Tongass contains some of the largest intact old-growth temperate rainforest in the world, and its value in providing clean water for fish and wildlife habitat is essential to the economic and ecological health of Southeast Alaska. I urge you to keep the federal Roadless Rule intact and current protections in place for national forests in Alaska.
In addition, I strongly object to your plans to reduce and remove protections from our national forests roadless areas. The Roadless Rule is one of the smartest and most popular land management policies the Federal Government has ever adopted. Not only does it preserve some of Americas best fish and wildlife habitat, but it also saves untold millions of taxpayer dollars that might otherwise be spent to subsidize money-losing timber sales. The value of the Roadless Rule in preventing environmentally damaging and economically 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 Tazzia

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Madyson
Last name: Tcaudt
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC4928

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): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: C.
Last name: Tchalo
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

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

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

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/11/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Annette
Last name: Tchelka
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Annette Tchelka and I live in West Haven, Connecticut.

This is a time when we should be doing everything possible to preserve our forests, especially old growth forests to help forestall climate change. It is bad enough wild fires decimate woodlands in America every year. It is blatantly stupid to destroy old growth forests. I am absolutely opposed to clearcutting of forests, especially our old growth 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, Annette Tchelka

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/1/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Anon
Last name: teachpeace@windstream.net
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
No more logging in Tongass Forest

The Tongass National Forest has been placed in protected status due to its value as protected forest. It must stay wild. The U.S. Forest Service must prohibit additional development. Keep the wild, roadless lands, wild and roadless.

Choose "No Action" alternative on the Roadless Rule. The current administration is so completely corrupt and also out of touch with science. Due to climate change, all wild protected lands must stay wild and protected, so no more carbon is released. The Tongass National Forests pristine old growth forest is one of the last intact temperate rainforests on Earth. Logging would destroy this priceless habitat and it's biodiversity forever. The Tongass National Forest absorbs more carbon than all the other National forests put together.

The Tongass is home to protected wildlife including wolves, salmon, deer, bear, birds of prey, and many other species. The salmon populations will be threatened by new roads destroying streams. It also has within it's boundaries Native American peoples sacred sites. There is no justification nor documentation for the need for these roads or logging. Protections must stay in place.

I demand the Forest Service select no-action, Alternative 1.

Thank you,

Lisa Modola

[Position]

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

Wild habitats are critical to Earths survival. DO NOT TOUCH!

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

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

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

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/26/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Anon
Last name: Teagyn
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC181

Please don't destroy the Tongass National Forest! Our future generations deserve to enjoy the land and see the salmon

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Andrew
Last name: Teahan
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to object to the proposed exemption of Tongas national forrest to the Roadless Area Conservation Rule. The Tongass represents millions of acres of old growth forest, and it's one of the last remaining pristine temperate rainforests. Exempting this from Roadless act would be incredibly short sighted. While it would bolster the success of industries like logging, these resources are worth far more in their current state. Tourism and fisheries are dominant industries in throughout the Tongass region, and make up a much larger portion of the economy than logging ever will. Allowing continued development will be harmful to wildlife with little gain for anyone else. Even just the construction of roads will harm wildlife, and isolate them geographically. These forests are home to several uncommon species, and large forests like this are some of the only ones pristine enough to support large populations of carnivores, such as bears. The Tongass is also a significant form of carbon storage. In a time where our federal government is choosing to ignore the vast majority of the american public on this issue, it is essential that we do not deliberately take actions (such as this exemption) which exacerbate our environmental issues. This is not a just an isolated issue, the health of our public lands should not be cavalierly tossed around like like bartering chips, or given as handouts to industry. Please do the correct thing, and leave the Tongass protected under the Roadless Area Conservation Rule, like it has been for almost two decades. Please act in good conscious and know that the public supports the continued preservation of Tongass, not opening it up for an industry free-for-all!

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Michael
Last name: Teahan
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

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

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

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Michael
Last name: Teahan
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- 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 Teahan

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/12/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: James
Last name: Teal
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is James Teal and I have spent the last 5 summers as the captain of a charter fishing boat in 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 affect the Tongass National Forest and the Chugach National Forest.

During my time as a captain, I have seen the unbelievable benefit of intact, old growth forests. Beyond the wildlife that live in these forests, the Tongass supports an incredibly productive fishery, and that fishery provides to me my lifestyle, from what I eat to the money I live off. Places like the Tongass have diminished worldwide, and once clear cutting is introduced, theres no getting the benefits of old growth forest back. Please look at the abundant lessons from the past, and do not exempt the Tongass from 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, 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), 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, and 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, 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]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Mary
Last name: Tealdi
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC3370

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,

Mary Tealdi

Oakland, CA 94602

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Cindy
Last name: Teasdale
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

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

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

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Corson
Last name: Teasley
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC3675

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,

Corson Teasley

Gainesville, GA 30506

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 1/1/0001 12:00:00 AM
First name: Corson
Last name: Teasley
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
3675

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,
Corson Teasley
Gainesville, GA 30506

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/24/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Carole
Last name: Tebay
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Comments to oppose modification to the Roadless Rule

Dear U.S. Forest Service,

In the southeast we lost the last of our old growth forests in the 1930s and with it habitat for birds that have yet to recover. We can only lose an old growth forest once and then it is gone, forever.

Please protect the Roadless Rule in the Tongass National Forest.

Sincerely,

Carole Tebay

Pensacola, FL 32507

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Chartis
Last name: Tebbetts
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

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

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

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

We all need wild places to keep minds and souls grounded with what is beautiful in God's creations.

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

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

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

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: John
Last name: Tedeschi
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

The Tongass contains some of the largest intact old-growth temperate rainforest in the world, and its value in providing clean water for fish and wildlife habitat is essential to the economic and ecological 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, John Tedeschi

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

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

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Terry
Last name: Tedesco
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Terry Tedesco 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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Any choice but the No Action alternative would also put wildlife and critical habitat at risk, threaten access to clean water, and be a step in the wrong direction on climate change jeopardizing Alaskans at a time when the state already faces severe challenges related to rising temperatures. I urge you not to abandon the Roadless Rule in Alaska and instead 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 Tedesco

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/10/2019 6:25:29 PM
First name: Erika
Last name: Tedin
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Erika Tedin 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.

My husband was born and raised in Sitka. I have visited a few times and would be horrified if the pristine beauty were eliminated. To lose such a beautiful and culturally valuable piece of earth would be devastating.

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, 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. 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: Gloria
Last name: Tedrick
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC5161

U.S. Forest Service Alaska Roadless Rule Committee:

Part of our planet and the great country of America needs to have wilderness that has not been destroyed by greed.

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,

Gloria Tedrick

Bartlesville, OK 74006

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/11/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Edward
Last name: Tedtmann
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Edward Tedtmann 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.

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

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

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

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Cornelia
Last name: Teed
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Cornelia Teed 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, Cornelia Teed

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Cornelia
Last name: Teed
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

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

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

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Cornelia
Last name: Teed
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Cornelia Teed 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, Cornelia Teed

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

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

All National Monuments are to be treasured, that is why they are parks, not something to be destroyed by opportunists and harmful companies with only their own interests in mind. These are sacred places and the homes to thousands of plants and animals. Would you want your own home trashed 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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Thank you for considering my comments.

Regards, Teri Teed

[Position]

[Position]

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

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Shannon
Last name: Teel
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Shannon Teel 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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Shannon Teel

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Clarisse
Last name: Teepe-Fryrear
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Our public lands are part of our national treasure and this administration has no right to destroy those lands to feed the greed of their cronies and political donors.These lands must be left in tact.

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/5/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Stephen
Last name: Teese
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: John
Last name: Teevan
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is John Teevan and I live in Chula 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, John Teevan

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Robert
Last name: Tefft
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

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

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

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: carl
Last name: tegethoff
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- 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, carl tegethoff

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

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

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/5/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Robert
Last name: Tehee
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 12:00:00 AM
First name: Seth
Last name: Teicher
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I'd like to implore you to not open up the Tonga for foreststion. It is a pristine habitat that has exponentially more value - both economic and national - preserved not destroyed .

[Position]

[Position]

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

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Comments:

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Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Sarah
Last name: Teichman
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC1128

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

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Joan
Last name: Teitler
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

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

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

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

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Robin
Last name: Teixeira
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- 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, Robin Teixeira

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

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

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/10/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Nancy
Last name: Telese
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Nancy Telese and I live in Palm Beach, Florida.

Protect the forests, wilderness, and wildlife that lives within 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, Nancy Telese

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/12/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Tracy
Last name: Tellep
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Tracy Tellep and I live in Union Dale, 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, Tracy Tellep

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/17/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Gayle
Last name: Teller
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Gayle McHenry Teller 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.
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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Gayle Teller

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

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

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Kimberlee Tellez

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Dawn
Last name: Tello
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

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

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

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: stuart
Last name: telsey
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is stuart telsey 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, stuart telsey

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Stuart
Last name: Telsey
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- 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, Stuart Telsey

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Larry
Last name: Temin
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Larry Temin 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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Larry Temin

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Louis
Last name: Temme
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

The Tongass contains some of the largest intact old-growth temperate rainforest in the world, and its value in providing clean water for fish and wildlife habitat is essential to the economic and ecological 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, Louis Temme

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Barbara
Last name: Tempel
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- 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 Tempel

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

Do not allow the destruction of the forests. They are our planets' temperature regulators and contain the means to heal. It will be our destruction if we allow their 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, Andrea Temple

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/2/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Deborah
Last name: Temple
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 urge you to keep the ROADLESS Area CONSERVATION Rule INTACT for the Tongass National Forest.

The Tongass IS habitat for HUNDREDS OF SPECIES of wildlife~ wolves, grizzly bears & MANY OTHERS. MORE THAN 300 species of birds make their homes in its trees. Its streams and waterways provide habitat for SPAWNING SALMON & TROUT.

To open this WILD HOME to DESTRUCTIVE, ANNIHILATING development by removing its Roadless Rule protections WOULD BE VIOLENT, TRAGIC &, THEREFORE, NOT SMART. Keep the Roadless Rule~ and the Tongass National Forest~ intact. LET'S GET SOMETHING RIGHT. THANK YOU.

Sincerely,

Deborah Temple

San Rafael, CA 94901

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/13/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Deborah
Last name: Temple
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Alaska Roadless Rulemaking #54511

Roadless Rulemaking,

RE: Alaska Roadless DEIS Comment

Dear Secretary Perdue:

WHAT'S SMART IS 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. TO DO OTHERWISE IS DANGEROUS & DANGEROUS IS, WELL, YOU KNOW, STUPID. The Tongass is a carbon sink containing some of the largest intact old-growth temperate rainforest in the world. IT'S VALUE IN PROVIDING CLEAN~ I SAY, CLEAN~ WATER for fish AND wildlife habitat is QUINTESSENTIAL FOR ECONOMIC & ECOLOGICAL HEALTH~ I SAY, HEALTH~ of Southeast Alaska. PLEASE BE SMART & INTEGRITOUS~ keep the federal Roadless Rule INTACT & current PROTECTIONS IN PLACE for national forests in Alaska.

IN THE SAME VEIN, DO NOT REDUCE OR 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. IT PRESERVES some of America'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. LET'S KEEP THINGS RIGHT.

Deborah Temple

San Rafael, California 94901

[Position]

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

These forests are the lungs of North America. 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, Edward Temple

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Jonathan
Last name: Temple
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

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

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

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Matt
Last name: Temple
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC701

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: Michele
Last name: Temple
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Michele Temple and I live in Queens, New York.

Thank you EPA for working 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, Michele Temple

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Robt
Last name: Temple
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Robt Temple 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, Robt Temple

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Terris
Last name: Temple
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Terris Temple and I live in [@advCity], Hawaii.

Please protect in this dangerous period, of greed and a climate crisis. Help Mother Earth rather than weaken her and us 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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.

Regards, Terris Temple

[Position]

[Position]

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

You have to breathe this air 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, Bonnie Templeton

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Thomas
Last name: Templeton
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

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

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

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

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/10/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Reynolds
Last name: Tenazas
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Reynolds Tenazas and I live in Brooklyn, New York.

Must you really put profit ahead 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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Reynolds Tenazas

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Michael
Last name: Tenenbaum
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on 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 administrations plan is yet another 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.

Once gone, the Tongas can never be recreated. Our history is full of examples of devastation resulting from our rush to greed and depletion of precious parcels of land and water. Even now, we seem to move as if none of that is there for us to learn from. Must we continually create more negative examples to learn from, rather than learning from what we have already destroyed.

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

In addition, I strongly object to your plans to reduce and remove protections from our national forests roadless areas. The Roadless Rule is one of the smartest and most popular land management policies the Federal Government has ever adopted...simply because it works!! Not only does it preserve some of Americas best fish and wildlife habitat, but it also saves untold millions of taxpayer dollars that might otherwise be spent to subsidize money-losing timber sales.

The value of the Roadless Rule in preventing environmentally damaging and economically wasteful road-building and logging is particularly relevant in the Tongass, where logging costs vastly exceed timber revenues and require unconscionable taxpayer subsidies. Taxpayers are fed up with having to subsidize industries that do not need it and worse, having to pay for clean-ups left in the wake of their destructive practices.

Regards, Michael Tenenbaum

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Tanya
Last name: Teneyuque
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Tanya Teneyuque 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, Tanya Teneyuque

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Ron
Last name: Teninty
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC5126

U.S. Forest Service Alaska Roadless Rule Committee:

In my 60+ years of exploring and fishing the western states, I've seen the transformation of pristine wilderness into multi-use recreation and commercial acreage. It's not pretty and totally unnecessary given the current limited used of existing multi-use acreage. We don't need to compromise our current wilderness 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. Please do not roll back roadless area protections for habitat that our irreplaceable fish and wildlife populations need to survive.

Sincerely,

Ron Teninty

Eugene, OR 97405

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Ajith
Last name: Tennakoon
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

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

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

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Allie
Last name: Tennant
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

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

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

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Melody
Last name: Tennant
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Melody Tennant and I live in Raphine, VA.
I am writing to express strong opposition to efforts to roll back the Roadless Area Conservation Rule (Roadless Rule) in Alaska or elsewhere. The Roadless Rule was implemented with unprecedented public support to protect some of our nations most pristine public lands, including large parts of the Tongass National Forest. You must choose the No Action alternative. Any other choice would ignore overwhelming public support and harm Alaskans, including Alaska Natives, and taxpayers across the nation.
In Southeast Alaska, tourism accounts for 28% of employment and generate an annual $1 billion in economic benefit, making it far more of an economic driver than the timber industry, which is less than 1% of the regional economy.
Any choice but the No Action alternative would also put wildlife and critical habitat at risk, threaten access to clean water, and be a step in the wrong direction on climate change jeopardizing Alaskans at a time when the state already faces severe challenges related to rising temperatures. I urge you not to abandon the Roadless Rule in Alaska and instead to put the public interest above corporate profits by choosing to keep the rule in place unchanged.
Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Melody Tennant

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Rae Tennent
Last name: Tennent
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Please do not repeal the roadless rule

[Position]

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

We must protect this 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, Terry Tennes

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Brent
Last name: Tenney
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: David
Last name: Tenney
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC3551

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. 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,

David Tenney

Portland, OR 97215

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 1/1/0001 12:00:00 AM
First name: David
Last name: Tenney
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
3551

U.S. Forest Service Alaska Roadless Rule
Comment Period

Comment Period Alaska Roadless Rule:

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Sincerely,
David Tenney
Portland, OR 97215

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

Do what is right and end pollution from PFAS 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, Joanne Tenney

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Joanne
Last name: Tenney
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

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

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

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

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

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Last name: Tenney
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
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Regards, Kathleen Tenney

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

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

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

I am so disappointed in this administration! Trump and all his cronies will go down in history as the most greedy, insensitive and crooked administration! They do not care about anything but 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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.

Regards, Justina Tennikait

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Jeffrey
Last name: Tenza
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Jeffrey Tenza and I live in Ann Arbor, 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.

Humans have responsibilities to protect ecological diversity. We must not put money as our end goal here.

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 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 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), 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, 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): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Susan
Last name: TePas
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Tongas Forest

I am against removing the Tongas Forest from the roadless rule!

Susan G TePas

wife of a recently deceased Alaskan fisherman

Susan TePas

[Position]

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

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Kristin Tepsa

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Kimberly
Last name: Teraberry
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Kimberly Teraberry 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, Kimberly Teraberry

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/18/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Mykel
Last name: Terada
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Mykel Terada and I live in Columbus, Ohio.

For all those species- animals, plants, microbes, fungi, etc.- who don't have a voice, and all the children who are not yet old enough to realize that their future is being extinguished. I adamantly urge you to remember that Nature helped provide food to nourish you and resources for your shelter, fuel, and your job. Our planet's biodiversity and abundance is the ONLY reason why the human species can survive and thrive. The world and all its Life is in jeopardy, and the same species who has brought it to the brink of extinction is also the last, best hope of saving what's left. As humans, we need to come together as stewards of this magnificent planet- our One and Only. We need to help preserve our wild lands, animals, and bio-diversity for the sake of our children, grandchildren, and the continuation of the beauty of Life! I know it is rare now that we consider others needs before we consider our own, but everything we do to someone or something else- we do to ourselves. There is SO much beauty on our Earth and so many who are fighting for a better life, a healthier life. The worlds people are calling for change because THEY are looking for a more sustainable way. Every action to build that healthier future counts- every piece of nature we can preserve, every species we can keep off the Endangered Species List, every piece of plastic we clean-up for reuse or recycle, every small act of kindness, every free smile. The people are the power. The future is in our united hands.

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

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Thank you for considering my comments.

Regards, Mykel Terada

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/18/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Mykel
Last name: Terada
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Mykel Terada

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

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Robert
Last name: Terczak
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Robert Terczak and I live in Tucson, Arizona.

We as a people need to be good stewards of this planet and protect the future for those to come. Lets protect our last remaining resources 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, Robert Terczak

[Position]

[Position]

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

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Leonie
Last name: Terfort
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Leonie Terfort 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, Leonie Terfort

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/11/2019 12:18:58 AM
First name: Andrew
Last name: Terhaar
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Andrew Terhaar 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.

I've been a commercial Salmon fisherman in Southeast Alaska for 9 years. The salmon that I catch depend on the pristine forests and rivers throughout the Tongass to survive.

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. 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, 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): 10/21/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Peter
Last name: Terhorst
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I strongly oppose opening the Tongass National Forest to logging and development. I urge you to protect this old-growth forest at all costs.

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: anne
Last name: terhune
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is anne terhune and I live in El Cajon, 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, anne terhune

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Tony
Last name: Terhune
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

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

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

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Cheryl
Last name: Terio-Simon
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- 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 Terio-Simon

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/10/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Helmut
Last name: Terjung
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Helmut Terjung and I live in Stafford Courthouse, 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, Helmut Terjung

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Helmut
Last name: Terjung
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

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

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

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: amelia
Last name: terkel
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Amelia Terkel and I live in Bekeley 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, amelia terkel

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/10/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Mary
Last name: Terlau
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Mary Terlau 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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Any choice but the No Action alternative would also put wildlife and critical habitat at risk, threaten access to clean water, and be a step in the wrong direction on climate change jeopardizing Alaskans at a time when the state already faces severe challenges related to rising temperatures. I urge you not to abandon the Roadless Rule in Alaska and instead 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 Terlau

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/18/2019 4:11:37 PM
First name: Doreen
Last name: Terletzky
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,
Doreen Terletzky
Clifton, NJ 07013

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Patrick
Last name: Ternes
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC3828

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,

Patrick Ternes

Austin, TX 78739

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 1/1/0001 12:00:00 AM
First name: Patrick
Last name: Ternes
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
3828

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,
Patrick Ternes
Austin, TX 78739

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/21/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Dylan
Last name: Terrell
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Please leave the forest as it is for the future

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Jean
Last name: Terrell
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

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

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

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

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Lynn
Last name: Terrill
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Lynn Terrill 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.

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

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

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

I speak for the Trees, not for corporate interests. I speak for the eagles, bears, wolves and salmon, as well as the indigenous peoples who depend upon the ecosystem of which the trees are a big park. Stop the clearcutting of old-growth trees 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, Susan Terris

[Position]

[Position]

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

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/13/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Debra
Last name: Terry
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC572

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:

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, Debra Terry

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/15/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Derrick
Last name: Terry
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Derrick Terry and I live in Los Angeles, California.

This truth is so obvious nothing needed to be added here. we need less poison in our global air system. There are just too many polluters globally to ignore this type of strategy. great idea and i'm for 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, Derrick Terry

[Position]

[Position]

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

clearcutting is an environmental 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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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, fran terry

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Victoria
Last name: Terry
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: Catherine
Last name: Terry Davis
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC359

Dear Chief Christiansen,

My husband + I are distressed and saddened to hear about a proposal to increase logging in the Tongass Nal. Forest. Please consider saving this very important temperate rainforest. Wildlife depends on saving our natural environment.

Catherine + Terry Davis

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Toni
Last name: Tersigni
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

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

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

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Chris
Last name: Tertzagian
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Chris Tertzagian 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, Chris Tertzagian

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

STOP KILLING US ENOUGH IS ENOUGH PLEASE 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, Ruben Terveen

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Trisha
Last name: Terwilliger
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

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

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

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/11/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Joseph
Last name: Terzigni
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: Ken
Last name: Tesh
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

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

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

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/29/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Tessa
Last name: Tessa
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Tessa Calvin and I live in Sitka, Alaska. I was born and raised in Southeast Alaska, and my family has been active in conservation and responsible utilization of our wilderness for nearly a century. Three generations later, we still fill our freezers with wild venison and world-class salmon, along with wild blueberries and other foraged foods. My father is a diver and crabber whose livelihood depends upon a healthy ecosystem, and my community of Sitka at large depends upon the bounty of 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 fishing, hunting, foraging for wild foods, subsistence harvesting, 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, recreating and enjoying nature, carbon sequestration and local climate change mitigation, keeping public lands wild for future generations, 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 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), 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 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, hydroelectric development, intertie and transmission line construction 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 Claiming that an exemption for the Tongass is what Alaskans want a bold-faced lie, and the core of our way of life depends upon the roadless areas staying wild, without repeating the environmental mistakes of the past.. 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.

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/24/2019 11:47:28 PM
First name: Tessa
Last name: Tessa
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Tessa Schmidt and I live in Sitka, Alaska. I am a fisherman, I depend on healthy ecosystems. 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 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 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. 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): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Diane
Last name: Tessari
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Diane Tessari and I live in Minnetrista, Minnesota.

Water is life! What we do to the Earth, we do to 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, Diane Tessari

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Ann
Last name: Tessier
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

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

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

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Minda
Last name: Tessler
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- 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, Minda Tessler

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: jacqueline
Last name: tessman
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is jacqueline tessman and I live in Benton Harbor, Michigan.

Protect our air. Protect our environment. Don't go backwards!

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

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

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

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: PATRICK
Last name: TESSMAN
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC5278

U.S. Forest Service Alaska Roadless Rule Committee:

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.

Tongass is a globally important carbon sink. The Tongass stores 8% of all the carbon stored in America's forests and, in doing so, helps reduce the impacts of climate change.

The Roadless Rule protects fish and wildlife. The Tongass produces more salmon than all other National Forests, combined. Roadless areas and places like the Tongass 77 contain highly-productive fish habitat that is critical to local fishing and tourism industries, which combine to contribute more than $2 billion in economic activity and roughly 26% of jobs in the region, annually.

Sincerely,

PATRICK TESSMAN

Highland Heights, OH 44143

[Position]
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]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: francesca
Last name: testa
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Removing forest protections especially amid climate change is a crime!
I am writing to express strong opposition to efforts to roll back the Roadless Area Conservation Rule (Roadless Rule) in Alaska or elsewhere. The Roadless Rule was implemented with unprecedented public support to protect some of our nations most pristine public lands, including large parts of the Tongass National Forest. You must choose the No Action alternative. Any other choice would ignore overwhelming public support and harm Alaskans, including Alaska Natives, and taxpayers across the nation.
In Southeast Alaska, tourism accounts for 28% of employment and generate an annual $1 billion in economic benefit, making it far more of an economic driver than the timber industry, which is less than 1% of the regional economy.
Any choice but the No Action alternative would also put wildlife and critical habitat at risk, threaten access to clean water, and be a step in the wrong direction on climate change jeopardizing Alaskans at a time when the state already faces severe challenges related to rising temperatures. I urge you not to abandon the Roadless Rule in Alaska and instead to put the public interest above corporate profits by choosing to keep the rule in place unchanged.
Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, francesca testa

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: francesca
Last name: testa
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is francesca testa and I live in Neffsville, 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, francesca testa

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

I recently toured Alaska and the Tongass. Cutting these forests further would greatly diminish their appeal to tourists and be an ecological 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.

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

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

[Position]

[Position]

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

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Marlene
Last name: Testaguzza
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

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

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

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

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/23/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Karina
Last name: Tettero
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I beg you, on behalf of myself and my 3 children, to uphold the Roadless Rule and conserve key areas of the Tongass! We need these forests to thrive! Think of our future and don't listen to special interest groups who only think of short term profits and don't care if that will damage our planet for many generations thereafter. Thank you!

[Position]

[Position]

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

please protect our forests and animal life that depends upon 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, shanti tetterton

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

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Jennapher
Last name: Teunissen van Manen
Organization: International Association for Bear Research and Management
Title: Director of Transition
Comments:
17 December 2019

Secretary Sonny Perdue

Department of Agriculture

USDA Forest Service

Attn: Alaska Roadless Rule

P.O. Box 21628

Juneau, Alaska, 99802

Email: akroadlessrule@fs.fed.us

and submitted at: https://www.regulations.gov/comment?D=FS-2019-0023-0001

FS-2019-0023

Agency: Forest Service (FS)

Parent Agency: Department of Agriculture (USDA)

RE: International Association for Bear Research and Management comment letter on draft Environmental Impact Statement, alternatives to a proposed Alaska Roadless Rule #54511

Dear Secretary Perdue:

The International Association for Bear Research and Management (https://www.bearbiology.org) is the professional organization of bear researchers and managers that supports the science-based management and conservation of the world's eight bear species. We engage 500+ international members, publish the peer-reviewed journal Ursus and International Bear News, fund research and conservation projects, and hold scientific conferences worldwide. Two components of our mission statement are to "Support sound stewardship of the world's bears through science-based population and habitat management" and "Provide professional counsel and advice on issues of natural resource policy related to bear management and conservation." We offer the following comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Alaska Roadless Rule. We support the "No-Action" alternative, Alternative 1, as it offers the greatest benefit to the ecological integrity of this salmon-supported bear ecosystem in the Tongass National Forest (Tongass).

Our overall scientific assessment is that the removal of the Tongass from the national Roadless Rule will likely have severe negative impacts on the long-term ecological health of the Tongass and important natural resources, including black (Ursus americanus) and brown bears (U. arctos). Tongass Land and Resource Management Plan (TLMP) management indicator species (deer, goshawk, marten, wolf, etc.), and anadromous salmon (Oncorhynchus spp.) are also susceptible to additional impacts of timber harvest and would not be adequately protected by TLMP provisions. In Southeast Alaska (SEAK), black bears are present throughout the mainland and on the islands south of Frederick Sound, while brown bears occupy islands north of this latitude.

Brown bears exist in high density on the islands, moderate densities on the mainland, and occur at low density on a few recently colonized islands. Black and brown bears are important components of the SEAK landscape as they provide enormous economic, social, and cultural benefits to communities through hunting, recreation, and tourism, greatly improving rural area values. Inventoried roadless areas contain the most cohesive intact stands of old-growth forest and the most productive salmon watersheds on the Tongass. The removal of roadless areas threatens the long-term sustainability of this complex, interconnected, and important ecosystem.

We agree with the statement in the DEIS "The Tongass includes large, undeveloped, and natural land areas that represent expansive unfragmented blocks of wildlife habitat. This scale and size of contiguous habitat is not available elsewhere in the NFS outside of Alaska" (p. ES-3). For this reason alone we recommend continuation of the Roadless Rule to ensure habitat remains unaltered on the Tongass. Provisions in TLMP are not enough to protect bears over the long term. Best Management Practices (BMP) are difficult to enforce and often fail to avoid conflicts between people and bears. The habitat fragmentation caused by roads and logging is long-lasting and not easily reversed. The 9.2 million acres of the Tongass that are under current roadless protection represent a globally significant habitat for bears among the many other provisions they provide such as watershed protection, carbon sequestration, fisheries conservation, community recreation and subsistence, and the rapidly changing economy of Southeast Alaska where tourism is expanding and wildlife viewing is highly valued.

The Tongass is a region of international importance to brown and black bears and truly one of the last almost intact ecosystems supporting both species of bears. While many of our specific comments focus on impacts to brown bears, we also believe there will be similar impacts to black bears throughout their range in SEAK. The significance of the Tongass ecosystem is based on uniquely high bear densities, relatively undisturbed habitat, ecological contributions made by bears transporting marine derived nutrients from the ocean to terrestrial environment (Helfield and Naiman 2001, 2006), and the recreational opportunities provided by bears for both hunting and viewing (Titus et al. 1994, Fortin et al. 2016). The proposed action alternatives to roadless management would drastically disturb important habitats necessary for bear foraging, resting, and denning requirements. Some ecological impacts of removing the protections provided by the Roadless Rule include loss of forest cover, habitat fragmentation, and changes in biodiversity, soil, and carbon sequestration potential (Leighty et al. 2006). The primary impacts of the rule change to bears will likely be through ecosystem effects, specifically:

1. direct habitat loss and habitat and genetic fragmentation due to the size and scope of the timber development and associated road infrastructure (Schoen and Beier 1990, Schoen et al. 1994, Mace 2004, Proctor et al. 2012);

2. functional habitat loss due to bear avoidance of human development (Mattson 1990, Gibeau et al. 2002, Cristescu et al. 2016); and

3. impacts to regional salmon populations and subsequent impacts to salmon-dependent ecosystems and bears supported by them (Hilderbrand et al. 1999, 2004).

4. increased potential for human-bear interactions and increased bear mortality (legal, illegal, and defense of life and property kills) facilitated by increased road access (Boulanger and Stenhouse 2014).

Given that brown bears have low reproductive and recruitment rates, impacted populations are susceptible to declines as there may be a significant lag between decreased abundance and decline detection, hence difficulties arise in reversing population declines because of low productivity (Bunnell and Tait 1981, Doak 1995, McClellan 2015). These ecosystem effects have the potential to induce significant impacts to bears, salmon, and other wildlife. The DEIS coverage of these impacts is inadequate.

Impacts of commercial timber harvest

Riparian old-growth forest provides critical habitat to brown bears fishing for salmon (Helfield and Naiman 2006). Clearcut logging converts these productive old-growth forest stands to early successional forest that produce little habitat value for bears. The industrial development of timber harvest and road construction can create extensive ecological change and result in displacement of bears, leading to lower reproductive rates (Wakkinen and Kasworm 1997, Boulanger et al. 2013), elevated mortality risk (Roever et al. 2008), management removals when bears become conditioned to human food, and illegal mortality due to greater access to formerly undisturbed habitat (Benn and Herrero 2002, Nielsen et al. 2004, Schwartz et al. 2005). New logging opportunities would inevitably be concentrated on the rare, high-volume old-growth stands that still exist on the south part of the Tongass (DEIS p. 3-13). The DEIS provides a completely insufficient analysis of these types of effects on bears in the Tongass.

Impacts of roads

The adverse impacts of roads and industrial development on brown bears are well established in the scientific literature and contrary to the statements in the DEIS, they can impact bears at the population level (Boulanger and Stenhouse 2014, Can et al. 2014, Proctor et al. 2018). A principal factor reducing brown bear populations in North America has been the facilitation of human access into grizzly bear habitat by roads built for resource extraction (Boulanger and Stenhouse 2014). Increased, unstainable human-caused mortality is directly linked to access into prime bear habitat (Benn and Herrero 2002, Schwartz et al. 2005, Nielsen et al. 2004, Boulanger et al. 2013). Increasing road density in brown bear habitats has the potential to act as a population sink when high-quality habitats adjacent to roads attract brown bears into proximity with traffic and human activity (Waller and Servheen 2005). Roads have also affected changes in brown bear movements and distribution (Gibeau et al. 2002, Roever et al. 2008), behavior (Northrup et al. 2012), body condition (Hertel et al. 2016), and survival rates relative to roads (Boulanger et al. 2013). Population level concerns manifest when impacts affect survival and reproduction. In addition, road development has caused habitat and genetic fragmentation of brown bear populations (Chruszcz et al. 2003, Waller and Servheen 2005, Proctor et al. 2012, Kendall et al. 2016). Brown bears avoid roads with increased levels of traffic (Northrup et al. 2012), and increased access often results in increased mortality (Titus and Beier 1991). To our knowledge, relationships between road density and brown bear mortality have not been evaluated for the Tongass. We are confident that the selection of the preferred Alternative would substantively change the road density in several important wildlife analysis areas (WAA). Given the extent of road building associated with resource extraction in SEAK, it is critically important that threshold road densities are established for the Tongass to maintain population viability (Proctor et al. 2018). In Alberta, an area with similar resource development, survival and reproduction models were directly related to mortality and found an estimated road density threshold of 0.75 km road/km2 was necessary to ensure a stable population (Boulanger and Stenhouse 2014). In habitats with road densities below 0.5-0.6 km road/km2, bear survival was high and density was found to be three times higher (Mace et al. 1996, Proctor et al. 2017, Lamb et al. 2018). Proper planning and best management practices for roads and developed areas are essential for minimizing these impacts, but negative impacts will likely still occur even with BMP's in place.

Effects on bear movements

Large portions of the region support high densities of brown bears, some of which are among the most renown and iconic populations of brown bears in the world. Home ranges of brown bears in this area range from small on Admiralty Island (female 37 km2, male 100 km2; Schoen and Beier 1990) to large on the adjacent portions of the Tongass mainland (female 147 km2, male 555 km2; Flynn et al. 2012). This is due to the fact that intact

and roadless, forested habitats, such as those found on Admiralty Island, provide bears with all of the necessary resources in a small geographic area. These unique, highly productive habitats allow bears to conserve energetic reserves and maximize energetic expenses on foraging and reproduction, rather than navigating through sink habitats at increased risk of mortality. When necessary, bears move great distances to concentrated food sources such as salmon runs (Mangipane et al. 2017). For example, on northeast Chichagof Island (NEC) where the forest has been intensively logged, female bears on salmon streams were forced to make long elevational migrations to avoid large male bears and clearcuts to find refugial habitat patches that were not available near the stream (Flynn et al. 2007). These additional movements were energetically costly to the population segment responsible for reproduction. The alternatives provided in the DEIS do not account for the large spatial requirements of bears and it is imperative that the final DEIS identify bear movement corridors prior to road placement. The programmatic nature of the analysis in the DEIS does not allow for a true assessment of impacts at a scale appropriate to bears and the ecosystem processes that support them.

Effects on salmon

Salmon are the foundation of the rich marine and terrestrial ecosystems of the Tongass and the removal of the Roadless Rule will impact critically important local fisheries. Any activity that reduces the availability of or access to salmon by wildlife will adversely affect wildlife populations and, indirectly, ecosystem-level processes (Hilderbrand et al. 1999, Ben-David et al. 2004). It is likely that timber harvested areas will experience a decline in salmon spawning and rearing habitat that could result in the degradation of the bear population (Hilderbrand et al. 1999, 2018; Mangipane et al. 2017). Any impacts to water quality, stream temperature, and fish abundance could ultimately affect bears in those and adjacent watersheds. Cumulative effects to salmon may be caused by past timber harvest practices that have reduced stream habitat quality, or by reductions in ocean survival rates for some salmon species.

Effects of human-food conflicts

Proper design, planning, and operation of facilities and activities are essential to prevent human-bear conflicts. Without this, it is highly likely that some bears will become conditioned to human foods obtained at the industrial sites and access roads (McCarthy and Seavoy 1994). Bears conditioned to human food and garbage often are killed (Benn and Herrero 2002, Gibeau, et al. 2002, Lamb et al. 2017). Measures to prevent this such as bear-resistant garbage containment, food and refuse storage facilities, and minimizing human-bear conflict are generally helpful but TLMP standards and BMP's have proven inadequate in protecting bears (Titus and Beier 1993, Baruch-Mordo et al. 2011).

Effects on denning

Several areas that are proposed in the DEIS are confirmed important bear denning areas (Schoen and Beier 1987, DeGayner et al. 2005, Porter et al. In prep). Noise and other disturbance associated with roads and timber harvest activities have the potential to disrupt denning bears. Disturbance during the denning period can cause den abandonment with increased energy expenditure and reduced cub survival (Swenson et al. 1997, Linnell et al. 2000). On Chichagof Island, Schoen et al. (1987) found bears preferred old-growth forest for denning and suggested avoiding timber harvest on slopes > 20[deg]and elevations > 300 m. In a recent study along the Yakutat forelands, a current inventoried roadless area, more than 1/3 of the brown bear population denned at low elevation (< 100 m) in den sites associated with old-growth trees beneath the roots or in cavities (Crupi 2017). Likewise, on Prince of Wales Island, many black bears denned at lower elevations suggesting that low elevation habitats have previously been undervalued in our understanding of den site selection (Porter et al. In prep). In both instances, trees selected for den sites were large diameter (> 1 m DBH) old-growth trees of various species, including Sitka spruce, Western hemlock, black cottonwood, Western red cedar, and Alaska yellow cedar. Trees of this size are rare on the landscape and comprise less than 1% of commercial forest stands (Albert and Schoen 2013). It is critical that the DEIS address the impacts associated with removal of den site structures for brown bears and black bears and eliminate development within 1.5 km of prime denning habitat.

Effects on viewing bears

The preferred alternative has potential to impact human viewing of brown bears in the coastal areas of the Tongass. The opportunity for people to observe wild bears fishing for salmon attracts tens of thousands of visitors to SEAK each year. Several developed viewing areas managed by the USDA Forest Service are of international significance and provide reliable viewing opportunities for the Alaska tourism industry. The relationship between Alaska tourists, salmon, and brown bears is significant and brown bears are the most highly valued wildlife viewing species (Miller et al. 1998). The impacts to outfitter/guide recreational opportunities are also substantial; a recent study by the University of Alaska showed direct purchases by bear viewing service providers and their households support approximately $36.3 million in economic production in the southcentral region of Alaska and spending by bear viewing service providers and households supports 490 sustainable jobs in the region, including 371 reported direct hires (Young and Little 2019). Demand for more bear viewing sites in SEAK has increased in recent years as small cruise vessels have expanded their reach to remote areas. Their clients are generally seeking roadless areas with natural conditions to view bears. These viewing sites are also important for scientific study, as comparisons between regulated and undeveloped bear viewing sites are necessary to inform proper management (Olsen et al. 1997). The impacts of an expanded road network on the continued suitability of current viewing areas and availability of future viewing areas is inadequately addressed in the DEIS.

Case study of impacts on Northeast Chichagof Island

Intensive commercial logging on both federal and private lands on NEC has resulted in high road densities, extensive long-term habitat alteration, and changes in brown bear density and distribution (Mooney 2015). To maintain hunting opportunity and minimize the risk of overharvest, the Alaska Board of Game (BOG) established the NEC Controlled Use Area in 1990 prohibiting the use of motorized land vehicles for brown bear hunting. Harvest continues to increase and high female harvest on NEC has promulgated several emergency order hunting closures, the most recent in 2011. In 2018 alone, 13 bears were killed in defense of life or property (DLP) on NEC. Given a harvest guideline level of 18 bears for NEC, this level of non-hunting mortality creates a conflict with harvest management and limits hunting opportunity. This departure of bears from the wild toward human settlements suggests that successional changes in the post-clearcut managed forest may be limiting available resources and result in bears searching for food near human developments, thereby increasing mortality risk. It is important to understand that only legal hunting can be managed, and increased development of roads into old-growth forest habitat invariably improves access which leads to increases in DLPs, illegal kills, and additional legal harvest. Therefore, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game's ability to successfully manage bear mortality and abundance will be compromised.

On NEC, Flynn et al. (2007) compared the effects of brown bear habitat use along a clearcut stream and a salmon stream in a relatively unaltered watershed. Female bears were found to be less abundant and produced fewer cubs on the stream with extensive timber harvest. Diet analyses revealed that female bears were able to consume significantly more salmon along the unimpaired stream. Bears' ability to maximize salmon intake is closely related to their reproductive success (Hilderbrand et al. 1999) and their undeterred access to salmon and proximity to secure habitat likely facilitates recruitment of more cubs. Assessment of the 500 ft. riparian stream no-cut buffers on NEC were found to be inadequate in providing cover and security to female bears and Flynn et al. (2007) recommended increasing riparian stream buffers to 1000 ft.

Case study of impacts on Kuiu and Prince of Wales islands

Black bear populations on Kuiu and Prince of Wales islands were once considered among the highest density populations (Peacock et al. 2011, Bethune 2014). Habitat loss as a result of old-growth logging and high road densities associated with timber harvest, combined with increased hunting mortality resulted in widespread

conservation concerns. In 2010, the BOG responded with changes in SEAK black bear management, adopted a nonresident unguided draw hunt for SEAK, and implemented Controlled Use Areas to attempt to stem the decline. Further reductions in carrying capacity are expected as early successional forest is characterized by homogeneous structure with low habitat value (Alaback 1982). Black bears on Prince of Wales Island almost exclusively (98%) select den sites associated with large diameter tree structures (Porter et al. In prep). Continued old-growth logging authorized in TLMP and proposed by the DEIS action alternatives will further reduce the availability and recruitment of these unique tree structures suitable for denning.

The need for scientific research

In addition to considering the scientific evidence we present here, we urge that the final EIS thoroughly address with rigorous, multi-year studies questions about the specific impacts of the proposed amendments of the Roadless Rule and the cumulative effects (Johnson et al. 2005) on black and brown bears. In the past, as part of the process to assess mine, timber, and road development in Southeast Alaska extensive research efforts were initiated (Schoen and Beier 1990; Titus and Beier 1993, 1999; Flynn et al. 2012). Without supporting research, the DEIS lacks the scientific basis to conclude that bear populations can be sustained at current population levels with the degraded habitats that will remain.

Some relevant research questions raised through this DEIS that future studies must address are:

1. How does timber harvest and associated road density affect bear population vital rates and densities? Findings need to establish thresholds that limit bear mortality and maximize long-term sustainability of bear populations within the Tongass.

2. What are the impacts of road building and timber harvest on bear movement corridors and access to important salmon fishing sites and bear viewing areas?

3. What are the cumulative effects of climate change and interaction with other stressors on bears and other wildlife including salmon?

4. What are the predicted impacts of timber removal on the aquatic ecosystems, particularly salmon, and consequent impacts on bear populations?

5. How do bear populations respond to timber management, hunting harvest, and wildlife viewing in areas designated for resource development compared to public lands that are roadless and not designated as wilderness?

In summary, the intent of the 2001 Roadless Rule as quoted from the federal register online introduction to the DEIS, is to provide lasting protection for inventoried roadless areas within the National Forest System in the context of multiple-use land management. However, the potential impacts and effects of the proposed action as presented here are supported by scientific evidence but are not addressed or are inadequately reviewed in the DEIS. Therefore, the International Association for Bear Research and Management recommends adoption of the "No Action" alternative.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Andreas Zedrosser

President, International Association for Bear Research and Management (IBA)

https://www.bearbiology.org

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https://www.bearbiology.org

17 December 2019

USDA Forest Service
Attn: Alaska Roadless Rule
P.O. Box 21628
Juneau, Alaska, 99802
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and submitted at: https://www.regulations.gov/comment?D=FS-2019-0023-0001

FS-2019-0023
Agency: Forest Service (FS)
Parent Agency: Department of Agriculture (USDA)

RE: International Association for Bear Research and Management comment letter on draft Environmental Impact Statement, alternatives to a proposed Alaska Roadless Rule #54511

Dear Superintendent:

The International Association for Bear Research and Management (https://www.bearbiology.org) is the professional organization of bear researchers and managers that supports the science-based management and conservation of the world's eight bear species. We engage 500+ international members, publish the peer-reviewed journal *Ursus* and *International Bear News*, fund research and conservation projects, and hold scientific conferences worldwide. Two components of our mission statement are to "Support sound stewardship of the world's bears through science-based population and habitat management" and "Provide professional counsel and advice on issues of natural resource policy related to bear management and conservation." We offer the following comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Alaska Roadless Rule. We support the "No-Action" alternative, Alternative 1, as it offers the greatest benefit to the ecological integrity of this salmon-supported bear ecosystem in the Tongass National Forest (Tongass).

Our overall scientific assessment is that the removal of the Tongass from the national Roadless Rule will likely have severe negative impacts on the long-term ecological health of the Tongass and important natural resources, including black (*Ursus americanus*) and brown bears (*U. arctos*). Tongass Land and Resource Management Plan (TLMP) management indicator species (deer, goshawk, marten, wolf, etc.), and anadromous salmon (*Oncorhynchus* spp.) are also susceptible to additional impacts of timber harvest and would not be adequately protected by TLMP provisions. In Southeast Alaska (SEAK), black bears are present

throughout the mainland and on the islands south of Frederick Sound, while brown bears occupy islands north of this latitude. Brown bears exist in high density on the islands, moderate densities on the mainland, and occur at low density on a few recently colonized islands. Black and brown bears are important components of the SEAK landscape as they provide enormous economic, social, and cultural benefits to communities through hunting, recreation, and tourism, greatly improving rural area values. Inventoried roadless areas contain the most cohesive intact stands of old-growth forest and the most productive salmon watersheds on the Tongass. The removal of roadless areas threatens the long-term sustainability of this complex, interconnected, and important ecosystem.

We agree with the statement in the DEIS "The Tongass includes large, undeveloped, and natural land areas that represent expansive unfragmented blocks of wildlife habitat. This scale and size of contiguous habitat is not available elsewhere in the NFS outside of Alaska" (p. ES-3). For this reason alone we recommend continuation of the Roadless Rule to ensure habitat remains unaltered on the Tongass. Provisions in TLMP are not enough to protect bears over the long term. Best Management Practices (BMP) are difficult to enforce and often fail to avoid conflicts between people and bears. The habitat fragmentation caused by roads and logging is long-lasting and not easily reversed. The 9.2 million acres of the Tongass that are under current roadless protection represent a globally significant habitat for bears among the many other provisions they provide such as watershed protection, carbon sequestration, fisheries conservation, community recreation and subsistence, and the rapidly changing economy of Southeast Alaska where tourism is expanding and wildlife viewing is highly valued.

The Tongass is a region of international importance to brown and black bears and truly one of the last almost intact ecosystems supporting both species of bears. While many of our specific comments focus on impacts to brown bears, we also believe there will be similar impacts to black bears throughout their range in SEAK. The significance of the Tongass ecosystem is based on uniquely high bear densities, relatively undisturbed habitat, ecological contributions made by bears transporting marine derived nutrients from the ocean to terrestrial environment (Helfield and Naiman 2001, 2006), and the recreational opportunities provided by bears for both hunting and viewing (Titus et al. 1994, Fortin et al. 2016). The proposed action alternatives to roadless management would drastically disturb important habitats necessary for bear foraging, resting, and denning requirements. Some ecological impacts of removing the protections provided by the Roadless Rule include loss of forest cover, habitat fragmentation, and changes in biodiversity, soil, and carbon sequestration potential (Leighty et al. 2006). The primary impacts of the rule change to bears will likely be through ecosystem effects, specifically:

1. direct habitat loss and habitat and genetic fragmentation due to the size and scope of the timber development and associated road infrastructure (Schoen and Beier 1990, Schoen et al. 1994, Mace 2004, Proctor et al. 2012);
2. functional habitat loss due to bear avoidance of human development (Mattson 1990, Gibeau et al. 2002, Cristescu et al. 2016); and
3. impacts to regional salmon populations and subsequent impacts to salmon-dependent ecosystems and bears supported by them (Hilderbrand et al. 1999, 2004).
4. increased potential for human-bear interactions and increased bear mortality (legal, illegal, and defense of life and property kills) facilitated by increased road access (Boulanger and Stenhouse 2014).

Given that brown bears have low reproductive and recruitment rates, impacted populations are susceptible to declines as there may be a significant lag between decreased abundance and decline detection, hence difficulties arise in reversing population declines because of low productivity (Bunnell and Tait 1981, Doak 1995, McClellan 2015). These ecosystem effects have the potential to induce significant impacts to bears, salmon, and other wildlife. The DEIS coverage of these impacts is inadequate.

Impacts of commercial timber harvest

Riparian old-growth forest provides critical habitat to brown bears fishing for salmon (Helfield and Naiman 2006). Clearcut logging converts these productive old-growth forest stands to early successional forest that produce little habitat value for bears. The industrial development of timber harvest and road construction can create extensive ecological change and result in displacement of bears, leading to lower reproductive rates (Wakkinen and Kasworm 1997, Boulanger et al. 2013), elevated mortality risk (Roever et al. 2008), management removals when bears become conditioned to human food, and illegal mortality due to greater access to formerly undisturbed habitat (Benn and Herrero 2002, Nielsen et al. 2004, Schwartz et al. 2005). New logging opportunities would inevitably be concentrated on the rare, high-volume old-growth stands that still exist on the south part of the Tongass (DEIS p. 3-13). The DEIS provides a completely insufficient analysis of these types of effects on bears in the Tongass.

Impacts of roads

The adverse impacts of roads and industrial development on brown bears are well established in the scientific literature and contrary to the statements in the DEIS, they can impact bears at the **population level** (Boulanger and Stenhouse 2014, Can et al. 2014, Proctor et al. 2018). A principal factor reducing brown bear populations in North America has been the facilitation of human access into grizzly bear habitat by roads built for resource extraction (Boulanger and Stenhouse 2014). Increased, unstainable human-caused mortality is directly linked to access into prime bear habitat (Benn and Herrero 2002, Schwartz et al. 2005, Nielsen et al. 2004, Boulanger et al. 2013). Increasing road density in brown bear habitats has the potential to act as a population sink when high-quality habitats adjacent to roads attract brown bears into proximity with traffic and human activity (Waller and Servheen 2005). Roads have also affected changes in brown bear movements and distribution (Gibeau et al. 2002, Roever et al. 2008), behavior (Northrup et al. 2012), body condition (Hertel et al. 2016), and survival rates relative to roads (Boulanger et al. 2013). Population level concerns manifest when impacts affect survival and reproduction. In addition, road development has caused habitat and genetic fragmentation of brown bear populations (Chruszcz et al. 2003, Waller and Servheen 2005, Proctor et al. 2012, Kendall et al. 2016). Brown bears avoid roads with increased levels of traffic (Northrup et al. 2012), and increased access often results in increased mortality (Titus and Beier 1991). To our knowledge, relationships between road density and brown bear mortality have not been evaluated for the Tongass. We are confident that the selection of the preferred Alternative would substantively change the road density in several important wildlife analysis areas (WAA). Given the extent of road building associated with resource extraction in SEAK, it is critically important that threshold road densities are established for the Tongass to maintain population viability (Proctor et al. 2018). In Alberta, an area with similar resource development, survival and reproduction models were directly related to mortality and found an estimated road density threshold of 0.75 km road/km^2 was necessary to ensure a stable population (Boulanger and Stenhouse 2014). In habitats with road densities below 0.5–0.6 km road/km^2, bear survival was high and density was found to be three times higher (Mace et al. 1996, Proctor et al. 2017, Lamb et al. 2018). Proper planning and best management practices for roads and developed areas are essential for minimizing these impacts, but negative impacts will likely still occur even with BMP's in place.

Effects on bear movements

Large portions of the region support high densities of brown bears, some of which are among the most renown and iconic populations of brown bears in the world. Home ranges of brown bears in this area range from small on Admiralty Island (female 37 km^2, male 100 km^2; Schoen and Beier 1990) to large on the adjacent portions of the Tongass mainland (female 147 km^2, male 555 km^2; Flynn et al. 2012). This is due to the fact that intact and roadless, forested habitats, such as those found on Admiralty Island, provide bears with all of the necessary resources in a small geographic area. These unique, highly productive habitats allow bears to conserve energetic reserves and maximize energetic expenses on foraging and reproduction, rather than navigating through sink habitats at increased risk of mortality. When necessary, bears move great distances to concentrated food sources such as salmon runs (Mangipane et al. 2017). For example, on northeast Chichagof Island (NEC) where the forest has been intensively logged, female bears on salmon

streams were forced to make long elevational migrations to avoid large male bears and clearcuts to find refugial habitat patches that were not available near the stream (Flynn et al. 2007). These additional movements were energetically costly to the population segment responsible for reproduction. The alternatives provided in the DEIS do not account for the large spatial requirements of bears and it is imperative that the final DEIS identify bear movement corridors prior to road placement. The programmatic nature of the analysis in the DEIS does not allow for a true assessment of impacts at a scale appropriate to bears and the ecosystem processes that support them.

Effects on salmon

Salmon are the foundation of the rich marine and terrestrial ecosystems of the Tongass and the removal of the Roadless Rule will impact critically important local fisheries. Any activity that reduces the availability of or access to salmon by wildlife will adversely affect wildlife populations and, indirectly, ecosystem-level processes (Hilderbrand et al. 1999, Ben-David et al. 2004). It is likely that timber harvested areas will experience a decline in salmon spawning and rearing habitat that could result in the degradation of the bear population (Hilderbrand et al. 1999, 2018; Mangipane et al. 2017). Any impacts to water quality, stream temperature, and fish abundance could ultimately affect bears in those and adjacent watersheds. Cumulative effects to salmon may be caused by past timber harvest practices that have reduced stream habitat quality, or by reductions in ocean survival rates for some salmon species.

Effects of human-food conflicts

Proper design, planning, and operation of facilities and activities are essential to prevent human-bear conflicts. Without this, it is highly likely that some bears will become conditioned to human foods obtained at the industrial sites and access roads (McCarthy and Seavoy 1994). Bears conditioned to human food and garbage often are killed (Benn and Herrero 2002, Gibeau, et al. 2002, Lamb et al. 2017). Measures to prevent this such as bear-resistant garbage containment, food and refuse storage facilities, and minimizing human-bear conflict are generally helpful but TLMP standards and BMP's have proven inadequate in protecting bears (Titus and Beier 1993, Baruch-Mordo et al. 2011).

Effects on denning

Several areas that are proposed in the DEIS are confirmed important bear denning areas (Schoen and Beier 1987, DeGayner et al. 2005, Porter et al. *In prep*). Noise and other disturbance associated with roads and timber harvest activities have the potential to disrupt denning bears. Disturbance during the denning period can cause den abandonment with increased energy expenditure and reduced cub survival (Swenson et al. 1997, Linnell et al. 2000). On Chichagof Island, Schoen et al. (1987) found bears preferred old-growth forest for denning and suggested avoiding timber harvest on slopes > 20°and elevations > 300 m. In a recent study along the Yakutat forelands, a current inventoried roadless area, more than 1/3 of the brown bear population denned at low elevation (< 100 m) in den sites associated with old-growth trees beneath the roots or in cavities (Crupi 2017). Likewise, on Prince of Wales Island, many black bears denned at lower elevations suggesting that low elevation habitats have previously been undervalued in our understanding of den site selection (Porter et al. *In prep*). In both instances, trees selected for den sites were large diameter (> 1 m DBH) old-growth trees of various species, including Sitka spruce, Western hemlock, black cottonwood, Western red cedar, and Alaska yellow cedar. Trees of this size are rare on the landscape and comprise less than 1% of commercial forest stands (Albert and Schoen 2013). It is critical that the DEIS address the impacts associated with removal of den site structures for brown bears and black bears and eliminate development within 1.5 km of prime denning habitat.

Effects on viewing bears

The preferred alternative has potential to impact human viewing of brown bears in the coastal areas of the Tongass. The opportunity for people to observe wild bears fishing for salmon attracts tens of thousands of visitors to SEAK each year. Several developed viewing areas managed by the USDA Forest Service are of international significance and provide reliable viewing opportunities for the Alaska tourism industry. The relationship between Alaska tourists, salmon, and brown bears is significant and brown bears are the most

highly valued wildlife viewing species (Miller et al. 1998). The impacts to outfitter/guide recreational opportunities are also substantial; a recent study by the University of Alaska showed direct purchases by bear viewing service providers and their households support approximately $36.3 million in economic production in the southcentral region of Alaska and spending by bear viewing service providers and households supports 490 sustainable jobs in the region, including 371 reported direct hires (Young and Little 2019). Demand for more bear viewing sites in SEAK has increased in recent years as small cruise vessels have expanded their reach to remote areas. Their clients are generally seeking roadless areas with natural conditions to view bears. These viewing sites are also important for scientific study, as comparisons between regulated and undeveloped bear viewing sites are necessary to inform proper management (Olsen et al. 1997). The impacts of an expanded road network on the continued suitability of current viewing areas and availability of future viewing areas is inadequately addressed in the DEIS.

Case study of impacts on Northeast Chichagof Island

Intensive commercial logging on both federal and private lands on NEC has resulted in high road densities, extensive long-term habitat alteration, and changes in brown bear density and distribution (Mooney 2015). To maintain hunting opportunity and minimize the risk of overharvest, the Alaska Board of Game (BOG) established the NEC Controlled Use Area in 1990 prohibiting the use of motorized land vehicles for brown bear hunting. Harvest continues to increase and high female harvest on NEC has promulgated several emergency order hunting closures, the most recent in 2011. In 2018 alone, 13 bears were killed in defense of life or property (DLP) on NEC. Given a harvest guideline level of 18 bears for NEC, this level of non-hunting mortality creates a conflict with harvest management and limits hunting opportunity. This departure of bears from the wild toward human settlements suggests that successional changes in the post-clearcut managed forest may be limiting available resources and result in bears searching for food near human developments, thereby increasing mortality risk. It is important to understand that only legal hunting can be managed, and increased development of roads into old-growth forest habitat invariably improves access which leads to increases in DLPs, illegal kills, and additional legal harvest. Therefore, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game's ability to successfully manage bear mortality and abundance will be compromised.

On NEC, Flynn et al. (2007) compared the effects of brown bear habitat use along a clearcut stream and a salmon stream in a relatively unaltered watershed. Female bears were found to be less abundant and produced fewer cubs on the stream with extensive timber harvest. Diet analyses revealed that female bears were able to consume significantly more salmon along the unimpaired stream. Bears' ability to maximize salmon intake is closely related to their reproductive success (Hilderbrand et al. 1999) and their undeterred access to salmon and proximity to secure habitat likely facilitates recruitment of more cubs. Assessment of the 500 ft. riparian stream no-cut buffers on NEC were found to be inadequate in providing cover and security to female bears and Flynn et al. (2007) recommended increasing riparian stream buffers to 1000 ft.

Case study of impacts on Kuiu and Prince of Wales islands

Black bear populations on Kuiu and Prince of Wales islands were once considered among the highest density populations (Peacock et al. 2011, Bethune 2014). Habitat loss as a result of old-growth logging and high road densities associated with timber harvest, combined with increased hunting mortality resulted in widespread conservation concerns. In 2010, the BOG responded with changes in SEAK black bear management, adopted a nonresident unguided draw hunt for SEAK, and implemented Controlled Use Areas to attempt to stem the decline. Further reductions in carrying capacity are expected as early successional forest is characterized by homogeneous structure with low habitat value (Alaback 1982). Black bears on Prince of Wales Island almost exclusively (98%) select den sites associated with large diameter tree structures (Porter et al. *In prep*). Continued old-growth logging authorized in TLMP and proposed by the DEIS action alternatives will further reduce the availability and recruitment of these unique tree structures suitable for denning.

The need for scientific research

In addition to considering the scientific evidence we present here, we urge that the final EIS thoroughly address with rigorous, multi-year studies questions about the specific impacts of the proposed amendments

of the Roadless Rule and the cumulative effects (Johnson et al. 2005) on black and brown bears. In the past, as part of the process to assess mine, timber, and road development in Southeast Alaska extensive research efforts were initiated (Schoen and Beier 1990; Titus and Beier 1993, 1999; Flynn et al. 2012). Without supporting research, the DEIS lacks the scientific basis to conclude that bear populations can be sustained at current population levels with the degraded habitats that will remain.

Some relevant research questions raised through this DEIS that future studies must address are:

1. How does timber harvest and associated road density affect bear population vital rates and densities? Findings need to establish thresholds that limit bear mortality and maximize long-term sustainability of bear populations within the Tongass.
2. What are the impacts of road building and timber harvest on bear movement corridors and access to important salmon fishing sites and bear viewing areas?
3. What are the cumulative effects of climate change and interaction with other stressors on bears and other wildlife including salmon?
4. What are the predicted impacts of timber removal on the aquatic ecosystems, particularly salmon, and consequent impacts on bear populations?
5. How do bear populations respond to timber management, hunting harvest, and wildlife viewing in areas designated for resource development compared to public lands that are roadless and not designated as wilderness?

In summary, the intent of the 2001 Roadless Rule as quoted from the federal register online introduction to the DEIS, is to provide lasting protection for inventoried roadless areas within the National Forest System in the context of multiple-use land management. However, the potential impacts and effects of the proposed action as presented here are supported by scientific evidence but are not addressed or are inadequately reviewed in the DEIS. Therefore, the International Association for Bear Research and Management recommends adoption of the “No Action” alternative.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

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

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

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

Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, alfred teuscher

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Nancy
Last name: Tew
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

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

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

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Barbara
Last name: Tewksbury
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- 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, Barbara Tewksbury

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Eric
Last name: Thacher
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

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

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

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: AJ
Last name: Thackrah
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC3759

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,

AJ Thackrah

West Chester, PA 19382

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/10/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Elizabeth
Last name: Thagard
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Please do NOT exempt the Tongass National Forest (TNF) from the Roadless Rule.
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.
A substantial majority of people in both national and local polls support keeping the Roadless Rule in the Tongass as do local indigenous groups. Over 2 million tourists visited Alaska in 2018, 2/3 of them visited the Tongass area.
Granting exemption to the Roadless Rule for the Tongass would open the door for other western states to seek exemptions.
The Forest Service should be researching ways to reimburse Alaska for protecting its forests through carbon credits not supporting more logging in old growth forests and wild roadless areas.
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.

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Maiyant
Last name: Thaip
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC6362

The world of SE Alaska & the world itself needs The Tongass. I vote for No action alternative- I am a landscape arcitect & see the harm development has on the landscape. Please don't throw our intact wild Tongass away.

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Athena
Last name: Thaler
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

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

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

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

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 2:26:50 PM
First name: Majida
Last name: Thalji
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Majida Thalji and I live in Belmont, 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.

Old growth forest is irreplaceable. We are stewards and caregivers. It is our duty.

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. 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: Deborah
Last name: Thalls
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Deborah Thalls and I live in New Castle, Indiana.

Stop the greedy and go back to the value of what God gave the earth. Majestic forests and rivers.

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

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

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

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Emmy
Last name: Thamakaison
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Emmy Thamakaison and I live in [@advCity], [@advState].

Capitalism and greed should not take priority over the lives of countless organisms that are dependent on these vital 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, Emmy Thamakaison

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Hannah
Last name: Thandi
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

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

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

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/10/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Brian
Last name: Thanh
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: Ellis
Last name: Tharp
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

The Tongass contains some of the largest intact old-growth temperate rainforest in the world, and its value in providing clean water for fish and wildlife habitat is essential to the economic and ecological 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, Ellis Tharp

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

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

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

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Jim Thatcher

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

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/4/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Steven
Last name: Thater
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I support the preferred alternative 6 that exempts the Tongass National Forest from the Roadless Rule.

Most of the counter arguments to the preferred action are that the action would result in increased logging that would result in significant environmental and social impacts. This however is simply not true. There are multiple other governing works (National Environmental Policy Act, Tongass Land Management Plan, etc) that will remain to protect the forest while creating a fairer environment for government agencies, utility companies, and industry to operate in without requiring political capital in Washington in order to gain an exemption. All this decision does is restore power to the Alaskan people over what kind of developments the Tongass can be used for.

I have seen several responses from fisherman and hunters that feign outrage to the preferred action. It should be noted that their activities already have a severe detrimental harm to the ecosystem of the Tongass National Forest. If every individual were to enjoy the same fishing and hunting rights then the Tongass would be barren from over-hunting. I believe these individuals falsely present objections so that they may enjoy the Forest while those who are economically disadvantaged may not. The creation of new roads through the forest would provide opportunities for those people who are less fortunate and do not own fishing boats or seaplanes to enjoy the forest.

Ultimately this is an issue that should be decided by the Alaskan voter at a poll and not by politicians and bureaucrats from out of state. Only Alternative 6 allows for that scenario by finally removing the autocratic Roadless rule making of the past.

[Position]

[Position]

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

We have very little of our original natural heritage left. As time goes on, we find how increasingly important that natural heritage is. We need, as a country, to start repairing the damage that has occurred over the generations, not continue business as usual. Preserve the Tongass for future generations. Logging companies can survive and make a profit in many other 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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.

Regards, John Thaw

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Constance
Last name: Thaxton
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Constance Thaxton and I live in Tampa, Florida.

Leave our Forests alone; they are not yours or POTUS' to do with as you please! Save [all of] our forests. air, waterways and endangered species FROM ALL OF THE GREED, GRAFT & CORRUPTION.....

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

[Position]

[Position]

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

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Belinda
Last name: Thayer
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- 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, Belinda Thayer

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/24/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Diana
Last name: Thayer
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Comments to oppose modification to the Roadless Rule

Dear U.S. Forest Service,

Logging in the Tongass National Forest is un-necessary at this time.

It is an important ecosystem and a reserve for old growth trees that provide habitiat for so many animals.

There are other areas that can be clearcut now. It will be there later of and when cutting over powers the ecosystem that exists now.

Sincerely,

Diana Thayer

Toquerville, UT

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Janet
Last name: Thayer
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Janet Thayer and I live in Emporia, Kansas.

It is so heartbreaking to think that this precious area, these ancient trees, are threatened by clearcutting. Keep the roadless rule in effect to ensure that the trees, and the wildlife and people who inhabit this vital rainforest continue 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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.

Regards, Janet Thayer

[Position]

[Position]

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

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
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Last name: Thayer
Organization:
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Regards, John Thayer

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: John
Last name: Thayer
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is John Thayer and I live in Buena Vista, New Mexico.

EPA is supposed to protect the environment. DO 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.

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Regards, John Thayer

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Regards, John Thayer

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

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

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/12/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Tyler
Last name: Thede
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: Emily
Last name: Theisen
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Emily Theisen and I live in Watertown, 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 Theisen

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/13/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Donna
Last name: Thelander
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Donna Thelander 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, Donna Thelander

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

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Last name: Thelen
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
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Regards, Deborah Thelen

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

it plays a critical role in fighting climate change by retaining vast stores of carbon in its 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, Eva Theodosiadis

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/13/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Anousith
Last name: Thepvongsa
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Anousith Thepvongsa and I live in Everett, 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, Anousith Thepvongsa

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

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/18/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Sister
Last name: Therese Vaughn
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Tongass National Forest Proposal

Please keep the entire Tongass National Forest intact! Proposal One

If you are so pressured by Big Business to disregard the need to preserve our forests as shields against carbon dioxide build-up, Proposal Two provides the least damage. Proposal Six, listed as "preferred" is preposterous and environmentally obscene.

Shirley Vaughn

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: David
Last name: Theriault
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC3039

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've participated in commercial fishing in SE Alaska and intact wildland, was/is critical to supporting the fishing in the region.

Sincerely,

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

Yes *No*[Text circled]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Jennifer
Last name: Therkilsen
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

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

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

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Ryanna
Last name: Therman
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC6086

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): 10/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Anon (Maria)
Last name: Thesmophoros (Schneider)
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
No changes to the Roadless Rule in Alaska!

David E. Schmid, Regional Forester

USDA Forest Service, Alaska Region

Attn: Alaska Roadless Rule

P.O. Box 21628

Juneau, Alaska, 99802

Cc:

Sonny Perdue, Secretary US Department of Agriculture

1400 Independence Avenue, SW

Washington, DC 20250

Mr. Schmid,

Secretary Perdue:

With this message I want to let you know that I'm strongly opposing any modification to the Roadless Rule in Alaska! These changes will 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 development and would run counter to the interests of all Americans, as well as Alaskans, and is not in the best interest of taxpayers.

Scientists overwhelmingly agree that clear cutting of old growth trees for timber puts whole systems at risk and destroys wildlife habitats, yet the Forest Service's amendment to the Tongass plan allows clearcutting to continue for well over another ten years!

This rule change will promote further, as well as rapid, destruction. 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. In Alaska, which experienced unprecedented heat waves this summer, the Tongass serves as a buffer against climate change. Much like the Amazon rainforest, the Tongass' stands of ancient trees are champions at absorbing greenhouse gas emissions, storing approximately 8 percent of the total carbon in all national forests of the lower 48 states.

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.

Again, I strongly urge you against granting any exemptions or exceptions to the Roadless Rule in Alaska, as is offered in alternative 1, 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, maintaining protections against logging and roadbuilding in Tongass roadless areas.

The agency's mission is "Caring for the Land and Serving the People." The Forest Service should strive to protect the Tongass National Forest and ensure our public lands serve the people and wildlife of today and future generations.

Thank you,

Sincerely:

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Dorothea
Last name: Theus
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Dorothea Theus and I live in Colleyville, Texas.

Please protect these rare pristine public lands. These are OUR lands, set aside for us, not for corporate greed. The health of our planet depends on the health of areas like the Tongass. Please put wisdom over 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, Dorothea Theus

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Frank
Last name: Thibault
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

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

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

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Marc
Last name: Thibault
Organization: Idea(l) Convergence
Title:
Comments:
The Tongass is among the worlds best carbon sinks, and its one of the largest unfragmented ecosystems in North America. Its trees hold about 650 million tons of carbon, which roughly converts to half of U.S. carbon dioxide emissions in 2017. I AM AGAINST the proposition to exempt the Tongass National Forest from the 2001 Roadless Area Conservation Rule,To justify development in such a critical area, the administration turns to an argument that many scientists reject: Any emissions from logging would be temporary, as the timber would sequester carbon in building materials while replacement trees recapture even more CO2. The Tongass carbon load has stabilized or possibly even increased since logging peaked in the 1970s and 80s before declining, according to the draft EIS.Potential negative effects on the Tongass may be ameliorated and may be completely reversed with time, reducing or eliminating potential negative cumulative effects on carbon and climate, the document says.Beverly Law, an Oregon State University professor whose forestry research is cited in the draft EIS, called the administrations argument misinformation.Some old-growth trees in the Tongass are more than a thousand years old, so it would take a very long time for the forest to regain such a huge amount of carbon, she said.The management mechanisms applied in all alternatives are consistent with internationally recognized climate change adaptation and mitigation practices identified by the IPCC, the draft EIS says.But that is not true: Dominick DellaSala, president and chief scientist at the Geos Institute.I was one of the reviewers of the IPCC report, and I can tell you: Nothing in that report supports what theyre claiming, said DellaSala, whose research was also cited in the draft EIS.The draft EIS warns that Alaska could see an additional 1 to 3.5 degrees Celsius of warming by 2050, but it makes little effort to grapple with the implications of such warming.There is considerable uncertainty concerning the exact scope of the effects of climate change on the forests of Southeast Alaska and how best to deal with possible changes to the many resources managed on the Tongass, the document says.Climate models show Alaska warming faster than the rest of the countrythe changes are already visiblebut the Tongass is poised to fare better than its surrounding landscapes, DellaSala said. That could make it an oasis for wildlife that feels climate pressures elsewhere. But destroying habitat by logging and fragmenting the remainder with roads undermines that option, he said.Alaskas going to be in big trouble in the coming century, so why give away the one opportunity to protect those forests that are going to help stabilize the climate? he said.

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/10/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Lee D.
Last name: Thibert
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Alaska Roadless Rulemaking #54511

Lee Thibert has asked that I forward a copy of this letter to you.

Constance Owens, CAP, OM

Manager, Executive Office

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

December 9, 2019

Alaska Roadless Rule

United States Forest Service

Alaska Region

Ecosystem Planning and Budget Staff

P.O. Box 21628

Juneau, AK 99802

Alaska Roadless Rulemaking #54511
Dear Forest Service Rulemaking Team:

I am writing to express my support for the Tongass National Forest to be fully exempt from the national Roadless Rule.

As someone familiar with the Alaska electric utility industry, I know how difficult it can be to provide electric service in Alaska, especially when infrastructure crosses mountainous and remote terrain. I support the efforts of my electric utility colleagues in Southeast Alaska to lift the Roadless Rule restrictions so they may more efficiently and economically maintain transmission line infrastructure and potentially develop new sources of renewable generation.

I also believe lifting the Roadless Rule restrictions offers the potential for increased economic activity that would benefit the Southeast region in particular and Alaska in general.

In my opinion, the Forest Service is part of the Department of Agriculture for a reason. As someone who was raised in the Midwest, I appreciate the cycle of planting, growth and harvest that comprises agriculture. Forests are not parks. I believe National Forests are intended to be multi-use, rather than simply being there to look at. The current application of the Roadless Rule in the Tongass limits not only the use of the land but also the potential economic benefits to Southeast Alaska.

I submit these comments as an individual and not as a representative of an organization.

Sincerely,

[signature]

Lee D. Thibert

[Position]

December 9, 2019

Alaska Roadless Rule
United States Forest Service
Alaska Region
Ecosystem Planning and Budget Staff
P.O. Box 21628
Juneau, AK 99802

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I submit these comments as an individual and not as a representative of an organization.

Sincerely,

Lee D. Thibert

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/15/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Margaret
Last name: Thickstun
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Margaret Thickstun and I live in Clinton, New York.

Preserving the national treasure that is the Tongass National Forest far outweighs any "benefit" that would accrue from building roads.

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

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

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

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: JANE
Last name: THIEFELS
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Jane Thiefels and I live in Haverhill 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.
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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, JANE THIEFELS

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Eric
Last name: Thiel
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

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

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

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

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Nicole
Last name: Thiel
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Nicole Thiel 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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Any choice but the No Action alternative would also put wildlife and critical habitat at risk, threaten access to clean water, and be a step in the wrong direction on climate change jeopardizing Alaskans at a time when the state already faces severe challenges related to rising temperatures. I urge you not to abandon the Roadless Rule in Alaska and instead 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 Thiel

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

Stop Stealing our nations natural Resources ! Stop Treasonous ,coruption and theft !

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

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

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Kori Thiele

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Cole
Last name: Thielen
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Keep it roadless! I'm against logging it.

[Position]

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

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Julia Thielert

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

Regulate industry, do your job to protect the population!

I am writing to express strong opposition to efforts to roll back the Roadless Area Conservation Rule (Roadless Rule) in Alaska or elsewhere. The Roadless Rule was implemented with unprecedented public support to protect some of our nations most pristine public lands, including large parts of the Tongass National Forest. You must choose the No Action 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, Pat Thielman

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

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Ursula-
Last name: Thieme
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

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

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

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

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/30/2019 4:00:00 PM
First name: Adam
Last name: Thimmesch
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: Johnathan
Last name: Thinnes
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: Rita
Last name: Thio
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Rita Thio and I live in Walnut, 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, Rita Thio

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/5/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: John
Last name: Thiry
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
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Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Tom
Last name: Tho
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
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Regards, Tom Tho

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

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

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Anon
Last name: thol987
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Stay out of Tongass

I choose Alternative One- no road building or logging in Tongass. Keep our wild places wild.

Matt

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/7/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Alan
Last name: Thole
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): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Patricia
Last name: Tholl
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Patricia Tholl and I live in Needham, 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, Patricia Tholl

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Organization:
Title:
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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Patricia Tholl

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Chris
Last name: Thoma
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Chris Thoma 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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Chris Thoma

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

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

Please voteto protect our National forests, air, 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, Mary Thoma

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/11/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: James
Last name: Thoman
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is James Thoman 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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, James Thoman

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Roger
Last name: Thoman
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am strongly opposed to razing the Tongass National Forest, which would decimate wildlife and contribute to ecological degradation. Experts have disputed the Forest Service's claims about Tongass and noted that its destruction would generate debilitating carbon output.

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Alan
Last name: Thomas
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Alan Thomas 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, Alan Thomas

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

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

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/20/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Brett
Last name: Thomas
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Logging should be limited at all costs. Especially if there is a loss forecast for revenue. Should spend money on developing synthetic wood or other type of material. At the minimum a hybrid tree that can grow much quicker.

If we deplete all the old growth forests it would be a mistake. Imagine telling my kids, your kids, sorry son, we cut all the trees down. Look to Easter Island.

I am not against wood or logging, but serious thought should be given to it. It takes 100's of years to grow a fine tree, only a minute to cut it down, and even less time to seal its fate.

Preservation should be first (especially the job of the NFS)

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Brittney
Last name: Thomas
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
To whom it may concern,

I am writing to state my unequivocal support for Option 1, no change, concerning the roadless rule in the Tongass. It is my backyard and millions of visitors come up here to experience the pristine beauty that is southeast Alaska, not to get glimpses of clearcut old growth on tours. There aren't many places left in the world like this, and they should be protected AT ALL COST for future generations, not decimated now for the profit of a handful. Leave the Tongass alone and keep the roadless rule in place! A rule that 90% of people SUPPORTED last time this came up.

Thank you.

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Carrie
Last name: Thomas
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

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

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

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Carrie
Last name: Thomas
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

The Tongass contains some of the largest intact old-growth temperate rainforest in the world, and its value in providing clean water for fish and wildlife habitat is essential to the economic and ecological 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, Carrie Thomas

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Charles
Last name: Thomas
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC6275

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 National Forest provides a way of life for the people of Alaska. Please don't ignore that you will be directly effecting people's way of life here by opening up this land for logging.

Sincerely,

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

Yes[Text circled] No

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Chris
Last name: Thomas
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

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

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

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

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Claudine
Last name: Thomas
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Claudine Thomas and I live in Martinez, 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, Claudine Thomas

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/11/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Crystal
Last name: Thomas
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): 10/23/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: D
Last name: Thomas
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
It is IMPERATIVE that we PROTECT the Tongass National Forest. Do NOT SUCCUMB to the seductive draw of the almighty dollar and the delusion of immediate gains. Income from damaging the forest's protection pales in comparison to the future (and present) value of this IRREPLACEABLE TREASURE.

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/20/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Daniel
Last name: Thomas
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I value the tracts of national forest that are left pristine - without opening delicate habitats to road development - due to the fragility of ecosystems we have seen and documented throughout the past century.

The Alaskan forest system SHOULD NOT BE OPENED for any type of development.

[Position]

[Position]

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

Please protect our Forests, especially in conservation 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, David Thomas

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/16/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: David
Last name: Thomas
Organization: Binghamton University
Title:
Comments:
Please do not open any more national forests to commercial enterprises. The global environment, and America people have already lost enough of their precious wild areas. Please save what we have left.

[Position]

[Position]

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

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Deborah
Last name: Thomas
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

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

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

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Diana
Last name: Thomas
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- 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, Diana Thomas

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/14/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Dr.
Last name: Thomas
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Dr. Thomas 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, Dr. Thomas

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Ela
Last name: Thomas
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Ela Thomas 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, Ela Thomas

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Elisabeth
Last name: Thomas
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Elisabeth Thomas and I live in Sanibel, Florida.

Some areas have worse air quality than others, but overall, we all breathe the same air. We are about to reach a catastrophic tipping point, and then your money wont help you any longer. No matter how much you think it wont affect you or your kids or grandkids, IT WILL! In fact, it almost certainly already is - you just havent realized it yet! By the time they have cancer or other lung diseases, it will be too late. Clean up the air 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, Elisabeth Thomas

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/7/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Eric
Last name: Thomas
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: Eva
Last name: Thomas
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Eva Thomas and I live in Redwood 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, Eva Thomas

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Frances
Last name: Thomas
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Frances Thomas and I live in Somerset, 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 off our nations most pristine public lands, including large parts of the Tongass National Forest. You must choose the No Action alternative. Any other choice would ignore overwhelming public support and harm Alaskans, including Alaska Natives, and taxpayers across the nation.
In Southeast Alaska, tourism accounts for 28% of employment and generate an annual $1 billion 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, Frances Thomas

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Francesca
Last name: Thomas
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

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

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

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/11/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Francis
Last name: Thomas
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: Greg
Last name: Thomas
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

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

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

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

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Haley
Last name: Thomas
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC1004

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): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: James
Last name: Thomas
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is James Thomas 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.

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

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

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

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Jan
Last name: Thomas
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

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

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

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Jane
Last name: Thomas
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

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

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

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Jane
Last name: Thomas
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

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

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

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Janet
Last name: Thomas
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Janet Thomas and I live in Columbus, Ohio.
[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 generates an annual $1 billion in economic benefit; this makes it far more of an economic driver than the timber industry, which is less than 1% of the regional economy.
Any choice but the No Action alternative would also put wildlife and critical habitat at risk, threaten access to clean water, and, worst of all, be a step in the wrong direction on climate change, jeopardizing Alaskans at a time when the state already faces severe challenges related to rising temperatures. I urge you not to abandon the Roadless Rule in Alaska and instead 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 Thomas

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/10/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Janet
Last name: Thomas
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
No logging in the Tongass National Forest

U.S. Forest Service

RE: No logging in the Tongass National Forest

null

Docket Number: FS-2019-0023

True wilderness is a precious resource that is rapidly disappearing, and the Tongass is the best example of it in the United States.

Its thousand-year-old trees are a refuge for animals that struggle to find safe homes elsewhere in the country. The rare Alexander Archipelago wolf roams there, as well as the nation's largest concentration of coastal brown bears. Bald eagles nest near its waters, and mountain goats climb the crags overhead.

More important, it is an important defense against the climate and environmental crises that we now face.

Logging (which in any case is uneconomical), mining, and development within the Tongass' borders will destroy a precious wilderness that we can never get back and exacerbate the climate and environmental crises. I strongly urge you not to exempt portions of the Tongass from the Roadless Rule and to keep this irreplaceable forest pristine; anything else is both contrary to the public interest and extremely foolish.

Sincerely,

Janet Thomas

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/20/2019 4:00:00 PM
First name: Jason
Last name: Thomas
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
The proposed repeal of the Roadless Rule caters to the outdated old-growth, clear-cut logging industry and shows blatant disregard for everyday Alaskans who rely on and enjoy salmon, wildlife, clean water, abundant subsistence resources, and beautiful natural scenery.
The Tongass is all of ours. Repealing the Roadless Rule would cast aside years of collaboration and thriving businesses that depend on healthy forests, and usher in a new era of reckless old-growth clear-cut logging that pollutes our streams, hurts our salmon and deer populations, and spoils the forest and scenery. This proposed rule is a complete about-face from the direction we should be headed and reflects the fact that special interests and not common sense are guiding this decision.
People throughout Alaska and the rest of the country depend on the productive rivers and wild fish of the Tongass for food, jobs, and recreation. We urge anyone who shares these values to comment to the Forest Service and urge them to uphold the Roadless Rule and conserve key areas of the Tongass, including the highest quality salmon-producing watersheds within the Tongass 77.

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

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Jean
Last name: Thomas
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Jean Thomas 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, Jean Thomas

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Jeff
Last name: Thomas
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

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

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

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

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

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, Jim Thomas

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Jim
Last name: Thomas
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- 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 Thomas

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/10/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Joanie
Last name: Thomas
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Joanie Thomas 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, Joanie Thomas

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

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: John
Last name: Thomas
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC3421

U.S. Forest Service Alaska Roadless Rule Committee:

I appreciate 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,

John Thomas

Cooper Landing, AK 99572

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: John
Last name: Thomas
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC3021

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 keep the current Tongass management plan to protect salmon habitat.

Sincerely,

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

Yes *No*[Text circled]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 1/1/0001 12:00:00 AM
First name: John
Last name: Thomas
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
3421

U.S. Forest Service Alaska Roadless Rule Committee:

I appreciate 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.

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Sincerely,
John Thomas
Cooper Landing, AK 99572

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Julie
Last name: Thomas
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- 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, Julie Thomas

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Kat
Last name: Thomas
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- 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, Kat Thomas

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Kat
Last name: Thomas
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Kat Thomas 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, Kat Thomas

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Katherine
Last name: Thomas
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Katherine Thomas and I live in South Pasadena, California.

Stop putting corporate entities in charge of national forests, particularly the Tongass National Forest 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.

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

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

[Position]

[Position]

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

Please don't allow clear cutting in any forest. We had some beautiful woods where I live in Northern New York near the Canadian border. Our woods have been cut off so one can see from one road to the other now. The wild animals are moving into the villages and no wonder. They have no place left to go for food, water or shelter. To quote my husband " a rabbit couldn't survive 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, Kathleen Thomas

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/7/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Kevin
Last name: Thomas
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: Kevin
Last name: Thomas
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: Kimberly
Last name: Thomas
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Kimberly Thomas 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, Kimberly Thomas

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Larry
Last name: Thomas
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC3691

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,

Larry Thomas

Circleville, WV 26804

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 1/1/0001 12:00:00 AM
First name: Larry
Last name: Thomas
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
3691

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,
Larry Thomas
Circleville, WV 26804

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/14/2019 1:20:56 PM
First name: Lea
Last name: thomas
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Lea thomas and I live in Brooklyn, 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.

This is one of the last remaining areas in our country with old growth trees that remains unadulterated by human intervention. I am concerned that by disrupting the ecosystem with roads that will inevitably carry vehicles that run on fossil fuels to sites where humans will extract resources from this precious place, the damage will be long-lasting and possibly irreversible.

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, its status as the largest intact temperate rainforest in the world, to keep public lands wild for future generations, the high density of incredible wildlife it contains, 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), 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, develop more recreational opportunities, like trails and cabins, 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: Lea
Last name: Thomas
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

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

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

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Leslie
Last name: Thomas
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.
The Tongass contains some of the largest intact old-growth temperate rainforest in the world, and its value in providing clean water for fish and wildlife habitat is essential to the economic and ecological 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, Leslie Thomas

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

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

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/20/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Logan
Last name: Thomas
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: Logan
Last name: Thomas
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
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Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Logan
Last name: Thomas
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
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Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Marisa
Last name: Thomas
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

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

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

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/20/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Melissa
Last name: Thomas
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Please do not allow logging in any national forest or park. The earth is in desperate need of MORE trees to replenish the clean air we need to maintain a healthy planet. Allowing logging is counterintuitive. Please consider alternatives to logging in national forests and parks. Utilize a more sustainable product such as bamboo or hemp. This planet needs all the leafy green trees it can get. Please reconsider.

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Michele
Last name: Thomas
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- 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, Michele Thomas

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

Public lands belong to all the American people and must be protected 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, michele thomas

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Nick
Last name: Thomas
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC3017

The following are my comments on the proposed Alaska roadless rule and the DEIS that was done to support it.

In the fall of 2018, the Forest Service announced it was initiating the preparation of [illegible] [illegible] for Alaska roadless rulemaking. You said your proposed action was to conserve roadless characteristics while responding to the need to provide more economic opportunity. How does the full exemption alternative conserve roadless area characteristics? Why did the proposed action change between the No1 and the DEIS, and how can you change that without a new scoping period? Weren't the issues and alternatives you developed supposed to be in response to the proposed action? At least that's what this presentation here said? So if it changed wouldn't that generate new issues? New alternatives? Shouldn't the public at least know you changed it?

You also told us that the Forest Plan would likely be amended after rulemaking was done in 2018- but when I look at the proposed rule now it seems to rely on the Forest Plan staying the same, you need to be honest. you know the Forest plan will be the next thing to get axed with this administration, yet the presenter just said The Forest Service isn't going to change The Forest Plan, "At this time there are no plans to amend the plan." This is dishonest, especially since the state of Alaska has already asked for it and the state apparently gets what it wants no [illegible] what the people who live here say or want.

You have already included a change to the Forest Plan anyway because the EIS says that lands that are unsuited for logging will become suited. This is also not what you said last fall . How can you keep saying one thing and keep doing the opposite?

I have a friend in [illegible] that told me about a [illegible] the tribe received from the Forest Service saying that alternative 3 and 4 were the preferred alternatives for the proposed rule. When did this change, and why wasn't the public, especially the tribes, told about it? Don't you ever have to be honest about things? That was a bait and switch and totally unfair to the tribes were you hoping they didn't notice?

How can you say that this will have, no effect on fish, no effect on streams? Don't you read your own reports on what roads do to fish streams? You should be ashamed of yourselves and embarrassed for saying that in this document, Forest Service, be honest.

The Forest Service never does anything to correct the lies that the state and senator Murkowski say about the roadless rule. It does not prohibit mining or renewable energy or recreation or hunting, there are already too many of them causing damage to fish and letting too many people have easy access to the deer and other things we need for our subsistence. We do not want more roads.

If the Forest Service doesn't understand that these things can already be done, then read the letters you've been given. The only thing this exemption will do is allow more logging of the last remaining good stands of old growth forest, which is needed for climate change mitigation, for healthy fish streams, for wildlife habitat, and for the [illegible] that it provides the tourists who come to see it. These are the thigs that will help our communities now and into the future. No more [illegible], not more roads.

It sounds like the Forest Service tried to do some things that would help some areas, like allowing roads for utility systems or recreation projects or cultural use? You don't need a full exemption for this, you could also support small mills, like the one here in [illegible] and the two in Hoonah by allowing small timber sales in your community public areas that are in alternative? you could take care of everything it sounds like you heard in all those comments (over 100,000?) in the other alternatives. You don't need a full exemption for those things. You should be honest about why you are really doing this.

I support the No Action Alternative. If not the No Action, then please select an alternative that actually does what you said you wanted to do - conserve roadless areas. The exemption alternative does not do that. Nor does it help the communities you said you wanted to provide for. We don't want it. We have told you that. We don't need it.

Please listen to us this time.

Thank You

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/1/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Phil
Last name: Thomas
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Alaska is one of our most untouched areas. We do not need to ruin anymore land for profit. Please leave this area as it is.

[Position]

[Position]

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

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Raye
Last name: Thomas
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

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

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

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Rochelle
Last name: Thomas
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Rochelle Thomas 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, Rochelle Thomas

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/21/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Ross
Last name: Thomas
Organization: 1951
Title:
Comments:
I support logging. It helps in controlling forest fires and providing new growth for wildlife and livestock.

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Ruth
Last name: Thomas
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

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

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

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

Please stop destroying the Earth in the name of profit. Please do not destroy our future.God bless America.

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, Ryan Thomas

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/18/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Sandra
Last name: Thomas
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
DEVELOPMENT OF THE TONGAS NATIONAL FOREST

I'm opposed to any development that destroys habitats and contributes to climate collapse. I prefer doing nothing at all.

Sandra Thomas

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Shad
Last name: Thomas
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Shad Thomas 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, Shad Thomas

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

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

We have traveled through the inland waterways of the Tongass. It's value as a tourist destination, recreation opportunity, salmon fisheries and home to many indigenous people, far outweigh the shortsighted greed to plunder the forest and destroy a slow growing ecosystem to sell lumber to China and 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, T Thomas

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Teresa
Last name: Thomas
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

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

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

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Teresa
Last name: Thomas
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Teresa Thomas and I live in Howard, Ohio.

Please do not remove necessary protections of the Tongass LN. Forest. Our forests are more important than corporate profits and destructions.

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

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

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

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/26/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Terre
Last name: Thomas
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC275

Formal Comment Submitted November 12, 2019 by:

Terre Thomas

Capitola, CA 95010

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to The Forest Service and the USDA from Exempting the Tongass National Forest from the Roadless Rule enacted in 2001.

Not only would carving roads and clear cutting some of the last remaining old growth trees in the United States wreak havoc on wildlife habitat and indigenous communities, it would also go a long way toward ruining a growing economy built on supporting fisheries, recreational opportunities and tourism. These are the types of sustainable economic growth we should be encouraging. The days of resource plundering for a fast buck are over, as few people benefit, while many ways of life are destroyed, never to recover.

The Tongass is an irreplaceable National Treasure, the largest intact temperate rainforest in North America and possibly on earth. It provides about 8% of US carbon sequestration, a more valuable commodity than the would be timber extracion, especially in this time of global warming, when we need plants to temper our climate and provide oxygen for us to breathe.

Alaska has experienced unprecedented heat waves the last two summers. This proposal will surely make it worse.

State officials claim "it would boost the local economy", but at a great expense to the citizens who already work in the area. While only about 300 people (1%) now work in the timber industry, those employed in the $1billion salmon fisheries and seafood industry make up 8%, and tourism provides another 17% employment. This claim does not even take into consideration the many indigenous tribes who depend on the forest for their subsistence from hunting, fishing and other resource use, plus their cultural survival.

Carving roads into the forest and clear cutting old growth and young growth trees will have an irreversibly negative effect on the environment. Once you have destroyed that ecosystem, it can never be fully restored. It would take thousands of years! Carving roads and exposing the ground will not only cause erosion, but will alter the surrounding climate. Alaska has experienced unprecedented heat waves the last two summers. This proposal will surely make it worse. The soil will was into waterways destroying salmon streams, and wildlife habitat will be fragmented. Those trees not only sequester carbon, (650 million tons or about 1/2 the US CO2 emmisions in 2017) but they trap sediment, regulate water and air temperatures, provide shelter and habitat, intercept moisture to temper climate, and don't forget the micorhizzia that connect all that vegetation to one another. Once the ecosystem is destroyed by timber harvesting, and other resource extraction, it can never be rebuilt or adequately replaced. Oh you can plant a "tree farm" but that just won't ever come close to doing the same job.

So what will anyone have gained by this exemption? Well the timber industry will have been given permission to "steal" the Tongass National Forest trees from the American people. It is OUR National Forest, set aside by Theodore Roosevelt in 1907. I don't recall him giving it to the timber industry. The Chinese will most likely benefit most from the many millions of board feet of lumber sold to them. Oh, and it would allow for the sale of timber to make toilet paper too, just like the Canadians are doing with timber from their adjacent boreal forest. How unbelievably shortsighted can one get?

If changing the rules is allowed to happen here, who's to say it wont be allowed to happen in every national forest? Our heritage isn't for sale (or given away) to the extraction industries. It is meant to be preserved for posterity, our children "unto the seventh generation". Growing up, our family spent summers cruising, fishing and recreating in the north coast waterways. Mire recently we enjoyed a cruise through the inland passage, stopping in Juneau, Sitka and Ketchican, walking on a glacier, studying the flora and fauna, supporting the local shops and eateries. These are the employment opportunities of the future, not the quick resource grab that leaves their Alaskan homeland denuded, devastated and unable to ever recoup the losses to that environment.

Don't carve up, log away, and extract the future of southeast Alaska for some very short term economic gain for a few who don't care about what happens to the environment or the people living there. Don't permit the destruction of one of the most magnificent places in the United States. Don't destroy the symbiotic relationship of ALL the sentient inhabitants of that pristine ecosystem. This land is OUR land. It belongs to us, and future generations, including yours. The economic future of this and every place on earth really depends on sustainability. Any choice that does not support this effort, is another "nail in our coffin". Make what our children inherit from us better, not worse.

Respectfully submitted,

Terre Thomas

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Toni
Last name: Thomas
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Toni Thomas 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, Toni Thomas

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

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Trisha
Last name: Thomas
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

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

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

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

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Tucker
Last name: Thomas
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Tucker Thomas and I live in Ewing Township, New Jersey.

ANIMALS AND NATURE CAN NOT SPEAK UP FOR THEIR SELVES, WE CAN! PLEASE USE YOUR POWERS AND VOICE AND HELP NATURE AND WILD LIFE! THANK YOU, TUCKER THOMAS

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

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Thank you for considering my comments.

Regards, Tucker Thomas

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/10/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Ursula
Last name: thomas
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Ursula thomas and I live in East Hampton, 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, Ursula thomas

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Valerie
Last name: Thomas
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Valerie Thomas 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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Valerie Thomas

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/20/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Grioghar
Last name: Thomas-Baldwin
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Protect our national forests. Don't allow the destruction of these lands for profit.

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Pam
Last name: Thomas-Hill
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Pam Thomas-Hill 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.

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

Any choice but the No Action alternative would also put wildlife and critical habitat at risk, threaten access to clean water, and be a step in the wrong direction on climate change jeopardizing Alaskans at a time when the state already faces severe challenges related to rising temperatures. I urge you not to abandon the Roadless Rule in Alaska and instead 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 Thomas-Hill

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/18/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Maureen
Last name: Thomas-Murphy
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): 11/1/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Anon
Last name:
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Don't destroy America's largest national forest

YOU--PERSONALLY--YOU!

Yes, YOU!!!

YOU, the Forest Service, MUST select Alternative 1, the "no-action" alternative.

Could you live with yourself? What about your family? If you allowed the destruction of the land YOU are responsible for.

PROTECT THE FORESTS, PROTECT THE LAND!

Thank you,

Gina Thomas

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/20/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Dalton
Last name: Thomason
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Do not take the Tongass out of roadless keep it roadless. Do not allow it to be logged.

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Henry
Last name: Thomason
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC3268

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,

Henry Thomason

North Little Rock, AR 72118

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Henry
Last name: Thomason
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: Henry
Last name: Thomason
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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Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 1/1/0001 12:00:00 AM
First name: Henry
Last name: Thomason
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
3268

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,
Henry Thomason
North Little Rock, AR 72118

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/7/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: kirt
Last name: thomason
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: Marleigh
Last name: Thomassen
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: barbara
Last name: thomborson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is barbara thomborson 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, barbara thomborson

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

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Alexis
Last name: Thompson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC5468

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,

Alexis Thompson

Ketchikan, AK 99901

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): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Anthony
Last name: Thompson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Anthony Thompson 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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Anthony Thompson

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

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Bonnie
Last name: Thompson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Bonnie Thompson and I live in Baywood-los Osos, California.

Now more than ever, it's critical that we protect our last wild 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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Bonnie Thompson

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/5/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Brad
Last name: Thompson
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): 11/11/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Brenda
Last name: Thompson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Brenda Thompson and I live in La Mesa, California.

Please save the 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, Brenda Thompson

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/15/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Brent
Last name: Thompson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
DO NOT Allow such an idiotic, one-sided, travesty of a near-sighted error to despoil such a natural and untamed area. Keeping the current system in place, of not allowing road building with the Tongass NF, and other forests that are already protected by this rule, allows countless old-growth woods and the wildlife that inhabit them to remain unspoiled for countless generations to come. I implore you to allow wildlife to flourish. Allowing protected forests to live without any man-made encumbrances benefits all of us who live on this planet, as we rely on a healthy global ecosystem; one that is able to provide clean water and air, as well as ensure our dated agricultural system can provide sustainable food supplies.I oppose the gutting of the Roadless Rule, and implore the forest service and DoA to keep road building and deforestation of the Tongass NF as but a distant memory.

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Bruce
Last name: Thompson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

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

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

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Camille
Last name: THOMPSON
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

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

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

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

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Carol
Last name: Thompson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Carol Thompson and I live in Greensboro, North Carolina.

Our forests are more important now than ever. Trees take CO2 out of the air. We need all our trees and we need to plant millions more not cut them down. Preserve the forests, protect the wildlife that lives there. Preserve the planet. Money will not save us or stop 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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Any choice but the No Action alternative would also put wildlife and critical habitat at risk, threaten access to clean water, and be a step in the wrong direction on climate change jeopardizing Alaskans at a time when the state already faces severe challenges related to rising temperatures. I urge you not to abandon the Roadless Rule in Alaska and instead 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 Thompson

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Carol
Last name: Thompson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Carol Thompson 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.

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

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

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Carrie
Last name: Thompson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Carrie Thompson and I live in El Prado, 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, Carrie Thompson

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Charles
Last name: Thompson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

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

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

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

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/10/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Chris
Last name: Thompson
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.
In Southeast Alaska, tourism accounts for 28% of employment and generate an annual $1 billion in economic benefit, making it far more of an economic driver than the timber industry, which is less than 1% of the regional economy.
Any choice but the No Action alternative would also put wildlife and critical habitat at risk, threaten access to clean water, and be a step in the wrong direction on climate change jeopardizing Alaskans at a time when the state already faces severe challenges related to rising temperatures. I urge you not to abandon the Roadless Rule in Alaska and instead 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 Thompson

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Chris
Last name: Thompson
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: Craig
Last name: Thompson
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): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Craig
Last name: Thompson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Craig Thompson and I live in Big Bar, 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, Craig Thompson

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Cyndi
Last name: Thompson
Organization: Mrs.
Title:
Comments:
We cannot allow one of the last beautiful, untouched places in our Country to be destroyed! When is enough money enough?! Once this is done we cannot ever get the majesty and beauty of this place back! Not to mention what it will do to the wildlife in the area. This land belongs to the American people, not Corporate America!!

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/4/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Dan
Last name: Thompson
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: Dana
Last name: Thompson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Dana Thompson and I live in Los Gatos, California.

Over and over people have asked you not to roll back the Roadless Rule in Alaska and you still keep trying. Listen to the people of this country. Forests are important and need to be 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. Please listen to Americans.

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

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

Thank you for considering my comments. I look forward to learning that you have paid attention to the public.

Regards, Dana Thompson

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Dean
Last name: Thompson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

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

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

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Deron
Last name: Thompson
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: Don
Last name: Thompson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Don Thompson 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, Don Thompson

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

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Eleanor
Last name: Thompson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Eleanor Thompson 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, Eleanor Thompson

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Elizabeth
Last name: Thompson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC5534

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]

All of SE and we've time and again the majority agreed NO ROADS IN THE 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): 12/11/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Emily
Last name: Thompson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am a resident in the Tongass National forest and I strongly oppose full exemption from the Roadless Rule. I don't quite understand why there are these open comment periods if what people are telling you are not being considered. Back in 2018 when the comment period was first opened under the Walker administration you were told loud and clear by the public that a full exemption was not favored. And yet, here we are where that is the proposed option. For the record, I would support option 3. It allows communities some access to the forest, the chance to build needed roads and for sustainable forest activities. Opening up the forest for a free for all will in the end, destroy it. If anything, taking a look at our current environmental crisis and political climate should head more warning, not less. We're currently living through a period of great "I want it and I want it now" society. Some parts of our nation need to be carefully protected and preserved so there's something left for our grandchildren.

[Position]

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

I love nature and animals .So I can always sign partitions because I can't afford to donate all though if I had the money i definitely would help the cause.

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

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

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

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Gail
Last name: Thompson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

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

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

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

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Gary
Last name: Thompson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC3443

U.S. Forest Service Alaska Roadless Rule Committee:

"No Action" No roads. Just say no to development.

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,

Gary Thompson

Glide, OR 97443

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Gary
Last name: Thompson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

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

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

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 1/1/0001 12:00:00 AM
First name: Gary
Last name: Thompson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
3443

U.S. Forest Service Alaska Roadless Rule Committee:

"No Action" No roads. Just say no to development.

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,
Gary Thompson
Glide, OR 97443

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Geoffrey
Last name: Thompson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Geoffrey Thompson and I live in [@advCity], 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, Geoffrey Thompson

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

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Geraldine
Last name: Thompson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Geraldine Thompson 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, Geraldine Thompson

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Harold
Last name: Thompson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC5537

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]

Supports our fishing business, recreation + carbon benefits. Born + raised here- love the forest.

[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: Ilene
Last name: Thompson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Ilene Thompson and I live in Carmel Hamlet, 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, Ilene Thompson

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/12/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Jacob
Last name: Thompson
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: James
Last name: Thompson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is James Thompson and I live in Knox, 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, James Thompson

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: James
Last name: Thompson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

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

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

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Janice
Last name: Thompson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Janice Thompson and I live in Council Bluffs, Iowa.

We must keep our planet inhabitable for our descendants.

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

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

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

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/7/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Jason
Last name: Thompson
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: Jeff
Last name: Thompson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Jeff Thompson and I live in Quincy, Florida.

The planet is more important than my wallet.

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

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

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

Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Jeff Thompson

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/20/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Jennifer
Last name: Thompson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing as a former resident of Southeast Alaska and as a professor of ethics. I strongly urge you to select the "no action" option, which would protect the Tongass National Forest from additional logging incursion. I know this forest deeply and well from years spent hiking, boating, camping, and fishing there. Its beauty attracts over a million tourists each year. It is unethical to rob so many year-round residents and tourists of the experience of this forest in favor of the interests of a much smaller number of people who would be enriched by the opportunity to cut down and sell its trees.

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Jess
Last name: Thompson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

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

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

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

Please protect our natural resources 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, Jessica Thompson

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/19/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: jessica
Last name: thompson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Dear USFS,

We are in an environmental and ecosystem crisis. Opening pristine, dense biodiverse forests to development is a foolhardy, shortsighted effort that confuses asset destruction for value creation. Logging will benefit a crooked few for a short time instead of leaving pristine assets yielding EVERGREEN employment for generations to come. Also, our species depends on ecosystem services and we are CURRENTLY in an ecosystem loss crisis.

I voice STRONG objection to removing the 2001 protections on the Old-Growth Tongass forest. It is a national and global asset upon which lives depend. The initiative to open it to logging is corrupt.

Don't let them take our forests, our rivers, our animals. STOP this incursion now. If any citizen is not infuriated by this attempt to steal from our children, they are corrupt or not paying attention.

- A furious citizen

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Jim
Last name: Thompson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC794

Dear Secretary 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.

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): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: John
Last name: Thompson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

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

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

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Joseph
Last name: Thompson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

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

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

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

Do this for the Extinction Rebellion.

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

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

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

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Julie
Last name: Thompson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

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

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

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Karl
Last name: Thompson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

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

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

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/5/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Keith
Last name: Thompson
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: ken
Last name: thompson
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: Kevin
Last name: Thompson
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: Lawrence
Last name: Thompson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Lawrence Thompson and I live in Livermore, California.

Tongass National Forest in Alaska is an important part of our natural heritage that should be forever 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, Lawrence Thompson

[Position]

[Position]

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

This park is too precious to destroy by reducing its size.

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

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Lester Thompson

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Linda
Last name: Thompson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Linda Thompson and I live in Montrose, Colorado.

Digging up, burning up, chopping up and dividing up our national forests will mean we have no national forests to fall back on during the current 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, Linda Thompson

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Lyndsee
Last name: Thompson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I support the NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE TO THE TONGASS ROADLESS RULE.

I support the NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE TO THE TONGASS ROADLESS RULE.

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/19/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Margaret
Last name: Thompson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am contacting you regarding your effort to extend roads and logging into the pristine of Alaska. I do not live in Alaska, but I have a sister who does and I have visited her there. I was enchanted by the beauty of the state, and the forests reminded me of the Oregon of my childhood. Logging has taken away many of the beautiful forests that I camped in as a youngster. This area is one of the last undisturbed areas in our country. Respect the land. The forests supply us with invaluable oxygen as they clear the carbon from the air. The survival of these undeveloped areas parallel the survival of all living things on the earth. Global warming is real. I respectfully request that you take steps to preserve this unspoiled land.

[Position]

[Position]

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

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/18/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Mario
Last name: Thompson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Alaska Roadless Rule proposals

To whom it concerns at the U.S. Forest Service,

I hereby make my public comment in support of alternative 1 as expressed in the recent release regarding the Alaska Roadless Rule, hereby keeping the existing rule intact for all affected lands. At a time where our global and national ecosystems are facing unprecedented peril, the notion of removing trees from our country's largest forest is both irresponsible and antithetical to the organization's purpose. The U.S. Forest Service's mission statement affirms my position in stating that its efforts are in support of our environment and the life that exists therein. To enable development on such a critical portion of our nation's forest system would be a gross misuse and abuse of the obligation that this administration claims that it serves.

The future of this country depends on our institutions fighting to protect its precious resources from careless actions taken for the sake of corporate greed. This includes putting the interests of our environment ahead of miniscule means of revenue generation. I hereby stand with environmental organizations and stewards across the country in strongly rejecting proposals 2 through 6 - especially the extremely shortsighted and destructive sixth proposal. I trust that the Forest Service will take its own agenda to heart and uphold its commitment to our natural resources and all forms of life that depend on them for their survival. Thank you for offering the opportunity to respond to this proposal and for considering my comments.

Mario T.

Resident of Virginia

<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.avg.com%2Femail-signature%3Futm_medium%3Demail%26utm_source%3Dlink%26utm_campaign%3Dsig-email%26utm_content%3Demailclient&data=02%7C01%7C%7Cc14f2425f611463684f108d754406f42%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C0%7C0%7C637070508038166129&sdata=G3OZu1UnccY7wI71AiCQiqPLjNUCY9v0e%2FyqhEfY6uE%3D&reserved=0> Virus-free. www.avg.com

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Mark
Last name: Thompson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the 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 the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.
The Tongass contains some of the largest intact old-growth temperate rainforest in the world, and its value in providing clean water for fish and wildlife habitat is essential to the economic and ecological health of Southeast Alaska. I urge you to keep the federal Roadless Rule intact and current protections in place for national forests in Alaska.
In addition, I strongly object to your plans to reduce and remove protections from our national forests roadless areas. The Roadless Rule is one of the smartest and most popular land management policies the Federal Government has ever adopted. Not only does it preserve some of Americas best fish and wildlife habitat, but it also saves untold millions of taxpayer dollars that might otherwise be spent to subsidize money-losing timber sales. The value of the Roadless Rule in preventing environmentally damaging and economically 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 Thompson

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/23/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Mary
Last name: Thompson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Mary Thompson and I live in Silver City, NM. 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 lived in Southeast Alaska in Sitka for more than 40 years. I explored the Tongass Forest at every opportunity, including many areas of old growth. I also hiked In areas which had been clear-cut, including a landslide area up Starrigavan Valley near Sitka. Hiking up that landslide a few months after it occurred, it was amazing to see that it was the old growth stumps which had prevented additional severe mud slide erosion of hillsides. Southeast Alaska is now experiencing more weather extremes then previously, especially more intense deluges of rainfall. Old growth forests are key to helping prevent mudslides.

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, the recreational opportunities it provides, 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 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 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.

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): 11/23/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Mary
Last name: Thompson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Mary Thompson 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, Mary Thompson

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Mary Ann
Last name: Thompson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

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

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

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Mary Ann
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Organization:
Title:
Comments:
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Regards, Mary Ann Thompson

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Matthew
Last name: Thompson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I recently returned from Alaska with my family. Im in disbelief that roads and logging would be opened to the area proposed. The natural beauty and crucially needed carbon sinks are far more valuable than development.

This is extremely short sighted for our planets future and for our countrys heritage.

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Matthew
Last name: Thompson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
The proposed rule of exempting Alaska from the 2001 Roadless Rule is faulty and does not follow the mission of the US Forest Service or the principles of the USDA. One of the five missions of the USFS is to be a good neighbor to those that live adjacent to and subsist on Forest Service lands. The overwhelming majority of people both native and nonnative are opposed to Alternative 6 and in favor of Alternative 1. By choosing Alternative 6, the Forest Service is completely overlooking the effects that can and eventually will occur if Roadless lands are dissolved on the Tongass. The Forest Plan will not be around to protect these lands in perpetuity. Therefore, the Roadless Rule should remain in effect in Alaska, keep the status quo.

Similarly, on your website you claim that, " USDA remains committed to working closely with States, Tribes, and others toward shared stewardship of National Forest System lands and resources." How can you claim that the USDA is working closely with States and Tribes when both Southeast Alaskans Tribal members are both vehemently opposed to the Preferred Alternative (Alternative 6). We should be listening to what the local people want because they are the ones who will be most greatly affected by this decision. They make subsist in these areas and make there well beings in these areas, our livelihoods are directly connected to the land and management activities that occur on it.If Alternative 6 is being chosen due to the potential for economic value through resource extraction, then policy makers need to consider the potential effects that these roadless areas may have on sequestering carbon. The DEIS did not address the significance of the current Roadless areas in SE Alaska as a carbon sink and the significance of these areas in the future on a global scale as worldwide deforestation continues to grow. Repealing Roadless in Alaska opens the door to future deforestation and ignores the long term value that these areas possess in regards to climate change.The only valid alternative is the No Change alternative 1.

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 1/1/0001 12:00:00 AM
First name: Meg
Last name: Thompson
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: Meg
Last name: Thompson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC1215

Dear Secretary Perdue,

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Organization:
Title:
Comments:

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Title:
Comments:

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Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 1/1/0001 12:00:00 AM
First name: Meg
Last name: Thompson
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): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Melba
Last name: Thompson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

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

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

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/13/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Michael
Last name: Thompson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC550

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:

Please protect the to Tongass from road building and any further negative development since I enjoy recreating my entire life and for future generations. Lost temerate rainforest left.

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, Michael Thompson

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/13/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Michael
Last name: Thompson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC603

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 not interested in learning more!

I've spent my entire life living/exploring/subsisting off the Tongass NF and It needs to be protected without roads forever!

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Michele
Last name: Thompson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on 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, STOP your plans to reduce and remove protections from our national forests roadless areas. The Roadless Rule is one of the smartest and most popular land management policies the Federal Government has ever adopted. Not only does it preserve some of Americas best fish and wildlife habitat, but it also saves untold millions of taxpayer dollars that might otherwise be spent to subsidize money-losing timber sales. The value of the Roadless Rule in preventing environmentally damaging and economically 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 Thompson

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Michele
Last name: Thompson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on 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, STOP your plans to reduce and remove protections from our national forests roadless areas. The Roadless Rule is one of the smartest and most popular land management policies the Federal Government has ever adopted. Not only does it preserve some of Americas best fish and wildlife habitat, but it also saves untold millions of taxpayer dollars that might otherwise be spent to subsidize money-losing timber sales. The value of the Roadless Rule in preventing environmentally damaging and economically 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 Thompson

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Michele
Last name: Thompson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- 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, Michele Thompson

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

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

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Natalie
Last name: Thompson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Natalie Thompson 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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Any choice but the No Action alternative would also put wildlife and critical habitat at risk, threaten access to clean water, and be a step in the wrong direction on climate change jeopardizing Alaskans at a time when the state already faces severe challenges related to rising temperatures. I urge you not to abandon the Roadless Rule in Alaska and instead to put the public interest above corporate profits by choosing to keep the rule in place unchanged.

Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Natalie Thompson

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/10/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Nicole
Last name: Thompson
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: Nikita
Last name: Thompson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC4912

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): 10/20/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Pam
Last name: Thompson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am vehemently opposed to opening up this wilderness to logging. Please leave it alone. There's enough commercial area available to develop responsible logging practices.

Our natural environment is precious, and there's no coming back from destroying old-growth areas.

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Pat
Last name: Thompson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

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

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

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

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

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Paula
Last name: Thompson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Paula Thompson 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, Paula Thompson

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/20/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Rachel
Last name: Thompson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Open it up and take it off the roadless list.

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Ray
Last name: Thompson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Ray Thompson 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, Ray Thompson

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Rebecca
Last name: Thompson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Rebecca Thompson and I live in San Rafael, 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 Thompson

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/10/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Rich
Last name: Thompson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Jane and Rich ThompsonOld growth forest should not be lost to profits for the timber corporations. We oppose rolling back 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.
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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Rich Thompson

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Richard
Last name: Thompson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

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

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

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Rick
Last name: Thompson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC5310

U.S. Forest Service Alaska Roadless Rule Committee:

Please see our message below. WE cherish these few remaining unspoiled areas, and would appreciate your consideration of leaving them as they are.

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,

Rick Thompson

San Antonio, TX 78232

[Position]

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

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/18/2019 4:44:49 PM
First name: Robin
Last name: Thompson
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,
Robin Thompson
Littleton, MA 01460

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Sabrina
Last name: Thompson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Sabrina Thompson and I live in El Dorado Hills, California.

Please save this beautiful area for future generations and save 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, Sabrina Thompson

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

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Sara Thompson

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Sharon
Last name: Thompson
Organization: Southeast Alaska Power Agency
Title:
Comments:
SEAPA Comments | Alaska State-specific Roadless Rule

Alaska Roadless Rule

USDA Forest Service, Alaska Region

Ecosystem Planning and Budget Staff

Attached is the Southeast Alaska Power Agency's comments in support of the USDA's preferred Alternative 6 exempting the Tongass National Forest from the 2001 Roadless Rule. Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Best regards,

Sharon E. Thompson

Executive Assistant / Contracts Administrator

Southeast Alaska Power Agency

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, Alaska Region

Ecosystem Planning and Budget Staff

Post Office Box 21628

Juneau, Alaska 99802-1628

Southeast Alaska Power Agency
Comments in Support of Alternative 6
Alaska State-Specific Roadless Rule

Introduction:

The Southeast Alaska Power Agency (SEAPA) is an Alaska Joint Action Agency, a public corporation formed and existing under Alaska Statutes [sect][sect] 42.45.300-.320. SEAPA owns two hydroelectric projects in Southeast Alaska (Swan Lake and the Tyee Lake Hydroelectric Facilities) and associated transmission facilities that provide economical, renewable, non-carbon-based electric power to SEAPA's three member public utilities in Wrangell, Petersburg, and Ketchikan. SEAPA has a vital interest in the management of the Tongass because application of the Roadless Rule to the Tongass adversely affects its ability to generate affordable

renewable electric power in rural Southeast Alaska as an alternative to diesel and other fossil fuels. With rare exceptions, communities in Southeast Alaska are not connected by road or to the North American electrical grid and rely on either renewable hydroelectric power or non-renewable expensive polluting diesel generation for their electricity needs.

The purpose of this communication is to request that the Tongass National Forest (TNF) be completely exempt from the Roadless Rule and to voice SEAPA's support of the USDA's preferred Alternative 6 exempting the TNF from the 2001 Roadless Rule, which is fully responsive to the State of Alaska's petition. The long and storied history of the State of Alaska's challenges to the Roadless Rule (Rule), which have been supported by SEAPA, needs no reiteration. The Alaska Power Association has also advocated for an exemption for many years.

The undersigned was appointed by Governor Walker to the Alaska State-specific Roadless Rule Citizen's Advisory Committee (CAC) which represents a diversity of perspectives, including the energy sector, established to provide information to the State in the State's role as a cooperating agency in the NEPA process. The CAC developed language to implement new exceptions for the Alaska-specific Roadless Rule that it recommended be included in each alternative (2 - 5) set out in the DEIS, other than the No Action alternative. None of the CAC's recommended language

was included as an exception in Alternatives 2 [mdash] 5 of the Alaska-specific Roadless Rule. Because attaining the social and economic benefits of the CAC's proposed new exceptions for the Alaska-specific Roadless Rule is the reason the State of Alaska, its Congressional delegation, and the Coalition sought the Alaska-specific Roadless Rule and because Alternative 6 (total exemption) is the only alternative that would result in implementation of the CAC's recommendations, I urge you and the USDA to adopt Alternative 6 [mdash] the Total Exemption Alternative as the Final Rule. Some examples of the language in the CAC's proposed new exceptions to be added to 36 C.F.R. [sect] 294.12 and [sect] 294.13 included:

1. While "reasonable" access is allowed for mining in IRAs, mining explorers often need road access to get heavy equipment from tidewater to a Project site or to otherwise proceed with economically exploring and developing a mine or a hydro facility. Accordingly, road access for mining exploration and development and for renewal energy projects within IRAs should be presumptively authorized in the same way as if the mining or renewable energy project were in a non-IRA area.
2. Road access to renewable energy projects in IRAs (including geothermal to which road access is currently prohibited in IRAs) should be presumptively authorized in the same way as if the mining or renewable energy project were in a non-IRA area. Renewable energy could then replace diesel power in rural Southeast communities or be available to power mining exploration and/or mine development.
3. The Transportation and Utility System Land Use Designation that was eliminated in the 2016 Tongass Transition Plan should be restored to allow implementation of the State's Southeast Transportation Plan.
4. Road access between communities should be authorized notwithstanding the existence of IRAs between them.
5. Cutting and removal of trees incidental to mining and renewable energy projects should be authorized in IRAs under the Alaska-specific Roadless Rule in the same way it is authorized in a non-IRA area.

Rather than the CAC's language being included in any alternative, each road exception is instead preceded by the words "if the Responsible Official determines that ... a road is needed," which is what is in the No Action alternative so the Forest Service determines whether a road is needed without any criteria needed for doing so. The relief the energy and other sectors of the State seek is only provided in Alternative 6. If Alternative 6 is not selected, then there will be no relief resulting from the State's petition and many challenges to the Rule which will still leave a void in attaining the social and economic benefits necessary for the Alaskans who live in Southeast Alaska. Efforts to align with multiple-use management as the organizing principle of National Forests

and preservation as the organizing principle of National Parks are balanced and achieved only when properly implemented.

Comments brought forward in the remaining paragraphs of this communication highlight the Roadless Rule's impact on hydropower development and the effect the Rule's regulatory requirements have had on Southeast Alaska's electric consumers and electric utilities.

Significant Issues for Analysis:

Inventoried roadless areas covered by the 2001 Roadless Rule comprise 9.2 million acres (55 percent) of the Tongass National Forest (TNF). The TNF is the largest of the 154 national forests and comprises 78% of the land base in Southeast Alaska. Of its approximately 16.7 million acres, about 10 million acres are forested. There are 5.7 million acres within the TNF that are already Congressionally designated roadless wilderness areas and national monuments, which accounts for 34% of the Tongass. The Forest Service has wide discretion in deciding the proper mix of uses within any area of National Forest System (NFS) lands and must manage the NFS under the Organic Act, the MUSYA, and NFMA which authorize them to manage NFS lands and designate those lands for multiple uses. In exercising its managerial authority under these statutes, the USFS must also comply with the Wilderness Act and NEPA. Forest Service officials also bear the responsibility of considering national interests in their management of the Forest System, including inventoried roadless areas. The Rule however recognizes that some communities, such as those in Southeast Alaska, bear a disproportionate share of the burden of the impacts from the Rule.'

There are 34 communities located in Southeast Alaska. Expensive and polluting diesel is still the primary power source for 14 of them and hydro is the primary power source for the remaining 20, with diesel as the secondary source. The cost impact of the Rule on hydropower development must be mitigated or communities already economically burdened will continue to burn expensive and polluting diesel to generate power because they cannot afford to develop new energy resources. Communities with hydro facilities as the primary power source may not be able to economically meet future load growth with renewable energy if access is inhibited. The Rule only allows for roads to hydro sites and transmission infrastructure permitted as of January 12, 2001. This precludes hydro development and transmission infrastructure where it is needed most in Southeast Alaska [mdash] in the rural areas that are paying up to $0.66/kWh2.

The potential energy production contributions of NFS lands has not been thoroughly assessed in Alaska. In 2005, the USDA National Renewable Energy Laboratory conducted a solar and wind energy assessment on all National Forest and Grassland units in the United States, except for Alaska. Alaska was excluded because of the lack of transmission system data in GIS format, which at that time was considered a critical element used for screening high-potential areas for solar and wind energy development. The USDA assessment was updated in 2013 when an analysis of renewable energy potential on NFS lands was expanded to include the potential for biomass, geothermal, solar, and wind energy involving NFS lands. Once again, the geographic scope of that report included all NFS lands in the US except for Alaska because analysis for Alaska included only wind energy due to insufficient quality and detail of available biomass, geothermal, and solar energy resource data. A thorough assessment of Alaska's potential energy production contributions on its NFS lands while accounting for environmental stewardship, sustainability, and multiple-use functions should be a consideration in the Roadless Rule issues under analysis as the Roadless Rule does not adequately address other forms of renewal energy outside of hydropower and wind.

1 66 Fed. Reg. at 3267 (Jan. 12, 2001)

2 Alaska Energy Authority, Power Cost Equalization Program, Statistical Data by Community (Issued Feb. 2017)

The following are specific cost impacts resulting from the Roadless Rule on development of hydro and other energy resources and ongoing operations and maintenance of existing facilities:

Data Collection to Support Planning and Engineering: From initial siting studies through final design, extensive data is required on hydropower sites to support project licensing and development. This data includes topographic surveys, geologic and geophysics mapping, geotechnical site investigations, stream gaging, general engineering site review, and investigations. In Roadless areas, access is typically provided through marine transportation to bring support equipment and supplies to the project site. Helicopters are then required to lift the equipment, supplies, and manpower to collect specific data. This is particularly true for geotechnical explorations where drilling equipment is required. When collecting multiple geotechnical borings, the limited lifting capacity of the helicopter, coupled with essentially no site development to support the equipment, drives the cost up considerably. Similar cost increases are associated with developing accurate topographic maps in heavily vegetated areas as well as establishing stream gages. The cost increases can range from 50% to 100% of the typical cost associated with sites fully accessible by roads.

Environmental studies: A typical hydropower project requires extensive field studies to collect data associated with aquatic, wildlife, water quality, water resources, cultural, and terrestrial resources associated with the site. In the absence of roads, access to these sites requires helicopter transport and time-intensive hiking by field staff. Remote sites also require the construction, operation, and maintenance of onsite man camps to support field crews. Necessary supplies are subsequently brought in by water, float plane, or helicopter. These conditions often result in study cost increases of 50% to 100% when these sites are not accessible by road.

Construction: Hydro projects are major construction projects that require heavy machinery and equipment. Construction costs associated with hydropower sites in Roadless v. road accessible areas are significantly impacted starting with initial mobilization of the project through the final startup and commissioning period. Typical incremental cost increases include:

* 100% or more for mobilization costs required to transport equipment to the site. Mobilization typically requires marine transportation due to the size of the equipment. Equipment also tends to be on site longer, even when not in use, due to the high cost of transportation to remobilize equipment to the site.
* 50% or more for construction access development starting with construction of a marine dock used to unload equipment, materials, and manpower to support the construction, onsite living facilities, fuel delivery and associated supplies.
* 25% or more for ongoing delivery of materials and supplies necessary to support a man camp and field construction.
* 25% to 40% in general construction costs.

* 25% to 40% for construction oversight due to higher transportation costs for quality control testing staff and equipment, or for housing staff for a longer duration onsite.
* 15% to 25% for weather delays that impact the ability to deliver critical equipment and materials to the site. Transportation by road provides greater flexibility in scheduling deliveries and accommodating poor weather conditions that impact marine or air transportation.

Transmission Line Costs: The cost of permitting, engineering, and construction of overhead transmission lines required to connect hydropower and other renewable energy projects to load centers is similarly impacted by the Roadless Rule. Utilizing information compiled in 2016 for the Kake-to-Petersburg Intertie (KPI), 69kV overhead line construction along roads is $611,000/mi and 69kV overhead line construction without roads using helicopters, constructing trails between poles and building helicopter pads at pole sites as needed is $1,004,000/mi. The KPI experienced significant permitting delays associated with methods and means of accessing Inventoried Roadless areas, which had a severe impact on the construction cost escalation. Consequently, the project is on hold indefinitely and Kake is currently still 100% dependent on diesel generation to serve their electrical loads.

For renewable energy infrastructure projects that are almost entirely encompassed within Roadless areas, costs of construction are overly burdensome and the location for the most cost-effective projects are often dictated by nature. Use of helicopters to construct SEAPA's 138kV Swan-Tyee Intertie (STI) resulted in a construction cost of $2 million dollars a mile. The STI is 57 miles long and the total construction cost including permitting, design, etc. was approximately $110 million dollars. Many of the transmission lines and corridors for the STI project were not allowed to be built along the most favorable terrain for ease of maintenance or constructability. The Agency dictated right-of-ways were in steep, out-of-the-way areas subject to land and snow slides and costly helicopter-only access.

Another important, often overlooked, factor is the long-term financial impact of operating and maintaining a transmission line that is limited to helicopter access. Rights of way (ROVV) for such a line must be maintained and brushed continually. The structures must be inspected on a rotating annual basis. With road access this work can be cost effectively completed by a crew in a truck. Without road access, this work must be helicopter supported. Local hourly costs for helicopters are $1,090.50 for a small MDH 500D, $2,045.25 for an A-Star B2, and $5,872.50 for a Bell 214 B1 required for larger projects.

In addition, transmission lines that do not have road access must have helicopter pads near the structures. To date, SEAPA has incurred costs of over $3 million dollars on helipads. These helipads must also be maintained and brushed every few years, which also must be done by helicopter.

In the Organized Village of Kake v. USDA, No. 1:09-cv-00023 (March 4, 2011) (upheld on appeal) the District Court of Alaska decided to allow roads to be built through an Alaska forest it had previously ruled should be roadless. The final judgment made a special provision for certain projects and activities including road construction for listed projects and hydroelectric development, and the Forest Service regards these projects and activities identified in the final

judgment as exempt from the prohibitions of the Roadless Rule under the terms of the final judgment. The issue is that the Rule itself provided no such exemption. The Rule prohibits tree cutting and road construction or reconstruction in inventoried roadless areas. 36 C.F.R. [sect] 294.12(a). The seven exceptions in subsection (b) of 36 C.F.R. [sect] 294.12 allow a road:

* in the case of an imminent flood, fire, or other catastrophic event that, without intervention, would cause the loss of life or property;
* to conduct a response action under CERCLA;
* because it is needed pursuant to a reserved our outstanding rights, or as provided for by statute or treaty;
* because realignment is needed to prevent irreparable resource damage;
* because road reconstruction is needed for safety on a hazardous road;
* The Secretary determines that a Title 23, Federal Aid Highway project is in the public interest and "no other reasonable and prudent alternative exists"; and,

* because "it is needed in conjunction with the continuation, extension, or renewal of a mineral lease on lands that are under lease by the Secretary of the Interior as of January 12, 2001 or for a new lease issued immediately upon expiration of an existing lease".

There is a short discussion in the comment/response portion of the Rule that states the following regarding the ability to construct roads in IRAs to access hydropower facilities:

Some respondents were concerned about the impact of the rule in special uses and requested clarification regarding the ability to construct or maintain roads in inventoried roadless areas to access electric power or telephone lines, pipelines, hydropower facilities, and reservoirs.

Existing authorized uses would be allowed to maintain and operate within the parameters of their current authorization, including any provisions regarding access.

In the USDA Forest Service Alaska Region Reviewing Officer's3 Response to Eligible Objections to the TNF Land and Resource Management Plan Amendment, the Reviewing Officer responded that power and transmission lines and hydropower development activities are not prohibited and addressed whether road construction for hydroelectric development may be authorized. The officer states " ... if FERC decides that a road is necessary for facility development, the Forest Service cannot impose a 4(e) Condition prohibiting the road. The Roadless Rule at 36 CFR [sect] 294.12(b)(3) provides that a road may be constructed or reconstructed in an inventoried roadless area if "[a] road is needed pursuant to reserved or outstanding rights, or as provided by statute or treaty."

Because there is no mention of new utilities, or any mention of new hydropower in either of these references and because it is subject to FERC jurisdiction, the language is still ambiguous as to whether the 2001 Roadless Rule allows new roads for such development. New in this case means "not in existence on January 12, 2001," the date the Rule was promulgated. There are different types of renewable energy projects that are not subject to FERC jurisdiction so 36 CFR

3 TNF Land and Resource Management Plan Amendment Review Officer (Beth G. Pendleton) Response to Eligible Objections, November 28, 2016, USDA Forest Service Alaska Region, p. 116

[sect] 294.12(b)(3) should be broadened to include non-FERC jurisdictional renewable energy projects.

Table 1 attached to the Final Rule, summarizes the costs and benefits of the Final Rule, and describes the impact of the Final Rule on "Special Use authorizations (such as communications sites, electric transmission lines, pipelines)" as follows: "Current use and occupancies not affected, future developments requiring roads excluded in inventoried roadless areas unless one of the exceptions applies."

It is therefore clear that the Forest Service simply failed to address the contradiction between Public Law 106-511, Title VI, and the Roadless Rule. Passage of this authorization was a change in conditions since publication of the FEIS. This ambiguity should be addressed in the Alaska-specific Rule.

Currently in the Final Rule, there are seven exceptions5 in subsection (b) of 36 C.F.R. [sect] 294.12 which a road may be constructed or reconstructed in an inventoried roadless area (notwithstanding the prohibition in paragraph (a) of [sect] 294.12) if the Responsible Official determines that one of those seven exceptions exists.

A new exception for Alaska-specific rulemaking should be added to those exceptions in 36 C.F.R. [sect] 294.12(b) as follows:

A road is needed to access existing and/or future renewable energy projects and their transmission infrastructure. Renewable energy is defined as energy that is collected from renewable resources, which are

naturally replenished on a human timescale, such as sunlight, wind, rain, tides, waves, geothermal heat, and biomass, or other forms of energy.

Please consider:

* A hydro power project cannot be constructed with helicopters alone. Hydro projects are major construction projects that require heavy machinery and equipment. For example, the generators at the Tyee Lake hydro facility weigh 30 tons. Machinery and equipment of this size require a road for access. Because the 2001 Roadless Rule prohibits road construction as well as tree cutting, it will be very difficult and expensive, and perhaps impossible, to build new hydro projects in IRAs.
* Development of leasable minerals, which includes geothermal power, is specifically precluded for sites not in existence as of January 12, 2001. This means that the geothermal resources similar to those that were attempted to develop in Upper Tenakee Inlet to supply renewable power to Hoonah and Pelican are precluded by the Roadless Rule.
* There is no exception for wind power or other renewable energy projects [mdash] trees cannot be cut in roadless areas to provide sites for wind turbines and required roads cannot be constructed to move large cranes and equipment. This essentially eliminates the possibility of developing wind and other potential resources.

4 66 Fed. Reg..supra, at page 3270

5 66 Fed. Reg. supra, at page 3272

* The investment required to electrically interconnect potential renewable assets with population centers is the single largest hurdle to migrating diesel dependent communities to alternative energy resources. The primary controllable means for reducing transmission infrastructure installation and long-term operations and maintenance costs is to have road access.

Conclusion:

As a one hundred percent renewable energy provider, SEAPA works every day to reduce the use of diesel fuel. The TNF in Southeast Alaska is the largest national forest in the United States at 16.7 million acres. Thirty-four percent or 5.7 million acres of the TNF is Congressionally preserved as roadless through classifications of monuments and wilderness. The land use designations (LUDs) defined in the Tongass Forest Plan provide additional protections for much of the remaining TNF and were derived through a robust multi-year public process. The Roadless Rule is unnecessary with all of these pre-existing protections already in place and is in conflict with the overarching authority of the USFS to manage lands for multi-use.

Limits on access to the TNF due to the continued application of the Roadless Rule impedes the ability of Southeast communities to access their existing generation and transmission facilities for core maintenance and hinders key work necessary to plan and develop future renewable energy resources

The Roadless Rule should not apply to the TNF. Because Alternative 6 is the only vehicle that implements the CAC's recommendations, SEAPA supports the State of Alaska and Alaska's Congressional Delegation in urging the USDA to again select the Total Exemption Alternative as the Alaska-specific Roadless Rule.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me

Respectfully,

[signature]

Trey Acteson, Chief Executive Officer Southeast Alaska Power Agency

[Position]

SOUTHEAST ALASKA POWER AGENCY

December 16, 2019

Delivery Via Email to akroadlessrule@fs.fed.us

Alaska Roadless Rule
USDA Forest Service, Alaska Region
Ecosystem Planning and Budget Staff
Post Office Box 21628
Juneau, Alaska 99802-1628

Southeast Alaska Power Agency
Comments in Support of Alternative 6
Alaska State-Specific Roadless Rule

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(1) While "reasonable" access is allowed for mining in IRAs, mining explorers often need road access to get heavy equipment from tidewater to a Project site or to otherwise proceed with economically exploring and developing a mine or a hydro facility. Accordingly, road access for mining exploration and development and for renewal energy projects within IRAs should be presumptively authorized in the same way as if the mining or renewable energy project were in a non-IRA area.

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There are 34 communities located in Southeast Alaska. Expensive and polluting diesel is still the primary power source for 14 of them and hydro is the primary power source for the remaining 20, with diesel as the secondary source. The cost impact of the Rule on hydropower development must be mitigated or communities already economically burdened will continue to burn expensive and polluting diesel to generate power because they cannot afford to develop new energy resources. Communities with hydro facilities as the primary power source may not be able to economically meet future load growth with renewable energy if access is inhibited. The Rule only allows for roads to hydro sites and transmission infrastructure permitted as of January 12, 2001. This precludes hydro development and transmission infrastructure where it is needed most in Southeast Alaska – in the rural areas that are paying up to $0.66/kWh[2].

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[1] 66 Fed. Reg. at 3267 (Jan. 12, 2001)

[2] Alaska Energy Authority, Power Cost Equalization Program, Statistical Data by Community (Issued Feb. 2017)

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Data Collection to Support Planning and Engineering: From initial siting studies through final design, extensive data is required on hydropower sites to support project licensing and development. This data includes topographic surveys, geologic and geophysics mapping, geotechnical site investigations, stream gaging, general engineering site review, and investigations. In Roadless areas, access is typically provided through marine transportation to bring support equipment and supplies to the project site. Helicopters are then required to lift the equipment, supplies, and manpower to collect specific data. This is particularly true for geotechnical explorations where drilling equipment is required. When collecting multiple geotechnical borings, the limited lifting capacity of the helicopter, coupled with essentially no site development to support the equipment, drives the cost up considerably. Similar cost increases are associated with developing accurate topographic maps in heavily vegetated areas as well as establishing stream gages. The cost increases can range from 50% to 100% of the typical cost associated with sites fully accessible by roads.

Environmental studies: A typical hydropower project requires extensive field studies to collect data associated with aquatic, wildlife, water quality, water resources, cultural, and terrestrial resources associated with the site. In the absence of roads, access to these sites requires helicopter transport and time-intensive hiking by field staff. Remote sites also require the construction, operation, and maintenance of onsite man camps to support field crews. Necessary supplies are subsequently brought in by water, float plane, or helicopter. These conditions often result in study cost increases of 50% to 100% when these sites are not accessible by road.

Construction: Hydro projects are major construction projects that require heavy machinery and equipment. Construction costs associated with hydropower sites in Roadless v. road accessible areas are significantly impacted starting with initial mobilization of the project through the final startup and commissioning period. Typical incremental cost increases include:

- 100% or more for mobilization costs required to transport equipment to the site. Mobilization typically requires marine transportation due to the size of the equipment. Equipment also tends to be on site longer, even when not in use, due to the high cost of transportation to remobilize equipment to the site.
- 50% or more for construction access development starting with construction of a marine dock used to unload equipment, materials, and manpower to support the construction, onsite living facilities, fuel delivery and associated supplies.
- 25% or more for ongoing delivery of materials and supplies necessary to support a man camp and field construction.
- 25% to 40% in general construction costs.

- 25% to 40% for construction oversight due to higher transportation costs for quality control testing staff and equipment, or for housing staff for a longer duration onsite.
- 15% to 25% for weather delays that impact the ability to deliver critical equipment and materials to the site. Transportation by road provides greater flexibility in scheduling deliveries and accommodating poor weather conditions that impact marine or air transportation.

Transmission Line Costs: The cost of permitting, engineering, and construction of overhead transmission lines required to connect hydropower and other renewable energy projects to load centers is similarly impacted by the Roadless Rule. Utilizing information compiled in 2016 for the Kake-to-Petersburg Intertie (KPI), 69kV overhead line construction along roads is $611,000/mi and 69kV overhead line construction without roads using helicopters, constructing trails between poles and building helicopter pads at pole sites as needed is $1,004,000/mi. The KPI experienced significant permitting delays associated with methods and means of accessing Inventoried Roadless areas, which had a severe impact on the construction cost escalation. Consequently, the project is on hold indefinitely and Kake is currently still 100% dependent on diesel generation to serve their electrical loads.

For renewable energy infrastructure projects that are almost entirely encompassed within Roadless areas, costs of construction are overly burdensome and the location for the most cost-effective projects are often dictated by nature. Use of helicopters to construct SEAPA's 138kV Swan-Tyee Intertie (STI) resulted in a construction cost of $2 million dollars a mile. The STI is 57 miles long and the total construction cost including permitting, design, etc. was approximately $110 million dollars. Many of the transmission lines and corridors for the STI project were not allowed to be built along the most favorable terrain for ease of maintenance or constructability. The Agency dictated right-of-ways were in steep, out-of-the-way areas subject to land and snow slides and costly helicopter-only access.

Another important, often overlooked, factor is the long-term financial impact of operating and maintaining a transmission line that is limited to helicopter access. Rights of way (ROW) for such a line must be maintained and brushed continually. The structures must be inspected on a rotating annual basis. With road access this work can be cost effectively completed by a crew in a truck. Without road access, this work must be helicopter supported. Local hourly costs for helicopters are $1,090.50 for a small MDH 500D, $2,045.25 for an A-Star B2, and $5,872.50 for a Bell 214 B1 required for larger projects.

In addition, transmission lines that do not have road access must have helicopter pads near the structures. To date, SEAPA has incurred costs of over $3 million dollars on helipads. These helipads must also be maintained and brushed every few years, which also must be done by helicopter.

In the *Organized Village of Kake v. USDA*, No. 1:09-cv-00023 (March 4, 2011) (upheld on appeal) the District Court of Alaska decided to allow roads to be built through an Alaska forest it had previously ruled should be roadless. The final judgment made a special provision for certain projects and activities including road construction for listed projects and hydroelectric development, and the Forest Service regards these projects and activities identified in the final

judgment as exempt from the prohibitions of the Roadless Rule under the terms of the final judgment. The issue is that the Rule itself provided no such exemption. The Rule prohibits tree cutting and road construction or reconstruction in inventoried roadless areas. 36 C.F.R. § 294.12(a). The seven exceptions in subsection (b) of 36 C.F.R. § 294.12 allow a road:

- in the case of an imminent flood, fire, or other catastrophic event that, without intervention, would cause the loss of life or property;
- to conduct a response action under CERCLA;
- because it is needed pursuant to a reserved our outstanding rights, or as provided for by statute or treaty;
- because realignment is needed to prevent irreparable resource damage;
- because road reconstruction is needed for safety on a hazardous road;
- The Secretary determines that a Title 23, Federal Aid Highway project is in the public interest and "no other reasonable and prudent alternative exists"; and,
- because "it is needed in conjunction with the continuation, extension, or renewal of a mineral lease on lands that are under lease by the Secretary of the Interior as of January 12, 2001 or for a new lease issued immediately upon expiration of an existing lease".

There is a short discussion in the comment/response portion of the Rule that states the following regarding the ability to construct roads in IRAs to access hydropower facilities:

> Some respondents were concerned about the impact of the rule in special uses and requested clarification regarding the ability to construct or maintain roads in inventoried roadless areas to access electric power or telephone lines, pipelines, hydropower facilities, and reservoirs.

Existing authorized uses would be allowed to maintain and operate within the parameters of their current authorization, **including any provisions regarding access.**

In the USDA Forest Service Alaska Region Reviewing Officer's[3] Response to Eligible Objections to the TNF Land and Resource Management Plan Amendment, the Reviewing Officer responded that power and transmission lines and hydropower development activities are not prohibited and addressed whether road construction for hydroelectric development may be authorized. The officer states " ... if FERC decides that a road is necessary for facility development, the Forest Service cannot impose a 4(e) Condition prohibiting the road. The Roadless Rule at 36 CFR § 294.12(b)(3) provides that a road may be constructed or reconstructed in an inventoried roadless area if "[a] road is needed pursuant to reserved or outstanding rights, or as provided by statute or treaty."

Because there is no mention of **new utilities,** or any mention of **new hydropower** in either of these references and because it is subject to FERC jurisdiction, the language is still ambiguous as to whether the 2001 Roadless Rule allows new roads for such development. New in this case means "not in existence on January 12, 2001," the date the Rule was promulgated. There are different types of renewable energy projects that are not subject to FERC jurisdiction so 36 CFR

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[3] TNF Land and Resource Management Plan Amendment Review Officer (Beth G. Pendleton) Response to Eligible Objections, November 28, 2016, USDA Forest Service Alaska Region, p. 116

§ 294.12(b)(3) should be broadened to include non-FERC jurisdictional renewable energy projects.

Table 1 attached to the Final Rule, summarizes the costs and benefits of the Final Rule, and describes the impact of the Final Rule on "Special Use authorizations (such as communications sites, electric transmission lines, pipelines)" as follows: "Current use and occupancies not affected, future developments requiring roads excluded in inventoried roadless areas unless one of the exceptions applies."[4]

It is therefore clear that the Forest Service simply failed to address the contradiction between Public Law 106-511, Title VI, and the Roadless Rule. Passage of this authorization was a change in conditions since publication of the FEIS. This ambiguity should be addressed in the Alaska-specific Rule.

Currently in the Final Rule, there are seven exceptions[5] in subsection (b) of 36 C.F.R. § 294.12 which a road may be constructed or reconstructed in an inventoried roadless area (notwithstanding the prohibition in paragraph (a) of § 294.12) if the Responsible Official determines that one of those seven exceptions exists.

A new exception for Alaska-specific rulemaking should be added to those exceptions in 36 C.F.R. § 294.12(b) as follows:

> **A road is needed to access existing and/or future renewable energy projects and their transmission infrastructure. Renewable energy is defined as energy that is collected from renewable resources, which are naturally replenished on a human timescale, such as sunlight, wind, rain, tides, waves, geothermal heat, and biomass, or other forms of energy.**

Please consider:

- A hydro power project cannot be constructed with helicopters alone. Hydro projects are major construction projects that require heavy machinery and equipment. For example, the generators at the Tyee Lake hydro facility weigh 30 tons. Machinery and equipment of this size require a road for access. Because the 2001 Roadless Rule prohibits road construction as well as tree cutting, it will be very difficult and expensive, and perhaps impossible, to build new hydro projects in IRAs.
- Development of leasable minerals, which includes geothermal power, is specifically precluded for sites not in existence as of January 12, 2001. This means that the geothermal resources similar to those that were attempted to develop in Upper Tenakee Inlet to supply renewable power to Hoonah and Pelican are precluded by the Roadless Rule.
- There is no exception for wind power or other renewable energy projects – trees cannot be cut in roadless areas to provide sites for wind turbines and required roads cannot be constructed to move large cranes and equipment. This essentially eliminates the possibility of developing wind and other potential resources.

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[4] 66 Fed. Reg..*supra,* at page 3270
[5] 66 Fed. Reg. *supra,* at page 3272

- The investment required to electrically interconnect potential renewable assets with population centers is the single largest hurdle to migrating diesel dependent communities to alternative energy resources. The primary controllable means for reducing transmission infrastructure installation and long-term operations and maintenance costs is to have road access.

Conclusion:

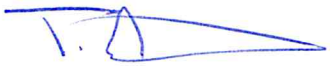
As a one hundred percent renewable energy provider, SEAPA works every day to reduce the use of diesel fuel. The TNF in Southeast Alaska is the largest national forest in the United States at 16.7 million acres. Thirty-four percent or 5.7 million acres of the TNF is Congressionally preserved as roadless through classifications of monuments and wilderness. The land use designations (LUDs) defined in the Tongass Forest Plan provide additional protections for much of the remaining TNF and were derived through a robust multi-year public process. The Roadless Rule is unnecessary with all of these pre-existing protections already in place and is in conflict with the overarching authority of the USFS to manage lands for multi-use.

Limits on access to the TNF due to the continued application of the Roadless Rule impedes the ability of Southeast communities to access their existing generation and transmission facilities for core maintenance and hinders key work necessary to plan and develop future renewable energy resources

The Roadless Rule should not apply to the TNF. Because Alternative 6 is the only vehicle that implements the CAC's recommendations, SEAPA supports the State of Alaska and Alaska's Congressional Delegation in urging the USDA to again select the Total Exemption Alternative as the Alaska-specific Roadless Rule.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me

Respectfully,



Trey Acteson, Chief Executive Officer
Southeast Alaska Power Agency

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Sonja
Last name: Thompson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

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

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

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Sonja
Last name: Thompson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

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

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

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

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/18/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Susan
Last name: Thompson
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,

Susan Thompson

Port Townsend, WA 98368

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: sydnee
Last name: thompson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Vote no

I support the NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE THE THE TONGASS ROADLESS RULE.

[Position]

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

We must stop the madness that is being brought upon the American people by the Corrupt & Inept Trump administration.

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

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

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

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Thomas
Last name: Thompson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

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

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

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Thomas
Last name: Thompson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

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

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

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

go solar

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

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

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

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

those who poison the air with contaminants should have those same contaminants released back into their homes and businesses....maybe then they will 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.

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

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

Thank you for considering my comments.

Regards, TJ Thompson

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/12/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Trevor
Last name: Thompson
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: Vicki
Last name: Thompson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Please save our old growth forests. There are plenty of forests to log. I should know, I'm surrounded by them. The old growth is irreplaceable. Leave them alone!

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Vonza
Last name: Thompson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

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

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

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Vonza
Last name: Thompson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

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

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

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: William
Last name: Thompson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

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

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

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: William
Last name: Thompson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Alternative one

I am emailing to say I do not want renewed road building or logging in Tongass National forest.

Sincerely a US citizen,

Bill Thompson

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Denise
Last name: Thompson-Slaughter
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

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

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

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Veronica
Last name: Thompspn
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Veronica Thompspn and I live in Eugene, Oregon.

Let's not make mistakes like Canada that has been destroying its Boreal forest for a short lived gain. Tongass is one of the few American wild forests that still encompasses a wide range of species that thrive in century old growths! We cannot replace any of that for the next 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.

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

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

Thank you for considering my comments.

Regards, Veronica Thompspn

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/13/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Andrew
Last name: Thoms
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC415

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 that eats salmon every year. 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]

My name is Andrew Thoms. I live in Sitka Alaska.

ALTERNATIVE: [text bolded for emphasis] The alternative I support is: Alternative 1

Because: The Roadless Rule is wokring great for me and my community. I don't want to see it changed.

AREAS: [text bolded for emphasis] The areas I want to see protected from road building and old growth timber harvest are:

The T77 and the TNL Ecological priority areas -- including those with Roads and those without Roads. I especially want Fish Bay, Nakwasina, Redoubt Bay, Ushk Bay, Hoonah Sound, all of Tenakee Inlet protetcted. I want any old growth on pow protected too.

USE: [text bolded for emphasis] Old-growth logging and road building would negatively impact the productivity of the ecosystem that I depend on for the following activities:

Hunting Deer. I have had to avoid aread that were logged because there are no deer there.

SUGGESTION: [text bolded 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:

Invest in visitor industry. Leave areas wild as Remote Recreation. Maintain existing Roads don't build near new ones. Restore areas damaged by logging, invest in fisheries rather than timber, and continue the transition.

The DEIS does not sufficiently analyze the impacts of possible roadbuilding and timber harvest on subsistence use areas. I want the 'community priority' roadless area to contain protections for the areas I use for subsistence hunting, fishing, and gathering. I advocate for no timber harvest and no roadbuilding *in the following community use areas that I use for subsistence:* [text bolded for emphasis]

Sitka and Kuke areas should have no timber harvest.

Additional comments for the Forest Service:

You invested a bunch into transition framework planning. Continue that course and stop logging old growth.

Sincerely,

Andrew Thoms

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

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/13/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Andrew
Last name: Thoms
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC398

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 that eats salmon every year. 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 Thoms. Resident of Sitka for 13 years. I work on issues directly related to the Tongass.

PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE: [text bolded for emphasis] If you want the Roadless Rule to remain on the Tongass, write "No Action."

I want Alternative 1 -- keep the National Rule in Place

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

The Roadless Rule works for Alaska. We need places without Roads. We don't need to be putting money into building new Roads. We don't need [illegible] old growth logging

AREAS: [text bolded for emphasis] Where do you spend time in the Tongass National Forest? Are there specific islands, watersheds, or mountains that you depend on? Name the most important areas that the Roadless Rule to protect.

[Illegible], Fish Bay, Rodman Bay, Ushk Bay, Poison Cove, Hoonah Sound. Don't take these areas out of Roadless Nor the T77 watersheds.

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

Hunting, fishing, guiding, birding, subsistence, [illegible]

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.

Build more trails

Additional comments for the Forest Service:

Sincerely,

Andrew Thoms

I do not want to receive a copy of the Draft Environmental Statement in physical book form

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/12/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Don
Last name: Thomsen
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: Don
Last name: Thomsen
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Don Thomsen 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, Don Thomsen

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: DOROTHY
Last name: THOMSEN
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is DOROTHY THOMSEN and I live in Sitka, Alaska.

We need to protect the last Frontier and keep the old growth 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, DOROTHY THOMSEN

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/5/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Ian
Last name: Thomsen
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: Vicky
Last name: Thomsen
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

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

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

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: David
Last name: Thomson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC5641

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: Joy
Last name: Thomson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Joy Thomson and I live in Eugene, 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, Joy Thomson

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: wil
Last name: thomson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is wil thomson 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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, wil thomson

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/11/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Travis
Last name: Thon
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): 11/8/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Kathi
Last name: Thonet
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Kathi Thonet and I live in Franklin Township, New Jersey.

We do not need to use these trees for anything other than the job they are already doing. We do not need to exploit every inch of this 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, Kathi Thonet

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Rue
Last name: Thor
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

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

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

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/27/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Brian
Last name: Thorbjornsen
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Brian Thorbjornsen and I live in Ely, 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, Brian Thorbjornsen

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/18/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Colleen
Last name: Thorburn
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC233

Please do not open The Tongass National Forest to new logging.

Thank you,

Colleen Thorburn

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Steve
Last name: Thorburn
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): 11/7/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Steven
Last name: Thorburn
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: Steven
Last name: Thorburn
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: Lisa
Last name: Thoreson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Lisa Thoreson and I live in Berkeley, 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, Lisa Thoreson

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

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Christopher
Last name: Thorgesen
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC3632

U.S. Forest Service Alaska Roadless Rule Committee:

Governor Dunleavy,

Thank you for going forward with legislation to create roads in both the Tongass and Chugach. As an Alaskan who lives on the border of the Tongass, I am very encouraged to see someone who truly cares about our economy, livelihood, and way of life.

Many other of Alaska's hunters and fisherman feel the same way I do. We just do not have the organized zealous nature of the environmental organizations such as Fish Alaska (who prompted me to write this letter).

Thank You for doing the unpopular and at least attempting to pull us from the mire of special interest politics.

Sincerely,

Christopher Thorgesen

Haines, AK 99827

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/11/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Karen
Last name: Thorkilsen
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Karen Thorkilsen and I live in [@advCity], Vermont.

I am strongly opposed to expanded cutting in Tongass National Forest. We need to understand that such trees everywhere are the lungs of our planet. To remove them is suicidal. Wake up to this reality before it is too late.

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

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/12/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Karen
Last name: Thorkilsen
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Karen Thorkilsen and I live in [@advCity], Vermont.

I am strongly opposed to expanded cutting in Tongass National Forest. We need to understand that such trees everywhere are the lungs of our planet. To remove them is suicidal. Wake up to this reality before it is too late.

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

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/18/2019 6:22:34 PM
First name: Douglas
Last name: Thorley
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,
Douglas Thorley
Colfax, CA 95713

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

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/18/2019 8:50:56 PM
First name: Debbie
Last name: Thorn
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.

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Sincerely,
Debbie Thorn
Kirkland, WA 98033

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/18/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Regina
Last name: Thorn
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Regina Maria Thorn and I live in Pittsburgh, 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.
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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Regina Thorn

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Sandra
Last name: Thorn
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Sandra Thorn and I live in East Hampton, 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, Sandra Thorn

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Shelley
Last name: Thorn
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Shelley Thorn and I live in Kenosha, Wisconsin.

We need to leave the wilderness that we have intact. The people, planet and animals depend on it. Our future depends on your decision. 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, Shelley Thorn

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Meg
Last name: Thornberry
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

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

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

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

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

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Merrie Thornburg

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Theresa
Last name: Thornburg
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Theresa Thornburg and I live in Mary Esther, 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, Theresa Thornburg

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Cathy
Last name: Thornburn
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

The Tongass contains some of the largest intact old-growth temperate rainforest in the world, and its value in providing clean water for fish and wildlife habitat is essential to the economic and ecological 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, Cathy Thornburn

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Darlene
Last name: Thorne
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
NOTHING should be decided about the destruction of precious Federal Land until the criminals are out of the White House! Republican or Democrat, we need honest, moral leaders before we proceed to destroy anything that is not replaceable! Darlene Thorne

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/27/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Gary
Last name: Thorne
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I believe the Roadless Rule must be retained to prevent loss of the Tongass as an irreplaceable natural resource. I sympathize with the need for communities in the Tongass to make a living, but I think the U.S. needs to invest in these communities in ways that preserve the forest.

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/21/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Rob
Last name: Thorne
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Leave the forests intact. Harvest your renewable forest attempts.

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/7/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Ryan
Last name: Thorne
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: Stephanie
Last name: Thorne
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, Stephanie Thorne

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

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

Once destroyed, this land can never be replaced. Please leave it as it is.

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

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

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

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/5/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Jeremy
Last name: Thornsberry
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: Alessandra
Last name: Thornton
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Concerned about Tongass Forest

The conservation of this forest has a big impact in our climate in North America, in the fisheries, in the renovation of the chain of life in Alaska, from fishes to deer and bears and your mission should be the conservation of the last frontier for tourism and for humanity. Please don't roll back the protection of one of our last forests in Northern Hemisphere. I am another concern citizen asking you select conservation, because is the right decision for our future.

Allie Thornton

Temecula, CA.

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/11/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: DeBrina
Last name: Thornton
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: DP
Last name: Thornton
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is DP Thornton 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, DP Thornton

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, DP Thornton

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/20/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Edward
Last name: Thornton
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Edward Thornton and I live in Swarthmore, Pennsylvania.

Business is mindlessly making potential customers spend their money for healthcare instead of buying their products. You never know the effects of extinction until it's too late.

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

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Jennifer
Last name: Thornton
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

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

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

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Jennifer
Last name: Thornton
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

The Tongass contains some of the largest intact old-growth temperate rainforest in the world, and its value in providing clean water for fish and wildlife habitat is essential to the economic and ecological 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, Jennifer Thornton

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

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/5/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Lance
Last name: Thornton
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: Leonard
Last name: Thornton
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Leonard Thornton and I live in Warren, 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, Leonard Thornton

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/25/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Lesha
Last name: Thornton
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Lesha Thornton 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, Lesha Thornton

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Mary
Last name: Thornton
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Mary Thornton and I live in Fort Worth, Texas.

Our national parks are vital habitats for our magnificent wildlife. They must be protected for future generations. To allow greedy entrepreneurs who have no interest but their pocketbooks destroy them for money is distasteful and horrendous. Please protect our parks and our wildlife. They are 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, Mary Thornton

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: richard
Last name: thornton
Organization: Patagonia, Inc.
Title: Enviro programs + Activism mgr NW
Comments:
At Patagonia, the protection and preservation of the environment isn't what we do after hours. It's the reason we're in business and every day's work. We believe the environmental crisis has reached a critical tipping point. Without commitments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, defend clean water and air, and divest from extractive industries that harm our public lands and waters, humankind as a whole will destroy our planet's ability to repair itself. We aim to use the resources we have do something about it.

The skewed-priorities-which elevate industrial concerns over public sentiment and environmental health- are on display all over the country, but nowhere more than Alaska. Spread across a 500- mile-long coastal archipelago, the Tongass is one of the last intact temperate rainforests in the world. Existing roadless restrictions have been in place for two decades and were celebrated as a bipartisan effort.

But we continue our pursuit to clear-cut trees, catch too many fish, spray too many chemicals and extract and burn too many nonrenewable fuels. We diminish the roaming areas for wolves and grizzlies, warm the seas to temperatures hostile to humpback whales and destroy habitat for songbirds. We put at risk the beauty and diversity of the world and endanger our own lives.

Businesses have a critical role to play in protecting the natural systems from which we benefit. This goes hand-in-hand with creating jobs, building more livable communities, and improving health and prosperity for all.

Today, we lend our voice and speak loudly for the preservation of a roadless Tongass National Forest which is not only one of the greatest gifts we can leave for future generations, it is also a critical step toward tackling the climate crisis head-on before it's too late.

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/20/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Robert
Last name: Thornton
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Keep the Roadless Rule in Place for the Tongass National Forest

Dear Interdisciplinary Team Leader, Alaska Roadless Rule Ken Tu,

As a North Idahoan, I can tell you that roadless places like the Tongass are absolutely vital to me.

Although my home state is beautiful, it is also a testament to the damage that roads can do--and the amount of roads in our Idaho forests is staggering.

That's why the Tongass is important--and that's what draws us there. I know the Tongass is not "untouched," and that it is managed just like many places here. But there is a big difference between careful management and allowing roads to be cut into the landscape.

Please do not allow that to change.

Sincerely,

Robert Thornton

Moscow, ID 83843

[Position]

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

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/5/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Theresa
Last name: Thornton
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 12:00:00 AM
First name: Thomas
Last name: Thornton
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I support the No Action alternative on the proposed USFS rule, Special Areas, Roadless Area Conservation: National Forest System Lands in Alaska. The Tongass National Forest is a America's largest forest and with its contiguous forests in Pacific Canada comprises the largest temperate rainforest in the world. It is unique for its biodiversity, productivity, and ecosystem services. Past clearcut logging according monocultural models of timber 'cropping' have seriousl degraded and denuded the rainforest habitat of old growth habitat, biodiversity, and critical supporting, regulating, provisioning, and cultural ecosystem services. The roadless rule, in place now for a generation, has lead to modest recoveries in the forest ecological health, and when combined with intelligent ecosystem management, has diversified the forest economy in a way that sustains both forests and people. Removing the roadless rule will take us backwards and would realise only modest short-term gains at the expense of the long-term health of the forest and its inhabitatns. The only exceptions to the roadless rule should be to improve low carbon solutions to community energy needs. And these should be temporary. Otherwise, the best means to increase sustainable development in the region is through improved water-based access (ferry and barge service), local renewable energy (microgrid) and low-carbon development, and support for ecocultural health and diversity.

[POSITION]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/10/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Tina
Last name: Thornton
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Tina Thornton and I live in Altadena, California.

It is your deepest work to protect our national forests, our air, and our water for future generations. This is for you, and for your family, for generations to come, 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, Tina Thornton

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Willie
Last name: Thornton
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

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

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

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

The world's lungs are being destroyed, in the Amazon and in our northern reaches. Keep our planet healthy-stop the 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, Mary Thorpe

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Samuel
Last name: Thorpe
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Samuel Thorpe and I live in Woodstock, 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, Samuel Thorpe

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Steph
Last name: Thorpe
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

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

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

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Erika
Last name: Thorsen
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Erika Thorsen 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, Erika Thorsen

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Janice
Last name: Thorsen
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- 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, Janice Thorsen

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/20/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Tamara
Last name: Thorsen
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Save the forest!

We need to save the Tongass National Forest so that it can save us all!

Do not let us go farther away from Mother Nature. We are connected to these trees and animals. Let's not snuff out our resources. We can only go so far till you run out!

There are countless better alternatives out there. Money is nothing without life. Profit can still exist in less destructive ways!!! Tourism brings in more profit than logging!

Do not touch it!

--

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Denny
Last name: Thorson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- 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, Denny Thorson

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Mark
Last name: Thorson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC5688

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]

Fished SE forever 20years. Stream protection is a most priority.

[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: Mary
Last name: Thorson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- 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 Thorson

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Kari
Last name: Thorstensen
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- 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, Kari Thorstensen

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/10/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Jenny
Last name: Thorvaldson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Jenny Thorvaldson 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, Jenny Thorvaldson

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Marcus
Last name: Thrane
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- 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, Marcus Thrane

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Jason
Last name: Thrasher
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: Eileen
Last name: Threefoot
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

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

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

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

Please protect our nature and there with 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, Melanie Thride

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

PLEASE do not let this 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, Sharon Throop

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Douglas
Last name: Throp
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Douglas Throp 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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Douglas Throp

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/13/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Brad
Last name: Throssell
Organization: WA Council Trout Unlimited
Title:
Comments:
Alaska Roadless Rulemaking #54511

Good morning,

The below comment was recorded on November 23, 2019 at the REI Flagship Store in Seattle, WA as part of a community meeting regarding the Alaska Roadless Rule. Washington Wild was given permission by the individual to submit this comment to the United States Forest Service on their behalf. Please add their comment into the record.

Thank you.

Brad Throssell, WA Council of Trout Unlimited

I want to thank Tom for inviting me to speak here today. My name is Brad Throssell and I'm with Trout Unlimited. Those of you who don't know what Trout Unlimited is, we're a national organization. We have our headquarters in Washington D C we're also a state organization. We do advocacy in Olympia for fish and cold, clean, clear water, and we're also a local organization. We have 15 chapters throughout the state and those folks work on projects in their areas. I was talking to our representative on the ground up in Alaska yesterday and he made it very clear to me. He said, this is not a political issue as far as those folks are concerned there. We're not talking R's and D's. We're talking to people who make their living out of being up there. They guide, they take tourists out, they do all kinds of things and that's the lifestyle they've chosen. And that's the lifestyle they want to keep. And they don't need roads to do that. In fact, they don't want roads. They know that salmon runs are important. They know that wild animals are in charge.

If you backpack, you know, you go into an area like this and you're a visitor there, right? It's only what you can put on your back and then you have to leave. You have to go back out while the animals can stay there forever. And I, like the Senator, have never been to the Tongass, but I found out about two months ago that I'm going to be a grandfather and I would really like for my grandchild to be able to go to the Tongass and hike someplace that I couldn't go. Thank you.

Hillary Sanders, Member and Engagement Manager

She/Her

WASHINGTON WILD

wawild.org

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Frank
Last name: Thrower
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Roadless Rule in the Tongass

I am writing in support of leaving the roadless rule as is for the Tongass National Forest. Having read many ideas, opinions, and information from foresters who have worked on the Tongass, I believe the rules should not be changed. I could elaborate further, but you will have read the same ideas over and over; preserve salmon habitat, deer protection in winter, growing tourism industry, largest temperate rain forest, waste of taxpayer dollars to mention a few.

Please keep the Roadless Rule as is for the Tongass.

Janet Thrower

Juneau, AK 99801

[Position]

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

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

Do not destroy the Tongass Forest! This place is a truly world renowned, and worldly-unique ecosystem. It must not be opened up to clear-cutting or any similarly disturbing activities. It belongs to ALL citizens of the USA, NOT to 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, Ron Thuemler

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Avghi
Last name: Thunstrom
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

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

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

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

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Susan
Last name: Thurairatnam
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Susan Thurairatnam and I live in North Olmsted, 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, Susan Thurairatnam

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/14/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Susan
Last name: Thurairatnam
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Susan Thurairatnam and I live in North Olmsted, 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 Thurairatnam

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

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Megan
Last name: Thurey
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC5036

I, Megan Thurey, am strongly in favor of Alternative One's plan relating to the Tongass national forest. I feel this way because I am the Lorax and speak for the trees!

-[Signature]

[Position]

[Position]

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

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Rowland
Last name: Thurlow
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

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

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

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: BLAKE
Last name: THURMAN
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC4018

U.S. Forest Service Alaska Roadless Rule Committee:

I have never been to the Tongass although I have wanted to go. I believe that it is important for it to continue to exist. Maybe I can still get there.

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,

BLAKE THURMAN

Buffalo, NY 14226

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/12/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Gabriel
Last name: Thurman
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: scott
Last name: thurman
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is scott thurman and I live in Duluth, 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, scott thurman

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Rachel
Last name: Thurmes
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Tongass National Forest

Hello,

This is in regards to the Roadless Rule. As an Alaskan resident, I choose Alternative One. The Tongass National Forest is important to the salmon hatchery, as well as an important part of carbon storage. It affects my life as an Alaskan, as well as the lives of everyone on the planet. Old growth logging was prohibited for a reason, and I believe that reason still exists and should not be overlooked.

Thank you,

Rachel Thurmes

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/12/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Carol
Last name: Thurneau
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Multiple use of forests.

Keep our options open.

Sent from my iPhone

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Jan
Last name: Thurston-Davis
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

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

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

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

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/9/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: derek
Last name: thynes
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I support exempting southeast Ak from roadless rule

Derek Thynes

I was born and live Petesburg Alaska and am a commercial fisherman .

Roads and the ability to build them has always been crucial to my families way of life .

Please exempt Southeast Alaska from the roadless rule .

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Daniel
Last name: Tiarks
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Daniel Tiarks 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, Daniel Tiarks

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

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Jillian Tibbett

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Teri
Last name: Tibbett
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Please DO NOT EXEMPT the Tongass National Forest from the Roadless Rule.

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/10/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Bryan
Last name: Tibbetts
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: Janet
Last name: Tice
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Janet Tice and I live in Chapel Hill, North Carolina.

Please, please do not further destroy our forests and wilderness. The Tongass is critical to our health and our planet's 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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Thank you for considering my comments.

Regards, Janet Tice

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/5/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Michael
Last name: Tichonuk
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: Jeff
Last name: Tichota
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC3821

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,

Jeff Tichota

Centennial, CO 80122

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 1/1/0001 12:00:00 AM
First name: Jeff
Last name: Tichota
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
3821

U.S. Forest Service Alaska Roadless Rule
Comment Period

Comment Period Alaska Roadless Rule:

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Sincerely,
Jeff Tichota
Centennial, CO 80122

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Nicole
Last name: Tichy
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Nicole Tichy and I live in Venice, Florida.

I am a environmental scientist and we just declared a climate emergency. It is imperative we all work together to solve this crisis. We are the first generation to know humans have pushed the natural resources to the brink of a massive extinction and we will be the last generation to change.It is up to wise leaders now to end this destruction and be on the right side of history.

I am writing to express strong opposition to efforts to roll back the Roadless Area Conservation Rule (Roadless Rule) in Alaska or elsewhere. The Roadless Rule was implemented with unprecedented public support to protect some of our nations most pristine public lands, including large parts of the Tongass National Forest. You must choose the No Action 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, Nicole Tichy

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/23/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: John
Last name: Tickner
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Please leave the Tongass as a roadless area.

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Thomas
Last name: Tickner
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

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

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

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

The loss of this habitat ripples through the food chain. We are losing forests in so many places due to pests, droughts and fires that this proposed logging has a compounded impact.

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

[Position]

[Position]

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

Please protect our forests for our children and 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, Amy Tidd

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Meighen
Last name: Tideman
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- 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, Meighen Tideman

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/13/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Jessica
Last name: Tidwell
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC474

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?

Jessica, a seasonal worker in Ketchikan

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?

Change the ecology

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.

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

Tourism

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.

Conservation

Additional comments for the Forest Service:

Sincerely,

Jessica Tidwell

I want to receive a copy of the Draft Environmental Statement

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

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

If you are considering deforesting more of Alaska I will certainly be voting for another representative in 12 months.

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

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/5/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Doug
Last name: Tiedt
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: Jeff
Last name: Tiefenauer
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: Hillary
Last name: Tiefer
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Hillary Tiefer 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, Hillary Tiefer

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Beverly
Last name: Tiemann
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

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

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

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/21/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Albert
Last name: Tierney
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I support Alternative #1, that of no action. Leaving the area in the current roadless category. We need to leave areas of our land alone to keep the land as pristine as possible. Again I support alternative #1 of no action leaving the land in roadless status.

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Catherine
Last name: Tierney
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Catherine Tierney and I live in St. Louis, Missouri.

These priceless forests are an American treasure that belong to ALL the people in the US -- stop the rape of our country for 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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.

Regards, Catherine Tierney

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Claire
Last name: Tierney
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

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

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

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Edward
Last name: Tierney
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Edward Tierney and I live in Hawthorn Woods, 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, Edward Tierney

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Edward
Last name: Tierney
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Edward Tierney and I live in Hawthorn Woods, Illinois.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Edward Tierney

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

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Jaclyn
Last name: Tierney
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Jackie Tierney and I live in Brooklyn, 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.
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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Jaclyn Tierney

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

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/11/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Conner
Last name: Ties
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: Andres
Last name: Tiffany
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- 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, Andres Tiffany

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

All our lives are important. We need companies to be vigilant in protecting the health of people and this 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, Amy Tiger

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Rob
Last name: Tiger
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- 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, Rob Tiger

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/10/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Doreen
Last name: Tignanelli
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Doreen Tignanelli and I live in Poughkeepsie, New York.

You tell Alan Chartock all the time that you are a progressive so please sign the bill!

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

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Doreen Tignanelli

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/20/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Stacia
Last name: Tikaani
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Keep the Roadless Rule in Place for the Tongass National Forest

Dear Interdisciplinary Team Leader, Alaska Roadless Rule Ken Tu,

I love the outdoors and outdoor recreation Is the number one contributor to my mental and physical health. As such, I'm writing to express my continuing commitment to protecting the Tongass National Forest, its backcountry and roadless areas from destruction incurred by logging and development.

The Tongass is extremely valueable for outdoor recreation, our climate, wildlife, clean water, clean air, and our physical health. These are all foundations to long-term prosperity and vital to protect. Road building, logging, and development should continue to be prohibited in the Tongass's roadless areas through upholding the Roadless Rule.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Stacia Tikaani

Gig Harbor, WA 98335-5906

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Carol
Last name: Tileston
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Carol Tileston 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, Carol Tileston

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

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/20/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Robert
Last name: Till
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Robert Till and I live in Portland, OR. 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.

This place has been, and should continue to be a protected area free from the ravaging hands of industry. This push to open up these lands to clear-cutting is being backed by those who have no care for nature.

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), 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, 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 12:00:00 AM
First name: Susan
Last name: Till
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Susan Till and I live in St. Louis, Missouri.

No to any removal of protections for our national forest in Alaska. Yes to protecting wildlife and the Earth from climate change. We will remember next November!

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

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

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

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Yvette
Last name: Tillema
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
The true value of our great nation is in its vast natural resources. They should be left alone. We can se sustainable resources like hemp farming instead. We need vast wilderness to survive. We have the technology to farm trees.

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Tom
Last name: Tiller
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

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

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

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

save 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, Bruce Tillery

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Angi
Last name: Tilley
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

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

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

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

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Elizabeth
Last name: Tilley
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Elizabeth Tilley 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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Any choice but the No Action alternative would also put wildlife and critical habitat at risk, threaten access to clean water, and be a step in the wrong direction on climate change jeopardizing Alaskans at a time when the state already faces severe challenges related to rising temperatures. I urge you not to abandon the Roadless Rule in Alaska and instead 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 Tilley

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Rose
Last name: Tilley
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Rose Tilley 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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Rose Tilley

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

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Gisela
Last name: Tillier
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Gisela Tillier and I live in Falmouth, Massachusetts.

At a time when we understand the importance of forests for the wellbeing of our planet, please protect the Tsongass National 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, Gisela Tillier

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/18/2019 3:39:37 PM
First name: Barbara
Last name: Tillman
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,
Barbara Tillman
North Bergen, NJ 07047

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

We desperately need stricter clean air regulations, not weaker ones!

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

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

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

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/7/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Daniel
Last name: Tillman
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: Jane
Last name: Tillman
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

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

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

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Jane
Last name: Tillman
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

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

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

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/5/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Anon
Last name:
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Please maintain protections for the Tongass and Chugach National Forests

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.

Please do not rescind the Roadless Rule protections. They are so crucial to maintaining a touch of wildnerness in our ever shrinking world. It will be very disappointing if this rule is revoked 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. The Roadless Rule is one of the smartest and most popular land management policies the Federal Government has ever adopted. People of moderate political persuasion like me who vote on both sides of the aisle find it important and a good policy. 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.

Sincerely,

John A. Tillo

Ames, IA 50014

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/14/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Lee
Last name: Tilman
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Lee Tilman and I live in Flagstaff, Arizona.

Please don't pillage the Tongass National Forest, it's vital for us to survive 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, Lee Tilman

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/5/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Alexander
Last name: Tilney
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: Anni
Last name: Tilt
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

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

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

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/5/2019 4:41:25 PM
First name: Julia
Last name: tilton
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Julia tilton and I live in Edmonds, Alaska. I dont live there, but I care! 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.

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, 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 Kupreanof Island, 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 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 We are killing the 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.

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): 10/22/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Benjamin
Last name: Timby
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
This is a disgrace to the communities of Southeast Alaska that rely on the health of the Tongass to support our local economies and our way of life. Myself and many of my fellow Alaskans stand united against this corporate power play that endangers our home.

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/12/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: David
Last name: Timby
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is David Timby and I live in Tallahassee, Florida.

Please! Lets not go backward.

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

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

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

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Aaron
Last name: Timian
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
See attached file(s)

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

Please Select the No Action Alternative

Selecting Alternative 6, full exemption , on the issue of the 2001 Roadless Rule is a perpetuation of the ice and rock formula. In this formula, only the land that is seen unfit for "productive use" is off limits for the resource industry. The problem with the formula is that it has completely failed to take into account certain variables and undervalued others ,e.g., climate change, ecosystem services, ecotourism, intrinsic value, commercial fishing, guiding, hunting, and fishing. Continuing to make public land management decisions based on this broken formula (i.e., moving forward with the full exemption) is not in the best interest of the owners of this land, the citizens of the United States of America.

Alaska is a place to break the trend and update how we evaluate and make land management decisions on federally managed land. It has been recognized by many and is by no means a secret, Alaska is different. With the vast disparity in the amount of undeveloped public land in Alaska compared to the rest of the union, Alaska is primed to stem the change.

When creating the Final EIS and selecting the alternative, the externalities of issuing an exemption to the 2001 Roadless Rule should examined in a way that includes the above mention variables to their full extent and the sustainable value that can be derived from the landscape when taking these variables into account vs. short-term profit. In doing so, the results will reflect that the greatest good for the greatest number of people is derived from the no action alternative. Pinchot founded the Forest Service to provide working land for the American people, land that would be economic engine for rural America, he just didn't foresee that in some instances that goal would be best achieved void of traditional development .

Choosing the no action alternative is the best economic driver for this part of rural America. As a resident of Southeast Alaska, I know that logging makes up a very small portion of our economy and that the majority of people in Southeast Alaska are ready to put an end to old-growth logging. I also know that every year thousands of tourists come to our towns to see these roadless areas. They take them in via hunting and fishing trips, flight and boat tours, and adventure cruises, to name a few. As a local I enjoy the roadless areas as well and support the economy via yearly floatplane charters into these roadless areas, to experience what it is like to be in such wonderful country devoid of roads. Exempting the Tongass may have large dollars signs attached because big industry is chopping to change the forest plan as well and start cutting and digging, but the majority of the money will not go towards working class rural Americans.

The best economic choice for all Americans and especially for Alaskans is the not action alternative. This alternative leaves us with a forest that is providing ecosystem services, that are overlooked and undervalued in the draft EIS, with no input whatsoever required. Also it is what the people want, the majority of comments the USFS has received to date support the no action alternative.

Choose the no action alternative and do not let the shortsighted people in the Alaska state government push through a land management decision that will only benefit a small percentage of the population, while diminishing the sustainable economic drivers derived from the forest.

[Position]

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[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Aaron
Last name: Timian
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
See attached file(s)

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[Position]

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Choose the no action alternative and do not let the shortsighted people in the Alaska state government push through a land management decision that will only benefit a small percentage of the population, while diminishing the sustainable economic drivers derived from the forest.

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/14/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Gregory
Last name: Timm
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Please preserve the roadless rule and the spirit of the intent. There are very few wilderness areas left in the United States and old-growth and wild areas are of vital importance to the ecosystem as a whole.

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Kevin
Last name: Timm
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: RICHARD
Last name: TIMM
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

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

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

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/24/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Lynn
Last name: Timmer
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I strongly oppose the proposal to provide an exemption for the Roadless Rule in the Tongass. Short-term economic gain is not nearly as critical as preserving the roadless areas. The uninterrupted environment not only has a direct impact on current flora and fauna, its potential for permanent damage to the land and waters is too devastating to contemplate. Just as the devastation to the rain forests are creating unrepairable damage that impacts other parts of the Earth, so will the destruction caused by roads. What do roads bring? People, pollution. Leave these areas as pristine as possible. Please!

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Russ
Last name: Timmer
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Please take our input into account. There are so few of these amazing unpressured lands left!
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: Suzanne
Last name: Timmer
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

The Tongass contains some of the largest intact old-growth temperate rainforest in the world, and its value in providing clean water for fish and wildlife habitat is essential to the economic and ecological 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, Suzanne Timmer

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Eliasica
Last name: Timmerman
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC5721

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: M
Last name: Timmins
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is M Timmins 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, M Timmins

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

Please protect our air standards for the health and wellbeing of our population.

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

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Cris
Last name: Tina
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Cris Tina 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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Any choice but the No Action alternative would also put wildlife and critical habitat at risk, threaten access to clean water, and be a step in the wrong direction on climate change jeopardizing Alaskans at a time when the state already faces severe challenges related to rising temperatures. I urge you not to abandon the Roadless Rule in Alaska and instead to put the public interest above corporate profits by choosing to keep the rule in place unchanged.

Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Cris Tina

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Reagyn
Last name: Tinberg
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

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

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

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

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/23/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Christine
Last name: Tindall
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Christine Tindall and I live in Detroit, Michigan.

Polyfluoroalkyl substances or PFAS are linked to birth defects, cancer, and other debilitating health problems, and yet despite this, our communities arent told where these dangerous chemicals are coming from.

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

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

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

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/18/2019 5:33:41 PM
First name: Randy
Last name: Tindall
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,
Randy Tindall
Columbia, MO 65203

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Lydia
Last name: Tinder
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Lydia Tinder 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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Lydia Tinder

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Tina
Last name: Tine'
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Tina Tine' 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, Tina Tine'

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Ashli
Last name: Tingle
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Ashli Tingle 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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Ashli Tingle

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Brian
Last name: Tingle
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Brian Tingle 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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Brian Tingle

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Ann
Last name: Tingley
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

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

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

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Darrell
Last name: Tingley
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- 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, Darrell Tingley

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: John
Last name: Tingley
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC909

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): 11/10/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Pam
Last name: Tinker
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Pam Tinker and I live in Alexandria, Virginia.

For the sake of our children's future please keep 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, Pam Tinker

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

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

Put people above 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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Gail Tinsley

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/11/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: George
Last name: Tipner
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
The Tongass National Forrest already, and will remain to have, most of its acreage off limits to any logging or development after the Roadless Area Conservation Rule is lifted from the area. What relatively small area that can be developed once the rule is lifted, provides for local economic betterment and stability. The Roadless Area Conservation Rule may work elsewhere in our country, but not in the Tongass Forrest due to its size, small relative developable area, accessibility and geography. Please remove the Roadless Area Conservation Rule designation from the Tongass National Forrest.

[Position]

[Position]

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

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: R
Last name: tippens
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

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

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

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

Your job is to protect our air, water, lands, not increase 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, Rebecca tippens

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

keep our air 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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Sonette Tippens

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/19/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Sonette
Last name: Tippens
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Do not allow roads in areas that are currently designated as roadless.

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Marcia
Last name: Tippery
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- 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, Marcia Tippery

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Holly
Last name: Tippett
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Holly Tippett 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, Holly Tippett

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Harold
Last name: Tipping
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Harold Tipping

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Esmerdd
Last name: Tipta
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC5708

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

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

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

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

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Regards, Forest Tipton

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Kathryn
Last name: Tipton
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Kathryn Tipton and I live in North Little Rock, 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, Kathryn Tipton

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Patricia
Last name: Tipton
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- 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, Patricia Tipton

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

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Richard
Last name: Tipton
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Richard Tipton and I live in Hubbardston, Michigan.
This habitat is a legacy issue.
I am writing to express strong opposition to efforts to roll back the Roadless Area Conservation Rule (Roadless Rule) in Alaska or elsewhere. The Roadless Rule was implemented with unprecedented public support to protect some of our nations most pristine public lands, including large parts of the Tongass National Forest.
You must choose the No Action alternative. Any other choice would ignore overwhelming public support and harm Alaskans, including Alaska Natives, and taxpayers across the nation.
In Southeast Alaska, tourism accounts for 28% of employment and generate an annual $1 billion in economic benefit, making it far more of an economic driver than the timber industry, which is less than 1% of the regional economy.
Any choice but the No Action alternative would also put wildlife and critical habitat at risk, threaten access to clean water, and be a step in the wrong direction on climate change jeopardizing Alaskans at a time when the state already faces severe challenges related to rising temperatures. I urge you not to abandon the Roadless Rule in Alaska and instead 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 Tipton

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

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/10/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Cristina
Last name: Tirelli
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Cristina Tirelli and I live in San Bartolomeo, [@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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Cristina Tirelli

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/10/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Cristina
Last name: Tirelli
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Cristina Tirelli and I live in San Bartolomeo, [@advState].

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Cristina Tirelli

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: debra
Last name: tiritilli
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is debra tiritilli 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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, debra tiritilli

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/18/2019 8:29:47 AM
First name: Kristina
Last name: Tirman
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Kristina Tirman and I live in Sitka, Alaska. I have lived in Southeast Alaska for four years. I love living here because of the close connection to the outdoors and the accessibility to it's resources. I love being in the mountains hiking, foraging, berry picking and on the ocean kayaking, diving, and fishing. The forests here are important to me because they not only provide recreational activities, but they provide local foods that I rely on as part of my diet and lifestyle. The Tongass Forest is such a unique, beautiful, and bountiful place and it should be our responsibility to protect it. 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 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, hunting, practicing my culture.

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, deer habitat and subsistence hunting, 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, 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 Full exemption from the Roadless Rule goes against what many Southeast Alaskans believe is right for our area and poses a threat to the people and animals that rely on the forest for food and other resources. 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): 1/1/0001 12:00:00 AM
First name: Kristina
Last name: Tirman
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.

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Last name: Tirman
Organization:
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Last name: Tirman
Organization:
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Comments:

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Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Kristina
Last name: Tirman
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC1155

Dear Secretary Perdue,

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Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Deb
Last name: Tirone
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Deb Tirone 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, Deb Tirone

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

National monuments are for the general public, not for private 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, John Tischhauser

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

Rather than destroying what little remains of North American old growth forests, we should be finding a crop replacement suitable for manufacturing large dimension structural members to specification.

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

[Position]

[Position]

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

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/7/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Julian
Last name: Tisdale
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: Zachary
Last name: Tish
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): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Logan
Last name: Titchie
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC5771

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 commercial fish and thinks protecting our salmon streams is extremely important.

[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]

16yrs old TS 1 RR N RRS 1

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

Stop being Stupid!

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

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

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

Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, MaryAnn Tittle

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Wyatte
Last name: Tittle
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: Dr
Last name: Titus
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
From Dr Kate Titus in Walnut Creek, CA: As a person who has sailed to Alaska, traveled in its key cities, and been over that land and its islands, I'm an American who is writing in STRONG OPPOSITION to any efforts to roll back the Roadless Area Conservation Rule (Roadless Rule) in Alaska AND elsewhere. The Roadless Rule has strong PUBLIC SUPPORT TO PROTECT our nations most pristine public lands, including large parts of the Tongass National Forest. You must CHOOSE THE '"NO ACTION" ALTERNATIVE! Any other choice would ignore overwhelming public support and harm Alaskans, including Alaska Natives, and taxpayers across the nation. TOURISM IS AN ECONOMIC DRIVER: In Southeast Alaska, tourism accounts for 28% of employment and generate an annual $1 billion in economic benefit, making it far more than the timber industry, which is less than 1% of the regional economy.
Any choice but the No Action alternative would also put wildlife and critical habitat at risk, threaten access to clean water, and be a step in the wrong direction on climate change jeopardizing Alaskans at a time when the state already faces severe challenges related to rising temperatures. I urge you not to abandon the Roadless Rule in Alaska and instead to put the public interest above corporate profits by choosing to keep the rule in place unchanged.
Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Dr Titus

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Kimberly
Last name: Titus
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
December 17, 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 Chief Christiansen,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for Alternatives to a Proposed Alaska Roadless Rule. I recommend Alternative 1 - the No Action Alternative. I make this recommendation as a wildlife professional. I worked on brown bears and goshawks on the Tongass and led various cooperative efforts for over 20 years involving forest and wildlife management. This began with assisting the USDA Forest Service in the crafting of the Conservation Strategy and various standards and guidelines for the 1997 plan.

I find the overall analysis be poorly analyzed from a wildlife and forest science perspective. The analysis is far to qualitative. The EIS is replete with many, many statistics, but they fail to analyze the impacts of the preferred alternative at a meaningful ecological scale that is relevant to old-growth dependent and old-growth associated wildlife. The present qualitative analysis is a marked regression from the 1997 forest plan and subsequent revisions.

I am concerned about the portrayal of the Old-growth Conservation Strategy. The DEIS states "The Old-growth Habitat Conservation Strategy was developed to maintain the integrity of the old-growth forest ecosystem, and thereby conserve biological diversity across the Forest by retaining intact, largely undisturbed habitat. In addition, because of its predominantly undeveloped nature, a number of wide-ranging species find optimal habitat in the more remote areas of the Forest." I worked on the Conservation Strategy and I believe it was designed to maintain viable and well-distributed habitats for certain wildlife species (e.g., wolf, northern goshawk, brown bear, flying squirrel) and reduce the probability of an Endangered Species Act positive finding. It had that desired outcome. The viable and well distributed information is mentioned on page 3-71, but not in

the Key Findings of the DEIS, leading to confusion and lack of scientific and objective clarity. Statements used in the DEIS such as "optimal habitat" (Key Issue 3) are virtually impossible to measure with the wildlife data quality on the Tongass and as such they nonsensical in the wildlife profession and not science based.

Key Issue 3 states - "Because long-term POG harvest and road densities are not expected to differ significantly among alternatives, effects on old-growth-dependent wildlife species are expected to be almost identical to those predicted under the 2016 Forest Plan FEIS." It is unclear how this is true at the scale of areas like north and central Prince of Wales Island where much of the old-growth habitat has been lost and there is a sea of second growth. This DEIS needs to have some specific analyes (i.e., use the science approach of the Pacific Northwest Research Station from the 1997 Tongass plan and the various approaches for spotted owls) for key areas that will be subject to roadbuilding. These watersheds and landscapes are easily identifiable. Additional road building and timber harvest in certain places may have profound impacts on wolves, goshawks, brown bears, flying squirrels and other old-growth associated species. Some of these species may be near the tipping point in landscapes that have already been highly affected by previous timber harvest.

The DEIS has no such species-specific analyses, yet there are science-based tools that could help inform how eliminating roadless protection in some landscapes/watersheds might impact certain local wildlife population(s). Some might term this a cumulative impact analysis, which is missing. The configuration of these remaining old-growth stands are key for wide ranging species such as northern goshawks on some prey poor islands (see 2006 Journal of Wildlife Management Vol. 70, pages 1151-1160) that depend on old growth and very seldom use second growth. The DEIS really needs some landscape specific analyses rather than just stating that the effects would be minimal. For example, the qualitative analysis on page 3-93 for goshawks suggests that the impacts would be greatest in areas such as north central Prince of Wales Island. This is speculation with no analysis and no science. The status of goshawks on the Tongass is unknown, especially areas like Prince of Wales Island. This is quite different from other national forests in the West where goshawks continue be monitored.

The DEIS notes that site specific analyses are not considered, because they would be considered later when roadbuilding, timber harvest or other activities are proposed. This seems quite inappropriate as the reader cannot evaluate such a sweeping preferred alternative in the context of the landscape and island archipelago system. A piecemeal approach later in small areas would fail to evaluate cumulative impacts in the context of wildlife, ecosystem services, economic impacts, subsistence use, etc.

Overall, the scientific underpinnings for the impacts of the Proposed Rule are very weak. Science is meant to inform - science does not decide. Unfortunately, the lack of updated science may lead to a less than informed decision. I support the no action alternative to maintain these ecologically important old-growth forests in the context of the current Roadless Rule. The roadless areas - especially adjacent to areas that have had significant roading and timber harvest on the islands (i.e., not roadless icefields) hold some of the last remaining stands of large old-growth. They should be maintained for their subsistence, fisheries, wildlife, recreation, watershed integrity and intrinsic values.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Sincerely,

Kimberly Titus, Ph.D.

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/12/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Michael
Last name: Titus
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: Susan
Last name: Titus
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Susan Titus and I live in Sacramento, California.

PLEASE be responsible stewards of the earth and of a healthy natural forest on which breathable air quality and more broadly, life on earth significantly depends!

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

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

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

[Position]

[Position]

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

We need to protect this national forest, for our children and 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, Steve Tiwald

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Sandra
Last name: Tjessem
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Sandra Tjessem and I live in O'neill, Nebraska.

Please save our ancient forests and retain 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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Sandra Tjessem

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Sandra
Last name: Tjessem
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

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

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

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

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Karen
Last name: Tlusty
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- 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, Karen Tlusty

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Anon
Last name: tmrbookit@sbcglobal.net
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
We say "NO" to more logging in the Tongass

I urge you to select the "No Action" alternative on the Alaska-specific Roadless Rule if you value our planet and your children's future.

The Tongass National Forest is one of the last largest intact temperate rainforests on Earth including pristine old growth forests and a stunningly diverse array of wildlife. It plays a vital role in absorbing greenhouse gas emissions by 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.

There is absolutely no reasonable justification for the proposed rule change. The rule will fragment the forest, harm wildlife, and hasten the destruction of a livable planet.

The proposed rule's claim that exempting the entire Tongass National Forest from the Roadless Rule will have only minimal environmental effect is simply not justified by the record. Instead it would have a devastating impact at a time when our country needs to be positively addressing all issues relative to the climate. The course chosen by the administration ignores the public, fails to find balance, and threatens the crown jewel of the National Forest System.

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

Thank you,

Trudy Ross

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/18/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Anon
Last name: tmrobie01
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Tongass National Forest

I am against opening up this forest for logging. We need some forest left to help fight climate change. We need some wilderness areas left mostly untouched by man. Thank you.

Tim Robie

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy Tablet

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Tim
Last name: Tnoll
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC6271

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): 10/22/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Scot
Last name: Toaz
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Hello and thank you for considering my comments.I do NOT favor opening the Tongass National forest to logging or development by private firms or industry. Companies which involve logging need to consider alternate pathways to profitability including acquiring their own privately held land and planning for their future needs, much like any good farmer would.

The proposed repeal of the Roadless Rule caters to the outdated old-growth, clear-cut logging industry and shows blatant disregard for everyday Alaskans who rely on and enjoy salmon, wildlife, clean water, abundant subsistence resources, and beautiful natural scenery.

The Tongass is all of ours. Repealing the Roadless Rule would cast aside years of collaboration and thriving businesses that depend on healthy forests, and usher in a new era of reckless old-growth clear-cut logging that pollutes our streams, hurts our salmon and deer populations, and spoils the forest and scenery. This proposed rule is a complete about-face from the direction we should be headed and reflects the fact that special interests and not common sense are guiding this decision.

People throughout Alaska and the rest of the country depend on the productive rivers and wild fish of the Tongass for food, jobs, and recreation. We urge anyone who shares these values to comment to the Forest Service and urge them to uphold the Roadless Rule and conserve key areas of the Tongass, including the highest quality salmon-producing watersheds within the Tongass 77.

Thank You.Scott B. Toaz

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Megan
Last name: Toben
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Megan Toben and I live in Chapel Hill, 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.

There are so few intact ecosystems remaining. Lets put our efforts towards restoring ecosystems, not continuing to wreck them, especially as the world is being asked to step up and address the climate crisis.

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): 11/17/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: mary
Last name: tober
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is mary tober and I live in Lancaster, 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, mary tober

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Diane
Last name: Toberman
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Diane Toberman 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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Diane Toberman

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/20/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: William
Last name: Tobey
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
We need to leave the Tongans National Forest untouched and undeveloped for the sake of our country and our planet. No roads, no logging. Leave the rain forest the way it is. We need to develop other technologies that preserve our planet that dont continue to deplete its natural resources.

[Position]

[Position]

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

We have a duty to care for our common home. Energy sites will come and go, not so a devastated land. 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, Susan Tobia

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Christopher
Last name: Tobias
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Christopher Tobias and I live in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

If we can't breathe, nothing else really matters. Please don't make it easier for industry to pollute our 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.

In Southeast Alaska, tourism accounts for 28% of employment and generate an annual $1 billion 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, Christopher Tobias

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/26/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Jo
Last name: Tobias
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC169

10/23/2019

Hello!

Put me down as opposed to more roads in Tongass Nat'l Forest, leave our forests alone!

I am fully against the easing and elimination of roadless rule. Stop this nonsense.

Thank you

Jo Tobias

Hoonah AK 99829

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Dan
Last name: Tobin
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Dan Tobin and I live in North Fort Myers, 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, Dan Tobin

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: M.
Last name: Tobin
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
This cant be allowed to happen. It does not benefit the American people. Only a truly corrupt administration would let this destructive greed go on. No. No. No. No. Americas national parks belong to us, not corporations looking for money.

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/11/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Maryanne
Last name: Tobin
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Maryanne Tobin and I live in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Your title is Environmental PROTECTION Agency--so when are you going to start PROTECTING US AND THE ENVIRONMENT. NOT PRESIDENT 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, Maryanne Tobin

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Michael
Last name: Tobin
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

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

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

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Michael
Last name: Tobin
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

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

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

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/11/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Michael
Last name: Tobin
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Choose the No Action Alternative for the Roadless Rule in Alaska

I attended your presentation in Juneau. The only people in the room that wanted an exemption to the Roadless Rule were forest products industry people. They represent less than one per cent of jobs in Southeast. About twenty-five percent of jobs depend on fishing and tourism. Those people are against having an exemption for the Roadless Rule.

The loggers say they won't get any extra timber because that is governed by the TLMP and other rules. This is at best disingenuous. Why are they pushing so hard for for the Roadless Rule exemption then?

As you know, every project that has requested an exception to the Roadless Rule has been granted one. So what exactly is the problem you are trying to fix?

From my experience working in the forest products industry in Oregon in the 1970's I know their greed is endless. From having travelled around POW I have seen the hideous results of that greed first hand.

Choose the No Action Alternative.

Michael Tobin

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Phyris
Last name: Tobler
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

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

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

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Phyris
Last name: Tobler
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

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

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

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/12/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Mathew
Last name: Tobola
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: Beatrice
Last name: Tocher
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Beatrice Tocher and I live in San Rafael, California.

Please protect the clean air that forests bring to all of us, and their beauty we allneed while enjoying time away from big cities. 1Thank 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, Beatrice Tocher

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Velna
Last name: Tockey
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

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

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

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Lisa
Last name: Toczek
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- 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, Lisa Toczek

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

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/5/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Christopher
Last name: Todd
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: Craig
Last name: Todd
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

The Tongass contains some of the largest intact old-growth temperate rainforest in the world, and its value in providing clean water for fish and wildlife habitat is essential to the economic and ecological 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, Craig Todd

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

What is going on? How is this even being considered?

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

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

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

Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Erinn Todd

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Joyce
Last name: Todd
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

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

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

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Jude
Last name: Todd
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Jude Todd and I live in Santa Cruz, California.

Even the uber-wealthy can't buy themselves enough oxygen if the air all around the planet is toxic. Preserve the Clean Air Act.

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

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

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

Thank you for considering my comments.

Regards, Jude Todd

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Kyle
Last name: Todd
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC3519

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,

Kyle Todd

Saint Augustine, FL 32080

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/14/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Robin
Last name: Todd
Organization: Maryland Ornithological Society (MOS)
Title:
Comments:
Tsongass Roadless Rule - MOS comments

Dear Sir or Madame,

Please find attached comments by the Maryland Ornithological Society (MOS) on the proposed Tsongass Roadless Rule. We appreciate the opportunity to comment on this proposed rule.

Yours sincerely,

Robin G. Todd PhD

President

Maryland Ornithological Society

Ellicott City, MD 21042

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

Ellicott City, MD 21042

December 15, 2019

Submit via email: akroadlessrule@usda.gov

To the Forest Service:

The Maryland Ornithological Society (MOS) has the honor of submitting the following comments on a proposed rule to exempt the Tongass National Forest from the national Roadless Area Conservation Rule adopted in 2001 and allow more logging and road-building. The proposed rule is accompanied by a draft environmental impact statement (DEIS).

Members of the MOS have visited the Tongass, as it contains important habitat for birds and other forms of wildlife, such as the Stikine River and Wrangell Island. MOS is a statewide nonprofit organization established in 1945 and devoted to the study and conservation of birds. Currently we have 15 chapters and approximately 2,000 members. Every year MOS members travel to many national forests throughout the United States on birding and nature-watching vacations. We spend dollars on food, lodging, guide services, books and souvenirs

to support the local economy wherever we go. Birding is one of the fastest-growing outdoor recreational activities.

MOS was represented at a public meeting hosted by the Forest Service in Washington, D.C., on November 14, 2019. We thank the Forest Service representatives for the lucid explanation of the process for this project and for welcoming public participation.

The proposed rule is the result of a request from the Governor of Alaska in January 2018 to exempt the Tongass from the 2001 Roadless Rule. In 2005, during the George W. Bush administration, the Forest Service invited states to petition for exemptions from the nationwide Roadless Rule, but few states chose to submit petitions. Most governors decided the national Roadless Area Conservation Rule was preferable. In the end, only Colorado and Idaho petitioned and received state-specific rules, which kept the forests under the Roadless Rule but carved out areas for more logging and coal mining. To date, no national forest has ever been completely exempted from the national Roadless Rule, as proposed here.

The national Roadless Rule contains exceptions from the fundamental protection policy allowing forest managers to respond to unusual situations such as emergencies involving fire, insects and disease. These exceptions allow very limited logging and road construction when necessary. These have worked well in other states.

Our Recommendation

The Maryland Ornithological Society supports Alternative 1, the no-action alternative. We believe the proposed rule would not serve the national interest. The Tongass is a national forest, not a state forest, so the national interest must be the highest priority. The rule change would weaken the protection given to roadless areas by the national Roadless Area Conservation Rule, and it would set an unacceptable precedent for deleting entire national forests from the protection of the Roadless Rule. The proposed rule should be rejected. Logging in the Tongass should be restricted to areas that are not within inventoried roadless areas and that are already penetrated by roads. The allowable sale quantity should be set at a level that is sustainable over the long term without cutting into the pristine rainforest or degrading wildlife and fish habitat values. That approach is taken in the 2016 Land and Resource Management Plan, as provided in Alternative 1.

Alternatives

The DEIS presents six alternatives. Alternative 6, designated as the agency's preferred alternative, is the proposed rule completely exempting the Tongass from the Roadless Rule. Alternative 1 is the no-action alternative, by which the forest would continue to be managed under the 2016 Land and Resource Management Plan. Alternatives 2, 3, 4 and 5 remove various acreages from roadless area status, make various acreages eligible for timber harvest, and allow various mileages of road construction.

Wildlife Values

The Tongass is known for its bird populations, including over 300 species, of which 160 nest here[1]. The diverse bird life is supported by diverse habitats ranging from saltwater flats to ancient conifer forests, muskeg and alpine areas. Waterbirds are of interest throughout the coastline, with important concentrations at points such as the mouth of the Stikine River. Tongass old-growth forests provide essential nesting habitat for the Queen Charlotte Goshawk, a subspecies endemic to the coast of southeast Alaska and British Columbia. Old-growth forests also provide habitat for Marbled Murrelet and Northern Goshawk. These forests also support all five species of Pacific salmon, brown (grizzly) bears, wolves, and Sitka black-tailed deer

Current Status

The Tongass is our nation's largest national forest, with 17 million acres, of which 5.7 million has been designated as wilderness. Inventoried roadless areas subject to the Roadless Rule total 9.2 million acres. The forest extends some 500 miles along the coast of southeast Alaska from Yakutat Bay on the north, past Juneau, Sitka and Ketchikan to the Canadian border on the south. Large areas have already been logged - half a million acres over the past 50 years, by some estimates. The inventoried roadless areas of the Tongass may contain as much as 2.5 million acres of old-growth and 190,000 acres of large-tree old-growth.

Climate Change

The alternatives presented in the DEIS do not recognize the value of the Tongass forest against global warming. A cursory discussion (DEIS page 3-127) dismisses the impacts of logging as a factor. And yet the intact forest of the Tongass stores more carbon than any other forest in the nation. Trees play a vital role in climate change by sequestering, or storing, carbon when they absorb carbon dioxide. As the nation's largest national forest, the Tongass should be an important part of our national strategy against global warming. This benefit of the intact forest could match or equal the value of the timber proposed to be cut.

Timber Sales

The Tongass is now being managed under a Land and Resource Management Plan that was adopted by the Forest Service in 2016 after consulting with diverse stakeholders in southeast Alaska[2]. One of its principles is to transition the timber industry out of logging old-growth forests in favor of younger growth.

The proposed rule would expose an added 185,000 acres of the Tongass to logging. We believe such an expansion of timber sales would be rejected out of hand if proposed in any other national forest. The time for vast expansion of logging in roadless areas has long passed. There is a national consensus that the values of roadless areas deserve to be protected.

The impacts of an expanded logging program are unacceptable. The proposal would mean the loss of a great national asset and degradation of its wildlife values. Moreover, logging on the Tongass actually costs the taxpayers money, as the government expenditures exceed the amount received through timber sales.

Economic Values

The proposed rule change does not reflect the economic values of the fisheries and tourism industries that depend on the Tongass. Southeast Alaska employment earnings data for 2018 credit the visitor industry with $249.3 million, the seafood industry with $237.4 million, the timber industry with only $18.7 million.[3]

Over the past 60 years the tourism sector has become a huge economic contributor here. The Tongass is traversed by cruise ship routes that bring more than a million visitors every year[4], who come from all over the United States and many countries abroad to see these wild lands and their wildlife. Specialized tours devoted to birds and wildlife have become popular. Members of MOS have been among the visitors coming to the Tongass to see its diverse birds and mammals.

The Tongass produces on average 28 percent of Alaska's annual commercial salmon catch and 25 percent of the entire west coast annual harvest. The Forest Service has estimated that the salmon industry generates $986 million annually.

We believe that watchable wildlife, heritage tourism, and the economic benefits of not allowing a huge expansion of logging in favor of tourism-related infrastructure development as provided for in the 2016 Land and Resource Management Plan will prove to be more valuable and more sustainable than the alternatives that would expand roads and logging.

We favor preserving local natural resource-based economies and generations-old traditions. With careful planning and execution, these industries can remain an integral and essential part of evolving tourism-based economic development, and both sectors can flourish.

We are aware that past timber sales on the Tongass have often brought a minimal return to local communities in exchange for the loss of their forests. Round, unprocessed logs were being exported instead of being processed locally to support a diverse timber-products industry. The timber sales were not resulting in the greatest economic benefit of income and jobs that could have been realized if the timber were supporting local and regional industries. If timber is to be harvested from the Tongass, it should be at a level that can be sustained in the long term, and it should be supporting local economies at the maximum level possible, as provided for in the 2016 Land and Resource Management Plan.

Thank you for considering our views.

Sincerely,

[Position]

Robin G. Todd PhD

President

Maryland Ornithological Society

[1] Source: Ecological Atlas of Southeast Alaska, page 110, http://ak.audubon.org/sites/g/files/amh551/f/seak_atlas_ch05_birds_200dpi.pdf

[2]https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/fseprd527907.pdf

[3] Southeast Alaska by the Numbers 2019, page 5: http://www.seconference.org/sites/default/files/FINAL%20Southeast%20by%20the%20Numbers%202019.pdf

[4] Source: Cruise Lines International Association Alaska, http://www.cliaalaska.org/economy/alaska-cruise-history/

[Position]

MARYLAND ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Ellicott City, MD 21042

December 15, 2019

Submit via email: akroadlessrule@usda.gov

To the Forest Service:

The Maryland Ornithological Society (MOS) has the honor of submitting the following comments on a proposed rule to exempt the Tongass National Forest from the national Roadless Area Conservation Rule adopted in 2001 and allow more logging and road-building. The proposed rule is accompanied by a draft environmental impact statement (DEIS).

Members of the MOS have visited the Tongass, as it contains important habitat for birds and other forms of wildlife, such as the Stikine River and Wrangell Island. MOS is a statewide nonprofit organization established in 1945 and devoted to the study and conservation of birds. Currently we have 15 chapters and approximately 2,000 members. Every year MOS members travel to many national forests throughout the United States on birding and nature-watching vacations. We spend dollars on food, lodging, guide services, books and souvenirs to support the local economy wherever we go. Birding is one of the fastest-growing outdoor recreational activities.

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The national Roadless Rule contains exceptions from the fundamental protection policy allowing forest managers to respond to unusual situations such as emergencies involving fire, insects and disease. These exceptions allow very limited logging and road construction when necessary. These have worked well in other states.

Our Recommendation

The Maryland Ornithological Society supports Alternative 1, the no-action alternative. We believe the proposed rule would not serve the national interest. The Tongass is a national forest, not a state forest, so the national interest must be the highest priority. The rule change would weaken the protection given to roadless areas by the national Roadless Area Conservation Rule, and it would set an unacceptable precedent for deleting entire national forests from the protection of the Roadless Rule. The proposed rule should be rejected. Logging in the Tongass should be restricted to areas that are not within inventoried roadless areas and that are already penetrated by roads. The allowable sale quantity should be set at a level that is sustainable over the long term without cutting into the pristine rainforest or degrading wildlife and fish habitat values. That approach is taken in the 2016 Land and Resource Management Plan, as provided in Alternative 1.

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[1] Source: Ecological Atlas of Southeast Alaska, page 110, http://ak.audubon.org/sites/g/files/amh551/f/seak_atlas_ch05_birds_200dpi.pdf

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The proposed rule would expose an added 185,000 acres of the Tongass to logging. We believe such an expansion of timber sales would be rejected out of hand if proposed in any other national forest. The time for vast expansion of logging in roadless areas has long passed. There is a national consensus that the values of roadless areas deserve to be protected.

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The Tongass produces on average 28 percent of Alaska's annual commercial salmon catch and 25 percent of the entire west coast annual harvest. The Forest Service has estimated that the salmon industry generates $986 million annually.

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[2] https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/fseprd527907.pdf

[3] Southeast Alaska by the Numbers 2019, page 5: http://www.seconference.org/sites/default/files/FINAL%20Southeast%20by%20the%20Numbers%202019.pdf

[4] Source: Cruise Lines International Association Alaska, http://www.cliaalaska.org/economy/alaska-cruise-history/

We believe that watchable wildlife, heritage tourism, and the economic benefits of not allowing a huge expansion of logging in favor of tourism-related infrastructure development as provided for in the 2016 Land and Resource Management Plan will prove to be more valuable and more sustainable than the alternatives that would expand roads and logging.

We favor preserving local natural resource-based economies and generations-old traditions. With careful planning and execution, these industries can remain an integral and essential part of evolving tourism-based economic development, and both sectors can flourish.

We are aware that past timber sales on the Tongass have often brought a minimal return to local communities in exchange for the loss of their forests. Round, unprocessed logs were being exported instead of being processed locally to support a diverse timber-products industry. The timber sales were not resulting in the greatest economic benefit of income and jobs that could have been realized if the timber were supporting local and regional industries. If timber is to be harvested from the Tongass, it should be at a level that can be sustained in the long term, and it should be supporting local economies at the maximum level possible, as provided for in the 2016 Land and Resource Management Plan.

Thank you for considering our views.

Sincerely,

Robin G. Todd PhD
President
Maryland Ornithological Society

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

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/3/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Stephen
Last name: Todd
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Roadless Rule comments from Stephen Todd in Wrangell, Alaska

Please see my attached comments for the record regarding the Alaska Roadless Rule.

Thank you,

Stephen Todd

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

Stephen Todd

Wrangell, Alaska 99929

December 3, 2019

USDA Forest Service

Attn: Alaska Roadless Rule

Attn: Secretary Perdue & Chief Christensen

PO Box 21628

Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Secretary Perdue and Chief Christensen,

As a resident of Wrangell, Alaska for over twenty years, I am writing to ask that you select the "no-action" alternative on the Alaska-specific Roadless Rule and keep all inventoried roadless areas intact on the Tongass under the 2001 National Roadless Rule.

Wrangell has been pointed to by some as an example of a community that overwhelming supports the Roadless Rule being completely dropped. This is simply not true. Wrangell is a community with a much more nuanced view of the National Forest that surrounds us, than some would like to portray. To be frank, the primary voices I hear claiming to speak for Wrangell, stating that the Tongass should have a full Roadless Exemption, are retired politicians and timber industry lobbyists that do not live here.

A thorough census of views in Wrangell would find that a large portion of community members support salmon habitat being protected so that drainages are not degraded by new roads. Our independent tourism businesses here value intact view sheds. Most folks in Wrangell support small, family-run sawmills that operate on the existing road system. I certainly support these small mills, and have been remodeling my home with local, value-added wood for years.

Folks in Wrangell are smart enough to know that exempting the Tongass from the Roadless Rule will lead to a major outcome: an increase in Round Log Export. There are few people in Wrangell that want to see logs leave this island and our region unprocessed. But exempting the Tongass from the Roadless Rule will greatly increase Round Log Export. Small family-run sawmills generally do not have the capital to build new roads. They operate on the existing road infrastructure. The Tongass has over 5,000 miles of existing road infrastructure - much of which is in disrepair due to funding gaps. The large logging companies that export

unprocessed logs do have capital to build new roads and will. If the Roadless Rule is exempted from the Tongass, those of us in Wrangell will watch as logs are shipped out of our region unprocessed. Jobs go out with those logs, and we are left with the clear-cuts.

There has been a misinformation campaign in recent years that has stated that the Roadless Rule cuts off communities access to explore for hydropower or other non-timber related projects. This is simply not true. The Roadless Rule was written to limit roads for timber development, and gives allowances for other projects. A reading of the rule will demonstrate this, and those that state otherwise are misinformed at best, and being disingenuous at worst. Since 2009, 48 projects have been approved on the Tongass National Forest in Inventoried Roadless Areas. Most of these projects involved access by roads for the exploration of potential hydropower or mineral resources. The Roadless Rule limits new roads to clear-cuts. It does not limit access for communities.

The Roadless Rule protects undeveloped watersheds that provide habitat for the salmon that we fish for, and the deer that we hunt here in Wrangell. We have many hundreds of miles of forest roads on the Wrangell District alone. One of our small, family-run mills is operating on these roads currently. Many of these roads need significant investment to keep them from degrading and/or restricting fish passage. Why waste federal tax payer money on subsidies for new roads to clear-cuts for Round Log Export when our existing infrastructure is in disrepair?

The current rule is working well for Wrangell and our communities across Southeast Alaska. I urge you to choose the "no action" alternative in this process, and keep it in place.

Sincerely,

[signature]

Stephen Todd

[Position]

Stephen Todd
Wrangell, Alaska 99929

December 3, 2019

USDA Forest Service
Attn: Alaska Roadless Rule
Attn: Secretary Perdue & Chief Christensen
PO Box 21628
Juneau, Alaska 99801

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The current rule is working well for Wrangell and our communities across Southeast Alaska. I urge you to choose the "no action" alternative in this process, and keep it in place.

Sincerely,

Stephen Todd

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/25/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Susan
Last name: Todd
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Susan Todd 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, Susan Todd

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Susan
Last name: Todd
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Susan Todd 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.

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

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

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Zachary
Last name: Todd
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Zachary Todd 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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Zachary Todd

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Elka
Last name: Todeva
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

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

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

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Elka
Last name: Todeva
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- 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, Elka Todeva

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: David
Last name: Todnem
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is David Todnem 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.

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

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

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: David
Last name: Todnem
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

The Tongass contains some of the largest intact old-growth temperate rainforest in the world, and its value in providing clean water for fish and wildlife habitat is essential to the economic and ecological 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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Comments:
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Regards, David Todnem

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/5/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Tanja
Last name: Todoric
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: Geoff
Last name: Todt
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Geoff Todt 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, Geoff Todt

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/12/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Jason
Last name: Toews
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I support Alternative 1: NO CHANGE.

I oppose the Trump Administration's science-free decision to open up the last intact temperate rainforest to taxpayer-subsidized road building so a couple of companies can clearcut old growth and second growth that is currently protected.

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: M.
Last name: Toews
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- 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, M. Toews

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Elise
Last name: Togbe
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- 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, Elise Togbe

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

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

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Last name: Toigo
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
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Regards, Joe Toigo

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/10/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Mary
Last name: Tokar
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Mary Tokar and I live in Baldwinsville, New York.

The operative word in your departments' name is PROTECTION! Do the job you are supposed to do. What we do today impacts the 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, Mary Tokar

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/18/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Mary
Last name: Tokar
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): 11/14/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: janine
Last name: tokarczyk
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is janine tokarczyk and I live in Mebane, 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, janine tokarczyk

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Marsha
Last name: Tokareff
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Marsha Tokareff and I live in Ashland, Oregon.

The ice is already melting. By clearcutting the forest the problem will increase and who knows what the ramifications will be in 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, Marsha Tokareff

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/7/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: John
Last name: Tokarski
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: Suzanne
Last name: Tokarsky
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Suzanne Tokarsky and I live in Whitingham, Vermont.

Forests are living, breathing organisms that support an entire ecosystem. Support bamboo and other words that are sustainable and could stimulate the economy in southern states where bamboo grows easily.

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

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Hale
Last name: Tokay
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

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

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

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/19/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Chad
Last name: Tokish
Organization: Self Employed
Title:
Comments:
Im an avid outdoorsman and business owner. I know the value in development and progress, but the impact of this altering this habitat and subsequently the local economies that depend on it would be a big mistake. I support much of the projects of the Forest Service. This particular project in Alaska is not supported by an overwhelming majority of people across the nation. Please consider a more responsible alternative.

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/12/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Barb
Last name: Tokunaga
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Barb Tokunaga and I live in Windsor, Colorado.
[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 generates an annual one billion dollars in economic benefit, making it far more of an economic driver than the timber industry, which is less than 1% of the regional economy.
Any choice but the No Action alternative would also put wildlife and critical habitat at risk, threaten access to clean water, and be a step in the wrong direction on climate change jeopardizing Alaskans at a time when the state already faces severe challenges related to rising temperatures. I urge you not to abandon the Roadless Rule in Alaska and instead to put the public interest above corporate profits by choosing to keep the rule in place unchanged.
Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Barb Tokunaga

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/17/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Lisa
Last name: Tolan
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Lisa Tolan 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, Lisa Tolan

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Maddy
Last name: Toland
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Maddy Toland and I live in Northport, 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, Maddy Toland

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Andrea
Last name: Toledano-DeMars
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Andrea Toledano-DeMars 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, Andrea Toledano-DeMars

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/20/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Frances
Last name: Toler
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Please continue to protect the Tongass Forest as. Wilderness, roadless area. Cutting trees there will damage one of the few remaining ecosystems of its type. Intact old growth forest is immeasurably valuable for so many reasons, and irreplaceable.

I am just a citizen, but I have seen the difference between logged forest and old growth, and we need to preserve every bit of intact, high quality forest we have. Our grandchildren are watching g.

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Jan
Last name: Toler
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

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

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

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/14/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Jean
Last name: Toler
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Jean Toler 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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Jean Toler

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

These public lands belong to the American people not the timber industry! Save our public lands for the public not private industry or face the rath of the voters in the next elections!

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

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Jean
Last name: Toles
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- 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, Jean Toles

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/13/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Kaitlyn
Last name: Tolin
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC504

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?

Kaitlyn Tolin, Haines, AK, I live in a community that thrives & provides fish for the enture U.S. just as our rivers are vital, so is the Tongass forest for surrounding life.

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 depend on the vitality of *our* [text triple underlined for emphasis] ocean & quality of *our* [text triple underlined for emphasis] earth & the health of the Tongass directly impacts our ecosystem & will continue to do so for our chilrens generations & beyond.

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.

Each River, bay, inlet ect. is just as important as the rest. I care about nourishing the planet like we nourish our bodies, our parents, our children. Do you want to leave your children with a broken ecosystem?

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 substistance fishing, and recreation. It is key for me to physically & emotionally involved with this forest for the lowest impact & my survival.

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 believe waterhed & infrastructure are the two largest issues we face for a quality future. We must treat these wild environments with respect so our future generation can experience, explore, survive.

Additional comments for the Forest Service:

Please think about your children and what way you want them to see & experience the land. What do you want them to see & fieel when they get into nature?

Sincerely,

Kaitlyn Tolin

I want to receive a copy of the Draft Environmental Statement

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Tricia
Last name: Toliver
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Tricia Toliver 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, Tricia Toliver

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Gillian
Last name: Tollast
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I do not agree with this idea in any way shape or form. We are killing our planet already. This is the worst thing to do. I am against this.

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Tim
Last name: Tollefson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
"There is not in the world a more ignoble character than the mere money-getting American, insensitive to every duty, regardless of every principle, bent only on amassing a fortune." Teddy Roosevelt
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: Chris
Last name: Tolley
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

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

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

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Barbara
Last name: Tollinger
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Barbara Tollinger and I live in [@advCity], 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, Barbara Tollinger

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

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

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

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

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

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

Thank you for your consideration.

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

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Jeff Tolson

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Sean
Last name: Tomany
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

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

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

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

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: MS
Last name: Tomasello
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is MS Tomasello 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, MS Tomasello

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

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Last name: Tomasello
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
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Regards, Patti Tomasello

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/5/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Tony
Last name: Tomasi
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): 12/7/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Sue
Last name: Tomasic
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I object to the Forest Service's proposed plan which would slash protections for over 9 million acres of the Tongass National Forest and the 800-year-old trees that live there. It is a disgrace to think of such a national treasure being put in jeopardy. Our country needs to prioritize the saving of our forests over their destruction.

[Position]

[Position]

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

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/7/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Andrew
Last name: Tomaszewski
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 12:00:00 AM
First name: Ryan
Last name: Tomb
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
This letter sums it up pretty well, but I just wanted to say, please protect these forests. They are incredibly important to the wellbeing of our environment, and to the indigenous people. Thank you.

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

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

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

Regards, Ryan Tomb

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: MARCO
Last name: TOMBESI
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is MARCO TOMBESI and I live in Roma, [@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, MARCO TOMBESI

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/18/2019 5:57:11 PM
First name: Maren
Last name: Tomblin
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,
Maren Tomblin
Eugene, OR 97403

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Michael
Last name: Tomczyszyn
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Michael Tomczyszyn 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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Michael Tomczyszyn

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/18/2019 3:03:50 PM
First name: Michael
Last name: Tomczyszyn
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Comments to oppose modification to the Roadless Rule

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Sincerely,
Michael Tomczyszyn
San Francisco, CA 94132

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Robert
Last name: Tomiak
Organization: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
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.

Ken Tu

Alaska Roadless Rule

USDA Forest Service

Post Office Box 21628

Juneau, Alaska 99802-1628

Dear Mr. Tu:

In accordance with our responsibilities under Section 309 of the Clean Air Act and the National Environmental Policy Act, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reviewed the U.S. Forest Service's (USFS) Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for Rulemaking for Alaska Roadless Areas (CEQ 20190254).

The draft EIS and proposed rulemaking are in response to the State of Alaska's January 2018 petition requesting that U.S. Department of Agriculture exempt the Tongass National Forest from the 2001 Roadless Rule. The draft EIS analyzes six alternatives including the No Action Alternative. Other than expanding the suitable timber land base, none of the action alternatives propose to change the Tongass Land and Resource Management Plan, including the projected harvest level. The USFS has identified Alternative 6 as the preferred alternative. The preferred alternative provides maximum additional timber harvest opportunity as the full exemption alternative which was requested by the State of Alaska's petition. It removes all 9.2 million inventoried roadless acres on the Tongass from roadless designation.

The EPA appreciates the USFS's responsiveness to our scoping comments in the development of this draft EIS in our October 11, 2018 letter. We are providing detailed comments for consideration as you begin to prepare the final EIS. If you have any questions, concerns, or need assistance, please contact me at (202) 564-5400 or Julie Roemele, lead reviewer for this EIS, at (202) 564-5632 or via email at roemele.julie@epa.gov. We look forward to reviewing the final EIS related to this project.

Sincerely,

Robert Tomiak

Director

Office of Federal Activities

Enclosure

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Detailed Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Rulemaking for Alaska Roadless Areas

Tiering Process

The EPA recommends the USFS provide clarification on the process for subsequent NEPA analyses for future ground-disturbing activities and how future site-specific NEPA analyses relate to this EIS as well as the 2016 Forest Plan Final EIS. In addition, the EPA recommends the final EIS include a flow chart to better explain the process and the relationship to other NEPA documents.

Chugach National Forest
Scope

For consistency and clarity, the EPA recommends that the Chugach National Forest is discussed more throughly in the EIS by moving the discussion in the Scope of the EIS on why the administrative boundary changes to the Chugach National Forest is being considered to the purpose and need discussion along with the discussion of what is included as part of the administrative actions that is listed in the alternatives discussion. In the scope of the EIS, we recommend that the location of the Chugach National Forest to the Tongass National Forest be discussed and a map of the Chugach National Forest be included.

Public Involvement

The EIS states "The Regional Forester may issue administrative corrections after a 30-day public notice and opportunity to comment period" and "The Regional Forester would provide at least a 45-day public notice and opportunity to comment period for all modifications." (2-4). Please expand on this public involvement process to explain how the Regional Forester would consider any public comments received on the administrative corrections or modifications to the Chugach National Forest.

Information from Regulatory Impact Assessment

The Regulatory Impact Assessment (RIA) relied on data that detailed the historical numbers of the timber harvest and road density during the temporary exemption period through the period after the exemption was lifted. This historical data was not included in the draft EIS. The EPA recommends the USFS include this data in the affected environment section in the EIS for consistency and completeness.

Incorporating the 2016 Forest Plan Final EIS

In multiple chapters. the draft EIS references that the impacts are similar or the same to those disclosed in the 2016 Forest Plan Final EIS. While it is appropriate to incorporate by reference, the EIS would benefit from including a summary of the effects for each of the various impacts from the 2016 Forest Plan Final EIS. This will reduce the need for the reader to search for the summary findings in the 2016 Forest Plan Final EIS.

Comparative Summary Among Alternatives

The general discussion for impacts to Wetlands in Chapter I, Purpose and Need for the Action (p. 1-9), provides a good example of a comparative summary among the alternatives. The EPA recommends the USFS use a comparative summary format similar to the Wetlands section for the following sections in Chapter 1: Water Quantity and Quality, Air Quality, General Vegetation, General Wildlife Species/Habitat, and General Aquatics.

[Position]

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Alaska Roadless Rule

USDA Forest Service

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Juneau, Alaska 99802-1628

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Sincerely,

Robert Tomiak

Director

Office of Federal Activities

Enclosure

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Detailed Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Rulemaking for Alaska Roadless Areas

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The EPA recommends the USFS provide clarification on the process for subsequent NEPA analyses for future ground-disturbing activities and how future site-specific NEPA analyses relate to this EIS as well as the 2016 Forest Plan Final EIS. In addition, the EPA recommends the final EIS include a flow chart to better explain the process and the relationship to other NEPA documents.

Chugach National Forest
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[Position]

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

OFFICE OF
POLICY

DEC 17 2019

Ken Tu
Alaska Roadless Rule
USDA Forest Service
Post Office Box 21628
Juneau, Alaska 99802-1628

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Director
Office of Federal Activities

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The Regulatory Impact Assessment (RIA) relied on data that detailed the historical numbers of the timber harvest and road density during the temporary exemption period through the period after the exemption was lifted. This historical data was not included in the draft EIS. The EPA recommends the USFS include this data in the affected environment section in the EIS for consistency and completeness.

Incorporating the 2016 Forest Plan Final EIS

In multiple chapters, the draft EIS references that the impacts are similar or the same to those disclosed in the 2016 Forest Plan Final EIS. While it is appropriate to incorporate by reference, the EIS would benefit from including a summary of the effects for each of the various impacts from the 2016 Forest Plan Final EIS. This will reduce the need for the reader to search for the summary findings in the 2016 Forest Plan Final EIS.

Comparative Summary Among Alternatives

The general discussion for impacts to Wetlands in Chapter 1, Purpose and Need for the Action (p. 1-9), provides a good example of a comparative summary among the alternatives. The EPA recommends the USFS use a comparative summary format similar to the Wetlands section for the following sections in Chapter 1: Water Quantity and Quality, Air Quality, General Vegetation, General Wildlife Species/Habitat, and General Aquatics.

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/26/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: NE
Last name: Tomkin
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC162

Keep your promises! & agreements!

NE Tomkin

Juneau 99801

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Floyd
Last name: Tomkins
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC3051

To the Roadless Rule Planning Team:

The Forest Service should reject any exemption from the Roadless Rule for Alaska and adopt Alternative 1: No Change/ No Action.

I have lived, fished, hunted, wandered the woods, and observed the Tongass for over thirty years, beginning when excessive, destructive clearcutting was routine 'management' practice. No more old growth should be cut because the accumulated damage to ecosystems has already ruined habitat, especially salmon spawning habitat, and produced thousands of acres of impenetrable regrowth, which the Forest Service has proved to be helpless to restore.

Cutting old-growth forest, the only excuse for exempting Alaska from the Roadless Rule, is contrary to the TLMP, the health of the Tongass as a forest rather than a tree farm, the interests of the residents of Southeast Alaska, the prosperity of many industries and enterprises much more valuable than the timber industry, carbon capture, restoring fish runs and habitat damaged by past logging, the beauty of a natural forest, access to land not smothered by regrowth, and the restoration of forest lands blighted by pas malignant forest practices.

Much more public money has been spent by the Forest Service building roads in the Tongass than has been realized from the use of those roads. Road building in the Tongass has been and continues to be a flagrant waste of public funds.

If the Forest Service has that kind of money, it should be spent on thinning and restoring the great wastelands of past clear cuts and reversing the damage to watersheds and salmon spawning habitat inflicted by past logging.

The existing roads in the Tongass meet any legitimate need for development. Illegitimate purposes, such as logging for round-log export from Southeast Alaska, roadbuilding largely to profit contractors, and generating campaign contributions to political figures are indefensible, despite being tolerated previously.

[Signature]

Floyd Tomkins

Sitka, AK 99835

[Position]

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

Please stop clear cutting trees 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.

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

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

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Curtis
Last name: Tomlin
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

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

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

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Curtis
Last name: Tomlin
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

The Tongass contains some of the largest intact old-growth temperate rainforest in the world, and its value in providing clean water for fish and wildlife habitat is essential to the economic and ecological 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, Curtis Tomlin

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Avonelle
Last name: Tomlinson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am horrified to think that these valuable, ancient trees will be destroyed. The greedy gobbling up of precious resources is stripping our planet and destroying our environment! Please, stop.

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Cherie
Last name: Tomlinson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC6119

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): 11/9/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Dale
Last name: Tomlinson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Dale Tomlinson and I live in Phoenix, New York.

Unlike most in congress -- and certainly the ignorant occupant in the White House -- I have spent time in and around the Tongass; not enough to be an authority, but plenty enough to be able to appreciate what a spectacular natural feature the forest is. The steep slopes are just perfect for extreme erosion to take place if roads are cut and timber clearcut, which is what logging companies all do; replanting will not stop the erosion and prime soil -- built up over thousands of years -- will be lost forever, along with the trees. The upshot will be barren mountains and muddied fish hatcheries, a second critical 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.

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

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

Thank you for considering my comments.

Regards, Dale Tomlinson

[Position]

[Position]

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

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/14/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Katrina
Last name: Tomlinson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Katrina Tomlinson and I live in Amissville, 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, Katrina Tomlinson

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Linda
Last name: Tomlinson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

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

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

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Richard
Last name: Tomlinson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Richard Tomlinson 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, Richard Tomlinson

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Robert
Last name: Tomlinson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

The Tongass contains some of the largest intact old-growth temperate rainforest in the world, and its value in providing clean water for fish and wildlife habitat is essential to the economic and ecological 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 Tomlinson

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Robert
Last name: Tomlinson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- 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, Robert Tomlinson

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/11/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: William
Last name: Tomlinson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is William Tomlinson 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 Tomlinson

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/11/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Vicki
Last name: Tomola
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Vicki Tomola and I live in Point Arena, California.

All Plastic baggies & food wrp needs to be banned & plastic packaging needs to change to compostable produsts ASAP

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

[Position]

[Position]

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

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Riley
Last name: Tomphins
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC6152

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 3:00:00 PM
First name: Ed
Last name: Tompkins
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Ed Tompkins and I live in Bozeman, 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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Any choice but the No Action alternative would also put wildlife and critical habitat at risk, threaten access to clean water, and be a step in the wrong direction on climate change jeopardizing Alaskans at a time when the state already faces severe challenges related to rising temperatures. I urge you not to abandon the Roadless Rule in Alaska and instead to put the public interest above corporate profits by choosing to keep the rule in place unchanged.

Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Ed Tompkins

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/7/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Kristine
Last name: Tompkins
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Kristine Tompkins and I live in Santa Paula, 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.

There is no question that the individuals and institutions that worked hard to protect the Tongass in the first place protected one of the finest and most important forest regions in the world. It is of the upmost importance that this ecosystem withstands any and all efforts to destroy 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 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, the lifestyles of the indigenous communities that the forest supports to keep public lands wild for future generations, 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 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, 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]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Paula
Last name: Tompkins
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Paula Tompkins and I live in Saint Cloud, 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, Paula Tompkins

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Sharon
Last name: Tompkins
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

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

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

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/10/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Terri
Last name: Tompkins
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Terri Tompkins and I live in South Elgin, 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, Terri Tompkins

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/27/2019 10:07:18 AM
First name: tim
Last name: tompt
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Tim Tompt and I live in Seattle, Alaska. Im an outdoor enthusiast but more importantly, Im concerned that our federal and state policies focus so much more on monetizing our natural resources for short term perceptions of gain, instead of preserving them for their overwhelming long term benefits of healthy ecosystems, locally and globally. 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 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, fiscal responsibility and saving taxpayer dollars healthy fish habitat. 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 There is no persuasive argument for any benefits to changing this rule except for a tiny few to profit. Unacceptable.. 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): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Donald
Last name: Toms
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

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

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

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

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

stay the fuck out bernhardt, you fat, fucking slob of a man!

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

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Sheilah
Last name: Tone
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

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

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

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Paula
Last name: Toner
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Paula Toner 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 your stewardship of our environment and for considering my comments.
Regards, Paula Toner

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

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Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Blake
Last name: Toney
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC1358

Dear Chief Christiansen,

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Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Joe
Last name: Tonini
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Joe Tonini and I live in Mineola, New York.

I have two loved ones with asthma.We havent been doing enough to make our air cleaner, and now TRUMP wants to remove some of our inadequate protections? Unbelievable!

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

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Thank you for considering my comments.

Regards, Joe Tonini

[Position]

[Position]

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

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/5/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Mark
Last name: Tonkin
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 12:00:00 AM
First name: William
Last name: Tonsgard
Organization: CCI President
Title:
Comments:
Roadless Rule

See attached for letter from CCI President Shorty Tonsgard in regards to the Roadless Rule.

Thank you.

William Tonsgard III, General Manager

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

William Tonsgard Jr.
Juneau, AK, 99801 1

1/21/2019

Sonny Perdue

Secretary of Agriculture

US Department of Agriculture

USDA Forest Service, Attn: Alaska Roadless Rule, P.O. Box 21628

Juneau, Alaska, 99802

Dear Sonny Perdue:

I would like to provide a viewpoint of the Tongass that is based on actual experiences over the years since 1950. My father was a logger and Tlingit Alaskan who was born in Juneau. All of our logging operations were on Federal land with the exception of two logging operations on Goldbelt's land. It is of great interest to me that so many Native groups are stepping up to protest the lifting of the roadless rule.

If the effects of logging will destroy native identity and their way of life then I seriously question how the logging on all the Native lands have not caused these fears. If one simply looks at all the Native owned land that has been logged it has literally been logged bald. In most cases very little stream buffers are left. Though these areas have been logged using this method the land is growing timber back in dramatic fashion. I seriously doubt and disagree with the viewpoint that fishing, whether salmon or recreational trout fishing, has been adversely affected.

The Forest Service has planned their logging and timber sales in a way to sustain the resource by providing buffer areas between sales so as to provide natural reseeding and protection of wildlife. As these areas grow back and new timber reproduction takes hold these buffer areas can be effectively logged at a later date.

Yes, our state should be diversified in the way of industry. But no industry should be vilified unjustly by special interests. Where would the tourist industry, the Trout Unlimited folks, bike tours hiking tours and virtually all tour activities be if there had not been any logging or mining in the Tongass? Three quarters of the road system in Southeast Alaska was constructed by the logging industry. If it had not been for that, there would be vastly fewer number roads today in much of Southeast Alaska and therefore less road for these tour groups to utilize.

This is a fact: Logging and mining jobs pay good wages, including health benefits and retirement. And most of those employed are locally hired employees. On the other hand, tourism jobs do not pay well, usually have no benefits for employees, are seasonal and in most cases the employees are hired from the lower 48 states who are brought here to Alaska during the summer months to work because it's cheaper for these companies to pay those people less than locals. Loggers and miners also haven't ever run over any whales, which has happened a few times thanks to the tour ships. The logging and mining industries don't pollute our air like the tour ships do on a daily basis from Ketchikan to Glacier Bay with the smoke from their diesel engines.

I have yet to see any factual truth that logging or mining in Southeast Alaska has had a negative impact on fishing or hunting. On the contrary, the fishing industry itself, along with the management of the fisheries, has done more damage to that industry than anything logging or mining has ever done. The fisheries almost fished the salmon to extinction with the use of fish traps. In my opinion, they're doing the same thing now by seining herring, which is the food of all fish and marine animals.

I am a member of Sealaska, Goldbelt and Takdeintaan Tribe of Hoonah. I am also part of the Tenakee Landless claim. I was born in Juneau and raised in logging camps all over Southeast Alaska. I've worked in most places in Southeast Alaska my whole life. I have revisited the areas we have logged over the years and have seen exactly zero negative impact from the logging we had done. What I know is from being on the ground in Southeast Alaska and I speak from my own knowledge, not from special interest talking points.

I believe in balance and truth. I hope the decision to lift the Roadless Rule is unimpeded.

Sincerely,

William Tonsgard Jr.

[Attachment is not related to the rule and is part of a signature block, specifically an image of a logo for Channel Construction Inc]

[Position]

William Tonsgard Jr.
Juneau, AK, 99801 1
1/21/2019

Sonny Perdue
Secretary of Agriculture
US Department of Agriculture
USDA Forest Service, Attn: Alaska Roadless Rule, P.O. Box 21628
Juneau, Alaska, 99802

Dear Sonny Perdue:

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I believe in balance and truth. I hope the decision to lift the Roadless Rule is unimpeded.

Sincerely,

William Tonsgard Jr.

CHANNEL CONSTRUCTION INC

WM. JONSGARD

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Tony
Last name:
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Keep the tongas roadless!

Keep the tongas roadless!

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Syeda
Last name: Tooba
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

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

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

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Elissa
Last name: Toohill
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Please, please, please do not allow these forests that can be enjoyed my many and have such a positive impact on humanity to be destroyed for the sake of a few peoples' pocketbooks and at the indirect expense of many others (including other wealthy people--not just little people who do not matter as much to decision-makers). Instead, why not allow a more benevolent kind of rich person to promote tourism there without razing the forest? Kickbacks can still be gained for the less-than-perfect, but in a way that doesn't destroy the environment.

[Position]

[Position]

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

Please stop the destruction of our natural resources. They are God given to enjoy 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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Mina Toole

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

Don't allow this short sighted destruction for 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, Helen Tooleu

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

STOP putting corporate profits over Nature!

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

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Elise Tooley

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Helen
Last name: Tooley
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

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

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

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

We cannot reverse this damage once 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.

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

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/21/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Kristin
Last name: Tooley
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Uphold 'Roadless Rule' Protections for the Tongass National Forest

Dear U.S. Forest Service,

Just another one of Trump's obscene attacks on Nature...Nature that our future generations and wildlife so desperately depend upon for survival, not to mention the planet itself! 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 [mdash] 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 [mdash] think of future generations by selecting the "no action" alternative to maintain "Roadless Rule" protections for the Tongass and Chugach.

Sincerely,

Kristin Tooley

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Kristin
Last name: Tooley
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

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

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

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/1/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Anon
Last name:
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Wolves and Wildlife Depend Upon the Roadless Rule in the Tongass!

This destructive administration is all about making money for big corporations. Trump and cronies do NOT care about future generations, the health of this planet or wildlife.

I urge you to choose 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.

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.

The proposed rule opens an additional 165,000 acres to logging and strips Roadless Rule protections from all 9.2 million acres of inventoried roadless areas in the Tongass. It does so with little to no justification or documented support. The rule will fragment the forest and harm wildlife that rely on old-growth habitat. For example, the rule will allow new roads and logging that threaten important wild salmon populations.

The proposed rule's claim that exempting the entire Tongass National Forest from the Roadless Rule will have only minimal environmental effect is simply not justified by the record, and an overwhelming majority of public and stakeholder input favored either maintaining roadless areas or making small modifications. The course chosen by the administration ignores the public, fails to find balance, and threatens the crown jewel of the National Forest System.

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

Thank you,

Helen Tooley

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Terry
Last name: Toon
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC5677

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: Meher
Last name: toorkey
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Meher toorkey and I live in Wiloughby Hls, 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, Meher toorkey

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

The world is threatened by climate change. DO NOT DESTROY THE ALASKAN 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, Megan Tootell

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: carole
Last name: tootill
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is carole tootill and I live in Everett, Washington.

Old growth and primary forests are vital in sequestering and storing carbon - once cut, it released. I am sick of watching the war on the last of our great wilderness areas - wildlife cannot live without wilderness, and nor can we. Duh!

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

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Thank you for considering my comments.

Regards, carole tootill

[Position]

[Position]

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

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/23/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Kateri
Last name: Topitzhofer
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I support Alternative # 1 in the draft. Please leave all of Alaska under the 2001 Roadless Rule.

[Position]

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

Air pollution is a blight on the community, puts citizens' health at risk, and has significant economic costs. Please do not rollback regulations that protect America.

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

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Thank you for considering my comments.

Regards, Krista Topp

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/11/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: David
Last name: Topper
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: Talin
Last name: Topuzyan
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Talin Topuzyan 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, Talin Topuzyan

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: judith
Last name: tor
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

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

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

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

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

Please let the forest 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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Erica Torell

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Tom
Last name: Toretta
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC3401

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,

Tom Toretta

Bakersfield, CA 93314

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 1/1/0001 12:00:00 AM
First name: Tom
Last name: Toretta
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
3401

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,
Tom Toretta
Bakersfield, CA 93314

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Marie
Last name: Torget
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Marie Torget and I live in Prescott Valley, Arizona.

We are systematically destroying our planet because of Greed. Alaska is one of the few remaining places that is a pristine environment for bio-diversity.

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

In Southeast Alaska, tourism accounts for 28% of employment and generate an annual $1 billion 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, Marie Torget

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Lynne
Last name: Toribara
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

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

In addition, I strongly object to your plans to reduce and remove protections from our national forests roadless areas. The Roadless Rule is one of the smartest and most popular land management policies the Federal Government has ever adopted. Not only does it preserve some of Americas best fish and wildlife habitat, but it also saves untold millions of taxpayer dollars that might otherwise be spent to subsidize money-losing timber sales. The value of the Roadless Rule in preventing environmentally damaging and economically wasteful road-building and logging is particularly relevant in the Tongass, where logging costs vastly exceed timber revenues and require unconscionable taxpayer subsidies.
Regards, Lynne Toribara

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/13/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Marilynn
Last name: Torkelson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Marilynn Torkelson and I live in Eden Prairie, Minnesota.

Please protect this forest & our planet for future generations. This forest protects against climate change by acting as a carbon sink.

I am writing to express strong opposition to efforts to roll back the Roadless Area Conservation Rule (Roadless Rule) in Alaska or elsewhere. The Roadless Rule was implemented with unprecedented public support to protect some of our nations most pristine public lands, including large parts of the Tongass National Forest. You must choose the No Action alternative. Any other choice would ignore overwhelming public support and harm Alaskans, including Alaska Natives, and taxpayers across the nation.

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Thank you for considering my comments.

Regards, Marilynn Torkelson

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Janet
Last name: Torline
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Janet Torline and I live in Harrison, Idaho.

It is critically important that the USFS choose the "no Action" alternative on logging in roadless ares of the Tongass National Forest. It is abhorrent to the public, particularly in light of climate disruption and the importance of forests to sequester carbon, that environmental protections of roadless areas are being systematically slashed away. For the USFS to condone this erosion of proper forest management threatens the Public Trust and puts private interests above ecological protections for THE PUBLIC'S National Forests.

Make the right and responsible choice but enacting the "No Action" alternative.

Deeply concerned,Janet Torline

I am writing to express strong opposition to efforts to roll back the Roadless Area Conservation Rule (Roadless Rule) in Alaska or elsewhere. The Roadless Rule was implemented with unprecedented public support to protect some of our nations most pristine public lands, including large parts of the Tongass National Forest. You must choose the No Action alternative. Any other choice would ignore overwhelming public support and harm Alaskans, including Alaska Natives, and taxpayers across the nation.

In Southeast Alaska, tourism accounts for 28% of employment and generate an annual $1 billion in economic benefit, making it far more of an economic driver than the timber industry, which is less than 1% of the regional economy.

Any choice but the No Action alternative would also put wildlife and critical habitat at risk, threaten access to clean water, and be a step in the wrong direction on climate change jeopardizing Alaskans at a time when the state already faces severe challenges related to rising temperatures. I urge you not to abandon the Roadless Rule in Alaska and instead 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 Torline

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Alan
Last name: Tormey
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

The Tongass contains some of the largest intact old-growth temperate rainforest in the world, and its value in providing clean water for fish and wildlife habitat is essential to the economic and ecological health of Southeast Alaska. I urge you to keep the federal Roadless Rule intact and current protections in place for national forests in Alaska.

In addition, I strongly object to your plans to reduce and remove protections from our national forests roadless areas. The Roadless Rule is one of the smartest and most popular land management policies the Federal Government has ever adopted. Not only does it preserve some of Americas best fish and wildlife habitat, but it also saves untold millions of taxpayer dollars that might otherwise be spent to subsidize money-losing timber sales. The value of the Roadless Rule in preventing environmentally damaging and economically 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 Tormey

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/5/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Haynes
Last name: Tormey
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Full Exemption of Roadless Rule.

11/05/2019

To Whom it may concern-

I am taking this time to encourage the Forest Service in Alaska to choose a full exemption to the Tongass Roadless Rule.

The reasoning for this opinion is built on the belief that Alaskans are good stewards of the land. We Alaskans love our State and care for the condition of our environment. Since before statehood, Alaska was pinned as a resource rich land, and I believe it is our fiduciary responsibility to harvest those resources using the BEST management possible. The job of the Forest Service should always be to oversee the extraction, monitoring and assisting to adhere to that policy. As proven in the Supreme Court case Sturgeon VS. Frost, Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act, is proof that Alaska is the exception. The Federal Government has no grounds to dictate the use of our lands.

Respectfully,

Haynes Tormey

Haines, Alaska

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Michele
Last name: Tornabene
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Michele Tornabene and I live in Summerland, California.

keep Roadless Rule intact for 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, Michele Tornabene

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Ashley
Last name: Tornetta
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

The Tongass contains some of the largest intact old-growth temperate rainforest in the world, and its value in providing clean water for fish and wildlife habitat is essential to the economic and ecological health of Southeast Alaska. I urge you to keep the federal Roadless Rule intact and current protections in place for national forests in Alaska.

In addition, I strongly object to your plans to reduce and remove protections from our national forests roadless areas. The Roadless Rule is one of the smartest and most popular land management policies the Federal Government has ever adopted. Not only does it preserve some of Americas best fish and wildlife habitat, but it also saves untold millions of taxpayer dollars that might otherwise be spent to subsidize money-losing timber sales. The value of the Roadless Rule in preventing environmentally damaging and economically wasteful road-building and logging is particularly relevant in the Tongass, where logging costs vastly exceed timber revenues and require unconscionable taxpayer subsidies.
Regards, Ashley Tornetta

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Euripides
Last name: Toro
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Euripides Toro 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, Euripides Toro

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Jo
Last name: Toro
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Jo Toro and I live in Redding, California.

We should become more strict in preventing pollution. It's ridiculous to even consider weakening control on poisonous emissions.

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Thank you for considering my comments.

Regards, Jo Toro

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Joan
Last name: Torok
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

The Tongass contains some of the largest intact old-growth temperate rainforest in the world, and its value in providing clean water for fish and wildlife habitat is essential to the economic and ecological health of Southeast Alaska. I urge you to keep the federal Roadless Rule intact and current protections in place for national forests in Alaska.

In addition, I strongly object to your plans to reduce and remove protections from our national forests roadless areas. The Roadless Rule is one of the smartest and most popular land management policies the Federal Government has ever adopted. Not only does it preserve some of Americas best fish and wildlife habitat, but it also saves untold millions of taxpayer dollars that might otherwise be spent to subsidize money-losing timber sales. The value of the Roadless Rule in preventing environmentally damaging and economically wasteful road-building and logging is particularly relevant in the Tongass, where logging costs vastly exceed timber revenues and require unconscionable taxpayer subsidies.
Regards, Joan Torok

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Marty
Last name: Torok
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
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Regards, Marty Torok

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Marty
Last name: Torok
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Marty Torok and I live in Apple Valley, California.

stop destroying our planet. it's the only one 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, Marty Torok

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First name: Marty
Last name: Torok
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
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Regards, Marty Torok

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Marcia
Last name: Torpey
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Marcia Torpey and I live in Louisville, Kentucky.

We only have one earth-we must treat it with 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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Marcia Torpey

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Lupe
Last name: Torre
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Lupe Torre 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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Lupe Torre

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: April
Last name: Torres
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Please do not give up the land of such beauty. Alaska's wildlife would be in great danger if they are no longer protected by the government. Continue the legacy of other President's in the fight to preserve the nature and animals within the state. If not it could be like another New York City where no one believed that all of New York City would become concrete island and if it were not for those who kept the park then we would have never known that the city was anything like that of the park. Another point is to help those that are around the area, natives and locals, to continue to see the beauty and tradition of Alaska. Where they can and always go out and see the diverse community that live everyday for the wild. Here in Tennessee, we appreciate our lands and parks and cherish the fact that we can always go to them when we all need an escape from the towns/cities and I would feel better if Alaskans too can also have a place to escape and enjoy the wildlife without it being taken from them. So please do NOT open the lands and KEEP them protected!

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/10/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: C
Last name: Torres
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is C Torres and I live in Jemez Springs, New Mexico.

Our planet is delicate. We must always keep preservation of our natural forest lands as a priority.

I am writing to express strong opposition to efforts to roll back the Roadless Area Conservation Rule (Roadless Rule) in Alaska or elsewhere. The Roadless Rule was implemented with unprecedented public support to protect some of our nations most pristine public lands, including large parts of the Tongass National Forest. You must choose the No Action alternative. Any other choice would ignore overwhelming 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 Torres

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Diane
Last name: Torres
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Please do not add any exemptions to the current policies protecting our National Forests and Parks. In particular, please uphold and enforce the current Roadless Rule Policies. Thank you to the US Forest Service!

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Edward
Last name: Torres
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Edward Torres and I live in Balzhausen, [@advState].

Firstcthr Amazon forest. Now Alaska. No, it need to 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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Edward Torres

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/18/2019 2:43:38 PM
First name: Lali
Last name: Torres
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,
Lali Torres
Eugene, OR 97405

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/14/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Lance
Last name: Torres
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I strongly believe that no action should taken on Tongass National Forest to preserve the ecosystem and biodiversity it is home to. This is a matter for all americans being it is our largest national forest. Thank you for the choice of public comment.

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Marianella
Last name: Torres
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Marianella Torres 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, Marianella Torres

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Susan
Last name: Torres
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Susan Torres and I live in [@advCity], New York.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Susan Torres

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Susan
Last name: Torres
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Susan Torres 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, Susan Torres

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Susan
Last name: Torres
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Susan Torres and I live in [@advCity], New York.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Susan Torres

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Last name: Torres
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Susan Torres and I live in [@advCity], New York.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Susan Torres

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Susan
Last name: Torres
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
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Regards, Susan Torres

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Yolanda
Last name: Torres
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Yolanda Torres 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, Yolanda Torres

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Ron
Last name: Torretta
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Ron Torretta and I live in Canon City, 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, Ron Torretta

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Jacob
Last name: Torrey
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
To whom it may concern,

As an American citizen, I am proud of the natural resources our country has placed under public ownership and protection. While I lean libertarian in my politics, I have yet to see the free market capture the negative externalities from extraction of public land. The lumber industry, like the coal industry is waning as the economy matures, and providing special handouts to these aging industries is not a wise intervention. The national forest in question has trees almost 1000 years old, and while that may appear worthy of felling and selling, the loss of revenue for the next 1000 years in terms of tourism, fishing, and other benefits from wild lands far outstrips the permit revenue today.

V/r,

Jacob Torreu

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/12/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Marcus
Last name: Torrey
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: Norma
Last name: Torrey
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Norma Torrey and I live in Allyn-grapeview, 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, Norma Torrey

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Sandra
Last name: Torrey
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

The Tongass contains some of the largest intact old-growth temperate rainforest in the world, and its value in providing clean water for fish and wildlife habitat is essential to the economic and ecological health of Southeast Alaska. I urge you to keep the federal Roadless Rule intact and current protections in place for national forests in Alaska.

In addition, I strongly object to your plans to reduce and remove protections from our national forests roadless areas. The Roadless Rule is one of the smartest and most popular land management policies the Federal Government has ever adopted. Not only does it preserve some of Americas best fish and wildlife habitat, but it also saves untold millions of taxpayer dollars that might otherwise be spent to subsidize money-losing timber sales. The value of the Roadless Rule in preventing environmentally damaging and economically wasteful road-building and logging is particularly relevant in the Tongass, where logging costs vastly exceed timber revenues and require unconscionable taxpayer subsidies.
Regards, Sandra Torrey

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Nello
Last name: Torri
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- 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, Nello Torri

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Sharon
Last name: Torrisi
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Sharon Torrisi and I live in Hermosa 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, Sharon Torrisi

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Conner
Last name: Torstenbo
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: Nilufer
Last name: Torun
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
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Regards, Nilufer Torun

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Barbara
Last name: Tosh
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Barbara Tosh and I live in Seaside, California.

This will harm and drastically change the climate and environment there. No 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.

In Southeast Alaska, tourism accounts for 28% of employment and generate an annual $1 billion in economic benefit, making it far more of an economic driver than the timber industry, which is less than 1% of the regional economy.

Any choice but the No Action alternative would also put wildlife and critical habitat at risk, threaten access to clean water, and be a step in the wrong direction on climate change jeopardizing Alaskans at a time when the state already faces severe challenges related to rising temperatures. I urge you not to abandon the Roadless Rule in Alaska and instead 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 Tosh

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Barbara
Last name: Toshlis
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Barbara Toshlis and I live in Kalamazoo, Michigan.

The earth and all that try to live here need clean air, not profits for just Big Oil and Coal.

I am writing to express strong opposition to efforts to roll back the Roadless Area Conservation Rule (Roadless Rule) in Alaska or elsewhere. The Roadless Rule was implemented with unprecedented public support to protect some of our nations most pristine public lands, including large parts of the Tongass National Forest. You must choose the No Action alternative. Any other choice would ignore overwhelming 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 Toshlis

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: DeeDee
Last name: Tostanoski
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is DeeDee Tostanoski and I live in Alexandria, 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, DeeDee Tostanoski

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: DeeDee
Last name: Tostanoski
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

The Tongass contains some of the largest intact old-growth temperate rainforest in the world, and its value in providing clean water for fish and wildlife habitat is essential to the economic and ecological health of Southeast Alaska. I urge you to keep the federal Roadless Rule intact and current protections in place for national forests in Alaska.

In addition, I strongly object to your plans to reduce and remove protections from our national forests roadless areas. The Roadless Rule is one of the smartest and most popular land management policies the Federal Government has ever adopted. Not only does it preserve some of Americas best fish and wildlife habitat, but it also saves untold millions of taxpayer dollars that might otherwise be spent to subsidize money-losing timber sales. The value of the Roadless Rule in preventing environmentally damaging and economically wasteful road-building and logging is particularly relevant in the Tongass, where logging costs vastly exceed timber revenues and require unconscionable taxpayer subsidies.
Regards, DeeDee Tostanoski

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Anabela
Last name: Toth
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- 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, Anabela Toth

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Carolyn
Last name: Toth
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Carolyn Toth and I live in New London, 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, Carolyn Toth

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Jane
Last name: Toth
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Jane Toth and I live in South Euclid, Ohio.

The health of people who live near oil and gas facilities and breath in toxic air pollutants should be the top priority of the Trump administration; not the oil and gas 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, Jane Toth

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/10/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Jane
Last name: Toth
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Jane Toth and I live in Cleveland, Ohio.

Our forests are vitally important to the health and wellbeing of our planet. There must be no roads through them especially if these roads facilitate the destruction of these forests and the life they support and the economy of the Alaskan 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, Jane Toth

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Jane
Last name: Toth
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

The Tongass contains some of the largest intact old-growth temperate rainforest in the world, and its value in providing clean water for fish and wildlife habitat is essential to the economic and ecological health of Southeast Alaska. I urge you to keep the federal Roadless Rule intact and current protections in place for national forests in Alaska.

In addition, I strongly object to your plans to reduce and remove protections from our national forests roadless areas. The Roadless Rule is one of the smartest and most popular land management policies the Federal Government has ever adopted. Not only does it preserve some of Americas best fish and wildlife habitat, but it also saves untold millions of taxpayer dollars that might otherwise be spent to subsidize money-losing timber sales. The value of the Roadless Rule in preventing environmentally damaging and economically 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 Toth

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Joe
Last name: Toth
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
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Regards, Joe Toth

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Joe
Last name: Toth
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- 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, Joe Toth

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Myra
Last name: Toth
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Myra Toth and I live in Ojai, 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, Myra Toth

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Tracey
Last name: toth
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Tracey toth 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, Tracey toth

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Janet
Last name: Totten
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Janet Totten and I live in Santee, 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, Janet Totten

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/10/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Michael
Last name: Totten
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
To WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

I am writing to urge the US Forest Service to protect taxpayer interests and maintain the Roadless Rule in Alaska.

Please review the compelling analysis by Taxpayers for Common Sense, which shows that 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.

In addition to the financial liability of increased timber sales in the Tongass, a Roadless Rule exemption would impact local communities that depend on the forest. The area maintains a robust commercial fishing, recreation, and tourism industry - all of that is in jeopardy if this proposal is finalized. Specifically:

The Tongass National Forest is the largest forest in the National Forest System at 16.7 million acres. It is also part of the largest temperate rainforest in the world. There are currently 31 timber sales under contract in the Tongass National forest totaling 62 million board feet of timber yet to be harvested. Using 20-year averages, taxpayers stand to lose $37 million on the remaining timber from these projects. By exempting the Tongass National Forest from the Roadless Rule the US Forest Service would be paving the way to additional money-losing timber sales, which have already cost federal taxpayers $600 million over the last 20 years. Opening the Tongass National Forest to additional road building would only add to the US Forest Service's $3.2 billion maintenance backlog for roads across the National Forest System. In addition to creating more timber sales in the Tongass National Forest an exemption from the Roadless Rule would harm local industries such as hunting, recreation, and commercial fishing - all essential to individuals living in the region.

I worked on this issue in the 1980s as senior advisor to U.S. Congresswoman Claudine Schneider (R-RI). It is alarming, to say the least, to think that such road development would even be considered at this point in time.

Respectfully submitted byMichael P TottenDenver, CO

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Mary
Last name: Totty
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Mary Totty and I live in Monroe, 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, Mary Totty

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Lana
Last name: Touchstone
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Lana Touchstone and I live in Vallejo, California.

As someone with asthma, clean air is a necessity for me.

I am writing to express strong opposition to efforts to roll back the Roadless Area Conservation Rule (Roadless Rule) in Alaska or elsewhere. The Roadless Rule was implemented with unprecedented public support to protect some of our nations most pristine public lands, including large parts of the Tongass National Forest. You must choose the No Action alternative. Any other choice would ignore overwhelming public support and harm Alaskans, including Alaska Natives, and taxpayers across the nation.

In Southeast Alaska, tourism accounts for 28% of employment and generate an annual $1 billion in economic benefit, making it far more of an economic driver than the timber industry, which is less than 1% of the regional economy.

Any choice but the No Action alternative would also put wildlife and critical habitat at risk, threaten access to clean water, and be a step in the wrong direction on climate change jeopardizing Alaskans at a time when the state already faces severe challenges related to rising temperatures. I urge you not to abandon the Roadless Rule in Alaska and instead to put the public interest above corporate profits by choosing to keep the rule in place unchanged.

Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Lana Touchstone

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/7/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: John
Last name: Touchton
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: Mark
Last name: Toukan
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

The Tongass contains some of the largest intact old-growth temperate rainforest in the world, and its value in providing clean water for fish and wildlife habitat is essential to the economic and ecological health of Southeast Alaska. I urge you to keep the federal Roadless Rule intact and current protections in place for national forests in Alaska.

In addition, I strongly object to your plans to reduce and remove protections from our national forests roadless areas. The Roadless Rule is one of the smartest and most popular land management policies the Federal Government has ever adopted. Not only does it preserve some of Americas best fish and wildlife habitat, but it also saves untold millions of taxpayer dollars that might otherwise be spent to subsidize money-losing timber sales. The value of the Roadless Rule in preventing environmentally damaging and economically 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 Toukan

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Nicole
Last name: Tourgee
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Nicole Tourgee 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, Nicole Tourgee

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/10/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Jon
Last name: Tourville
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Jon Tourville and I live in Monument, Colorado.

The vast majority of Americans including myself support strong protect of roadless areas. Please protect this pristine forest from roads and wasteful 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, Jon Tourville

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Dennis
Last name: Tousana
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Dennis Tousana and I live in Chicago, Illinois.

This is another of the truly wild and beautiful place left, and we should leave it as is, by not putting money over nature. Like they say 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, Dennis Tousana

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Kay
Last name: Tousley
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Kay Tousley 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, Kay Tousley

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Michael
Last name: Tout
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I want to submit my strong objection to the plan to exempt the Tonga's National Forest from the Roadless Act. I live where there used to be many acres of old growth redwoods. I lived through the impacts of profit oriented logging pitting community against community. I do not want to see that again. We should have learned our lesson from that page in our history. There simply is no way to replace ancient trees. Once they are cut they are gone forever. It is nothing more than greed that motivates the move to open this wild and pristine environment to the ravages of logging. There are many second growth timber stands available that are already accessible. The environmental damage of logging roads still plague my area. Do not sell out the people of the United States of America again. This is our land. The responsibility to protect it belongs to you. Do not display the same old same old that we know is wrong! America the beautiful is here for all of us and should not be defiled to give the timber industry a profit. Stop this insanity before it gets started. Please!

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: John
Last name: Tovar
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is John Tovar and I live in Cedar Falls, Iowa.

This earth is the only one that we can call home and it should be treated as such.

I am writing to express strong opposition to efforts to roll back the Roadless Area Conservation Rule (Roadless Rule) in Alaska or elsewhere. The Roadless Rule was implemented with unprecedented public support to protect some of our nations most pristine public lands, including large parts of the Tongass National Forest. You must choose the No Action alternative. Any other choice would ignore overwhelming public support and harm Alaskans, including Alaska Natives, and taxpayers across the nation.

In Southeast Alaska, tourism accounts for 28% of employment and generate an annual $1 billion in economic benefit, making it far more of an economic driver than the timber industry, which is less than 1% of the regional economy.

Any choice but the No Action alternative would also put wildlife and critical habitat at risk, threaten access to clean water, and be a step in the wrong direction on climate change jeopardizing Alaskans at a time when the state already faces severe challenges related to rising temperatures. I urge you not to abandon the Roadless Rule in Alaska and instead 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 Tovar

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/18/2019 7:23:24 PM
First name: John
Last name: Tovar
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,
John Tovar
Cedar Falls, IA 50613

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Tamara
Last name: Tovey
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Tamara Tovey and I live in El Sobrante, California.

I am appalled by the continued caving to corporate interests when every tree matters in a time of climate change, WHICH IS HERE. Trees sequester carbon. Corporations serve only investor 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, Tamara Tovey

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Stanley
Last name: Towarnicki
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: Laine
Last name: Towell
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Laine Towell and I live in Hillsboro, Oregon.

We need to protect this land to save the many species who call it 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, Laine Towell

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Lynn
Last name: Tower
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Lynn Tower and I live in Burrillville, Rhode Island.

Learned nothing of the burning of the Amazon , huh ? Or just too stupid to 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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Lynn Tower

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Gloria
Last name: Towers
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Gloria Towers and I live in Carlsbad, 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, Gloria Towers

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Todd
Last name: Towery
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Todd Towery and I live in Kensington, Maryland.

SAVE OUR TREES & NATURAL 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, Todd Towery

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: pat
Last name: towey
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is pat towey and I live in West Chester, 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, pat towey

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/18/2019 5:54:51 PM
First name: Erika
Last name: Towle
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Comments to oppose modification to the Roadless Rule

Dear U.S. Forest Service,

Please keep Tongass free of roads.. 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,
Erika Towle
Concord, NH 03301

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Sheila
Last name: Towle
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

The Tongass contains some of the largest intact old-growth temperate rainforest in the world, and its value in providing clean water for fish and wildlife habitat is essential to the economic and ecological health of Southeast Alaska. I urge you to keep the federal Roadless Rule intact and current protections in place for national forests in Alaska.

In addition, I strongly object to your plans to reduce and remove protections from our national forests roadless areas. The Roadless Rule is one of the smartest and most popular land management policies the Federal Government has ever adopted. Not only does it preserve some of Americas best fish and wildlife habitat, but it also saves untold millions of taxpayer dollars that might otherwise be spent to subsidize money-losing timber sales. The value of the Roadless Rule in preventing environmentally damaging and economically wasteful road-building and logging is particularly relevant in the Tongass, where logging costs vastly exceed timber revenues and require unconscionable taxpayer subsidies.
Regards, Sheila Towle

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/5/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Derek
Last name: Towles
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: Arlette
Last name: Towner
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

The Tongass contains some of the largest intact old-growth temperate rainforest in the world, and its value in providing clean water for fish and wildlife habitat is essential to the economic and ecological health of Southeast Alaska. I urge you to keep the federal Roadless Rule intact and current protections in place for national forests in Alaska.

In addition, I strongly object to your plans to reduce and remove protections from our national forests roadless areas. The Roadless Rule is one of the smartest and most popular land management policies the Federal Government has ever adopted. Not only does it preserve some of Americas best fish and wildlife habitat, but it also saves untold millions of taxpayer dollars that might otherwise be spent to subsidize money-losing timber sales. The value of the Roadless Rule in preventing environmentally damaging and economically wasteful road-building and logging is particularly relevant in the Tongass, where logging costs vastly exceed timber revenues and require unconscionable taxpayer subsidies.
Regards, Arlette Towner

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Arlette
Last name: Towner
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

The Tongass contains some of the largest intact old-growth temperate rainforest in the world, and its value in providing clean water for fish and wildlife habitat is essential to the economic and ecological health of Southeast Alaska. I urge you to keep the federal Roadless Rule intact and current protections in place for national forests in Alaska.

In addition, I strongly object to your plans to reduce and remove protections from our national forests roadless areas. The Roadless Rule is one of the smartest and most popular land management policies the Federal Government has ever adopted. Not only does it preserve some of Americas best fish and wildlife habitat, but it also saves untold millions of taxpayer dollars that might otherwise be spent to subsidize money-losing timber sales. The value of the Roadless Rule in preventing environmentally damaging and economically wasteful road-building and logging is particularly relevant in the Tongass, where logging costs vastly exceed timber revenues and require unconscionable taxpayer subsidies.
Regards, Arlette Towner

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/7/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Bruce
Last name: Towner
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: Erline
Last name: Towner
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Erline Towner and I live in Milford, New Hampshire.

Stop this insanity that is being presented by corporate pressure to an impeachable president. It is corrupt. Refrain from being involved.

I am writing to express strong opposition to efforts to roll back the Roadless Area Conservation Rule (Roadless Rule) in Alaska or elsewhere. The Roadless Rule was implemented with unprecedented public support to protect some of our nations most pristine public lands, including large parts of the Tongass National Forest. You must choose the No Action alternative. Any other choice would ignore overwhelming public support and harm Alaskans, including Alaska Natives, and taxpayers across the nation.

In Southeast Alaska, tourism accounts for 28% of employment and generate an annual $1 billion in economic benefit, making it far more of an economic driver than the timber industry, which is less than 1% of the regional economy.

Any choice but the No Action alternative would also put wildlife and critical habitat at risk, threaten access to clean water, and be a step in the wrong direction on climate change jeopardizing Alaskans at a time when the state already faces severe challenges related to rising temperatures. I urge you not to abandon the Roadless Rule in Alaska and instead to put the public interest above corporate profits by choosing to keep the rule in place unchanged.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Regards, Erline Towner

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/18/2019 4:55:00 PM
First name: Linda
Last name: Townill
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,
Linda Townill
Plainfield, IL 60544

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Jane
Last name: Towns
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

The Tongass contains some of the largest intact old-growth temperate rainforest in the world, and its value in providing clean water for fish and wildlife habitat is essential to the economic and ecological health of Southeast Alaska. I urge you to keep the federal Roadless Rule intact and current protections in place for national forests in Alaska.

In addition, I strongly object to your plans to reduce and remove protections from our national forests roadless areas. The Roadless Rule is one of the smartest and most popular land management policies the Federal Government has ever adopted. Not only does it preserve some of Americas best fish and wildlife habitat, but it also saves untold millions of taxpayer dollars that might otherwise be spent to subsidize money-losing timber sales. The value of the Roadless Rule in preventing environmentally damaging and economically 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 Towns

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/10/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Robert
Last name: Towns
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Robert Towns and I live in Floral 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.

In Southeast Alaska, tourism accounts for 28% of employment and generate an annual $1 billion in economic benefit, making it far more of an economic driver than the timber industry, which is less than 1% of the regional economy.

Any choice but the No Action alternative would also put wildlife and critical habitat at risk, threaten access to clean water, and be a step in the wrong direction on climate change jeopardizing Alaskans at a time when the state already faces severe challenges related to rising temperatures. I urge you not to abandon the Roadless Rule in Alaska and instead 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 Towns

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Aimee
Last name: Townsend
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

The Tongass contains some of the largest intact old-growth temperate rainforest in the world, and its value in providing clean water for fish and wildlife habitat is essential to the economic and ecological health of Southeast Alaska. I urge you to keep the federal Roadless Rule intact and current protections in place for national forests in Alaska.

In addition, I strongly object to your plans to reduce and remove protections from our national forests roadless areas. The Roadless Rule is one of the smartest and most popular land management policies the Federal Government has ever adopted. Not only does it preserve some of Americas best fish and wildlife habitat, but it also saves untold millions of taxpayer dollars that might otherwise be spent to subsidize money-losing timber sales. The value of the Roadless Rule in preventing environmentally damaging and economically wasteful road-building and logging is particularly relevant in the Tongass, where logging costs vastly exceed timber revenues and require unconscionable taxpayer subsidies.
Regards, Aimee Townsend

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Carole
Last name: townsend
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Carole Townsend and I live in Hilton Head Island, SC. 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 as if its important to keep from cutting down forests, as has been recommended. It will definitely encourage the climate change we worry about.

I like the roadless rules and trust they will not be broken.

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, 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, 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]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/17/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Cherie
Last name: Townsend
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Cherie Townsend and I live in Crestwood, 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, Cherie Townsend

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Cheryl
Last name: Townsend
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
No no no no. Say no to .money and yes to life

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Frederick
Last name: Townsend
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Frederick Townsend and I live in Brandon Township, Michigan.

My wife and I drove to Alaska in 1966. We traveled on 10 of the 11 roads in Alaska at that time. The rest of Alaska was "wilderness" because of the lack of roads. To counter the climate crisis, what remains of wilderness in Alaska must remain 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, Frederick Townsend

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Larry
Last name: Townsend
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

The Tongass contains some of the largest intact old-growth temperate rainforest in the world, and its value in providing clean water for fish and wildlife habitat is essential to the economic and ecological health of Southeast Alaska. I urge you to keep the federal Roadless Rule intact and current protections in place for national forests in Alaska.

In addition, I strongly object to your plans to reduce and remove protections from our national forests roadless areas. The Roadless Rule is one of the smartest and most popular land management policies the Federal Government has ever adopted. Not only does it preserve some of Americas best fish and wildlife habitat, but it also saves untold millions of taxpayer dollars that might otherwise be spent to subsidize money-losing timber sales. The value of the Roadless Rule in preventing environmentally damaging and economically 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 Townsend

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Peter
Last name: Townsend
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Peter Townsend and I live in Ashland, 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, Peter Townsend

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/20/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Rob
Last name: Townsend
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Please Conserve the Tongass. There is nothing else like it and once gone we'll never see its like again. We need not exploit all our natural resources for profit.

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Sarah
Last name: Townsend
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Sarah Townsend and I live in Santa Clara, 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, Sarah Townsend

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/18/2019 9:56:07 PM
First name: Sarah
Last name: Townsend
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,
Sarah Townsend
Santa Clara, CA 95050

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Trisha
Last name: Townsend
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Trisha Townsend 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.

In Southeast Alaska, tourism accounts for 28% of employment and generate an annual $1 billion in economic benefit, making it far more of an economic driver than the timber industry, which is less than 1% of the regional economy.

Any choice but the No Action alternative would also put wildlife and critical habitat at risk, threaten access to clean water, and be a step in the wrong direction on climate change jeopardizing Alaskans at a time when the state already faces severe challenges related to rising temperatures. I urge you not to abandon the Roadless Rule in Alaska and instead 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 Townsend

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/5/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Will
Last name: Townsend
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: Dorothy
Last name: Townsend-Tyers
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

The Tongass contains some of the largest intact old-growth temperate rainforest in the world, and its value in providing clean water for fish and wildlife habitat is essential to the economic and ecological health of Southeast Alaska. I urge you to keep the federal Roadless Rule intact and current protections in place for national forests in Alaska.

In addition, I strongly object to your plans to reduce and remove protections from our national forests roadless areas. The Roadless Rule is one of the smartest and most popular land management policies the Federal Government has ever adopted. Not only does it preserve some of Americas best fish and wildlife habitat, but it also saves untold millions of taxpayer dollars that might otherwise be spent to subsidize money-losing timber sales. The value of the Roadless Rule in preventing environmentally damaging and economically 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 Townsend-Tyers

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Aaron
Last name: Townsley
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: Paula
Last name: Towry
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Paula Towry and I live in East Point, 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, Paula Towry

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Beverly
Last name: Toyama
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Beverly Toyama and I live in Pearl City, HawaiiPlease leave the forest of Alaska the way it is. There is natural beauty in the wild. Don't turn it into an urban jungle like we have 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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.Beverly Toyama

Regards, Beverly Toyama

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Karen
Last name: Toyohara
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Karen Toyohara and I live in La Mesa, 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 Toyohara

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Noah
Last name: Tp
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
On Management of the Tongass Rainforest

To whom it may concern,

As an American citizen and as a consumer, I have a personal stake in the management of the Tongass Rainforest, not just for its beauty and value as a carbon sink, but for the commercial value it provides as a source of salmon. According to the Draft Environmental Impact statement, there are 6 "alternatives" presented for managing the Tongass Rainforest. In this comment, I would like to briefly explain why the preferred alternative of the forestry service, alternative 6, is incredibly foolish, and why alternative 2 is a far better option for long-term economic benefit.

Alternative 6 exempts 9.2 million acres, over half of the Tongass rainforest, from the 2001 roadless rule. The Environmental Impact Statement states at the bottom of page 30: "Timber harvest levels are expected to remain the same for all alternatives." I do not know how they reached that conclusion, but even if that were true, it still matters significantly where roads are constructed and where timber harvesting takes place.

I've put a link at the bottom to a map of T77 watersheds(1). It is a list of areas designated as watersheds not under permanent protection that are key for salmonid habitats in Southeast Alaska, the same region as the Tongass rainforest, which was determined by a scientific assessment of the coastal forests and mountains. Salmon fishing is a vital industry for the local communities, one that requires the tongass rainforest, specifically these watersheds, to remain protected and undeveloped. Timber harvesting anywhere near these watersheds would erode the soil, dirtying the water and harming the salmon, making them less numerous. Road production as well has a harmful effect on nearby watersheds. By the Forest Service's own admission(2), roads a major contributor to soil erosion and stream sedimentation, which contributes to the destruction of aquatic habits. To build roads or harvest timber anywhere near these watersheds would seriously harm the local fishing industry, and make salmon less plentiful, thereby becoming more expensive, making it more difficult for people like myself to gain access to a treasured commodity. Yet under alternative 6, many of these key watersheds would be open to harmful road construction and timber harvest.

Alternative 2, on the other hand, provides the most protection to these watersheds, designating 3.25 million acres for protection of the T77 watersheds, ensuring the permanent protection of the local economy. Additionally, there is a net gain total acreage under the roadless rule, making The Tongass rainforest far less at risk for forest fragmentation, which occurs as a consequence of development. if a road were constructed through a forest, or timber harvested deep within the forest, it would disturb the forest as a whole, leading to the loss of biodiversity, increase of invasive plant species, and a general degradation of the entire ecosystem. It is a well documented contributor to habitat degradation. I mention this because alternative 3 offers similar protection for T77 watersheds, but still exempts a significant portion of the forest from the roadless rule. Because all things are interconnected, any significant harm to the rainforest would inevitably have a domino effect, and eventually harm these key watersheds. It is yet another reason why it matters where timber harvesting is allowed to happen. And as an aside, fragmentation would also make practicing forestry as a profession less viable, which would also harm the local economy.

In this comment I've focused on the T77 watersheds and forest fragmentation but there are in fact many other reasons to pursue alternative 2, both economic and moral. Alternative 2 is without a doubt the best way to ensure the prevention of fragmentation and general habitat destruction, as well as the future economic prosperity of local communities that depend on this forest for their livelihoods. It is the best option because it preserves the tongass rainforest better than any other plan. I understand the political pressure that exists to pursue alternative 6, but I hope you seriously consider what I have written, and that you make your decision accordingly, not based on political pressures, but on what is desired by the communities that depend on the preservation of the Tongass.

Sincerely, Noah Tamas-Parris

Sources:

1) T77 Watersheds

https://ak.audubon.org/sites/default/files/t77_subsection_seak_atlas_ch07_human_uses_200dpi.pdf

2) Roads as a contributor to soil erosion

https://www.srs.fs.usda.gov/pubs/ja/ja_grace010.pdf

[POSITION]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/11/2019 10:28:54 AM
First name: Kathryne
Last name: Tracey
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Kathryne Tracey and I live in Haines, Alaska. Ive lived in Haines since February. I value all of the forest we have left and I depend on it for my personal happiness seeing as it offers life to so many species. 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, recreating, fishing, 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 4: 'roadless' Priority. 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, 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, low-impact recreation such as camping, hiking, hunting, and fishing . 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.

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: Gale
Last name: Trachtenberg
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Gale Trachtenberg 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, Gale Trachtenberg

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Lila
Last name: Trachtenberg
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Lila Trachtenberg 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, Lila Trachtenberg

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Loren
Last name: Tracy
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Keep the roadless rule

I support maintaining the roadless rule every where it currently applies. We have to leave swathes if nature untouched. We have to. I support plenty of logging and extracting of minerals from the earth but we have to draw the line. At this point if we cross this line we get into the zone of no more lines to be crossed. This is the end of the line!

Loren T.

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Meghan
Last name: Tracy
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Meghan Tracy 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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Meghan Tracy

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Meghan
Last name: Tracy
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

The Tongass contains some of the largest intact old-growth temperate rainforest in the world, and its value in providing clean water for fish and wildlife habitat is essential to the economic and ecological health of Southeast Alaska. I urge you to keep the federal Roadless Rule intact and current protections in place for national forests in Alaska.

In addition, I strongly object to your plans to reduce and remove protections from our national forests roadless areas. The Roadless Rule is one of the smartest and most popular land management policies the Federal Government has ever adopted. Not only does it preserve some of Americas best fish and wildlife habitat, but it also saves untold millions of taxpayer dollars that might otherwise be spent to subsidize money-losing timber sales. The value of the Roadless Rule in preventing environmentally damaging and economically wasteful road-building and logging is particularly relevant in the Tongass, where logging costs vastly exceed timber revenues and require unconscionable taxpayer subsidies.
Regards, Meghan Tracy

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: R.S.
Last name: Tracy
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is R.S. Tracy and I live in Montpelier, Vermont.

It is time for you to begin putting the interests of the American people ahead of corporate profits. Do not remove protections from the Tongass National Forest. Do not repeal the Roadless Rules.

We are at an environmental crossroads, and it is time to stop behaving like we have another planet to go to when you and your cronies have finished destroying this one. It is time for you to put the interests of our planet ahead of corporate greed.

If you think money is everything, try counting it while holding your breath.

I am writing to express strong opposition to efforts to roll back the Roadless Area Conservation Rule (Roadless Rule) in Alaska or elsewhere. The Roadless Rule was implemented with unprecedented public support to protect some of our nations most pristine public lands, including large parts of the Tongass National Forest. You must choose the No Action alternative. Any other choice would ignore overwhelming 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.S. Tracy

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Ray
Last name: Tracy
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

The Tongass contains some of the largest intact old-growth temperate rainforest in the world, and its value in providing clean water for fish and wildlife habitat is essential to the economic and ecological health of Southeast Alaska. I urge you to keep the federal Roadless Rule intact and current protections in place for national forests in Alaska.

In addition, I strongly object to your plans to reduce and remove protections from our national forests roadless areas. The Roadless Rule is one of the smartest and most popular land management policies the Federal Government has ever adopted. Not only does it preserve some of Americas best fish and wildlife habitat, but it also saves untold millions of taxpayer dollars that might otherwise be spent to subsidize money-losing timber sales. The value of the Roadless Rule in preventing environmentally damaging and economically wasteful road-building and logging is particularly relevant in the Tongass, where logging costs vastly exceed timber revenues and require unconscionable taxpayer subsidies.
Regards, Ray Tracy

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/20/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Barb
Last name: Trader
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Do NOT log the Tongass National Forest! This area is a majestic natural treasure - an effective tool in drawing carbon out of the atmosphere, and irreplaceable. I have hiked through parts of this forest and found it to be majestic, pristine, and unmatched in beauty. Once these trees are logged, they are gone forever. I am deeply opposed to this reckless, needless action.

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Andrea
Last name: Traeger
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Andrea Traeger 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.

In Southeast Alaska, tourism accounts for 28% of employment and generate an annual $1 billion in economic benefit, making it far more of an economic driver than the timber industry, which is less than 1% of the regional economy.

Any choice but the No Action alternative would also put wildlife and critical habitat at risk, threaten access to clean water, and be a step in the wrong direction on climate change jeopardizing Alaskans at a time when the state already faces severe challenges related to rising temperatures. I urge you not to abandon the Roadless Rule in Alaska and instead 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 Traeger

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/11/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Ray
Last name: Traendly
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: Raymond
Last name: Traendly
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: Robert
Last name: Traer
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

The Tongass contains some of the largest intact old-growth temperate rainforest in the world, and its value in providing clean water for fish and wildlife habitat is essential to the economic and ecological 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 Traer

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Jeffrey
Last name: Trafican
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC3228

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,

Jeffrey Trafican

Fresno, CA 93710

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 1/1/0001 12:00:00 AM
First name: Jeffrey
Last name: Trafican
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC3589

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,
Jeffrey Trafican
Fresno, CA 93710

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Jeffrey
Last name: Trafican
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
3589

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,

Jeffrey Trafican

Fresno, CA 93710

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/7/2019 6:35:48 PM
First name: Renee
Last name: Trafton
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Renee Trafton and I live in Sitka, AK. I have been here for 6 years. I am the chef and owner of a seafood restaurant, specializing in Alaskan fish and products. I buy my fish from local fishermen, and I need the environment to be clean and healthy in order for fish to thrive here. The forests are vital to salmon health. 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, 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 Tongass is a treasure, and perfect 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 devote resources to support our fishing and visitor industries improve and streamline existing permitting processes for important community projects rather than rehashing old conflicts 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): 12/13/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Zoe
Last name: Trafton
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC626

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 interested in learning more!

Here in Sitka, we have two dams, both of which provide drinking water and hydroelectricity for our entire town. My family and I walk through our beautiful Tongass National Forest almost every day, and we would be absolutely devastated if there was logging in our salmon watershed, Indian River. Please protect the Tongass.

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Marcy
Last name: Trager
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Marcy Trager and I live in Ann Arbor, 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, Marcy Trager

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Nevada
Last name: Trager
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

The Tongass contains some of the largest intact old-growth temperate rainforest in the world, and its value in providing clean water for fish and wildlife habitat is essential to the economic and ecological health of Southeast Alaska. I urge you to keep the federal Roadless Rule intact and current protections in place for national forests in Alaska.

In addition, I strongly object to your plans to reduce and remove protections from our national forests roadless areas. The Roadless Rule is one of the smartest and most popular land management policies the Federal Government has ever adopted. Not only does it preserve some of Americas best fish and wildlife habitat, but it also saves untold millions of taxpayer dollars that might otherwise be spent to subsidize money-losing timber sales. The value of the Roadless Rule in preventing environmentally damaging and economically wasteful road-building and logging is particularly relevant in the Tongass, where logging costs vastly exceed timber revenues and require unconscionable taxpayer subsidies.
Regards, Nevada Trager

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Priscilla
Last name: Trageser
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

The Tongass contains some of the largest intact old-growth temperate rainforest in the world, and its value in providing clean water for fish and wildlife habitat is essential to the economic and ecological health of Southeast Alaska. I urge you to keep the federal Roadless Rule intact and current protections in place for national forests in Alaska.

In addition, I strongly object to your plans to reduce and remove protections from our national forests roadless areas. The Roadless Rule is one of the smartest and most popular land management policies the Federal Government has ever adopted. Not only does it preserve some of Americas best fish and wildlife habitat, but it also saves untold millions of taxpayer dollars that might otherwise be spent to subsidize money-losing timber sales. The value of the Roadless Rule in preventing environmentally damaging and economically 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 Trageser

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Ron
Last name: Tragni
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Ron Tragni and I live in Frisco, 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, Ron Tragni

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Cindy
Last name: Trahan-Liptak
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

The Tongass contains some of the largest intact old-growth temperate rainforest in the world, and its value in providing clean water for fish and wildlife habitat is essential to the economic and ecological health of Southeast Alaska. I urge you to keep the federal Roadless Rule intact and current protections in place for national forests in Alaska.

In addition, I strongly object to your plans to reduce and remove protections from our national forests roadless areas. The Roadless Rule is one of the smartest and most popular land management policies the Federal Government has ever adopted. Not only does it preserve some of Americas best fish and wildlife habitat, but it also saves untold millions of taxpayer dollars that might otherwise be spent to subsidize money-losing timber sales. The value of the Roadless Rule in preventing environmentally damaging and economically 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 Trahan-Liptak

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Tamie
Last name: Trainer
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

The Tongass contains some of the largest intact old-growth temperate rainforest in the world, and its value in providing clean water for fish and wildlife habitat is essential to the economic and ecological health of Southeast Alaska. I urge you to keep the federal Roadless Rule intact and current protections in place for national forests in Alaska.

In addition, I strongly object to your plans to reduce and remove protections from our national forests roadless areas. The Roadless Rule is one of the smartest and most popular land management policies the Federal Government has ever adopted. Not only does it preserve some of Americas best fish and wildlife habitat, but it also saves untold millions of taxpayer dollars that might otherwise be spent to subsidize money-losing timber sales. The value of the Roadless Rule in preventing environmentally damaging and economically wasteful road-building and logging is particularly relevant in the Tongass, where logging costs vastly exceed timber revenues and require unconscionable taxpayer subsidies.
Regards, Tamie Trainer

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Jesseca
Last name: Trainham
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Jesseca Trainham and I live in Oswego, New York.

You are not alone in this fight. This living Earth needs us all to be brave and speak out-- and you are giving others courage to speak out, too. 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, Jesseca Trainham

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Catherine
Last name: Trainor
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

The Tongass contains some of the largest intact old-growth temperate rainforest in the world, and its value in providing clean water for fish and wildlife habitat is essential to the economic and ecological health of Southeast Alaska. I urge you to keep the federal Roadless Rule intact and current protections in place for national forests in Alaska.

In addition, I strongly object to your plans to reduce and remove protections from our national forests roadless areas. The Roadless Rule is one of the smartest and most popular land management policies the Federal Government has ever adopted. Not only does it preserve some of Americas best fish and wildlife habitat, but it also saves untold millions of taxpayer dollars that might otherwise be spent to subsidize money-losing timber sales. The value of the Roadless Rule in preventing environmentally damaging and economically 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 Trainor

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/11/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Jonathan
Last name: Trainor
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: Meredith
Last name: Trainor
Organization: Southeast Alaska Conservation Council
Title: Executive Director
Comments:
December 17, 2019

Also submitted via email to: akroadlessrule@usda.gov

Dear Secretary Perdue and Chief Christiansen,

On November 4th, 2019 the United States Forest Service held a public meeting in Juneau for the Alaska Roadless Rulemaking process. Over 200 residents from Juneau attended the meeting which consisted of a thirty-five-minute PowerPoint presentation reviewing six alternatives presented in the Alaska-specific Roadless Rule Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS). This presentation was followed by an opportunity for the public to ask questions and receive answers from several Forest Service staff. At this meeting it was clear that a majority of the 200+ attendees were discouraged and disappointed to find out the meeting would not include the opportunity to provide public testimony, and that the meeting would not be recorded and submitted for the record.

After this public meeting, several attendees requested Southeast Alaska Conservation Council (SEACC) hold a community public meeting, providing space for Juneau residents to give testimony on the record. On December 16th, 2019, SEACC hired a certified court stenographer and held a community public meeting so that Juneau residents would be able to testify for the record. Over 35 community members attended and 21 of those attendees provided testimony for the record.

The Southeast Alaska Conservation Council was likewise disappointed in the United States Forest Service's failure to properly serve the public by providing an opportunity for the public to comment on the record, as has been the case historically. It is our opinion that the public servants of the United States Forest Service is missing valuable information by purposely choosing not to include a public testimony process within these public meetings, and failing to record the public meetings generally.

Attached please find the recorded testimonies from our community public meeting, which we request and expect will be submitted for the record as 21 "unique letters" from the December 16th, Southeast Alaska Conservation Council's Juneau Community Roadless Rule Public Meeting.

Moving forward, we urge the Forest Service to record oral testimony at public meetings, for any and all rulemaking processes, in fulfillment of the Forest Service's mission and obligation to the public. Please contact Dan Cannon, Southeast Alaska Conservation Council's Tongass Forest Program Manager, at dan@seacc.org with any further questions about these testimonies.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Meredith Trainor

Executive Director

The following text was copy/pasted from 20 attached public testimonies. The system cannot display the formatting, graphics, or tables from the attached original.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY BY MIKE HAMAR
PRESENTED AT THE
JUNEAU COMMUNITY ROADLESS RULE PUBLIC MEETING
HELD: DECEMBER 16, 2019, JUNEAU, ALASKA

SUBMITTED DECEMBER 17, 2019, AS A UNIQUE LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES FOREST SERVICE

MIKE HAMAR: I don't have a prepared statement here either, but my name is Mike Hamar. The spelling is M-I-K-E. Last name, H-A-M-A-R. Zip code, 99801.

I was born in Ketchikan. I grew up on Prince of Wales. My dad was a gyppo logger in the '60s and then became a commercial fisherman. I'm a commercial fisherman myself. And while I do feel that trees need to be cut down and turned into boards, milled into lumber, rocks need to be crushed for driveways, pads for homes, fish need to be served on plates, I feel it needs to meet -- if resource extraction is to take place, it needs to meet a certain criteria.

I'm suspicious of uneconomic development. And I don't know whether it's some politicians who want a feather in their cap, meaning they had a road from Kupreanof Island to Kake, or from Katlian Bay to a point in Chatham Straits, or a lumber company on Prince of Wales who is going to make some money from this, but what I don't like as an Alaskan, a lifelong Alaskan -- I do not like outside business interests coming into our state -- I was born here in Ketchikan -- coming in here, taking the bulk of the money, possibly not harvesting the resources responsibly, and then throwing the locals a crumb and waving goodbye. Just like the fish companies before statehood -- they take the money. They still run. They still do it in Bristol Bay. The guys come up. They take the money. They run south.

So I'm in favor of the rule staying the same, maybe, as this prior gentleman said, with some modifications. But I want what's good for most Alaskans, if most Alaskans agree with it, and responsible extraction, if it is to take place, and hopefully by residents of our state. I'm absolutely opposed to Alternative 6.

Thank you for your time.

Public Testimony recorded and transcribed by Glacier Stenographic Reporters, Inc.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY BY AUTUMN SIMONS
PRESENTED AT THE
JUNEAU COMMUNITY ROADLESS RULE PUBLIC MEETING
HELD: DECEMBER 16, 2019, JUNEAU, ALASKA

SUBMITTED DECEMBER 17, 2019, AS A UNIQUE LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES FOREST SERVICE

AUTUMN SIMONS: So my name is Autumn Simons, A-U-T-U-M-N S-I-M-O-N-S. My zip code is 99801.

I reside on Douglas Island and have loved spending time in the Tongass recreationally, specifically around Juneau and on Douglas island and in Kake, Alaska. I am fortunate and beyond privileged to call the southeast of Alaska my home. And though I'm not surprised that the U.S. government continues to disregard public outcry regarding climate, racial, indigenous, and environmental justice, I'm here to say that building more roads through the Tongass National Forest will cause irreparable damage to one of the nation's and one of the world's greatest treasures.

The Tongass National Forest not only is an essential ecological hub for wildlife, biodiversity, and carbon sequestration, but also a place that Alaska Natives and indigenous people have lived in for thousands of years. Culturally, the current evaluation fails to acknowledge and consider the impacts on subsistence living, which disrespect and further marginalizes indigenous peoples and tribal governments.

Economically, building more roads only fills the pockets of private industries on the dime of Alaskan residents and at the expense of indigenous people.

Environmentally, we lose far greater than what we can ever recover, as has been scientifically and historically cited over hundreds of years of clearcutting in places both in and out of Alaska.

Listen to the voices of the Tongass, the hundreds of people that have cried out against the atrocity that would be altering the Tongass by building more roads and logging. For these reasons I strongly urge Alternative 1, no action.

Public Testimony recorded and transcribed by Glacier Stenographic Reporters, Inc.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY BY PAULINE STRONG
PRESENTED AT THE
JUNEAU COMMUNITY ROADLESS RULE PUBLIC MEETING
HELD: DECEMBER 16, 2019, JUNEAU, ALASKA

SUBMITTED DECEMBER 17, 2019, AS A UNIQUE LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES FOREST SERVICE

PAULINE STRONG: My name is Pauline Strong, P-A-U-L-I-N-E S-T-R-O-N-G. The zip code is 99801.

And I just wanted to say that I really value the Tongass for the old growth that's remaining there, and I don't want to see any more of it gone. And without roads is the way I value it the most, and so I support Alternative 1.

Public Testimony recorded and transcribed by Glacier Stenographic Reporters, Inc.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY BY TODD BAILEY
PRESENTED AT THE
JUNEAU COMMUNITY ROADLESS RULE PUBLIC MEETING
HELD: DECEMBER 16, 2019, JUNEAU, ALASKA

SUBMITTED DECEMBER 17, 2019, AS A UNIQUE LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES FOREST SERVICE

TODD BAILEY: Todd Bailey, Juneau, 99801, and my last name is B-A-I-L-E-Y.

I work in the Tongass. I have a small business, a gillnet and crab direct marketing operation. I've landed over a million pounds of salmon and crab in the Juneau Borough, Haines, Sitka, Petersburg, and Wrangell.

And I support Alternative 1. Alaska has some of the best-managed fisheries in the world, and I owe my livelihood to this, and also to the resource and the lands that support it.

Dungeness and salmon require wildland. Salmon, in particular, is the only thing you can buy in the grocery store that requires wildland, so I think it's even better than organic stuff because it requires wildland.

So I spend a lot of time out driving around, looking for jumpers and crab buoys and stuff, and I see the business that goes on in the Tongass -- the whale watchers, the tourism. I see the cruise ships come by and, you know, all that stuff seems well, like fine things. They don't impact the Tongass that much.

Then you come across a logging operation, and it's just a hot mess. I mean, you can see, you know, where the alders have grown through the roads in these old clearcuts, and, you know, nothing is going to happen there for a hundred years. You know, they don't come through and thin things out. People don't hunt there. They don't even maintain trails in these areas.

A lot of the areas that are highlighted under Alternative 6 are really important to the Dungeness crab fisheries -- inside of Sullivan Island, Windy Bay, Port Hooten, the Snettisham peninsula, all of these places. And the crab are down there digging in the mud. And if that gets all sedimented in, or if they have got their log storage areas there, it's just not going to be good.

Earlier somebody testified about the importance of how marginal the habitat is for coho salmon, and I second that. It seems like, in particular, them and pink salmon will be affected by logging. The northern Southeast stocks of pinks is -- we were just talking about that it's on the verge of being listed as a stock of concern, so any more impact to that -- when it's a big pink salmon year here in Southeast, it's the largest biomass of wild salmon in the world. It can be bigger than the Bristol Bay run, so it's an amazing resource.

Some of the other areas -- Thistle Ledge I saw was in red on the map there. Sand Bay. Thistle Ledge has got to be a really important place if you're going anywhere between the Petersburg area and the Juneau area. If you were doing that in a canoe, that is where you would stop. It's an amazing spot. It's a big sandy pullout with a rock face that just keeps the heat right in front of it. There's also crab there. Point League, Point Sherman, all these places, it would be nice to keep catching fish and crab there. That's it.

Thank you.

Public Testimony recorded and transcribed by Glacier Stenographic Reporters, Inc.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY BY STEVE HUTCHINSON
PRESENTED AT THE
JUNEAU COMMUNITY ROADLESS RULE PUBLIC MEETING
HELD: DECEMBER 16, 2019, JUNEAU, ALASKA

SUBMITTED DECEMBER 17, 2019, AS A UNIQUE LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES FOREST SERVICE

STEVE HUTCHINSON: I'm Steve Hutchinson. That's spelled S-T-E-V-E H-U-T-C-H-I-N-S-O-N. Zip code, 99801.

And I don't have a script either, but I just wanted to make a comment on support of the No-Action Alternative, keeping the roadless rule here on the Tongass. I love the Tongass for the recreation. It's been a healing and sacred place for me in recreation and just living here, and I've submitted comments about that.

And I just want to really urge Secretary Perdue to listen to Southeast Alaskans. As many people mentioned here today, the overwhelming majority of comments are to keep the roadless rule or add more roadless areas and support the No-Action Alternative, and I ask to please, please listen to that.

Also, I just wanted to express my appalling rage at how much Native tribal governments and peoples have been disregarded in this process. There is a letter that Sonny Perdue should have received from the heads of these tribal governments that have acted as cooperative organizations asking for a meeting, and I urge the Secretary to take them up on this and meet with them in person and come here and see these forests.

And I really feel that that needs to happen, and I urge Secretary Perdue and the Forest Service to stop disrespecting and degrading the Native peoples here, the Tlingit Ani here, and degrading these people who have stewarded this land since time immemorial. And so please stop our government's racism and degradation of this land and the people who have been here since time immemorial.

So, again, I support a No-Action Alternative, and please start respecting Native peoples. Thank you.

Public Testimony recorded and transcribed by Glacier Stenographic Reporters, Inc.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY BY CEDAR MALICK
PRESENTED AT THE
JUNEAU COMMUNITY ROADLESS RULE PUBLIC MEETING
HELD: DECEMBER 16, 2019, JUNEAU, ALASKA

SUBMITTED DECEMBER 17, 2019, AS A UNIQUE LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES FOREST SERVICE

CEDAR MALICK: Thank you for letting me speak today. My name is Cedar Malick. My first name is C-E[shy]D-A-R -- ironic, being named after a tree. Last name, M-A-L-I-C-K. Zip code is 99801.

I was born in Juneau, Alaska here. My family homesteaded, so every day I got to see and live in the forest. I got to enjoy and hike every trail I could reach, partake in the fish and game and the exceptional air and water here.

Now, I have a couple numbers I think people need to consider. One billion acres. That is the extent of the old-growth forest before Columbus got to North America. 25 percent, which is the percentage of old-growth forest left standing today. Despite what someone claimed, these forests are not renewable. Once you cut down a 500- to 1,000-year-old tree, guess how long it's going to take to come back? The Tongass is one of the last tracts of unexploited forest in America and provides vital habitat for salmon, fisheries that are already in dire straits. If that habitat collapses, fish hatcheries would only be able to support the salmon populations for a finite time since it is becoming harder and harder to keep their stocks alive because of climate change.

I should know. I've worked in a fish hatchery before, and I got to see firsthand how difficult it is. In the short six years that I worked there, I saw how many fish we'd lose just in incubation.

Now, there is a movie that some of you may know called Soylent Green. I think it's a movie that every person in high school, every student should watch, because it is very sobering. The future presents as a world in the late stages of complete environmental collapse, where trees exist only in exclusive greenhouses. This is an extreme example, but if you want to avoid even the best-case scenario of that horror, we have to start now. So ask yourself: When is enough enough? How low are we willing to let that old-growth percentage get?

Now, I, for one, would not like our great-great-grandchildren to be spitting on our graves in the future, and neither should you. The Tongass is our temple, more holy than any church. Please support Alternative 1, no action.

Public Testimony recorded and transcribed by Glacier Stenographic Reporters, Inc.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY BY MARC SCHOLTEN
PRESENTED AT THE
JUNEAU COMMUNITY ROADLESS RULE PUBLIC MEETING
HELD: DECEMBER 16, 2019, JUNEAU, ALASKA

SUBMITTED DECEMBER 17, 2019, AS A UNIQUE LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES FOREST SERVICE

MARC SCHOLTEN: My name is Marc Scholten, M-A-R-C S-C-H-O-L-T-E-N, 99801.

I moved up here in 1980, and I worked as a cartographer for the Forest Service in the regional office. At that time, the Tongass Timber Supply Fund spent $40 million a year supporting the timber industry, and most of the industry was operating in the southern Tongass -- Prince of Wales Island and Kuiu and Zarembo; a bunch of these islands, anyway. There was a lot of resource damage due to clearcutting.

And I think I want to, first of all, say that I support No. 1, the Alternative No. 1, No-Action Alternative. And the greatest reason to support that is to really take a look at the big picture of the whole earth. We're in actually a climate catastrophe, and I think what we can do best to help protect our planet and our future for everybody is to not log. We should be planting trees and not cutting them down, and that is the best way to carbon-capture the CO2 that's in our atmosphere.

I also, like most everybody here, use the forest for recreation. I used to use it for subsistence, and mostly for a mental -- well, try to retain a mental -- anyway, I'm not a good public speaker.

But it is so refreshing to get out in the woods and just to forget about all the insanity that's going on in our politics and with the climate catastrophe and that. And it grounds you to the planet, to everything that we're related to. And I just want to recommend that they stick with Alternative 1 and retain the mystique and the mysterious and the great old growth that is here in the Tongass National Forest.

Thank you.

Public Testimony recorded and transcribed by Glacier Stenographic Reporters, Inc.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY BY FRED HILTNER
PRESENTED AT THE
JUNEAU COMMUNITY ROADLESS RULE PUBLIC MEETING
HELD: DECEMBER 16, 2019, JUNEAU, ALASKA

SUBMITTED DECEMBER 17, 2019, AS A UNIQUE LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES FOREST SERVICE

FRED HILTNER: Thank you for the opportunity to speak. Fred Hiltner, H-I-L-T-N-E-R. The zip code is 99801.

So I'm here to testify that I'm for Alternative 1, no action toward road building in the Tongass forest. My first job in Alaska 40 years ago was doing wildlife biology, comparing old-growth timber areas with clearcut, logged area. It was clear that comparing old growth with logged areas displaced many wildlife species, from bears to deer to salmon to mice and so on.

Another point -- as an Alaskan subsistence hunter for almost 40 years, it was clear that deer were less frequent in clearcut areas, and transiting through those areas was much more difficult for deer and for hunters, in fact.

My third point -- building roads is not cost-effective and is a waste of taxpayer money, and it also damages our fragile and unique forest.

As a manager in a large tourism company in Juneau that depends on wildlife viewing on land and water in Southeast Alaska, we know that successful tourism is directionally proportional to maintaining the local forests. Our forests are much more valuable through eternity if left standing, compared to a short-term gain from logging.

Again, I'm for Alternative 1, prohibiting further road building for logging in our nation's most sacred jewel, the Tongass National Forest.

Thank you.

Public Testimony recorded and transcribed by Glacier Stenographic Reporters, Inc.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY BY PHILLIP GRAY
PRESENTED AT THE
JUNEAU COMMUNITY ROADLESS RULE PUBLIC MEETING
HELD: DECEMBER 16, 2019, JUNEAU, ALASKA

SUBMITTED DECEMBER 17, 2019, AS A UNIQUE LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES FOREST SERVICE

PHILLIP GRAY: My name is Phillip Gray. I live at Juneau, Alaska 99801.

I've lived in Juneau for over 50 years. I don't have a prepared statement, so I'm just going from memory. I worked for Fish and Game for over 20 years, about 17 to 18 years as a coho research biologist studying cohos throughout Southeast Alaska from Yakutat to Ketchikan. We did some of the first studies on ages of coho that were done, and we also did tagging of juvenile cohos to study harvest rates, migration routes, and timing.

So I've spent a lot of time on the ground in unlogged areas, and I know a lot about coho salmon and what they require. And I've also been in some areas that have been pretty heavily logged, where the areas have been pretty well destroyed.

The first one I remember was over in a place called Iris Meadows in Sitka where Fish and Game had proposed a transplant. It was just a beautiful area. And the commercial fishermen over there saw so much mud coming out of the streams they called up Fish and Game and said, "You guys better get over here and look at this."

So we traveled over there and went through the area, and it looked like it had been bombed. I mean, I remember one place where the whole hillside had slid off into a lake. We tried walking up one of the streams, and it was kind of an unstable pumice soil. And that had slid into the stream, so it was almost knee deep with all the soil that had slid into the stream. So that was one of my first experiences with clearcut logging.

And I also -- personally, myself -- I rely on the old-growth forest here for fishing and for deer hunting. One of my friends and I went deer hunting down in Whitewater Bay on Admiralty Island, which used to be one of Ralph Young's favorite bear hunting areas. We started out going through the logged area, which turned out to be almost impassible, because you fall into big holes, and you could spear yourself on some of the logging debris; so it was dangerous walking there.

And we got on the logging road that went up towards the mountain we wanted to hunt, and it was quite a ways. We walked 7 miles through this logging road. We never saw a single deer or any sign in 7 miles. I guess we saw one mayor. It was pretty tough walking. The alders had grown up pretty thick on this road. But in 7 miles, no sign of any life -- no deer or nothing. As soon as we stepped out into the old growth at the end of 7 miles and up in the headwaters, we started seeing deer sign all over. So that was another experience that convinced me that old-growth logging is dangerous and seriously damaging to both fish and deer.

Coho salmon require -- they're found in almost all little tiny streams and tributaries all over Southeast Alaska. Just little streams that you can almost step across or can step across seem to be some of the most important ones. They are found in marshes and sloughs and lakes and all these little tributaries, and they're seriously damaged by logging. There is no way you can avoid that. Putting roads in and old-growth logging just is not compatible with good-faith production.

So I'm in favor of that Alternative 1, keeping the roadless rule in place. I don't approve of any old-growth logging or roads in any more of the old-growth areas in Southeast Alaska.

Thank you.

Public Testimony recorded and transcribed by Glacier Stenographic Reporters, Inc.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY BY BOB SCHROEDER
PRESENTED AT THE
JUNEAU COMMUNITY ROADLESS RULE PUBLIC MEETING
HELD: DECEMBER 16, 2019, JUNEAU, ALASKA

SUBMITTED DECEMBER 17, 2019, AS A UNIQUE LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES FOREST SERVICE

BOB SCHROEDER: Thank you so much for being here and supporting protection of the Tongass. My name is Bob Schroeder, S-C-H-R-O-E-D-E-R. I live in zip code 99801. My Tlingit name is Chakeen. I'm Takdeintaan, Raven's Nest House from Hoonah.

I'm also a SEACC board member, and I sit on the Southeast Regional Advisory Council for subsistence. Much of my career has been working on the subsistence issue, and that's what I'll focus my comments on this evening.

Basically, the DEIS is extremely disrespectful to indigenous people. The DEIS, for those of you who have looked through it, includes an extremely thin depiction or acknowledgment of tribes, traditional territory, or culture. It also does not describe subsistence uses of the Tongass National Forest in any great detail.

And for those of you who may not be familiar with that literature, it's really deep. The Forest Service itself has spent easily $1 million in documenting subsistence uses in the Tongass National Forest, which includes estimates of harvest levels of fish and wildlife in all the subsistence communities in the region, mapping of subsistence use territories, and mapping of Kwaan and clan territories.

This is a very serious NEPA failing, a National Environmental Policy Act failing, in that what a NEPA document is supposed to do is tell you what you know about the land or the territory that's under review.

I've had the occasion to be at a number of so-called subsistence hearings and have spoken to some of my colleagues who have been at others of these hearings. To say that the hearings held in communities have been overwhelmingly in favor of the No-Action Alternative doesn't do it justice. I mean, there's not a single person who shows up saying, "What we really need in Hoonah, what we really need in Angoon, what we really need in Kake are a lot more roads." Nobody is saying this. And these are people who have also had their experience with logging and logging on Native corporation land and also need jobs to survive. So this response has been really overwhelming in keeping the roadless rule as it is.

I'd like to speak a little bit about the technicalities of the evaluation of subsistence, because this is kind of a special law. Subsistence is protected by the Alaska National Interest Land Conservation Act, Section 8. And under Section 810 -- this gets a little wonky. Excuse me. Section 810 directs Federal agencies as to what they're supposed to do if they're doing a land use action that may significantly restrict subsistence uses.

Now, those are kind of weird terms. What does that mean? That means that if you're going do do something on the land, on federal land, that looks like it may have an effect on subsistence uses, you have to analyze that and come to a determination of significant restriction, or they used to call it FONSI. I don't know if anyone can guess what that means. That's a Finding Of No Significant Impact. So this is all in Forest Service procedures as to how you approach a plan that is a land use action.

In this particular plan, the DEIS for changing the roadless rule really doesn't do this, so it does not analyze subsistence data. It doesn't present subsistence data, and it does not come up with a finding, as required by Forest Service procedures, of significant or no significant impact.

The reason why that's so important is that in Forest Service procedures, subsistence hearings can only be held after you do this step. And that's kind of logical, because if you were doing something and there was no significant impact, you don't need to have hearings, because there isn't any significant impact. But if you do,

you go and have hearings to decide whether or not this is real, whether the analysis was correct, and you want to hear from people in that case.

The hearings that were held throughout Southeast Alaska were fatally flawed, because they did not present any finding that people could respond to. And in that respect, they completely violate the Forest Service's own procedure and a clear and obvious reading of ANILCA Section 810, which is the governing law in this case.

So for these reasons, I believe that the DEIS is fatally flawed and will need to be completely redone before it can be considered just on the subsistence grounds.

The next thing that happens after you have hearings is that the deciding officer -- in this case, that would be Secretary Perdue -- would need to -- if they decide to go ahead with an action, would need to decide that this is somehow necessary. And that's a pretty steep jump, because we have all the people in our regions saying that, "Boy, we really don't want this at all." And so to come out with a finding that it was necessary to do so after holding a bunch of hearings where people say, "Boy, we don't want any change to this law at all" would be a real steep step.

Let's see what else I have here.

I think the DEIS needs to be completely withdrawn. We need to show respect for indigenous cultures. We will point out that Native people have been caretakers of the land on which we walk for thousands of years, and that it's basically the failed fossil capitalism that has us in the fix that we're in, both in the Tongass and with respect to the climate emergency that we face.

Everyone here appears to support the No-Action Alternative, and I support a modified No-Action Alternative. And the reason it needs to be modified is that the inventory of roadless areas is incorrect and it omitted a number of areas, specifically approximately 150,000 acres of forest land that was not roaded but had already been designated for harvest under the pulp company contracts. And so that land still had not been roaded, but it does not appear in the roadless inventory.

Secondly, I believe that since we're going through this exercise at great public expense and calling on a great involvement of people of Southeast Alaska, that I really think that we shouldn't just settle for the existing roadless rule, but we need to, as I said, include the areas that were erroneously omitted from the roadless inventory.

And I think we should examine whether or not, once an area has a road, does that mean that it endlessly is a roaded area? If something had a road put in it in 1975 and nothing has happened there, maybe that's a roadless area as well. I think we need a lot more than the current roadless inventory to be covered by the roadless rule.

That's my testimony. Thank you.

Public Testimony recorded and transcribed by Glacier Stenographic Reporters, Inc.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY BY RICHARD FARNELL
PRESENTED AT THE
JUNEAU COMMUNITY ROADLESS RULE PUBLIC MEETING
HELD: DECEMBER 16, 2019, JUNEAU, ALASKA

SUBMITTED DECEMBER 17, 2019, AS A UNIQUE LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES FOREST SERVICE

RICHARD FARNELL: My name is Richard Farnell, R-I-C-H-A-R-D F-A-R-N-E-L-L, and my zip code 99802.

First of all, I'd like the Forest Service to explain why they're violating my First Amendment rights by not taking testimony from my community that has the majority of citizens in Southeast Alaska, but they will take testimony

from very small communities. This is the justification that the U.S. Supreme Court used in approving the Citizens United lawsuit that destroyed American democracy, so I would think that they would at least allow me to testify in my own community. But please provide me with the justification that you're using for that.

Secondly, keep all existing roadless areas in the Tongass in the existing roadless rule for the Tongass. I want all roadless areas in the Tongass National Forest to remain in the current national roadless rule jurisdiction. In other words, Alternative 1.

I've recently made a $200,000 investment in ability to access roadless areas of the Tongass for hiking, backpacking, trail bike riding, as well as marine-based kayaking and skiffing. These have occurred or will occur on all areas that are currently roadless in the Tongass National Forest. I'm optimistic about my ability to enjoy recreation. I depend on these activities for health and sanity in the era of fake news, continuous lying by the president of the United States and high-level elected officials, and lying by representatives of resource extraction industries to be be able to subvert the will of the public.

Secondly, the process being undertaken by the Forest Service and the Citizens Advisory Committee is unnecessary. It subverts the intent of the Tongass Timber Reform Act, the 2006 U.S. District Court ruling against the state control of roadless designations, and the recently revised management provisions of the Tongass Land Management process. The proposed process, as stated in the press release, has the intent to develop a state-specific roadless rule that establishes a land classification system designed to conserve roadless area characteristics in the Tongass National Forest while accommodating timber harvesting and road construction and reconstruction activities determined by the state to be necessary for forest management.

This intent is illegal. The State of Alaska is not responsible for managing lands on the Tongass National Forest; the federal government is. So the entire intent of this process is without legal basis. In addition, the 2006 U.S. District Court ruling on the subject rejected a move to allow states to designate roadless areas on federal lands.

Secondly, the stated goals of conserving roadless area characteristics while accommodating timber harvesting and road construction and reconstruction are in complete conflict with one another, showing that the intent of this process is not clearly thought out.

Fourth, the members chosen for the Citizens Advisory Committee overwhelmingly represent the resource extraction industry and do not include important stakeholder groups who use the forest, such as tourism, hunters, anglers, and backcountry recreationalists. In addition, the scientists who know about the physical and biological health of the forest are also absent from this committee. Therefore, this committee is not representative of forest uses and is inadequate to objectively review proposals for roadless area changes.

Fifth, the choice of the Forest Service of Alternative 6th in the draft roadless rule, full exemption of the Tongass from the 2001 roadless area conservation rule, fails to account for the vital role that the Tongass National Forest plays is carbon sequestration of carbon dioxide from our atmosphere, the major cause of catastrophic climate change, C-3 -- I'm inventing a new term here -- that is occurring to our planet. The ability of forests such as the Tongass to sequester carbon within the body of old-growth forest means that this characteristic of the undisturbed Tongass forest should be given the highest priority over all other users and uses due to the emergency created by CO2-produced climate change.

The UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, IPCC, report of October 2018 maps out four pathways to achieve a 1.5-degree centigrade maximum atmospheric concentration CO2 level. Reforestation is an essential part of all four strategies. Think of all the jobs that the U.S. Forest Service could create with a replanting program in the areas of the Tongass already damaged from commercial logging, and such a program could help to sequester carbon as well.

Finally, I would request, Secretary Perdue, for you to get a proper perspective on the choice that you're making for these alternatives, you need to visit the moon, and you need to look back at earth and get a view of earth as it is right now, because should you continue with the proposal that you've already stated, this planet is no longer going to be viable and inhabitable. And then you can come back home, and you'll have a better perspective.

Public Testimony recorded and transcribed by Glacier Stenographic Reporters, Inc.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY BY CARL REESE
PRESENTED AT THE
JUNEAU COMMUNITY ROADLESS RULE PUBLIC MEETING
HELD: DECEMBER 16, 2019, JUNEAU, ALASKA

SUBMITTED DECEMBER 17, 2019, AS A UNIQUE LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES FOREST SERVICE

CARL REESE: I'm Carl Reese, C-A-R-L R-E-E-S-E, 99801.

So I moved to Juneau in 2004, and so I've been here for -- I guess that would be 15 years. And I've done a lot of mountain climbing, fishing, kayaking, just the stuff that is around to enjoy. This place is an amazing place to be.

But I'm going to kind of rewind to about 2001, when I was in a conversation with some people. I was in graduate school, just getting out of it. I'm a fisheries biologist. I had just finished a master's degree, and I was talking to some people. And I had just also got a job running a salmon weir in Northern California on the Trinity River. And one of the people that had lived there a long time came up to me and said, "You know, you're just documenting the extinction of these things; right?"

And I thought, "Well, no." It was like, "No, look. Those coho salmon, the silver salmon, they're threatened now. We can't kill them. We can't eat them. We can't do anything other than watch them blink out," which will happen because you could actually go around and look at different tributaries. And the tributaries, some of them had coho in them, but a fair number of them didn't, like 90 percent.

And you could also track that around into the road network and find that the ones that -- and this is actually documented across the northwest, so this is not some new thing, that water quality, fish habitat tend to track pretty strongly with land use. Heavily logged-off areas have -- the mud comes down. Usually it's okay; right? I mean, it's not okay right at first, but it seems like it's going to be. And then the stumps start to fall off the hillsides. A bunch of things like that, just sort of -- and then there's a big storm and things just -- and the whole hill goes out. The next thing you know, you're not seeing any coho in that drainage, and you may not see any of the other species that were there either. You know, in this case, we're talking about king salmon and steelhead.

So, yeah. So I got this e-mail in late 2003 saying "You could apply to be a researcher at UAF, University of Alaska Fairbanks in Juneau." I didn't know. So I thought, "I'm doing this." Because you know what? There are fish up here, like we're not documenting the demise of fisheries; we're documenting healthy stuff, and that's how it's supposed to be.

And we're supposed to be -- is his name Perdue? He's supposed to be managing healthy forests, managing a cultural benefit that we can all enjoy forever, and it's extremely shortsighted to just kind of log this stuff off. We don't really think, most of us, how rare what we have is, worldwide.

People have mentioned climate change over and over and over again. Well, that's true. I don't want to revisit it that much, but a carbon model -- it's already done. But the number of places that have this

kind of intact forest you can count on two hands in the world, and we're going to sell that out so that we can pay logging companies nickels on dollars to cut it all down. And then if history tells us anything, they're just going to take those logs and ship them to somewhere else. They don't even mill them here most of the time. So it's extremely shortsighted. It's extremely bad planning for reasons that I hadn't even thought about until I got here.

Of course building a road network is going to introduce invasive species. I'm not an invasive species specialist, but you don't have to be to know that, and there are papers out there showing this. So if you have a science degree in botany, you probably can follow all those plants moving around.

So, anyway, I advocate for the No-Action Alternative, and that would be Alternative 1. Thanks.

Public Testimony recorded and transcribed by Glacier Stenographic Reporters, Inc.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY BY JULIE KOEHLER
PRESENTED AT THE
JUNEAU COMMUNITY ROADLESS RULE PUBLIC MEETING
HELD: DECEMBER 16, 2019, JUNEAU, ALASKA

SUBMITTED DECEMBER 17, 2019, AS A UNIQUE LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES FOREST SERVICE

JULIE KOEHLER: My name is Julie Koehler, J-U-L-I-E, K-O-E-H-L-E-R, 99802.

I have used the Tongass National Forest since 1985 for recreation, hunting, fishing, berry-picking, kayaking, and on and on. From my college education in fish and wildlife management, work as a naturalist, work as a biological technician, and my personal use of the forest over all these years, I understand the ecology of an old-growth forest and what happens after it's logged. Therefore, I support Alternative 1, the No-Action Alternative.

Like many hundreds of other Southeast Alaskans, I have spoken numerous times over the decades in favor of keeping Tongass old growth standing and intact. Forest Service officials know from the studies done by many, many researchers that keeping old growth stands intact is what needs to be done to protect our Fish and Wildlife resources and ensure their sustainability.

So no need for me to review what has already been pointed out by countless professionals and those of us who know this forest. Instead, I'm going to call out this whole proposal to exempt the Tongass from the roadless rule for what it is, a bald-faced sham, to end-run the wishes of the people who live here and who have had enough of the Forest Service and the State of Alaska trying to liquidated the old growth.

At the Forest Service's November 4th shameful and shameless dog and pony show on this proposal, we were told that exempting the Tongass from the roadless rule won't change how the forest is managed and moving toward the logging of second growth. If that were the case, then why is this exemption being proposed? It is a guise to do old-growth logging through road building.

Alternative 6, minimum impact? Ha. We all know that isn't so. We all know that the guise of this roadless rule exemption is eventually going to end up -- actually probably pretty quickly end up revising the Tongass Land Management Plan so it can incorporate this change and increase the old growth harvest level. And we all know it's a back-door entry into the Chugach National Forest. Our old growth is more valuable standing. Let's keep it standing. Alternative 1. No action.

Public Testimony recorded and transcribed by Glacier Stenographic Reporters, Inc.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY BY PATRICK KEARNEY
PRESENTED AT THE
JUNEAU COMMUNITY ROADLESS RULE PUBLIC MEETING
HELD: DECEMBER 16, 2019, JUNEAU, ALASKA

SUBMITTED DECEMBER 17, 2019, AS A UNIQUE LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES FOREST SERVICE

PATRICK KEARNEY: Patrick Kearney, K-E-A-R-N-E-Y. My zip code is 99801.

I live in Mountain View Apartments on the third floor, and for two years now, through the seasons, I've been watching the beautiful face change. "Beautiful face" is a Tlingit name for Mt. Juneau. And without the pristine climate and place this is, this magical place is, the moss that hangs from the trees that can't grow in a polluted environment wouldn't be here.

I can breathe here, and it's that mist, the clouds that just sort of come up out of the treetops out of nowhere. It's the trees that are breathing and exhaling, as I call it, and it's amazing. And there are so many magical moments that I have watched happen here with the weather and the climate, it just -- I can't take a picture with a camera or a video camera and capture the moment just right. You just have to live here. And so the word that keeps coming to my mind is it's irreplaceable, with capital letters and exclamation points, underscored. Irreplaceable. So I could say that until I run out of breath.

I lived in Humboldt County, in redwood forest country, and the first time I stepped into the redwoods it was like an outdoor cathedral. I was just so awe-inspired. How could somebody destroy this just for so many board feet of lumber?

And in San Diego County, there used to be such incredible beautiful places. They still haunt me to this day from my childhood. They're not there anymore. They were plowed under for housing complexes, which keep burning down in horrible fires. So it still haunts me. So what are we leaving for our grandchildren's grandchildren?

Thank you.

Public Testimony recorded and transcribed by Glacier Stenographic Reporters, Inc.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY BY DAVID LENDRUM
PRESENTED AT THE
JUNEAU COMMUNITY ROADLESS RULE PUBLIC MEETING
HELD: DECEMBER 16, 2019, JUNEAU, ALASKA

SUBMITTED DECEMBER 17, 2019, AS A UNIQUE LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES FOREST SERVICE

DAVID LENDRUM: Good evening. My name is David Lendrum. I live in Juneau. L-E-N-D-R-U-M. I get my mail at 99803.

My worry about roads in the Tongass is that when you cut the trees down and you expose the ground, no matter what you might think that's going to grow back, the richness and diversity will never return. When they logged in the Adirondacks two centuries ago, there are plots laying next to each other, one of which was never logged, one of which was logged 200 years ago. The species diversity is incomparable between the two sites. Things that vanish will never be seen again. Things that are only allowed, only endemic to a particular area and the rules that determine how things adapt to their areas mean that the specific zone that something lives in and grows up in and is adapted to and evolves to fill, that may never be seen again. If these roads penetrate the forest, penetrate the forest fabric, and as a consequence areas become logged, that's what we're looking at. We are looking at a tremendous loss in species diversity.

I was the Southeast representative on the Invasive Species Council for several years, and part of my work there involved looking at the DOT network. And it's very, very clear that invasive species spread by road maintenance activities. If you look at the map showing an overhead view of where we have located invasive species concentrations, they're the nexus of roadwork operations. They can't get there without a road. That's something to always watch out for. The road doesn't just take us; other things go on it too. So I support Alternative 1.

Thank you very much.

Public Testimony recorded and transcribed by Glacier Stenographic Reporters, Inc.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY BY LISA GREENOUGH
PRESENTED AT THE
JUNEAU COMMUNITY ROADLESS RULE PUBLIC MEETING
HELD: DECEMBER 16, 2019, JUNEAU, ALASKA

SUBMITTED DECEMBER 17, 2019, AS A UNIQUE LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES FOREST SERVICE

LISA GREENOUGH: My name is Lisa Greenough, L-I-S-A G-R-E-E-N-O-U-G-H. And my zip code is 99821.

I'm here tonight to share with the Forest Service my views of the roadless rule, and I support Alternative 1 of keeping the Tongass free of roads that are not needed.

I am a lifelong Alaskan. My family moved here in 1963. And I have a young son who is 23, who has grown up here in Juneau, and has had the benefit of living his formative years in a beautiful national forest, which is truly a national treasure. And we should take care of it as such.

Last year, last summer in Southeast, we experienced a drought. NOAA did determine that the entire region was in a drought, and it's been in a drought for about the last four years. For those of us who live here we've seen the needles dropping from the trees. The carbon sequestration in the Tongass is critical. It may be the balance that is needed to be preserved so that we don't tip over into another horrible global, you know, warming. We already are experiencing climate change, but by preserving and protecting the Tongass by not having roads can prevent us from experiencing increased climate change. We need to really protect it for that reason.

Our family enjoys fishing and hunting for deer. All of my family members love to hike, so the recreation potential for the Tongass is really important for the residents of Southeast Alaska, but now we're discovering that it's desirable for just about everybody else in the world. We have visitors coming from all over the U.S., particularly the southern U.S., and they're coming here in the summers for some reasons to escape the heat in the Lower 48. So we need to think about the Tongass as our refrigerator that's helping to keep the rest of the northwest cool and keeping the quality of life that we have in Southeast preserved, especially for future generations.

And I don't have grandchildren yet, but I hope to someday have grandchildren, and I want them to be able to have the experiences that I enjoyed as a child. And I want your grandchildren to have those experiences as well.

So I support Alternative 1, no roads in the Tongass. We don't need them, and the people in the country don't want roads in Alaska. It's not just people here in Juneau or in other Southeast communities; the people in this country do not want roads in Southeast Alaska. Thank you.

Public Testimony recorded and transcribed by Glacier Stenographic Reporters, Inc.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY BY KARLA HART
PRESENTED AT THE
JUNEAU COMMUNITY ROADLESS RULE PUBLIC MEETING
HELD: DECEMBER 16, 2019, JUNEAU, ALASKA

SUBMITTED DECEMBER 17, 2019, AS A UNIQUE LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES FOREST SERVICE

KARLA HART: My name is Karla Hart, K-A-R-L-A H-A-R-T. 99801 is my zip code.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide information. I'm a lifelong resident of Alaska with over 55 years of living in Southeast Alaska. Over that time I've hiked, rowed, paddled, watched wildlife, boated, and guided tourists and explored and volunteered from Yakutat down to Prince of Wales Island. I've seen a lot of land over a lot of time and seen a lot of changes.

Rolling back the roadless rule designation has impacts so broad and destructive that I, as a private citizen, do not have enough time to personally analyze and respond to every detail. By reference I support and include all of the 117 pages of comments submitted by the professionals at the Alaska Wilderness League, National Wildlife Foundation, et al., including Southeast Alaska Conservation Council, of which I'm a proud member.

My reasons are varied and many. Climate change -- as mentioned, the science is solid. Climate change is happening, and the Tongass has immense global value for carbon sequestration. Leave the old growth alone. Leave the roadless areas intact and undisturbed.

Ecological values. We don't even know what we don't understand or misunderstand. No volume of analysis in an environmental document today can predict what people will know and value tomorrow. Looking back just a few decades shows the ongoing learning curve. Do no harm. Leave the roadless areas roadless. These areas extend from the presently glacier-covered rock through alpine, subalpine, various forests zones, and stages of growth down to tidewater and the unique uplifting margins of the archipelago. Complex, understudied exploitation of these areas is not in the best interests of the Tongass or of the present and future generations of people, wildlife, animals, and plants that will live here.

Invasive species are a particular concern of mine, and I shared some at the Forest Service's public meeting but not hearing. I've seen so many new invasive species coming into the region and spreading and spreading and spreading. And volunteering with the Forest Service, I've gone out and pulled weeds and spent ten days at a time in the wilderness with teams pulling weeds and seeing that it's like putting your little finger in a dike that's collapsing.

Right now the roadless areas are fairly safe from invasive species because there aren't a lot of ways for the invasives to get in. If we leave them alone, they can stay relatively safe. We do not have the resources -- the national forest does not have the resources to inventory the invasives, much less to protect them.

One more point, and then I'll send the rest in my written comments.

Mining. Their analysis claims that this isn't going to have much benefit for mining, and yet I saw a couple of key mining people at the public meeting that the Forest Service had in Juneau before. It made me wonder what's up. The Forest Service specifically says, with their very carefully worded language, that the 1872 mining law already allows them to access the roadless areas. So it says, "Changes in roadless management are therefore not expected to affect existing or future locateable mine exploration or mining activities in the forest."

It doesn't mean it can't make it a lot cheaper and easier for them to get their permits and to go in and not have to do things that take care of the land. They don't detail that, and I am suspicious that we're giving up a lot without even knowing it. The same with leasable mines and their language there. They're not being transparent with the public on what's happening. And I'll leave it there.

Thanks.

Public Testimony recorded and transcribed by Glacier Stenographic Reporters, Inc.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY BY ELAINE SCHROEDER
PRESENTED AT THE
JUNEAU COMMUNITY ROADLESS RULE PUBLIC MEETING
HELD: DECEMBER 16, 2019, JUNEAU, ALASKA

SUBMITTED DECEMBER 17, 2019, AS A UNIQUE LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES FOREST SERVICE

ELAINE SCHROEDER: Name is Elaine Schroeder, E-L-A-I-N-E S-C-H-R-O-E-D-E-R. My zip code is 99801.

I'm the co-chair of 350 Juneau, Climate Action for Alaska, which is an affiliate of 350.org, an

international organization dedicated to mitigating the climate crisis. Our board supports the retention of the roadless rule, and specifically for its positive impact on carbon sequestration.

According to the DEIS, the Tongass may store an estimated 601 to 650 million U.S. tons of above-ground carbon. This is equivalent to 2.4 billion tons of carbon dioxide. Needless to say, this is a lot of carbon and carbon dioxide equivalents.

Data cited in the DEIS is old, and more recent studies on forest carbon sequestration have not been examined, which is a serious defect of the DEIS. 350 Juneau believes that carbon sequestration needs to be considered as the best use of the Tongass National Forest. Enhanced carbon sequestration is required in light of the October 2018 International Panel on Climate Change report and the November 2018 National Climate Assessment Report. These documents are cited but their stark conclusions are not discussed in the DEIS, which needs to address how the change in the roadless rule would affect carbon sequestration, considering the global need for climate emergency amelioration.

The DEIS also makes no attempt to provide quantitative data on carbon capacity -- past, present, and future. This is a clear failing of the DEIS since it does not present best available data on this topic. In place of actual data, the DEIS launches into inconclusive, discursive discussion that befuddles the obvious fact that removing large quantities of timber from the Tongass National Forest reduces the carbon carrying capacity of this forest.

So given the importance of carbon sinks and carbon storage in the context of global heating, the omission of any of substantive analysis and quantification is unconscionable. The DEIS' discursive discussion obfuscates the effects of timber harvest in the Tongass by refusing to accurately report known and settled science on the role of forests in capturing and restoring carbon. The tone of this document edges on a denial of settled science.

And to reiterate, 350 Juneau supports a No-Action Alternative.
Thanks.

Public Testimony recorded and transcribed by Glacier Stenographic Reporters, Inc.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY BY BART KOEHLER
PRESENTED AT THE
JUNEAU COMMUNITY ROADLESS RULE PUBLIC MEETING
HELD: DECEMBER 16, 2019, JUNEAU, ALASKA

SUBMITTED DECEMBER 17, 2019, AS A UNIQUE LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES FOREST SERVICE

BART KOEHLER: My name is Bart Koehler. I'm the former executive director of SEACC twice over and currently a board member. I live here in Juneau. Zip code, 99802. I need to spell my name -- B-A-R-T K-O-E-H-L-E-R.

I'm going to sing my testimony tonight, and hopefully you'll join me in the chorus of this. Before I do that, I have to recite my favorite quote from Wally Hickel, which was "If you don't have roads, you can't get anywhere." Okay. Well, that was on a radio program. The guy who had called in had said, "Well, I don't see that as a problem. I live in Cordova. I get along fine in my boat and by ferry."

Anyway, the way this song goes -- key of D -- and I have to read the words so I don't mess this up too badly. (Singing.) I was standing in the Tongass. What did I see? A forest full of giant trees running to the sea. We need to stand up for our old growth, keep those logging roads away. Let's stand up for the trees and keep the roadless rule today.

Stand up, stand up. Stand up, stand up. Stand up for the Tongass. Save those trees today. Stand up, stand up. Stand up, stand up. Stand up for the Tongass, keep the roadless rule today.

Can you all join me in that chorus one more time? Stand up, stand up. Stand up, stand up. Stand up for the Tongass. Keep the roadless rule today. One more time. Stand up, stand up. Stand up, stand up. Stand up for the Tongass. Keep the roadless rule today. Keep the roadless rule today, Sonny Perdue.

Thank you.

Public Testimony recorded and transcribed by Glacier Stenographic Reporters, Inc.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY BY KRISTINE TROTT
PRESENTED AT THE
JUNEAU COMMUNITY ROADLESS RULE PUBLIC MEETING
HELD: DECEMBER 16, 2019, JUNEAU, ALASKA

SUBMITTED DECEMBER 17, 2019, AS A UNIQUE LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES FOREST SERVICE

KRISTINE TROTT: Kristine Trott, K-R-I-S-T-I-N-E T-R-O-T-T. 99801.

I've been here -- I moved up to Juneau in 1978. I sailed up here with my to-be hubby in a trimaran we built. And as we sailed along, we saw places where they had clearcut forest in the Tongass and the devastation it left, and we'd see mass wasting because there was a lot of logging done on too steep of land.

And then when we got here, we moved out the road where I live, and we have an old cannery site. We would go sailing all around Southeast, and I've seen and been in the marvelous forests that are all throughout Alaska. And they are -- like even on the Shelter Island, you can go on the east side of Shelter Island and up into the woods there, and it's like a cathedral. And I'm going to -- I mean, that's my church in this world.

But I'm going to read some of my outline that I've done. We need to keep the roadless rule in all of Tongass and in all of Alaska. There is no exception. It was put in place for a very strong reason. It's protecting wildlife habitat because the habitat is being lost or degraded at an alarming rate. It's for protecting the species, because we're losing many species, and we know that diversity is critical for a high quality of life. And it's for saving wildlands. It is important for humanity to have wildlands to get back to, because that wild land holds a lot of species that have not even been found yet that can benefit humanity even, besides benefiting themselves.

Diversity is critical to a healthy life. Saving wildlands is also important because of the unique and special places that are hurt by having roads into them. There is too much easy access, and there are many people who haven't got very good values. I have so many times cleaned up garbage that's been dumped, appliances, dirty diapers, things like that left out in the wilderness of all things. I have hiked many of the mountains down in Washington and California, and when there are roads, you find trash.

And in sailing around Southeast, we've gone to Prince of Wales Island and been in logging communities there, and Prince of Wales has lots of roads on it. There are people who live in those communities who think it's their private hunting ground, and they can go out and hunt deer any time of year that they like. And I was there in July and personally saw some fellows from that logging camp come in with two deer in the back of their pickup in July, and my husband had to practically hogtie me, because I was going to go and accost those guys. I was furious. But you have roads in there, and then you get these scofflaws in there who think it's their right to go shoot whenever they want. And, you know, I can't abide that.

The cost of building roads in Alaska is prohibitive. It is economically unjustified because they are giving it away to the logging companies or the mining companies, and it's public money to build these roads for private industries.

The environmental damage that those roads do is incredible, and just driving out our "Road to

Nowhere" we see for that mile and a half, I think it is, the incredible footprint this road has put on the land there, how deep the rock base is that they blasted and filled. It's just mind-boggling. And, you know, just think of all the creatures and everything that were put underneath all that rock that were killed.

The land belongs to the public, not to these private industries, and the public doesn't need to subsidize private interests -- logging, mining, oil extraction.

And last but not least, our big forests are a major carbon sink, to help keep the carbon in the ground and in the trees the way it should be, to help fight global warming. My daughter lives down in Texas, and I have seen the damage done when they ravage and pave and everything else, and they flood beyond anything. And she has a pasture where the old plains grass is left and thick. And the cattle and horses in those fields -- they're not

flooded because that sponge holds the soil. They have deep roots. That's carbon in the soil. They soak up the water.

You know, the same thing here. We have trees that need to stay upright to help our carbon sequestration so that the global warming and climate change is as mitigated as we can help to do. So I'm basically quite against doing anything but keeping that roadless rule in place, and Alternative 1 is the one I choose. Thank you.

Additional testimony provided after other speakers:

KRISTINE TROTT: In spite of homesteading, we also lived and worked abroad for ten years, returning back every summer. We've worked from Saudi Arabia, New Zealand, China, Russia, and I've been in the eastern United States as well. Every time we came back to our home in Juneau, the air quality was incomparable. That is because of the intact forest and the deep connection with the mycorrhiza -- the connection with our forests and trees, which are all interlaced with their roots holding each other up, and the mycorrhiza can live amongst that and bring the nutrients to the trees, but they also give out healthful aerosols, which is, I think, a very large part of the healthfulness of this forest.

I've been in New Zealand forests. I've been in Thailand forests. I've been in forests in Russia and in Finland, and none of those forests have the same healthy air, clean air. Every time we came back to Juneau it was a breath of fresh air, literally, and there is no alternative for this clean air.

I grew up in Washington state and hiking and climbing in the mountains, and on the Olympic peninsula, and what they have done on the Olympic peninsula is a travesty. It cannot happen here. It's so important to keep these forests. I use the forests for subsistence as well. My kids have all grown up here. And I've seen the damage done in California and in Texas, and I don't want it to happen here. I do support Alternative 1.

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[Position]

The following text was copy/pasted from 20 attached public testimonies. The system cannot display the formatting, graphics, or tables from the attached original.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY BY MIKE HAMAR
PRESENTED AT THE
JUNEAU COMMUNITY ROADLESS RULE PUBLIC MEETING
HELD: DECEMBER 16, 2019, JUNEAU, ALASKA

SUBMITTED DECEMBER 17, 2019, AS A UNIQUE LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES FOREST SERVICE

MIKE HAMAR: I don't have a prepared statement here either, but my name is Mike Hamar. The spelling is M-I-K-E. Last name, H-A-M-A-R. Zip code, 99801.

I was born in Ketchikan. I grew up on Prince of Wales. My dad was a gyppo logger in the '60s and then became a commercial fisherman. I'm a commercial fisherman myself. And while I do feel that trees need to be cut down and turned into boards, milled into lumber, rocks need to be crushed for driveways, pads for homes, fish need to be served on plates, I feel it needs to meet -- if resource extraction is to take place, it needs to meet a certain criteria.

I'm suspicious of uneconomic development. And I don't know whether it's some politicians who want a feather in their cap, meaning they had a road from Kupreanof Island to Kake, or from Katlian Bay to a point in Chatham Straits, or a lumber company on Prince of Wales who is going to make some money from this, but what I don't like as an Alaskan, a lifelong Alaskan -- I do not like outside business interests coming into our state -- I was born here in Ketchikan -- coming in here, taking the bulk of the money, possibly not harvesting the resources responsibly, and then throwing the locals a crumb and waving goodbye. Just like the fish companies before

statehood -- they take the money. They still run. They still do it in Bristol Bay. The guys come up. They take the money. They run south.

So I'm in favor of the rule staying the same, maybe, as this prior gentleman said, with some modifications. But I want what's good for most Alaskans, if most Alaskans agree with it, and responsible extraction, if it is to take place, and hopefully by residents of our state. I'm absolutely opposed to Alternative 6.

Thank you for your time.

Public Testimony recorded and transcribed by Glacier Stenographic Reporters, Inc.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY BY AUTUMN SIMONS
PRESENTED AT THE
JUNEAU COMMUNITY ROADLESS RULE PUBLIC MEETING
HELD: DECEMBER 16, 2019, JUNEAU, ALASKA

SUBMITTED DECEMBER 17, 2019, AS A UNIQUE LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES FOREST SERVICE

AUTUMN SIMONS: So my name is Autumn Simons, A-U-T-U-M-N S-I-M-O-N-S. My zip code is 99801.

I reside on Douglas Island and have loved spending time in the Tongass recreationally, specifically around Juneau and on Douglas island and in Kake, Alaska. I am fortunate and beyond privileged to call the southeast of Alaska my home. And though I'm not surprised that the U.S. government continues to disregard public outcry regarding climate, racial, indigenous, and environmental justice, I'm here to say that building more roads through the Tongass National Forest will cause irreparable damage to one of the nation's and one of the world's greatest treasures.

The Tongass National Forest not only is an essential ecological hub for wildlife, biodiversity, and carbon sequestration, but also a place that Alaska Natives and indigenous people have lived in for thousands of years. Culturally, the current evaluation fails to acknowledge and consider the impacts on subsistence living, which disrespect and further marginalizes indigenous peoples and tribal governments.

Economically, building more roads only fills the pockets of private industries on the dime of Alaskan residents and at the expense of indigenous people.

Environmentally, we lose far greater than what we can ever recover, as has been scientifically and historically cited over hundreds of years of clearcutting in places both in and out of Alaska.

Listen to the voices of the Tongass, the hundreds of people that have cried out against the atrocity that would be altering the Tongass by building more roads and logging. For these reasons I strongly urge Alternative 1, no action.

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PUBLIC TESTIMONY BY PAULINE STRONG
PRESENTED AT THE
JUNEAU COMMUNITY ROADLESS RULE PUBLIC MEETING
HELD: DECEMBER 16, 2019, JUNEAU, ALASKA

SUBMITTED DECEMBER 17, 2019, AS A UNIQUE LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES FOREST SERVICE

PAULINE STRONG: My name is Pauline Strong, P-A-U-L-I-N-E S-T-R-O-N-G. The zip code is 99801.

And I just wanted to say that I really value the Tongass for the old growth that's remaining there, and I don't want to see any more of it gone. And without roads is the way I value it the most, and so I support Alternative 1.

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PUBLIC TESTIMONY BY TODD BAILEY
PRESENTED AT THE
JUNEAU COMMUNITY ROADLESS RULE PUBLIC MEETING
HELD: DECEMBER 16, 2019, JUNEAU, ALASKA

SUBMITTED DECEMBER 17, 2019, AS A UNIQUE LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES FOREST SERVICE

TODD BAILEY: Todd Bailey, Juneau, 99801, and my last name is B-A-I-L-E-Y.

I work in the Tongass. I have a small business, a gillnet and crab direct marketing operation. I've landed over a million pounds of salmon and crab in the Juneau Borough, Haines, Sitka, Petersburg, and Wrangell.

And I support Alternative 1. Alaska has some of the best-managed fisheries in the world, and I owe my livelihood to this, and also to the resource and the lands that support it.

Dungeness and salmon require wildland. Salmon, in particular, is the only thing you can buy in the grocery store that requires wildland, so I think it's even better than organic stuff because it requires wildland.

So I spend a lot of time out driving around, looking for jumpers and crab buoys and stuff, and I see the business that goes on in the Tongass -- the whale watchers, the tourism. I see the cruise ships come by and, you know, all that stuff seems well, like fine things. They don't impact the Tongass that much.

Then you come across a logging operation, and it's just a hot mess. I mean, you can see, you know, where the alders have grown through the roads in these old clearcuts, and, you know, nothing is going to happen there for a hundred years. You know, they don't come through and thin things out. People don't hunt there. They don't even maintain trails in these areas.

A lot of the areas that are highlighted under Alternative 6 are really important to the Dungeness crab fisheries -- inside of Sullivan Island, Windy Bay, Port Hooten, the Snettisham peninsula, all of these places. And the crab are down there digging in the mud. And if that gets all sedimented in, or if they have got their log storage areas there, it's just not going to be good.

Earlier somebody testified about the importance of how marginal the habitat is for coho salmon, and I second that. It seems like, in particular, them and pink salmon will be affected by logging. The northern Southeast stocks of pinks is -- we were just talking about that it's on the verge of being listed as a stock of concern, so any more impact to that -- when it's a big pink salmon year here in Southeast, it's the largest biomass of wild salmon in the world. It can be bigger than the Bristol Bay run, so it's an amazing resource.

Some of the other areas -- Thistle Ledge I saw was in red on the map there. Sand Bay. Thistle Ledge has got to be a really important place if you're going anywhere between the Petersburg area and the Juneau area. If you were doing that in a canoe, that is where you would stop. It's an amazing spot. It's a big sandy pullout with a rock face that just keeps the heat right in front of it. There's also crab there. Point League, Point Sherman, all these places, it would be nice to keep catching fish and crab there. That's it.

Thank you.

Public Testimony recorded and transcribed by Glacier Stenographic Reporters, Inc.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY BY STEVE HUTCHINSON
PRESENTED AT THE

JUNEAU COMMUNITY ROADLESS RULE PUBLIC MEETING
HELD: DECEMBER 16, 2019, JUNEAU, ALASKA

SUBMITTED DECEMBER 17, 2019, AS A UNIQUE LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES FOREST SERVICE

STEVE HUTCHINSON: I'm Steve Hutchinson. That's spelled S-T-E-V-E H-U-T-C-H-I-N-S-O-N. Zip code, 99801.

And I don't have a script either, but I just wanted to make a comment on support of the No-Action Alternative, keeping the roadless rule here on the Tongass. I love the Tongass for the recreation. It's been a healing and sacred place for me in recreation and just living here, and I've submitted comments about that.

And I just want to really urge Secretary Perdue to listen to Southeast Alaskans. As many people mentioned here today, the overwhelming majority of comments are to keep the roadless rule or add more roadless areas and support the No-Action Alternative, and I ask to please, please listen to that.

Also, I just wanted to express my appalling rage at how much Native tribal governments and peoples have been disregarded in this process. There is a letter that Sonny Perdue should have received from the heads of these tribal governments that have acted as cooperative organizations asking for a meeting, and I urge the Secretary to take them up on this and meet with them in person and come here and see these forests.

And I really feel that that needs to happen, and I urge Secretary Perdue and the Forest Service to stop disrespecting and degrading the Native peoples here, the Tlingit Ani here, and degrading these people who have stewarded this land since time immemorial. And so please stop our government's racism and degradation of this land and the people who have been here since time immemorial.

So, again, I support a No-Action Alternative, and please start respecting Native peoples. Thank you.

Public Testimony recorded and transcribed by Glacier Stenographic Reporters, Inc.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY BY CEDAR MALICK
PRESENTED AT THE
JUNEAU COMMUNITY ROADLESS RULE PUBLIC MEETING
HELD: DECEMBER 16, 2019, JUNEAU, ALASKA

SUBMITTED DECEMBER 17, 2019, AS A UNIQUE LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES FOREST SERVICE

CEDAR MALICK: Thank you for letting me speak today. My name is Cedar Malick. My first name is C-E[shy]D-A-R -- ironic, being named after a tree. Last name, M-A-L-I-C-K. Zip code is 99801.

I was born in Juneau, Alaska here. My family homesteaded, so every day I got to see and live in the forest. I got to enjoy and hike every trail I could reach, partake in the fish and game and the exceptional air and water here.

Now, I have a couple numbers I think people need to consider. One billion acres. That is the extent of the old-growth forest before Columbus got to North America. 25 percent, which is the percentage of old-growth forest left standing today. Despite what someone claimed, these forests are not renewable. Once you cut down a 500- to 1,000-year-old tree, guess how long it's going to take to come back? The Tongass is one of the last tracts of unexploited forest in America and provides vital habitat for salmon, fisheries that are already in dire straits. If that habitat collapses, fish hatcheries would only be able to support the salmon populations for a finite time since it is becoming harder and harder to keep their stocks alive because of climate change.

I should know. I've worked in a fish hatchery before, and I got to see firsthand how difficult it is. In the short six years that I worked there, I saw how many fish we'd lose just in incubation.

Now, there is a movie that some of you may know called Soylent Green. I think it's a movie that every person in high school, every student should watch, because it is very sobering. The future presents as a world in the late

stages of complete environmental collapse, where trees exist only in exclusive greenhouses. This is an extreme example, but if you want to avoid even the best-case scenario of that horror, we have to start now. So ask yourself: When is enough enough? How low are we willing to let that old-growth percentage get?

Now, I, for one, would not like our great-great-grandchildren to be spitting on our graves in the future, and neither should you. The Tongass is our temple, more holy than any church. Please support Alternative 1, no action.

Public Testimony recorded and transcribed by Glacier Stenographic Reporters, Inc.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY BY MARC SCHOLTEN
PRESENTED AT THE
JUNEAU COMMUNITY ROADLESS RULE PUBLIC MEETING
HELD: DECEMBER 16, 2019, JUNEAU, ALASKA

SUBMITTED DECEMBER 17, 2019, AS A UNIQUE LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES FOREST SERVICE

MARC SCHOLTEN: My name is Marc Scholten, M-A-R-C S-C-H-O-L-T-E-N, 99801.

I moved up here in 1980, and I worked as a cartographer for the Forest Service in the regional office. At that time, the Tongass Timber Supply Fund spent $40 million a year supporting the timber industry, and most of the industry was operating in the southern Tongass -- Prince of Wales Island and Kuiu and Zarembo; a bunch of these islands, anyway. There was a lot of resource damage due to clearcutting.

And I think I want to, first of all, say that I support No. 1, the Alternative No. 1, No-Action Alternative. And the greatest reason to support that is to really take a look at the big picture of the whole earth. We're in actually a climate catastrophe, and I think what we can do best to help protect our planet and our future for everybody is to not log. We should be planting trees and not cutting them down, and that is the best way to carbon-capture the CO2 that's in our atmosphere.

I also, like most everybody here, use the forest for recreation. I used to use it for subsistence, and mostly for a mental -- well, try to retain a mental -- anyway, I'm not a good public speaker.

But it is so refreshing to get out in the woods and just to forget about all the insanity that's going on in our politics and with the climate catastrophe and that. And it grounds you to the planet, to everything that we're related to. And I just want to recommend that they stick with Alternative 1 and retain the mystique and the mysterious and the great old growth that is here in the Tongass National Forest.

Thank you.

Public Testimony recorded and transcribed by Glacier Stenographic Reporters, Inc.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY BY FRED HILTNER
PRESENTED AT THE
JUNEAU COMMUNITY ROADLESS RULE PUBLIC MEETING
HELD: DECEMBER 16, 2019, JUNEAU, ALASKA

SUBMITTED DECEMBER 17, 2019, AS A UNIQUE LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES FOREST SERVICE

FRED HILTNER: Thank you for the opportunity to speak. Fred Hiltner, H-I-L-T-N-E-R. The zip code is 99801.

So I'm here to testify that I'm for Alternative 1, no action toward road building in the Tongass forest. My first job in Alaska 40 years ago was doing wildlife biology, comparing old-growth timber areas with clearcut, logged area. It was clear that comparing old growth with logged areas displaced many wildlife species, from bears to deer to salmon to mice and so on.

Another point -- as an Alaskan subsistence hunter for almost 40 years, it was clear that deer were less frequent in clearcut areas, and transiting through those areas was much more difficult for deer and for hunters, in fact.

My third point -- building roads is not cost-effective and is a waste of taxpayer money, and it also damages our fragile and unique forest.

As a manager in a large tourism company in Juneau that depends on wildlife viewing on land and water in Southeast Alaska, we know that successful tourism is directionally proportional to maintaining the local forests. Our forests are much more valuable through eternity if left standing, compared to a short-term gain from logging.

Again, I'm for Alternative 1, prohibiting further road building for logging in our nation's most sacred jewel, the Tongass National Forest.

Thank you.

Public Testimony recorded and transcribed by Glacier Stenographic Reporters, Inc.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY BY PHILLIP GRAY
PRESENTED AT THE
JUNEAU COMMUNITY ROADLESS RULE PUBLIC MEETING
HELD: DECEMBER 16, 2019, JUNEAU, ALASKA

SUBMITTED DECEMBER 17, 2019, AS A UNIQUE LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES FOREST SERVICE

PHILLIP GRAY: My name is Phillip Gray. I live at Juneau, Alaska 99801.

I've lived in Juneau for over 50 years. I don't have a prepared statement, so I'm just going from memory. I worked for Fish and Game for over 20 years, about 17 to 18 years as a coho research biologist studying cohos throughout Southeast Alaska from Yakutat to Ketchikan. We did some of the first studies on ages of coho that were done, and we also did tagging of juvenile cohos to study harvest rates, migration routes, and timing.

So I've spent a lot of time on the ground in unlogged areas, and I know a lot about coho salmon and what they require. And I've also been in some areas that have been pretty heavily logged, where the areas have been pretty well destroyed.

The first one I remember was over in a place called Iris Meadows in Sitka where Fish and Game had proposed a transplant. It was just a beautiful area. And the commercial fishermen over there saw so much mud coming out of the streams they called up Fish and Game and said, "You guys better get over here and look at this."

So we traveled over there and went through the area, and it looked like it had been bombed. I mean, I remember one place where the whole hillside had slid off into a lake. We tried walking up one of the streams, and it was kind of an unstable pumice soil. And that had slid into the stream, so it was almost knee deep with all the soil that had slid into the stream. So that was one of my first experiences with clearcut logging.

And I also -- personally, myself -- I rely on the old-growth forest here for fishing and for deer hunting. One of my friends and I went deer hunting down in Whitewater Bay on Admiralty Island, which used to be one of Ralph Young's favorite bear hunting areas. We started out going through the logged area, which turned out to be almost impassible, because you fall into big holes, and you could spear yourself on some of the logging debris; so it was dangerous walking there.

And we got on the logging road that went up towards the mountain we wanted to hunt, and it was quite a ways. We walked 7 miles through this logging road. We never saw a single deer or any sign in 7 miles. I guess we saw one mayor. It was pretty tough walking. The alders had grown up pretty thick on this road. But in 7 miles, no sign of any life -- no deer or nothing. As soon as we stepped out into the old growth at the end of 7 miles

and up in the headwaters, we started seeing deer sign all over. So that was another experience that convinced me that old-growth logging is dangerous and seriously damaging to both fish and deer.

Coho salmon require -- they're found in almost all little tiny streams and tributaries all over Southeast Alaska. Just little streams that you can almost step across or can step across seem to be some of the most important ones. They are found in marshes and sloughs and lakes and all these little tributaries, and they're seriously damaged by logging. There is no way you can avoid that. Putting roads in and old-growth logging just is not compatible with good-faith production.

So I'm in favor of that Alternative 1, keeping the roadless rule in place. I don't approve of any old-growth logging or roads in any more of the old-growth areas in Southeast Alaska.

Thank you.

Public Testimony recorded and transcribed by Glacier Stenographic Reporters, Inc.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY BY BOB SCHROEDER
PRESENTED AT THE
JUNEAU COMMUNITY ROADLESS RULE PUBLIC MEETING
HELD: DECEMBER 16, 2019, JUNEAU, ALASKA

SUBMITTED DECEMBER 17, 2019, AS A UNIQUE LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES FOREST SERVICE

BOB SCHROEDER: Thank you so much for being here and supporting protection of the Tongass. My name is Bob Schroeder, S-C-H-R-O-E-D-E-R. I live in zip code 99801. My Tlingit name is Chakeen. I'm Takdeintaan, Raven's Nest House from Hoonah.

I'm also a SEACC board member, and I sit on the Southeast Regional Advisory Council for subsistence. Much of my career has been working on the subsistence issue, and that's what I'll focus my comments on this evening.

Basically, the DEIS is extremely disrespectful to indigenous people. The DEIS, for those of you who have looked through it, includes an extremely thin depiction or acknowledgment of tribes, traditional territory, or culture. It also does not describe subsistence uses of the Tongass National Forest in any great detail.

And for those of you who may not be familiar with that literature, it's really deep. The Forest Service itself has spent easily $1 million in documenting subsistence uses in the Tongass National Forest, which includes estimates of harvest levels of fish and wildlife in all the subsistence communities in the region, mapping of subsistence use territories, and mapping of Kwaan and clan territories.

This is a very serious NEPA failing, a National Environmental Policy Act failing, in that what a NEPA document is supposed to do is tell you what you know about the land or the territory that's under review.

I've had the occasion to be at a number of so-called subsistence hearings and have spoken to some of my colleagues who have been at others of these hearings. To say that the hearings held in communities have been overwhelmingly in favor of the No-Action Alternative doesn't do it justice. I mean, there's not a single person who shows up saying, "What we really need in Hoonah, what we really need in Angoon, what we really need in Kake are a lot more roads." Nobody is saying this. And these are people who have also had their experience with logging and logging on Native corporation land and also need jobs to survive. So this response has been really overwhelming in keeping the roadless rule as it is.

I'd like to speak a little bit about the technicalities of the evaluation of subsistence, because this is kind of a special law. Subsistence is protected by the Alaska National Interest Land Conservation Act, Section 8. And under Section 810 -- this gets a little wonky. Excuse me. Section 810 directs Federal agencies as to what they're supposed to do if they're doing a land use action that may significantly restrict subsistence uses.

Now, those are kind of weird terms. What does that mean? That means that if you're going do do something on the land, on federal land, that looks like it may have an effect on subsistence uses, you have to analyze that and come to a determination of significant restriction, or they used to call it FONSI. I don't know if anyone can guess what that means. That's a Finding Of No Significant Impact. So this is all in Forest Service procedures as to how you approach a plan that is a land use action.

In this particular plan, the DEIS for changing the roadless rule really doesn't do this, so it does not analyze subsistence data. It doesn't present subsistence data, and it does not come up with a finding, as required by Forest Service procedures, of significant or no significant impact.

The reason why that's so important is that in Forest Service procedures, subsistence hearings can only be held after you do this step. And that's kind of logical, because if you were doing something and there was no significant impact, you don't need to have hearings, because there isn't any significant impact. But if you do, you go and have hearings to decide whether or not this is real, whether the analysis was correct, and you want to hear from people in that case.

The hearings that were held throughout Southeast Alaska were fatally flawed, because they did not present any finding that people could respond to. And in that respect, they completely violate the Forest Service's own procedure and a clear and obvious reading of ANILCA Section 810, which is the governing law in this case.

So for these reasons, I believe that the DEIS is fatally flawed and will need to be completely redone before it can be considered just on the subsistence grounds.

The next thing that happens after you have hearings is that the deciding officer -- in this case, that would be Secretary Perdue -- would need to -- if they decide to go ahead with an action, would need to decide that this is somehow necessary. And that's a pretty steep jump, because we have all the people in our regions saying that, "Boy, we really don't want this at all." And so to come out with a finding that it was necessary to do so after holding a bunch of hearings where people say, "Boy, we don't want any change to this law at all" would be a real steep step.

Let's see what else I have here.

I think the DEIS needs to be completely withdrawn. We need to show respect for indigenous cultures. We will point out that Native people have been caretakers of the land on which we walk for thousands of years, and that it's basically the failed fossil capitalism that has us in the fix that we're in, both in the Tongass and with respect to the climate emergency that we face.

Everyone here appears to support the No-Action Alternative, and I support a modified No-Action Alternative. And the reason it needs to be modified is that the inventory of roadless areas is incorrect and it omitted a number of areas, specifically approximately 150,000 acres of forest land that was not roaded but had already been designated for harvest under the pulp company contracts. And so that land still had not been roaded, but it does not appear in the roadless inventory.

Secondly, I believe that since we're going through this exercise at great public expense and calling on a great involvement of people of Southeast Alaska, that I really think that we shouldn't just settle for the existing roadless rule, but we need to, as I said, include the areas that were erroneously omitted from the roadless inventory.

And I think we should examine whether or not, once an area has a road, does that mean that it endlessly is a roaded area? If something had a road put in it in 1975 and nothing has happened there, maybe that's a roadless area as well. I think we need a lot more than the current roadless inventory to be covered by the roadless rule.

That's my testimony. Thank you.

Public Testimony recorded and transcribed by Glacier Stenographic Reporters, Inc.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY BY RICHARD FARNELL
PRESENTED AT THE
JUNEAU COMMUNITY ROADLESS RULE PUBLIC MEETING
HELD: DECEMBER 16, 2019, JUNEAU, ALASKA

SUBMITTED DECEMBER 17, 2019, AS A UNIQUE LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES FOREST SERVICE

RICHARD FARNELL: My name is Richard Farnell, R-I-C-H-A-R-D F-A-R-N-E-L-L, and my zip code 99802.

First of all, I'd like the Forest Service to explain why they're violating my First Amendment rights by not taking testimony from my community that has the majority of citizens in Southeast Alaska, but they will take testimony from very small communities. This is the justification that the U.S. Supreme Court used in approving the Citizens United lawsuit that destroyed American democracy, so I would think that they would at least allow me to testify in my own community. But please provide me with the justification that you're using for that.

Secondly, keep all existing roadless areas in the Tongass in the existing roadless rule for the Tongass. I want all roadless areas in the Tongass National Forest to remain in the current national roadless rule jurisdiction. In other words, Alternative 1.

I've recently made a $200,000 investment in ability to access roadless areas of the Tongass for hiking, backpacking, trail bike riding, as well as marine-based kayaking and skiffing. These have occurred or will occur on all areas that are currently roadless in the Tongass National Forest. I'm optimistic about my ability to enjoy recreation. I depend on these activities for health and sanity in the era of fake news, continuous lying by the president of the United States and high-level elected officials, and lying by representatives of resource extraction industries to be be able to subvert the will of the public.

Secondly, the process being undertaken by the Forest Service and the Citizens Advisory Committee is unnecessary. It subverts the intent of the Tongass Timber Reform Act, the 2006 U.S. District Court ruling against the state control of roadless designations, and the recently revised management provisions of the Tongass Land Management process. The proposed process, as stated in the press release, has the intent to develop a state-specific roadless rule that establishes a land classification system designed to conserve roadless area characteristics in the Tongass National Forest while accommodating timber harvesting and road construction and reconstruction activities determined by the state to be necessary for forest management.

This intent is illegal. The State of Alaska is not responsible for managing lands on the Tongass National Forest; the federal government is. So the entire intent of this process is without legal basis. In addition, the 2006 U.S. District Court ruling on the subject rejected a move to allow states to designate roadless areas on federal lands.

Secondly, the stated goals of conserving roadless area characteristics while accommodating timber harvesting and road construction and reconstruction are in complete conflict with one another, showing that the intent of this process is not clearly thought out.

Fourth, the members chosen for the Citizens Advisory Committee overwhelmingly represent the resource extraction industry and do not include important stakeholder groups who use the forest, such as tourism, hunters, anglers, and backcountry recreationalists. In addition, the scientists who know about the physical and biological health of the forest are also absent from this committee. Therefore, this committee is not representative of forest uses and is inadequate to objectively review proposals for roadless area changes.

Fifth, the choice of the Forest Service of Alternative 6th in the draft roadless rule, full exemption of the Tongass from the 2001 roadless area conservation rule, fails to account for the vital role that the Tongass National Forest plays is carbon sequestration of carbon dioxide from our atmosphere, the major cause of catastrophic climate change, C-3 -- I'm inventing a new term here -- that is occurring to our planet. The ability of forests such

as the Tongass to sequester carbon within the body of old-growth forest means that this characteristic of the undisturbed Tongass forest should be given the highest priority over all other users and uses due to the emergency created by CO2-produced climate change.

The UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, IPCC, report of October 2018 maps out four pathways to achieve a 1.5-degree centigrade maximum atmospheric concentration CO2 level. Reforestation is an essential part of all four strategies. Think of all the jobs that the U.S. Forest Service could create with a replanting program in the areas of the Tongass already damaged from commercial logging, and such a program could help to sequester carbon as well.

Finally, I would request, Secretary Perdue, for you to get a proper perspective on the choice that you're making for these alternatives, you need to visit the moon, and you need to look back at earth and get a view of earth as it is right now, because should you continue with the proposal that you've already stated, this planet is no longer going to be viable and inhabitable. And then you can come back home, and you'll have a better perspective.

Public Testimony recorded and transcribed by Glacier Stenographic Reporters, Inc.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY BY CARL REESE
PRESENTED AT THE
JUNEAU COMMUNITY ROADLESS RULE PUBLIC MEETING
HELD: DECEMBER 16, 2019, JUNEAU, ALASKA

SUBMITTED DECEMBER 17, 2019, AS A UNIQUE LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES FOREST SERVICE

CARL REESE: I'm Carl Reese, C-A-R-L R-E-E-S-E, 99801.

So I moved to Juneau in 2004, and so I've been here for -- I guess that would be 15 years. And I've done a lot of mountain climbing, fishing, kayaking, just the stuff that is around to enjoy. This place is an amazing place to be.

But I'm going to kind of rewind to about 2001, when I was in a conversation with some people. I was in graduate school, just getting out of it. I'm a fisheries biologist. I had just finished a master's degree, and I was talking to some people. And I had just also got a job running a salmon weir in Northern California on the Trinity River. And one of the people that had lived there a long time came up to me and said, "You know, you're just documenting the extinction of these things; right?"

And I thought, "Well, no." It was like, "No, look. Those coho salmon, the silver salmon, they're threatened now. We can't kill them. We can't eat them. We can't do anything other than watch them blink out," which will happen because you could actually go around and look at different tributaries. And the tributaries, some of them had coho in them, but a fair number of them didn't, like 90 percent.

And you could also track that around into the road network and find that the ones that -- and this is actually documented across the northwest, so this is not some new thing, that water quality, fish habitat tend to track pretty strongly with land use. Heavily logged-off areas have -- the mud comes down. Usually it's okay; right? I mean, it's not okay right at first, but it seems like it's going to be. And then the stumps start to fall off the hillsides. A bunch of things like that, just sort of -- and then there's a big storm and things just -- and the whole hill goes out. The next thing you know, you're not seeing any coho in that drainage, and you may not see any of the other species that were there either. You know, in this case, we're talking about king salmon and steelhead.

So, yeah. So I got this e-mail in late 2003 saying "You could apply to be a researcher at UAF, University of Alaska Fairbanks in Juneau." I didn't know. So I thought, "I'm doing this." Because you know what? There are fish up here, like we're not documenting the demise of fisheries; we're documenting healthy stuff, and that's how it's supposed to be.

And we're supposed to be -- is his name Perdue? He's supposed to be managing healthy forests, managing a cultural benefit that we can all enjoy forever, and it's extremely shortsighted to just kind of log this stuff off. We don't really think, most of us, how rare what we have is, worldwide.

People have mentioned climate change over and over and over again. Well, that's true. I don't want to revisit it that much, but a carbon model -- it's already done. But the number of places that have this

kind of intact forest you can count on two hands in the world, and we're going to sell that out so that we can pay logging companies nickels on dollars to cut it all down. And then if history tells us anything, they're just going to take those logs and ship them to somewhere else. They don't even mill them here most of the time. So it's extremely shortsighted. It's extremely bad planning for reasons that I hadn't even thought about until I got here.

Of course building a road network is going to introduce invasive species. I'm not an invasive species specialist, but you don't have to be to know that, and there are papers out there showing this. So if you have a science degree in botany, you probably can follow all those plants moving around.

So, anyway, I advocate for the No-Action Alternative, and that would be Alternative 1. Thanks.

Public Testimony recorded and transcribed by Glacier Stenographic Reporters, Inc.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY BY JULIE KOEHLER
PRESENTED AT THE
JUNEAU COMMUNITY ROADLESS RULE PUBLIC MEETING
HELD: DECEMBER 16, 2019, JUNEAU, ALASKA

SUBMITTED DECEMBER 17, 2019, AS A UNIQUE LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES FOREST SERVICE

JULIE KOEHLER: My name is Julie Koehler, J-U-L-I-E, K-O-E-H-L-E-R, 99802.

I have used the Tongass National Forest since 1985 for recreation, hunting, fishing, berry-picking, kayaking, and on and on. From my college education in fish and wildlife management, work as a naturalist, work as a biological technician, and my personal use of the forest over all these years, I understand the ecology of an old-growth forest and what happens after it's logged. Therefore, I support Alternative 1, the No-Action Alternative.

Like many hundreds of other Southeast Alaskans, I have spoken numerous times over the decades in favor of keeping Tongass old growth standing and intact. Forest Service officials know from the studies done by many, many researchers that keeping old growth stands intact is what needs to be done to protect our Fish and Wildlife resources and ensure their sustainability.

So no need for me to review what has already been pointed out by countless professionals and those of us who know this forest. Instead, I'm going to call out this whole proposal to exempt the Tongass from the roadless rule for what it is, a bald-faced sham, to end-run the wishes of the people who live here and who have had enough of the Forest Service and the State of Alaska trying to liquidated the old growth.

At the Forest Service's November 4th shameful and shameless dog and pony show on this proposal, we were told that exempting the Tongass from the roadless rule won't change how the forest is managed and moving toward the logging of second growth. If that were the case, then why is this exemption being proposed? It is a guise to do old-growth logging through road building.

Alternative 6, minimum impact? Ha. We all know that isn't so. We all know that the guise of this roadless rule exemption is eventually going to end up -- actually probably pretty quickly end up revising the Tongass Land Management Plan so it can incorporate this change and increase the old growth harvest level. And we all know it's a back-door entry into the Chugach National Forest. Our old growth is more valuable standing. Let's keep it standing. Alternative 1. No action.

Public Testimony recorded and transcribed by Glacier Stenographic Reporters, Inc.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY BY PATRICK KEARNEY
PRESENTED AT THE
JUNEAU COMMUNITY ROADLESS RULE PUBLIC MEETING
HELD: DECEMBER 16, 2019, JUNEAU, ALASKA

SUBMITTED DECEMBER 17, 2019, AS A UNIQUE LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES FOREST SERVICE

PATRICK KEARNEY: Patrick Kearney, K-E-A-R-N-E-Y. My zip code is 99801.

I live in Mountain View Apartments on the third floor, and for two years now, through the seasons, I've been watching the beautiful face change. "Beautiful face" is a Tlingit name for Mt. Juneau. And without the pristine climate and place this is, this magical place is, the moss that hangs from the trees that can't grow in a polluted environment wouldn't be here.

I can breathe here, and it's that mist, the clouds that just sort of come up out of the treetops out of nowhere. It's the trees that are breathing and exhaling, as I call it, and it's amazing. And there are so many magical moments that I have watched happen here with the weather and the climate, it just -- I can't take a picture with a camera or a video camera and capture the moment just right. You just have to live here. And so the word that keeps coming to my mind is it's irreplaceable, with capital letters and exclamation points, underscored. Irreplaceable. So I could say that until I run out of breath.

I lived in Humboldt County, in redwood forest country, and the first time I stepped into the redwoods it was like an outdoor cathedral. I was just so awe-inspired. How could somebody destroy this just for so many board feet of lumber?

And in San Diego County, there used to be such incredible beautiful places. They still haunt me to this day from my childhood. They're not there anymore. They were plowed under for housing complexes, which keep burning down in horrible fires. So it still haunts me. So what are we leaving for our grandchildren's grandchildren?

Thank you.

Public Testimony recorded and transcribed by Glacier Stenographic Reporters, Inc.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY BY DAVID LENDRUM
PRESENTED AT THE
JUNEAU COMMUNITY ROADLESS RULE PUBLIC MEETING
HELD: DECEMBER 16, 2019, JUNEAU, ALASKA

SUBMITTED DECEMBER 17, 2019, AS A UNIQUE LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES FOREST SERVICE

DAVID LENDRUM: Good evening. My name is David Lendrum. I live in Juneau. L-E-N-D-R-U-M. I get my mail at 99803.

My worry about roads in the Tongass is that when you cut the trees down and you expose the ground, no matter what you might think that's going to grow back, the richness and diversity will never return. When they logged in the Adirondacks two centuries ago, there are plots laying next to each other, one of which was never logged, one of which was logged 200 years ago. The species diversity is incomparable between the two sites. Things that vanish will never be seen again. Things that are only allowed, only endemic to a particular area and the rules that determine how things adapt to their areas mean that the specific zone that something lives in and grows up in and is adapted to and evolves to fill, that may never be seen again. If these roads penetrate the forest, penetrate the forest fabric, and as a consequence areas become logged, that's what we're looking at. We are looking at a tremendous loss in species diversity.

I was the Southeast representative on the Invasive Species Council for several years, and part of my work there involved looking at the DOT network. And it's very, very clear that invasive species spread by road maintenance activities. If you look at the map showing an overhead view of where we have located invasive species concentrations, they're the nexus of roadwork operations. They can't get there without a road. That's something to always watch out for. The road doesn't just take us; other things go on it too. So I support Alternative 1.

Thank you very much.

Public Testimony recorded and transcribed by Glacier Stenographic Reporters, Inc.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY BY LISA GREENOUGH
PRESENTED AT THE
JUNEAU COMMUNITY ROADLESS RULE PUBLIC MEETING
HELD: DECEMBER 16, 2019, JUNEAU, ALASKA

SUBMITTED DECEMBER 17, 2019, AS A UNIQUE LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES FOREST SERVICE

LISA GREENOUGH: My name is Lisa Greenough, L-I-S-A G-R-E-E-N-O-U-G-H. And my zip code is 99821.

I'm here tonight to share with the Forest Service my views of the roadless rule, and I support Alternative 1 of keeping the Tongass free of roads that are not needed.

I am a lifelong Alaskan. My family moved here in 1963. And I have a young son who is 23, who has grown up here in Juneau, and has had the benefit of living his formative years in a beautiful national forest, which is truly a national treasure. And we should take care of it as such.

Last year, last summer in Southeast, we experienced a drought. NOAA did determine that the entire region was in a drought, and it's been in a drought for about the last four years. For those of us who live here we've seen the needles dropping from the trees. The carbon sequestration in the Tongass is critical. It may be the balance that is needed to be preserved so that we don't tip over into another horrible global, you know, warming. We already are experiencing climate change, but by preserving and protecting the Tongass by not having roads can prevent us from experiencing increased climate change. We need to really protect it for that reason.

Our family enjoys fishing and hunting for deer. All of my family members love to hike, so the recreation potential for the Tongass is really important for the residents of Southeast Alaska, but now we're discovering that it's desirable for just about everybody else in the world. We have visitors coming from all over the U.S., particularly the southern U.S., and they're coming here in the summers for some reasons to escape the heat in the Lower 48. So we need to think about the Tongass as our refrigerator that's helping to keep the rest of the northwest cool and keeping the quality of life that we have in Southeast preserved, especially for future generations.

And I don't have grandchildren yet, but I hope to someday have grandchildren, and I want them to be able to have the experiences that I enjoyed as a child. And I want your grandchildren to have those experiences as well.

So I support Alternative 1, no roads in the Tongass. We don't need them, and the people in the country don't want roads in Alaska. It's not just people here in Juneau or in other Southeast communities; the people in this country do not want roads in Southeast Alaska. Thank you.

Public Testimony recorded and transcribed by Glacier Stenographic Reporters, Inc.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY BY KARLA HART
PRESENTED AT THE
JUNEAU COMMUNITY ROADLESS RULE PUBLIC MEETING
HELD: DECEMBER 16, 2019, JUNEAU, ALASKA

SUBMITTED DECEMBER 17, 2019, AS A UNIQUE LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES FOREST SERVICE

KARLA HART: My name is Karla Hart, K-A-R-L-A H-A-R-T. 99801 is my zip code.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide information. I'm a lifelong resident of Alaska with over 55 years of living in Southeast Alaska. Over that time I've hiked, rowed, paddled, watched wildlife, boated, and guided tourists and explored and volunteered from Yakutat down to Prince of Wales Island. I've seen a lot of land over a lot of time and seen a lot of changes.

Rolling back the roadless rule designation has impacts so broad and destructive that I, as a private citizen, do not have enough time to personally analyze and respond to every detail. By reference I support and include all of the 117 pages of comments submitted by the professionals at the Alaska Wilderness League, National Wildlife Foundation, et al., including Southeast Alaska Conservation Council, of which I'm a proud member.

My reasons are varied and many. Climate change -- as mentioned, the science is solid. Climate change is happening, and the Tongass has immense global value for carbon sequestration. Leave the old growth alone. Leave the roadless areas intact and undisturbed.

Ecological values. We don't even know what we don't understand or misunderstand. No volume of analysis in an environmental document today can predict what people will know and value tomorrow. Looking back just a few decades shows the ongoing learning curve. Do no harm. Leave the roadless areas roadless. These areas extend from the presently glacier-covered rock through alpine, subalpine, various forests zones, and stages of growth down to tidewater and the unique uplifting margins of the archipelago. Complex, understudied exploitation of these areas is not in the best interests of the Tongass or of the present and future generations of people, wildlife, animals, and plants that will live here.

Invasive species are a particular concern of mine, and I shared some at the Forest Service's public meeting but not hearing. I've seen so many new invasive species coming into the region and spreading and spreading and spreading. And volunteering with the Forest Service, I've gone out and pulled weeds and spent ten days at a time in the wilderness with teams pulling weeds and seeing that it's like putting your little finger in a dike that's collapsing.

Right now the roadless areas are fairly safe from invasive species because there aren't a lot of ways for the invasives to get in. If we leave them alone, they can stay relatively safe. We do not have the resources -- the national forest does not have the resources to inventory the invasives, much less to protect them.

One more point, and then I'll send the rest in my written comments.

Mining. Their analysis claims that this isn't going to have much benefit for mining, and yet I saw a couple of key mining people at the public meeting that the Forest Service had in Juneau before. It made me wonder what's up. The Forest Service specifically says, with their very carefully worded language, that the 1872 mining law already allows them to access the roadless areas. So it says, "Changes in roadless management are therefore not expected to affect existing or future locateable mine exploration or mining activities in the forest."

It doesn't mean it can't make it a lot cheaper and easier for them to get their permits and to go in and not have to do things that take care of the land. They don't detail that, and I am suspicious that we're giving up a lot without even knowing it. The same with leasable mines and their language there. They're not being transparent with the public on what's happening. And I'll leave it there.

Thanks.

Public Testimony recorded and transcribed by Glacier Stenographic Reporters, Inc.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY BY ELAINE SCHROEDER

PRESENTED AT THE
JUNEAU COMMUNITY ROADLESS RULE PUBLIC MEETING
HELD: DECEMBER 16, 2019, JUNEAU, ALASKA

SUBMITTED DECEMBER 17, 2019, AS A UNIQUE LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES FOREST SERVICE

ELAINE SCHROEDER: Name is Elaine Schroeder, E-L-A-I-N-E S-C-H-R-O-E-D-E-R. My zip code is 99801.

I'm the co-chair of 350 Juneau, Climate Action for Alaska, which is an affiliate of 350.org, an

international organization dedicated to mitigating the climate crisis. Our board supports the retention of the roadless rule, and specifically for its positive impact on carbon sequestration.

According to the DEIS, the Tongass may store an estimated 601 to 650 million U.S. tons of above-ground carbon. This is equivalent to 2.4 billion tons of carbon dioxide. Needless to say, this is a lot of carbon and carbon dioxide equivalents.

Data cited in the DEIS is old, and more recent studies on forest carbon sequestration have not been examined, which is a serious defect of the DEIS. 350 Juneau believes that carbon sequestration needs to be considered as the best use of the Tongass National Forest. Enhanced carbon sequestration is required in light of the October 2018 International Panel on Climate Change report and the November 2018 National Climate Assessment Report. These documents are cited but their stark conclusions are not discussed in the DEIS, which needs to address how the change in the roadless rule would affect carbon sequestration, considering the global need for climate emergency amelioration.

The DEIS also makes no attempt to provide quantitative data on carbon capacity -- past, present, and future. This is a clear failing of the DEIS since it does not present best available data on this topic. In place of actual data, the DEIS launches into inconclusive, discursive discussion that befuddles the obvious fact that removing large quantities of timber from the Tongass National Forest reduces the carbon carrying capacity of this forest.

So given the importance of carbon sinks and carbon storage in the context of global heating, the omission of any of substantive analysis and quantification is unconscionable. The DEIS' discursive discussion obfuscates the effects of timber harvest in the Tongass by refusing to accurately report known and settled science on the role of forests in capturing and restoring carbon. The tone of this document edges on a denial of settled science.

And to reiterate, 350 Juneau supports a No-Action Alternative.
Thanks.

Public Testimony recorded and transcribed by Glacier Stenographic Reporters, Inc.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY BY BART KOEHLER
PRESENTED AT THE
JUNEAU COMMUNITY ROADLESS RULE PUBLIC MEETING
HELD: DECEMBER 16, 2019, JUNEAU, ALASKA

SUBMITTED DECEMBER 17, 2019, AS A UNIQUE LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES FOREST SERVICE

BART KOEHLER: My name is Bart Koehler. I'm the former executive director of SEACC twice over and currently a board member. I live here in Juneau. Zip code, 99802. I need to spell my name -- B-A-R-T K-O-E-H-L-E-R.

I'm going to sing my testimony tonight, and hopefully you'll join me in the chorus of this. Before I do that, I have to recite my favorite quote from Wally Hickel, which was "If you don't have roads, you can't get anywhere." Okay. Well, that was on a radio program. The guy who had called in had said, "Well, I don't see that as a problem. I live in Cordova. I get along fine in my boat and by ferry."

Anyway, the way this song goes -- key of D -- and I have to read the words so I don't mess this up too badly. (Singing.) I was standing in the Tongass. What did I see? A forest full of giant trees running to the sea. We need to stand up for our old growth, keep those logging roads away. Let's stand up for the trees and keep the roadless rule today.

Stand up, stand up. Stand up, stand up. Stand up for the Tongass. Save those trees today. Stand up, stand up. Stand up, stand up. Stand up for the Tongass, keep the roadless rule today.

Can you all join me in that chorus one more time? Stand up, stand up. Stand up, stand up. Stand up for the Tongass. Keep the roadless rule today. One more time. Stand up, stand up. Stand up, stand up. Stand up for the Tongass. Keep the roadless rule today. Keep the roadless rule today, Sonny Perdue.

Thank you.

Public Testimony recorded and transcribed by Glacier Stenographic Reporters, Inc.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY BY KRISTINE TROTT
PRESENTED AT THE
JUNEAU COMMUNITY ROADLESS RULE PUBLIC MEETING
HELD: DECEMBER 16, 2019, JUNEAU, ALASKA

SUBMITTED DECEMBER 17, 2019, AS A UNIQUE LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES FOREST SERVICE

KRISTINE TROTT: Kristine Trott, K-R-I-S-T-I-N-E T-R-O-T-T. 99801.

I've been here -- I moved up to Juneau in 1978. I sailed up here with my to-be hubby in a trimaran we built. And as we sailed along, we saw places where they had clearcut forest in the Tongass and the devastation it left, and we'd see mass wasting because there was a lot of logging done on too steep of land.

And then when we got here, we moved out the road where I live, and we have an old cannery site. We would go sailing all around Southeast, and I've seen and been in the marvelous forests that are all throughout Alaska. And they are -- like even on the Shelter Island, you can go on the east side of Shelter Island and up into the woods there, and it's like a cathedral. And I'm going to -- I mean, that's my church in this world.

But I'm going to read some of my outline that I've done. We need to keep the roadless rule in all of Tongass and in all of Alaska. There is no exception. It was put in place for a very strong reason. It's protecting wildlife habitat because the habitat is being lost or degraded at an alarming rate. It's for protecting the species, because we're losing many species, and we know that diversity is critical for a high quality of life. And it's for saving wildlands. It is important for humanity to have wildlands to get back to, because that wild land holds a lot of species that have not even been found yet that can benefit humanity even, besides benefiting themselves.

Diversity is critical to a healthy life. Saving wildlands is also important because of the unique and special places that are hurt by having roads into them. There is too much easy access, and there are many people who haven't got very good values. I have so many times cleaned up garbage that's been dumped, appliances, dirty diapers, things like that left out in the wilderness of all things. I have hiked many of the mountains down in Washington and California, and when there are roads, you find trash.

And in sailing around Southeast, we've gone to Prince of Wales Island and been in logging communities there, and Prince of Wales has lots of roads on it. There are people who live in those communities who think it's their private hunting ground, and they can go out and hunt deer any time of year that they like. And I was there in July and personally saw some fellows from that logging camp come in with two deer in the back of their pickup in July, and my husband had to practically hogtie me, because I was going to go and accost those guys. I was furious. But you have roads in there, and then you get these scofflaws in there who think it's their right to go shoot whenever they want. And, you know, I can't abide that.

The cost of building roads in Alaska is prohibitive. It is economically unjustified because they are giving it away to the logging companies or the mining companies, and it's public money to build these roads for private industries.

The environmental damage that those roads do is incredible, and just driving out our "Road to

Nowhere" we see for that mile and a half, I think it is, the incredible footprint this road has put on the land there, how deep the rock base is that they blasted and filled. It's just mind-boggling. And, you know, just think of all the creatures and everything that were put underneath all that rock that were killed.

The land belongs to the public, not to these private industries, and the public doesn't need to subsidize private interests -- logging, mining, oil extraction.

And last but not least, our big forests are a major carbon sink, to help keep the carbon in the ground and in the trees the way it should be, to help fight global warming. My daughter lives down in Texas, and I have seen the damage done when they ravage and pave and everything else, and they flood beyond anything. And she has a pasture where the old plains grass is left and thick. And the cattle and horses in those fields -- they're not flooded because that sponge holds the soil. They have deep roots. That's carbon in the soil. They soak up the water.

You know, the same thing here. We have trees that need to stay upright to help our carbon sequestration so that the global warming and climate change is as mitigated as we can help to do. So I'm basically quite against doing anything but keeping that roadless rule in place, and Alternative 1 is the one I choose. Thank you.

Additional testimony provided after other speakers:

KRISTINE TROTT: In spite of homesteading, we also lived and worked abroad for ten years, returning back every summer. We've worked from Saudi Arabia, New Zealand, China, Russia, and I've been in the eastern United States as well. Every time we came back to our home in Juneau, the air quality was incomparable. That is because of the intact forest and the deep connection with the mycorrhiza -- the connection with our forests and trees, which are all interlaced with their roots holding each other up, and the mycorrhiza can live amongst that and bring the nutrients to the trees, but they also give out healthful aerosols, which is, I think, a very large part of the healthfulness of this forest.

I've been in New Zealand forests. I've been in Thailand forests. I've been in forests in Russia and in Finland, and none of those forests have the same healthy air, clean air. Every time we came back to Juneau it was a breath of fresh air, literally, and there is no alternative for this clean air.

I grew up in Washington state and hiking and climbing in the mountains, and on the Olympic peninsula, and what they have done on the Olympic peninsula is a travesty. It cannot happen here. It's so important to keep these forests. I use the forests for subsistence as well. My kids have all grown up here. And I've seen the damage done in California and in Texas, and I don't want it to happen here. I do support Alternative 1.

Public Testimony recorded and transcribed by Glacier Stenographic Reporters, Inc.

[Position]

PUBLIC TESTIMONY BY DAVID LENDRUM

PRESENTED AT THE

JUNEAU COMMUNITY ROADLESS RULE PUBLIC MEETING

HELD: DECEMBER 16, 2019, JUNEAU, ALASKA

SUBMITTED DECEMBER 17, 2019, AS A UNIQUE LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES FOREST SERVICE

DAVID LENDRUM: Good evening. My name is David Lendrum. I live in Juneau. L-E-N-D-R-U-M. I get my mail at 99803.

My worry about roads in the Tongass is that when you cut the trees down and you expose the ground, no matter what you might think that's going to grow back, the richness and diversity will never return. When they logged in the Adirondacks two centuries ago, there are plots laying next to each other, one of which was never logged, one of which was logged 200 years ago. The species diversity is incomparable between the two sites. Things that vanish will never be seen again. Things that are only allowed, only endemic to a particular area and the rules that determine how things adapt to their areas mean that the specific zone that something lives in and grows up in and is adapted to and evolves to fill, that may never be seen again. If these roads penetrate the forest, penetrate the forest fabric, and as a consequence areas become logged, that's what we're looking at. We are looking at a tremendous loss in species diversity.

I was the Southeast representative on the Invasive Species Council for several years, and part of my work there involved looking at the DOT network. And it's very, very clear that invasive species spread by road maintenance activities. If you look at the map showing an overhead view of where we have located invasive species concentrations, they're the nexus of roadwork operations. They can't get there without a road. That's something to always watch out for. The road doesn't just take us; other things go on it too. So I support Alternative 1.

Thank you very much.

Public Testimony recorded and transcribed by Glacier Stenographic Reporters, Inc.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY BY KARLA HART

PRESENTED AT THE

JUNEAU COMMUNITY ROADLESS RULE PUBLIC MEETING

HELD: DECEMBER 16, 2019, JUNEAU, ALASKA

SUBMITTED DECEMBER 17, 2019, AS A UNIQUE LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES FOREST SERVICE

KARLA HART: My name is Karla Hart, K-A-R-L-A H-A-R-T. 99801 is my zip code.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide information. I'm a lifelong resident of Alaska with over 55 years of living in Southeast Alaska. Over that time I've hiked, rowed, paddled, watched wildlife, boated, and guided tourists and explored and volunteered from Yakutat down to Prince of Wales Island. I've seen a lot of land over a lot of time and seen a lot of changes.

Rolling back the roadless rule designation has impacts so broad and destructive that I, as a private citizen, do not have enough time to personally analyze and respond to every detail. By reference I support and include all of the 117 pages of comments submitted by the professionals at the Alaska Wilderness League, National Wildlife Foundation, et al., including Southeast Alaska Conservation Council, of which I'm a proud member.

My reasons are varied and many. Climate change -- as mentioned, the science is solid. Climate change is happening, and the Tongass has immense global value for carbon sequestration. Leave the old growth alone. Leave the roadless areas intact and undisturbed.

Ecological values. We don't even know what we don't understand or misunderstand. No volume of analysis in an environmental document today can predict what people will know and value tomorrow. Looking back just a few decades shows the ongoing learning curve. Do no harm. Leave the roadless areas roadless. These areas extend from the presently glacier-covered rock through alpine, subalpine, various forests zones, and stages of growth down to tidewater and the unique uplifting margins of the archipelago. Complex, understudied exploitation of these areas is not in the best interests of the Tongass or of the present and future generations of people, wildlife, animals, and plants that will live here.

Invasive species are a particular concern of mine, and I shared some at the Forest Service's public meeting but not hearing. I've seen so many new invasive species coming into the region and spreading and spreading and spreading. And volunteering with the Forest Service, I've gone out and pulled weeds and spent ten days at a time in the wilderness with teams pulling weeds and seeing that it's like putting your little finger in a dike that's collapsing.

Right now the roadless areas are fairly safe from invasive species because there aren't a lot of ways for the invasives to get in. If we leave them alone, they can stay relatively safe. We do not have the resources -- the national forest does not have the resources to inventory the invasives, much less to protect them.

One more point, and then I'll send the rest in my written comments.

Mining. Their analysis claims that this isn't going to have much benefit for mining, and yet I saw a couple of key mining people at the public meeting that the Forest Service had in Juneau before. It made me wonder what's up. The Forest Service specifically says, with their very carefully worded language, that the 1872 mining law already allows them to access the roadless areas. So it says, "Changes in roadless management are therefore not expected to affect existing or future locateable mine exploration or mining activities in the forest."

It doesn't mean it can't make it a lot cheaper and easier for them to get their permits and to go in and not have to do things that take care of the land. They don't detail that, and I am suspicious that we're giving up a lot without even knowing it. The same with leasable mines and their language there. They're not being transparent with the public on what's happening. And I'll leave it there.

Thanks.

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PUBLIC TESTIMONY BY KRISTINE TROTT

PRESENTED AT THE

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HELD: DECEMBER 16, 2019, JUNEAU, ALASKA

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PUBLIC TESTIMONY BY ELAINE SCHROEDER

PRESENTED AT THE

JUNEAU COMMUNITY ROADLESS RULE PUBLIC MEETING

HELD: DECEMBER 16, 2019, JUNEAU, ALASKA

SUBMITTED DECEMBER 17, 2019, AS A UNIQUE LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES FOREST SERVICE

ELAINE SCHROEDER: Name is Elaine Schroeder, E-L-A-I-N-E S-C-H-R-O-E-D-E-R. My zip code is 99801.

I'm the co-chair of 350 Juneau, Climate Action for Alaska, which is an affiliate of 350.org, an international organization dedicated to mitigating the climate crisis. Our board supports the retention of the roadless rule, and specifically for its positive impact on carbon sequestration.

According to the DEIS, the Tongass may store an estimated 601 to 650 million U.S. tons of above-ground carbon. This is equivalent to 2.4 billion tons of carbon dioxide. Needless to say, this is a lot of carbon and carbon dioxide equivalents.

Data cited in the DEIS is old, and more recent studies on forest carbon sequestration have not been examined, which is a serious defect of the DEIS. 350 Juneau believes that carbon sequestration needs to be considered as the best use of the Tongass National Forest. Enhanced carbon sequestration is required in light of the October 2018 International Panel on Climate Change report and the November 2018 National Climate Assessment Report. These documents are cited but their stark conclusions are not discussed in the DEIS, which needs to address how the change in the roadless rule would affect carbon sequestration, considering the global need for climate emergency amelioration.

The DEIS also makes no attempt to provide quantitative data on carbon capacity -- past, present, and future. This is a clear failing of the DEIS since it does not present best available data on this topic. In place of actual data, the DEIS launches into inconclusive, discursive discussion that befuddles the obvious fact that removing large quantities of timber from the Tongass National Forest reduces the carbon carrying capacity of this forest.

So given the importance of carbon sinks and carbon storage in the context of global heating, the omission of any of substantive analysis and quantification is unconscionable. The DEIS' discursive discussion obfuscates the effects of timber harvest in the Tongass by refusing to accurately report known and settled science on the role of forests in capturing and restoring carbon. The tone of this document edges on a denial of settled science.

And to reiterate, 350 Juneau supports a No-Action Alternative.

Thanks.

Public Testimony recorded and transcribed by Glacier Stenographic Reporters, Inc.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY BY CEDAR MALICK

PRESENTED AT THE

JUNEAU COMMUNITY ROADLESS RULE PUBLIC MEETING

HELD: DECEMBER 16, 2019, JUNEAU, ALASKA

SUBMITTED DECEMBER 17, 2019, AS A UNIQUE LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES FOREST SERVICE

CEDAR MALICK: Thank you for letting me speak today. My name is Cedar Malick. My first name is C-E-D-A-R -- ironic, being named after a tree. Last name, M-A-L-I-C-K. Zip code is 99801.

I was born in Juneau, Alaska here. My family homesteaded, so every day I got to see and live in the forest. I got to enjoy and hike every trail I could reach, partake in the fish and game and the exceptional air and water here.

Now, I have a couple numbers I think people need to consider. One billion acres. That is the extent of the old-growth forest before Columbus got to North America. 25 percent, which is the percentage of old-growth forest left standing today. Despite what someone claimed, these forests are not renewable. Once you cut down a 500- to 1,000-year-old tree, guess how long it's going to take to come back? The Tongass is one of the last tracts of unexploited forest in America and provides vital habitat for salmon, fisheries that are already in dire straits. If that habitat collapses, fish hatcheries would only be able to support the salmon populations for a finite time since it is becoming harder and harder to keep their stocks alive because of climate change.

I should know. I've worked in a fish hatchery before, and I got to see firsthand how difficult it is. In the short six years that I worked there, I saw how many fish we'd lose just in incubation.

Now, there is a movie that some of you may know called Soylent Green. I think it's a movie that every person in high school, every student should watch, because it is very sobering. The future presents as a world in the late stages of complete environmental collapse, where trees exist only in exclusive greenhouses. This is an extreme example, but if you want to avoid even the best-case scenario of that horror, we have to start now. So ask yourself: When is enough enough? How low are we willing to let that old-growth percentage get?

Now, I, for one, would not like our great-great-grandchildren to be spitting on our graves in the future, and neither should you. The Tongass is our temple, more holy than any church. Please support Alternative 1, no action.

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PUBLIC TESTIMONY BY BART KOEHLER

PRESENTED AT THE

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BART KOEHLER: My name is Bart Koehler. I'm the former executive director of SEACC twice over and currently a board member. I live here in Juneau. Zip code, 99802. I need to spell my name -- B-A-R-T K-O-E-H-L-E-R.

I'm going to sing my testimony tonight, and hopefully you'll join me in the chorus of this. Before I do that, I have to recite my favorite quote from Wally Hickel, which was "If you don't have roads, you can't get anywhere." Okay. Well, that was on a radio program. The guy who had called in had said, "Well, I don't see that as a problem. I live in Cordova. I get along fine in my boat and by ferry."

Anyway, the way this song goes -- key of D -- and I have to read the words so I don't mess this up too badly. (Singing.) I was standing in the Tongass. What did I see? A forest full of giant trees running to the sea. We need to stand up for our old growth, keep those logging roads away. Let's stand up for the trees and keep the roadless rule today.

Stand up, stand up. Stand up, stand up. Stand up for the Tongass. Save those trees today. Stand up, stand up. Stand up, stand up. Stand up for the Tongass, keep the roadless rule today.

Can you all join me in that chorus one more time? Stand up, stand up. Stand up, stand up. Stand up for the Tongass. Keep the roadless rule today. One more time. Stand up, stand up. Stand up, stand up. Stand up for the Tongass. Keep the roadless rule today. Keep the roadless rule today, Sonny Perdue.

Thank you.

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PUBLIC TESTIMONY BY BOB SCHROEDER

PRESENTED AT THE

JUNEAU COMMUNITY ROADLESS RULE PUBLIC MEETING

HELD: DECEMBER 16, 2019, JUNEAU, ALASKA

SUBMITTED DECEMBER 17, 2019, AS A UNIQUE LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES FOREST SERVICE

BOB SCHROEDER: Thank you so much for being here and supporting protection of the Tongass. My name is Bob Schroeder, S-C-H-R-O-E-D-E-R. I live in zip code 99801. My Tlingit name is Chakeen. I'm Takdeintaan, Raven's Nest House from Hoonah.

I'm also a SEACC board member, and I sit on the Southeast Regional Advisory Council for subsistence. Much of my career has been working on the subsistence issue, and that's what I'll focus my comments on this evening.

Basically, the DEIS is extremely disrespectful to indigenous people. The DEIS, for those of you who have looked through it, includes an extremely thin depiction or acknowledgment of tribes, traditional territory, or culture. It also does not describe subsistence uses of the Tongass National Forest in any great detail.

And for those of you who may not be familiar with that literature, it's really deep. The Forest Service itself has spent easily $1 million in documenting subsistence uses in the Tongass National Forest, which includes estimates of harvest levels of fish and wildlife in all the subsistence communities in the region, mapping of subsistence use territories, and mapping of Kwaan and clan territories.

This is a very serious NEPA failing, a National Environmental Policy Act failing, in that what a NEPA document is supposed to do is tell you what you know about the land or the territory that's under review.

I've had the occasion to be at a number of so-called subsistence hearings and have spoken to some of my colleagues who have been at others of these hearings. To say that the hearings held in communities have been overwhelmingly in favor of the No-Action Alternative doesn't do it justice. I mean, there's not a single person who shows up saying, "What we really need in Hoonah, what we really need in Angoon, what we really need in Kake are a lot more roads." Nobody is saying this. And these are people who have also had their experience with logging and logging on Native corporation land and also need jobs to survive. So this response has been really overwhelming in keeping the roadless rule as it is.

I'd like to speak a little bit about the technicalities of the evaluation of subsistence, because this is kind of a special law. Subsistence is protected by the Alaska National Interest Land Conservation Act, Section 8. And under Section 810 -- this gets a little wonky. Excuse me. Section 810 directs Federal agencies as to what they're supposed to do if they're doing a land use action that may significantly restrict subsistence uses.

Now, those are kind of weird terms. What does that mean? That means that if you're going do do something on the land, on federal land, that looks like it may have an effect on subsistence uses, you have to analyze that and come to a determination of significant restriction, or they used to call it FONSI. I don't know if anyone can guess what that means. That's a Finding Of No Significant Impact. So this is all in Forest Service procedures as to how you approach a plan that is a land use action.

In this particular plan, the DEIS for changing the roadless rule really doesn't do this, so it does not analyze subsistence data. It doesn't present subsistence data, and it does not come up with a finding, as required by Forest Service procedures, of significant or no significant impact.

The reason why that's so important is that in Forest Service procedures, subsistence hearings can only be held after you do this step. And that's kind of logical, because if you were doing something and there was no significant impact, you don't need to have hearings, because there isn't any significant impact. But if you do, you go and have hearings to decide whether or not this is real, whether the analysis was correct, and you want to hear from people in that case.

The hearings that were held throughout Southeast Alaska were fatally flawed, because they did not present any finding that people could respond to. And in that respect, they completely violate the Forest Service's own procedure and a clear and obvious reading of ANILCA Section 810, which is the governing law in this case.

So for these reasons, I believe that the DEIS is fatally flawed and will need to be completely redone before it can be considered just on the subsistence grounds.

The next thing that happens after you have hearings is that the deciding officer -- in this case, that would be Secretary Perdue -- would need to -- if they decide to go ahead with an action, would need to decide that this is somehow necessary. And that's a pretty steep jump, because we have all the people in our regions saying that, "Boy, we really don't want this at all." And so to come out with a finding that it was necessary to do so after holding a bunch of hearings where people say, "Boy, we don't want any change to this law at all" would be a real steep step.

Let's see what else I have here.

I think the DEIS needs to be completely withdrawn. We need to show respect for indigenous cultures. We will point out that Native people have been caretakers of the land on which we walk for thousands of years, and that it's basically the failed fossil capitalism that has us in the fix that we're in, both in the Tongass and with respect to the climate emergency that we face.

Everyone here appears to support the No-Action Alternative, and I support a modified No-Action Alternative. And the reason it needs to be modified is that the inventory of roadless areas is incorrect and it omitted a number of areas, specifically approximately 150,000 acres of forest land that was not roaded but had already been designated for harvest under the pulp company contracts. And so that land still had not been roaded, but it does not appear in the roadless inventory.

Secondly, I believe that since we're going through this exercise at great public expense and calling on a great involvement of people of Southeast Alaska, that I really think that we shouldn't just settle for the existing roadless rule, but we need to, as I said, include the areas that were erroneously omitted from the roadless inventory.

And I think we should examine whether or not, once an area has a road, does that mean that it endlessly is a roaded area? If something had a road put in it in 1975 and nothing has happened there, maybe that's a roadless area as well. I think we need a lot more than the current roadless inventory to be covered by the roadless rule.

That's my testimony. Thank you.

Public Testimony recorded and transcribed by Glacier Stenographic Reporters, Inc.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY BY TODD BAILEY

PRESENTED AT THE

JUNEAU COMMUNITY ROADLESS RULE PUBLIC MEETING

HELD: DECEMBER 16, 2019, JUNEAU, ALASKA

SUBMITTED DECEMBER 17, 2019, AS A UNIQUE LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES FOREST SERVICE

TODD BAILEY: Todd Bailey, 511 Kennedy Street, Juneau, 99801, and my last name is B-A-I-L-E-Y.

I work in the Tongass. I have a small business, a gillnet and crab direct marketing operation. I've landed over a million pounds of salmon and crab in the Juneau Borough, Haines, Sitka, Petersburg, and Wrangell.

And I support Alternative 1. Alaska has some of the best-managed fisheries in the world, and I owe my livelihood to this, and also to the resource and the lands that support it.

Dungeness and salmon require wildland. Salmon, in particular, is the only thing you can buy in the grocery store that requires wildland, so I think it's even better than organic stuff because it requires wildland.

So I spend a lot of time out driving around, looking for jumpers and crab buoys and stuff, and I see the business that goes on in the Tongass -- the whale watchers, the tourism. I see the cruise ships come by and, you know, all that stuff seems well, like fine things. They don't impact the Tongass that much.

Then you come across a logging operation, and it's just a hot mess. I mean, you can see, you know, where the alders have grown through the roads in these old clearcuts, and, you know, nothing is going to happen there for a hundred years. You know, they don't come through and thin things out. People don't hunt there. They don't even maintain trails in these areas.

A lot of the areas that are highlighted under Alternative 6 are really important to the Dungeness crab fisheries -- inside of Sullivan Island, Windy Bay, Port Hooten, the Snettisham peninsula, all of these places. And the crab are down there digging in the mud. And if that gets all sedimented in, or if they have got their log storage areas there, it's just not going to be good.

Earlier somebody testified about the importance of how marginal the habitat is for coho salmon, and I second that. It seems like, in particular, them and pink salmon will be affected by logging. The northern Southeast stocks of pinks is -- we were just talking about that it's on the verge of being listed as a stock of concern, so any more impact to that -- when it's a big pink salmon year here in Southeast, it's the largest biomass of wild salmon in the world. It can be bigger than the Bristol Bay run, so it's an amazing resource.

Some of the other areas -- Thistle Ledge I saw was in red on the map there. Sand Bay. Thistle Ledge has got to be a really important place if you're going anywhere between the Petersburg area and the Juneau area. If you were doing that in a canoe, that is where you would stop. It's an amazing spot. It's a big sandy pullout with a rock face that just keeps the heat right in front of it. There's also crab there. Point League, Point Sherman, all these places, it would be nice to keep catching fish and crab there. That's it.

Thank you.

Public Testimony recorded and transcribed by Glacier Stenographic Reporters, Inc.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY BY PHILLIP GRAY

PRESENTED AT THE

JUNEAU COMMUNITY ROADLESS RULE PUBLIC MEETING

HELD: DECEMBER 16, 2019, JUNEAU, ALASKA

SUBMITTED DECEMBER 17, 2019, AS A UNIQUE LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES FOREST SERVICE

PHILLIP GRAY: My name is Phillip Gray. I live at 4410 North Douglas Highway, Juneau, Alaska 99801.

I've lived in Juneau for over 50 years. I don't have a prepared statement, so I'm just going from memory. I worked for Fish and Game for over 20 years, about 17 to 18 years as a coho research biologist studying cohos throughout Southeast Alaska from Yakutat to Ketchikan. We did some of the first studies on ages of coho that were done, and we also did tagging of juvenile cohos to study harvest rates, migration routes, and timing.

So I've spent a lot of time on the ground in unlogged areas, and I know a lot about coho salmon and what they require. And I've also been in some areas that have been pretty heavily logged, where the areas have been pretty well destroyed.

The first one I remember was over in a place called Iris Meadows in Sitka where Fish and Game had proposed a transplant. It was just a beautiful area. And the commercial fishermen over there saw so much mud coming out of the streams they called up Fish and Game and said, "You guys better get over here and look at this."

So we traveled over there and went through the area, and it looked like it had been bombed. I mean, I remember one place where the whole hillside had slid off into a lake. We tried walking up one of the streams, and it was kind of an unstable pumice soil. And that had slid into the stream, so it was almost knee deep with all the soil that had slid into the stream. So that was one of my first experiences with clearcut logging.

And I also -- personally, myself -- I rely on the old-growth forest here for fishing and for deer hunting. One of my friends and I went deer hunting down in Whitewater Bay on Admiralty Island, which used to be one of Ralph Young's favorite bear hunting areas. We started out going through the logged area, which turned out to be almost impassible, because you fall into big holes, and you could spear yourself on some of the logging debris; so it was dangerous walking there.

And we got on the logging road that went up towards the mountain we wanted to hunt, and it was quite a ways. We walked 7 miles through this logging road. We never saw a single deer or any sign in 7 miles. I guess we saw one mayor. It was pretty tough walking. The alders had grown up pretty thick on this road. But in 7 miles, no sign of any life -- no deer or nothing. As soon as we stepped out into the old growth at the end of 7 miles and up in the headwaters, we started seeing deer sign all over. So that was another experience that convinced me that old-growth logging is dangerous and seriously damaging to both fish and deer.

Coho salmon require -- they're found in almost all little tiny streams and tributaries all over Southeast Alaska. Just little streams that you can almost step across or can step across seem to be some of the most important ones. They are found in marshes and sloughs and lakes and all these little tributaries, and they're seriously damaged by logging. There is no way you can avoid that. Putting roads in and old-growth logging just is not compatible with good-faith production.

So I'm in favor of that Alternative 1, keeping the roadless rule in place. I don't approve of any old-growth logging or roads in any more of the old-growth areas in Southeast Alaska.

Thank you.

Public Testimony recorded and transcribed by Glacier Stenographic Reporters, Inc.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY BY STEVE HUTCHINSON

PRESENTED AT THE

JUNEAU COMMUNITY ROADLESS RULE PUBLIC MEETING

HELD: DECEMBER 16, 2019, JUNEAU, ALASKA

SUBMITTED DECEMBER 17, 2019, AS A UNIQUE LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES FOREST SERVICE

STEVE HUTCHINSON: I'm Steve Hutchinson. That's spelled S-T-E-V-E H-U-T-C-H-I-N-S-O-N. Zip code, 99801.

And I don't have a script either, but I just wanted to make a comment on support of the No-Action Alternative, keeping the roadless rule here on the Tongass. I love the Tongass for the recreation. It's been a healing and sacred place for me in recreation and just living here, and I've submitted comments about that.

And I just want to really urge Secretary Perdue to listen to Southeast Alaskans. As many people mentioned here today, the overwhelming majority of comments are to keep the roadless rule or add more roadless areas and support the No-Action Alternative, and I ask to please, please listen to that.

Also, I just wanted to express my appalling rage at how much Native tribal governments and peoples have been disregarded in this process. There is a letter that Sonny Perdue should have received from the heads of these tribal governments that have acted as cooperative organizations asking for a meeting, and I urge the Secretary to take them up on this and meet with them in person and come here and see these forests.

And I really feel that that needs to happen, and I urge Secretary Perdue and the Forest Service to stop disrespecting and degrading the Native peoples here, the Tlingit Ani here, and degrading these people who have stewarded this land since time immemorial. And so please stop our government's racism and degradation of this land and the people who have been here since time immemorial.

So, again, I support a No-Action Alternative, and please start respecting Native peoples.

Thank you.

Public Testimony recorded and transcribed by Glacier Stenographic Reporters, Inc.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY BY JULIE KOEHLER

PRESENTED AT THE

JUNEAU COMMUNITY ROADLESS RULE PUBLIC MEETING

HELD: DECEMBER 16, 2019, JUNEAU, ALASKA

SUBMITTED DECEMBER 17, 2019, AS A UNIQUE LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES FOREST SERVICE

JULIE KOEHLER: My name is Julie Koehler, J-U-L-I-E, K-O-E-H-L-E-R, 99802.

I have used the Tongass National Forest since 1985 for recreation, hunting, fishing, berry-picking, kayaking, and on and on. From my college education in fish and wildlife management, work as a naturalist, work as a biological technician, and my personal use of the forest over all these years, I understand the ecology of an old-growth forest and what happens after it's logged. Therefore, I support Alternative 1, the No-Action Alternative.

Like many hundreds of other Southeast Alaskans, I have spoken numerous times over the decades in favor of keeping Tongass old growth standing and intact. Forest Service officials know from the studies done by many, many researchers that keeping old growth stands intact is what needs to be done to protect our Fish and Wildlife resources and ensure their sustainability.

So no need for me to review what has already been pointed out by countless professionals and those of us who know this forest. Instead, I'm going to call out this whole proposal to exempt the Tongass from the roadless rule for what it is, a bald-faced sham, to end-run the wishes of the people who live here and who have had enough of the Forest Service and the State of Alaska trying to liquidated the old growth.

At the Forest Service's November 4th shameful and shameless dog and pony show on this proposal, we were told that exempting the Tongass from the roadless rule won't change how the forest is managed and moving toward the logging of second growth. If that were the case, then why is this exemption being proposed? It is a guise to do old-growth logging through road building.

Alternative 6, minimum impact? Ha. We all know that isn't so. We all know that the guise of this roadless rule exemption is eventually going to end up -- actually probably pretty quickly end up revising the Tongass Land Management Plan so it can incorporate this change and increase the old growth harvest level. And we all know it's a back-door entry into the Chugach National Forest. Our old growth is more valuable standing. Let's keep it standing. Alternative 1. No action.

Public Testimony recorded and transcribed by Glacier Stenographic Reporters, Inc.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY BY LISA GREENOUGH

PRESENTED AT THE

JUNEAU COMMUNITY ROADLESS RULE PUBLIC MEETING

HELD: DECEMBER 16, 2019, JUNEAU, ALASKA

SUBMITTED DECEMBER 17, 2019, AS A UNIQUE LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES FOREST SERVICE

LISA GREENOUGH: My name is Lisa Greenough, L-I-S-A G-R-E-E-N-O-U-G-H. And my zip code is 99821.

I'm here tonight to share with the Forest Service my views of the roadless rule, and I support Alternative 1 of keeping the Tongass free of roads that are not needed.

I am a lifelong Alaskan. My family moved here in 1963. And I have a young son who is 23, who has grown up here in Juneau, and has had the benefit of living his formative years in a beautiful national forest, which is truly a national treasure. And we should take care of it as such.

Last year, last summer in Southeast, we experienced a drought. NOAA did determine that the entire region was in a drought, and it's been in a drought for about the last four years. For those of us who live here we've seen the needles dropping from the trees. The carbon sequestration in the Tongass is critical. It may be the balance that is needed to be preserved so that we don't tip over into another horrible global, you know, warming. We already are experiencing climate change, but by preserving and protecting the Tongass by not having roads can prevent us from experiencing increased climate change. We need to really protect it for that reason.

Our family enjoys fishing and hunting for deer. All of my family members love to hike, so the recreation potential for the Tongass is really important for the residents of Southeast Alaska, but now we're discovering that it's desirable for just about everybody else in the world. We have visitors coming from all over the U.S., particularly the southern U.S., and they're coming here in the summers for some reasons to escape the heat in the Lower 48. So we need to think about the Tongass as our refrigerator that's helping to keep the rest of the northwest cool and keeping the quality of life that we have in Southeast preserved, especially for future generations.

And I don't have grandchildren yet, but I hope to someday have grandchildren, and I want them to be able to have the experiences that I enjoyed as a child. And I want your grandchildren to have those experiences as well.

So I support Alternative 1, no roads in the Tongass. We don't need them, and the people in the country don't want roads in Alaska. It's not just people here in Juneau or in other Southeast communities; the people in this country do not want roads in Southeast Alaska. Thank you.

Public Testimony recorded and transcribed by Glacier Stenographic Reporters, Inc.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY BY RICHARD FARNELL

PRESENTED AT THE

JUNEAU COMMUNITY ROADLESS RULE PUBLIC MEETING

HELD: DECEMBER 16, 2019, JUNEAU, ALASKA

SUBMITTED DECEMBER 17, 2019, AS A UNIQUE LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES FOREST SERVICE

RICHARD FARNELL: My name is Richard Farnell, R-I-C-H-A-R-D F-A-R-N-E-L-L, and my zip code 99802.

First of all, I'd like the Forest Service to explain why they're violating my First Amendment rights by not taking testimony from my community that has the majority of citizens in Southeast Alaska, but they will take testimony from very small communities. This is the justification that the U.S. Supreme Court used in approving the Citizens United lawsuit that destroyed American democracy, so I would think that they would at least allow me to testify in my own community. But please provide me with the justification that you're using for that.

Secondly, keep all existing roadless areas in the Tongass in the existing roadless rule for the Tongass. I want all roadless areas in the Tongass National Forest to remain in the current national roadless rule jurisdiction. In other words, Alternative 1.

I've recently made a $200,000 investment in ability to access roadless areas of the Tongass for hiking, backpacking, trail bike riding, as well as marine-based kayaking and skiffing. These have occurred or will occur on all areas that are currently roadless in the Tongass National Forest. I'm optimistic about my ability to enjoy recreation. I depend on these activities for health and sanity in the era of fake news, continuous lying by the president of the United States and high-level elected officials, and lying by representatives of resource extraction industries to be be able to subvert the will of the public.

Secondly, the process being undertaken by the Forest Service and the Citizens Advisory Committee is unnecessary. It subverts the intent of the Tongass Timber Reform Act, the 2006 U.S. District Court ruling against the state control of roadless designations, and the recently revised management provisions of the Tongass Land Management process. The proposed process, as stated in the press release, has the intent to develop a state-specific roadless rule that establishes a land classification system designed to conserve roadless area characteristics in the Tongass National Forest while accommodating timber harvesting and road construction and reconstruction activities determined by the state to be necessary for forest management.

This intent is illegal. The State of Alaska is not responsible for managing lands on the Tongass National Forest; the federal government is. So the entire intent of this process is without legal basis. In addition, the 2006 U.S. District Court ruling on the subject rejected a move to allow states to designate roadless areas on federal lands.

Secondly, the stated goals of conserving roadless area characteristics while accommodating timber harvesting and road construction and reconstruction are in complete conflict with one another, showing that the intent of this process is not clearly thought out.

Fourth, the members chosen for the Citizens Advisory Committee overwhelmingly represent the resource extraction industry and do not include important stakeholder groups who use the forest, such as tourism, hunters, anglers, and backcountry recreationalists. In addition, the scientists who know about the physical and biological health of the forest are also absent from this committee. Therefore, this committee is not representative of forest uses and is inadequate to objectively review proposals for roadless area changes.

Fifth, the choice of the Forest Service of Alternative 6th in the draft roadless rule, full exemption of the Tongass from the 2001 roadless area conservation rule, fails to account for the vital role that the Tongass National Forest plays is carbon sequestration of carbon dioxide from our atmosphere, the major cause of catastrophic climate change, C-3 -- I'm inventing a new term here -- that is occurring to our planet. The ability of forests such as the Tongass to sequester carbon within the body of old-growth forest means that this characteristic of the undisturbed Tongass forest should be given the highest priority over all other users and uses due to the emergency created by CO2-produced climate change.

The UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, IPCC, report of October 2018 maps out four pathways to achieve a 1.5-degree centigrade maximum atmospheric concentration CO2 level. Reforestation is an essential part of all four strategies. Think of all the jobs that the U.S. Forest Service could create with a replanting program in the areas of the Tongass already damaged from commercial logging, and such a program could help to sequester carbon as well.

Finally, I would request, Secretary Perdue, for you to get a proper perspective on the choice that you're making for these alternatives, you need to visit the moon, and you need to look back at earth and get a view of earth as it is right now, because should you continue with the proposal that you've already stated, this planet is no longer going to be viable and inhabitable. And then you can come back home, and you'll have a better perspective.

Public Testimony recorded and transcribed by Glacier Stenographic Reporters, Inc.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY BY AUTUMN SIMONS

PRESENTED AT THE

JUNEAU COMMUNITY ROADLESS RULE PUBLIC MEETING

HELD: DECEMBER 16, 2019, JUNEAU, ALASKA

SUBMITTED DECEMBER 17, 2019, AS A UNIQUE LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES FOREST SERVICE

AUTUMN SIMONS: So my name is Autumn Simons, A-U-T-U-M-N S-I-M-O-N-S. My zip code is 99801.

I reside on Douglas Island and have loved spending time in the Tongass recreationally, specifically around Juneau and on Douglas island and in Kake, Alaska. I am fortunate and beyond privileged to call the southeast of Alaska my home. And though I'm not surprised that the U.S. government continues to disregard public outcry regarding climate, racial, indigenous, and environmental justice, I'm here to say that building more roads through the Tongass National Forest will cause irreparable damage to one of the nation's and one of the world's greatest treasures.

The Tongass National Forest not only is an essential ecological hub for wildlife, biodiversity, and carbon sequestration, but also a place that Alaska Natives and indigenous people have lived in for thousands of years. Culturally, the current evaluation fails to acknowledge and consider the impacts on subsistence living, which disrespect and further marginalizes indigenous peoples and tribal governments.

Economically, building more roads only fills the pockets of private industries on the dime of Alaskan residents and at the expense of indigenous people.

Environmentally, we lose far greater than what we can ever recover, as has been scientifically and historically cited over hundreds of years of clearcutting in places both in and out of Alaska.

Listen to the voices of the Tongass, the hundreds of people that have cried out against the atrocity that would be altering the Tongass by building more roads and logging. For these reasons I strongly urge Alternative 1, no action.

Public Testimony recorded and transcribed by Glacier Stenographic Reporters, Inc.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY BY FRED HILTNER

PRESENTED AT THE

JUNEAU COMMUNITY ROADLESS RULE PUBLIC MEETING

HELD: DECEMBER 16, 2019, JUNEAU, ALASKA

SUBMITTED DECEMBER 17, 2019, AS A UNIQUE LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES FOREST SERVICE

FRED HILTNER: Thank you for the opportunity to speak. Fred Hiltner, H-I-L-T-N-E-R. The zip code is 99801.

So I'm here to testify that I'm for Alternative 1, no action toward road building in the Tongass forest. My first job in Alaska 40 years ago was doing wildlife biology, comparing old-growth timber areas with clearcut, logged area. It was clear that comparing old growth with logged areas displaced many wildlife species, from bears to deer to salmon to mice and so on.

Another point -- as an Alaskan subsistence hunter for almost 40 years, it was clear that deer were less frequent in clearcut areas, and transiting through those areas was much more difficult for deer and for hunters, in fact.

My third point -- building roads is not cost-effective and is a waste of taxpayer money, and it also damages our fragile and unique forest.

As a manager in a large tourism company in Juneau that depends on wildlife viewing on land and water in Southeast Alaska, we know that successful tourism is directionally proportional to maintaining the local forests. Our forests are much more valuable through eternity if left standing, compared to a short-term gain from logging.

Again, I'm for Alternative 1, prohibiting further road building for logging in our nation's most sacred jewel, the Tongass National Forest.

Thank you.

Public Testimony recorded and transcribed by Glacier Stenographic Reporters, Inc.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY BY MARC SCHOLTEN

PRESENTED AT THE

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MARC SCHOLTEN: My name is Marc Scholten, M-A-R-C S-C-H-O-L-T-E-N, 99801.

I moved up here in 1980, and I worked as a cartographer for the Forest Service in the regional office. At that time, the Tongass Timber Supply Fund spent $40 million a year supporting the timber industry, and most of the industry was operating in the southern Tongass -- Prince of Wales Island and Kuiu and Zarembo; a bunch of these islands, anyway. There was a lot of resource damage due to clearcutting.

And I think I want to, first of all, say that I support No. 1, the Alternative No. 1, No-Action Alternative. And the greatest reason to support that is to really take a look at the big picture of the whole earth. We're in actually a climate catastrophe, and I think what we can do best to help protect our planet and our future for everybody is to not log. We should be planting trees and not cutting them down, and that is the best way to carbon-capture the CO2 that's in our atmosphere.

I also, like most everybody here, use the forest for recreation. I used to use it for subsistence, and mostly for a mental -- well, try to retain a mental -- anyway, I'm not a good public speaker.

But it is so refreshing to get out in the woods and just to forget about all the insanity that's going on in our politics and with the climate catastrophe and that. And it grounds you to the planet, to everything that we're related to. And I just want to recommend that they stick with Alternative 1 and retain the mystique and the mysterious and the great old growth that is here in the Tongass National Forest.

Thank you.

Public Testimony recorded and transcribed by Glacier Stenographic Reporters, Inc.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY BY PAULINE STRONG

PRESENTED AT THE

JUNEAU COMMUNITY ROADLESS RULE PUBLIC MEETING

HELD: DECEMBER 16, 2019, JUNEAU, ALASKA

SUBMITTED DECEMBER 17, 2019, AS A UNIQUE LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES FOREST SERVICE

PAULINE STRONG: My name is Pauline Strong, P-A-U-L-I-N-E S-T-R-O-N-G. The zip code is 99801.

And I just wanted to say that I really value the Tongass for the old growth that's remaining there, and I don't want to see any more of it gone. And without roads is the way I value it the most, and so I support Alternative 1.

Public Testimony recorded and transcribed by Glacier Stenographic Reporters, Inc.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY BY PATRICK KEARNEY

PRESENTED AT THE

JUNEAU COMMUNITY ROADLESS RULE PUBLIC MEETING

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PATRICK KEARNEY: Patrick Kearney, K-E-A-R-N-E-Y. My zip code is 99801.

I live in Mountain View Apartments on the third floor, and for two years now, through the seasons, I've been watching the beautiful face change. "Beautiful face" is a Tlingit name for Mt. Juneau. And without the pristine climate and place this is, this magical place is, the moss that hangs from the trees that can't grow in a polluted environment wouldn't be here.

I can breathe here, and it's that mist, the clouds that just sort of come up out of the treetops out of nowhere. It's the trees that are breathing and exhaling, as I call it, and it's amazing. And there are so many magical moments that I have watched happen here with the weather and the climate, it just -- I can't take a picture with a camera or a video camera and capture the moment just right. You just have to live here. And so the word that keeps coming to my mind is it's irreplaceable, with capital letters and exclamation points, underscored. Irreplaceable. So I could say that until I run out of breath.

I lived in Humboldt County, in redwood forest country, and the first time I stepped into the redwoods it was like an outdoor cathedral. I was just so awe-inspired. How could somebody destroy this just for so many board feet of lumber?

And in San Diego County, there used to be such incredible beautiful places. They still haunt me to this day from my childhood. They're not there anymore. They were plowed under for housing complexes, which keep burning down in horrible fires. So it still haunts me. So what are we leaving for our grandchildren's grandchildren?

Thank you.

Public Testimony recorded and transcribed by Glacier Stenographic Reporters, Inc.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY BY MIKE HAMAR

PRESENTED AT THE

JUNEAU COMMUNITY ROADLESS RULE PUBLIC MEETING

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MIKE HAMAR: I don't have a prepared statement here either, but my name is Mike Hamar. The spelling is M-I-K-E. Last name, H-A-M-A-R. Zip code, 99801.

I was born in Ketchikan. I grew up on Prince of Wales. My dad was a gyppo logger in the '60s and then became a commercial fisherman. I'm a commercial fisherman myself. And while I do feel that trees need to be cut down and turned into boards, milled into lumber, rocks need to be crushed for driveways, pads for homes, fish need to be served on plates, I feel it needs to meet -- if resource extraction is to take place, it needs to meet a certain criteria.

I'm suspicious of uneconomic development. And I don't know whether it's some politicians who want a feather in their cap, meaning they had a road from Kupreanof Island to Kake, or from Katlian Bay to a point in Chatham Straits, or a lumber company on Prince of Wales who is going to make some money from this, but what I don't like as an Alaskan, a lifelong Alaskan -- I do not like outside business interests coming into our state -- I was born here in Ketchikan -- coming in here, taking the bulk of the money, possibly not harvesting the resources responsibly, and then throwing the locals a crumb and waving goodbye. Just like the fish companies before statehood -- they take the money. They still run. They still do it in Bristol Bay. The guys come up. They take the money. They run south.

So I'm in favor of the rule staying the same, maybe, as this prior gentleman said, with some modifications. But I want what's good for most Alaskans, if most Alaskans agree with it, and responsible extraction, if it is to take place, and hopefully by residents of our state. I'm absolutely opposed to Alternative 6.

Thank you for your time.

Public Testimony recorded and transcribed by Glacier Stenographic Reporters, Inc.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY BY CARL REESE

PRESENTED AT THE

JUNEAU COMMUNITY ROADLESS RULE PUBLIC MEETING

HELD: DECEMBER 16, 2019, JUNEAU, ALASKA

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CARL REESE: I'm Carl Reese, C-A-R-L R-E-E-S-E, 99801.

So I moved to Juneau in 2004, and so I've been here for -- I guess that would be 15 years. And I've done a lot of mountain climbing, fishing, kayaking, just the stuff that is around to enjoy. This place is an amazing place to be.

But I'm going to kind of rewind to about 2001, when I was in a conversation with some people. I was in graduate school, just getting out of it. I'm a fisheries biologist. I had just finished a master's degree, and I was talking to some people. And I had just also got a job running a salmon weir in Northern California on the Trinity River. And one of the people that had lived there a long time came up to me and said, "You know, you're just documenting the extinction of these things; right?"

And I thought, "Well, no." It was like, "No, look. Those coho salmon, the silver salmon, they're threatened now. We can't kill them. We can't eat them. We can't do anything other than watch them blink out," which will happen because you could actually go around and look at different tributaries. And the tributaries, some of them had coho in them, but a fair number of them didn't, like 90 percent.

And you could also track that around into the road network and find that the ones that -- and this is actually documented across the northwest, so this is not some new thing, that water quality, fish habitat tend to track pretty strongly with land use. Heavily logged-off areas have -- the mud comes down. Usually it's okay; right? I mean, it's not okay right at first, but it seems like it's going to be. And then the stumps start to fall off the hillsides. A bunch of things like that, just sort of -- and then there's a big storm and things just -- and the whole hill goes out. The next thing you know, you're not seeing any coho in that drainage, and you may not see any of the other species that were there either. You know, in this case, we're talking about king salmon and steelhead.

So, yeah. So I got this e-mail in late 2003 saying "You could apply to be a researcher at UAF, University of Alaska Fairbanks in Juneau." I didn't know. So I thought, "I'm doing this." Because you know what? There are fish up here, like we're not documenting the demise of fisheries; we're documenting healthy stuff, and that's how it's supposed to be.

And we're supposed to be -- is his name Perdue? He's supposed to be managing healthy forests, managing a cultural benefit that we can all enjoy forever, and it's extremely shortsighted to just kind of log this stuff off. We don't really think, most of us, how rare what we have is, worldwide.

People have mentioned climate change over and over and over again. Well, that's true. I don't want to revisit it that much, but a carbon model -- it's already done. But the number of places that have this

kind of intact forest you can count on two hands in the world, and we're going to sell that out so that we can pay logging companies nickels on dollars to cut it all down. And then if history tells us anything, they're just going to take those logs and ship them to somewhere else. They don't even mill them here most of the time. So it's extremely shortsighted. It's extremely bad planning for reasons that I hadn't even thought about until I got here.

Of course building a road network is going to introduce invasive species. I'm not an invasive species specialist, but you don't have to be to know that, and there are papers out there showing this. So if you have a science degree in botany, you probably can follow all those plants moving around.

So, anyway, I advocate for the No-Action Alternative, and that would be Alternative 1.

Thanks.

Public Testimony recorded and transcribed by Glacier Stenographic Reporters, Inc.

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/11/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Nicola
Last name: Trainor
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Nicola Trainor 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.

My dad and mom moved to Sitka to learn about forestry at SJ college and when they graduated they got jobs with the Forest Service. They raised their family here, and I want to continue to live here in the Tongass for the rest of my life, maybe even raise my own family here. I grew up in a family that taught me to respect the land, not to abuse 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 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 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 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): 11/10/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Patricia
Last name: Trakselis
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Patricia Trakselis and I live in Riverside, 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, Patricia Trakselis

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: John
Last name: Trammell
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC4020

U.S. Forest Service Alaska Roadless Rule Committee:

The old growth of the Tongass has been logged enough - or too much-already. The compromised Roadless Rule has protected the remainder, and should not be changed.

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 Trammell

Grand Junction, CO 81506

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Steve
Last name: Trammell
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

The Tongass contains some of the largest intact old-growth temperate rainforest in the world, and its value in providing clean water for fish and wildlife habitat is essential to the economic and ecological health of Southeast Alaska. I urge you to keep the federal Roadless Rule intact and current protections in place for national forests in Alaska.

In addition, I strongly object to your plans to reduce and remove protections from our national forests roadless areas. The Roadless Rule is one of the smartest and most popular land management policies the Federal Government has ever adopted. Not only does it preserve some of Americas best fish and wildlife habitat, but it also saves untold millions of taxpayer dollars that might otherwise be spent to subsidize money-losing timber sales. The value of the Roadless Rule in preventing environmentally damaging and economically 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 Trammell

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Steve
Last name: Trammell
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Steve Trammell and I live in Shawnee, 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, Steve Trammell

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/10/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: terri
Last name: trammell
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is terri trammell and I live in San Juan Capistrano, 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, terri trammell

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Dat
Last name: Tran
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Dat Tran and I live in [@advCity], 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, Dat Tran

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Frances
Last name: tran
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Frances Tran 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.

I am a scientist, specializing in microbiology. I am significantly invested in our global environment and sustained local ecosystems and the intersection and effects of one on the other. My work has been in understanding and stabilizing these ecosystems from the view microbial world. My person love is grounded in the natural world from our forest to our deserts to our oceans.

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, 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 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, 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: Kim
Last name: Tran
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Kim Tran and I live in Santa Ana, 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 Tran

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Lynda
Last name: Tran
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Lynda Tran and I live in Antioch, 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, Lynda Tran

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Michael
Last name: Tran
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: Nhung
Last name: Tran
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Nhung Tran 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, Nhung Tran

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/11/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Nganha
Last name: Tran le
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): 11/15/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Larry
Last name: Trani
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Larry Trani and I live in Sitka, Alaska. This is my 50th year in Southeast Alaska, where I have continually made Sitka my home. I have depended on the Tongass, from my first year here to this very day, for my health and well being. I depend on a healthy intact forest for all my subsistence needs whether it is berry picking, mushroom hunting, salmon fishing, deer hunting or numerous salt water species harvested. The gathering of subsistence resources depends on an ecosystem devoid of the disturbances of road building and logging activities that follow.

I have used ecosystems before road building/logging and seen what the difference is afterwards. Devastation is found everywhere. Without habitat the deer leave the area, with silted streams the salmon dont return, debris and silt get deposited in the saltwater thereby negatively affecting marine species. Even 50 years on I still have not seen the recovery of the forest to anything near what it once was.

Roading and logging have done tremendous damage to the forest that will be felt by generations beyond my time here. Enough is enough. The damage has been done and we will NOT allow anymore to occur. Therefore I am requesting in the most forceful way I know of to keep the Tongass free of any future road building. I fully support the no action alternative 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 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 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 Note earlier written comments on this document.. 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.

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/29/2019 6:19:08 PM
First name: Reba
Last name: Trani
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Reba Trani and I live in Sitka, Alaska. Born and raised in Sitka. Depend on the Tongass for recreation and subsistence. 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 conservation of resources for future generations 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, fiscal responsibility and saving taxpayer dollars keeping public lands wild for future generations, viewing wildlife, carbon sequestration and local climate change mitigation, 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, 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), 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 discounts the voices of many Southeast Alaskans that spoke out in support of a no action alternative', or '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 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): 12/11/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Verla
Last name: Trani
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Verla Trani and I live in Sequim, 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.

My husband and I have lived the majority of our lives in Cordova, AK and Sitka, AK. When the Tongass National Forest was placed on a NO ROADS status, we finally thought our Federal government had finally wanted to protect our National Forests from special interests that only wanted to commercialize the resources for financial gains!!! Roads only mean access to the timber, minerals, oil & gas...

We now live in Sequim, WA and see every day acres and acres clear-cut. The forests here for years have been greatly reduced, but during those years of the Tongass having no roads it has been protected to preserve it for all Americans to provide carbon storage, wildlife, sustainable fishing, and most important keeping public lands in the hands of the public!!!

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. 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 3:00:00 PM
First name: Francine
Last name: Traniello
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Francine Traniello and I live in Middleborough, 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, Francine Traniello

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Mark
Last name: trank
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Mark trank and I live in Fort Myers, Florida.

Please protect these unique treasures 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, Mark trank

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Kate
Last name: Transchel
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Kate Transchel 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, Kate Transchel

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/30/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Lamar
Last name: Trant
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I have no words or argument that you have not already heard. Please look at the big picture and what you are doing to the future of the planet. We cannot lose more rain forests!!

Think of your children and your grandchildren. This is really a personal appeal to your conscience. Thank you for the opportunity to respond.

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Susan
Last name: Trantules
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Susan Trantules and I live in Fayetteville, 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, Susan Trantules

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Barbara
Last name: Trapp
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

The Tongass contains some of the largest intact old-growth temperate rainforest in the world, and its value in providing clean water for fish and wildlife habitat is essential to the economic and ecological health of Southeast Alaska. I urge you to keep the federal Roadless Rule intact and current protections in place for national forests in Alaska.

In addition, I strongly object to your plans to reduce and remove protections from our national forests roadless areas. The Roadless Rule is one of the smartest and most popular land management policies the Federal Government has ever adopted. Not only does it preserve some of Americas best fish and wildlife habitat, but it also saves untold millions of taxpayer dollars that might otherwise be spent to subsidize money-losing timber sales. The value of the Roadless Rule in preventing environmentally damaging and economically 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 Trapp

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Jamie
Last name: Trapp
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Jamie Trapp and I live in New Berlin, 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.

Alaska is the place that shaped me into who I am today. It has such rich biodiversity and some of the most thriving ecosystems in the world! No resources are worth sacrificing the quality of 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 the largest intact temperate rainforest in the world, the recreational opportunities it provides, 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, the lifestyles of the indigenous communities that the forest supports the high density of incredible wildlife it contains, to keep public lands wild for future generations, 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, 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, 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): 12/12/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Lila
Last name: Trask
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Re: comments

Hello,

I would like to comment on the decision to lift the roadless rule for the Tongass National Forest. I am in favor of lifting the rule. I do not want unlimited logging in our area, or the possibility of destroying fish habitat, but there should be the opportunity to log discriminately, as well as for future hydropower projects, or even things that we can't know yet in the future. I would like us to have options in the future and not be locked into a policy which says we can do nothing on this land.

I don't usually comment, but locally, the only ones who seem to show up at the meetings are the strong environmentalists who want it to stay as a roadless area. I tend to hope that our elected officials will do the right thing, but when we don't speak, our voice is not heard, but I believe we are in the majority. So, please consider removing the roadless rule so that we have options in the future.

Lila Trask

Petersburg, AK 99833

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Rhonda
Last name: Trask
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I Object!

Please DO NOT exempt the Tongass National Forest from the protections that the roadless rule provides. As a Nation we need to protect the areas that we currently have and not subject them to political or corporate considerations. These areas like the Tongass Forest are unlike any other areas we have in the United States and they need to be preserved for all future generations.

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Peter
Last name: Traub
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Peter Traub and I live in Cheshire, Massachusetts.

We need to think 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, Peter Traub

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Adam
Last name: Trauger
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Adam Trauger 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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Adam Trauger

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: amber
Last name: traven
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is amber traven and I live in Cincinnati, Ohio.

stop making excuses for corporate greed. public land isn't yours to touch.

I am writing to express strong opposition to efforts to roll back the Roadless Area Conservation Rule (Roadless Rule) in Alaska or elsewhere. The Roadless Rule was implemented with unprecedented public support to protect some of our nations most pristine public lands, including large parts of the Tongass National Forest. You must choose the No Action alternative. Any other choice would ignore overwhelming public support and harm Alaskans, including Alaska Natives, and taxpayers across the nation.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, amber traven

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: L.
Last name: Travers
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

The Tongass contains some of the largest intact old-growth temperate rainforest in the world, and its value in providing clean water for fish and wildlife habitat is essential to the economic and ecological health of Southeast Alaska. I urge you to keep the federal Roadless Rule intact and current protections in place for national forests in Alaska.

In addition, I strongly object to your plans to reduce and remove protections from our national forests roadless areas. The Roadless Rule is one of the smartest and most popular land management policies the Federal Government has ever adopted. Not only does it preserve some of Americas best fish and wildlife habitat, but it also saves untold millions of taxpayer dollars that might otherwise be spent to subsidize money-losing timber sales. The value of the Roadless Rule in preventing environmentally damaging and economically 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. Travers

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Mary
Last name: Travers
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- 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 Travers

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Barb
Last name: Travis
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Barb Travis and I live in Ewa Beach, 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, Barb Travis

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Judi
Last name: Travis
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Judi Travis and I live in Delray Beach, Florida.

We need to have a safe 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, Judi Travis

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Marie
Last name: Travis
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Marie Travis and I live in Dallas, 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, Marie Travis

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Patsy
Last name: Travis
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

The Tongass contains some of the largest intact old-growth temperate rainforest in the world, and its value in providing clean water for fish and wildlife habitat is essential to the economic and ecological health of Southeast Alaska. I urge you to keep the federal Roadless Rule intact and current protections in place for national forests in Alaska.

In addition, I strongly object to your plans to reduce and remove protections from our national forests roadless areas. The Roadless Rule is one of the smartest and most popular land management policies the Federal Government has ever adopted. Not only does it preserve some of Americas best fish and wildlife habitat, but it also saves untold millions of taxpayer dollars that might otherwise be spent to subsidize money-losing timber sales. The value of the Roadless Rule in preventing environmentally damaging and economically wasteful road-building and logging is particularly relevant in the Tongass, where logging costs vastly exceed timber revenues and require unconscionable taxpayer subsidies.
Regards, Patsy Travis

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Terry
Last name: Travis
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
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Regards, Terry Travis

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Organization:
Title:
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Last name: Travis
Organization:
Title:
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Regards, Terry Travis

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: James
Last name: Traweek
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is James Traweek and I live in North Springfield, 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, James Traweek

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/21/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Larry
Last name: Traxler
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
IMPEACH TRUMP NOW!

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/14/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: JoTasha
Last name: Traylor
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is JoTasha Traylor 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, JoTasha Traylor

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/5/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Ransom
Last name: Traylor
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: Richard
Last name: Traylor
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Richard Traylor 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.

In Southeast Alaska, tourism accounts for 28% of employment and generate an annual $1 billion in economic benefit, making it far more of an economic driver than the timber industry, which is less than 1% of the regional economy.

Any choice but the No Action alternative would also put wildlife and critical habitat at risk, threaten access to clean water, and be a step in the wrong direction on climate change jeopardizing Alaskans at a time when the state already faces severe challenges related to rising temperatures. I urge you not to abandon the Roadless Rule in Alaska and instead 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 Traylor

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: PHIL
Last name: TRAYNOR
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

The Tongass contains some of the largest intact old-growth temperate rainforest in the world, and its value in providing clean water for fish and wildlife habitat is essential to the economic and ecological health of Southeast Alaska. I urge you to keep the federal Roadless Rule intact and current protections in place for national forests in Alaska.

In addition, I strongly object to your plans to reduce and remove protections from our national forests roadless areas. The Roadless Rule is one of the smartest and most popular land management policies the Federal Government has ever adopted. Not only does it preserve some of Americas best fish and wildlife habitat, but it also saves untold millions of taxpayer dollars that might otherwise be spent to subsidize money-losing timber sales. The value of the Roadless Rule in preventing environmentally damaging and economically wasteful road-building and logging is particularly relevant in the Tongass, where logging costs vastly exceed timber revenues and require unconscionable taxpayer subsidies.
Regards, PHIL TRAYNOR

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Steve
Last name: Traynor
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Steve Traynor 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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Steve Traynor

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/10/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Matthew
Last name: Trbovich
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Matthew Trbovich and I live in North Canton, 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, Matthew Trbovich

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/24/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Kathleen
Last name: Treacy
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
No Action should be taken to defile the Tongass National Forest . Keep the roadless rule.

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Carolyn
Last name: Treadway
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Carolyn Treadway and I live in Lacey, Washington.

Forests are the lungs of the planet. Don't suffocate us by cutting 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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Carolyn Treadway

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Jennser
Last name: Treadway
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC5800

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: John
Last name: Treadwell
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is John Treadwell and I live in Bethesda, Maryland.

We need to protect beautiful places. They provide habitat for wildlife and enrich humans lives. Disturbing these places for economic gain is a fools errand. 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, John Treadwell

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Tami
Last name: Trearse
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Tami Trearse and I live in Sacramento, California.

Clean vehicles are needed in 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, Tami Trearse

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Jay
Last name: Treat
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

The Tongass contains some of the largest intact old-growth temperate rainforest in the world, and its value in providing clean water for fish and wildlife habitat is essential to the economic and ecological health of Southeast Alaska. I urge you to keep the federal Roadless Rule intact and current protections in place for national forests in Alaska.

In addition, I strongly object to your plans to reduce and remove protections from our national forests roadless areas. The Roadless Rule is one of the smartest and most popular land management policies the Federal Government has ever adopted. Not only does it preserve some of Americas best fish and wildlife habitat, but it also saves untold millions of taxpayer dollars that might otherwise be spent to subsidize money-losing timber sales. The value of the Roadless Rule in preventing environmentally damaging and economically 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 Treat

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Regards, Jay Treat

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/12/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Evan
Last name: Trebilcock
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: Shannon
Last name: Trebus
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
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Regards, Shannon Trebus

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Jamie
Last name: Tredeaux Lauer
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): 11/4/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Gloria
Last name: Treece
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
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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: John
Last name: Treece
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is John Treece and I live in Buckeye, Arizona.

infinite screams from the forest "PLEASE, 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, John Treece

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/18/2019 2:59:16 PM
First name: Nancy
Last name: Treffry
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 Treffry
Aromas, CA 95004

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Kristen
Last name: Trefren
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

The Tongass contains some of the largest intact old-growth temperate rainforest in the world, and its value in providing clean water for fish and wildlife habitat is essential to the economic and ecological health of Southeast Alaska. I urge you to keep the federal Roadless Rule intact and current protections in place for national forests in Alaska.

In addition, I strongly object to your plans to reduce and remove protections from our national forests roadless areas. The Roadless Rule is one of the smartest and most popular land management policies the Federal Government has ever adopted. Not only does it preserve some of Americas best fish and wildlife habitat, but it also saves untold millions of taxpayer dollars that might otherwise be spent to subsidize money-losing timber sales. The value of the Roadless Rule in preventing environmentally damaging and economically wasteful road-building and logging is particularly relevant in the Tongass, where logging costs vastly exceed timber revenues and require unconscionable taxpayer subsidies.
Regards, Kristen Trefren

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/18/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Kristin
Last name: Tregillus
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC243

Re: HR 2491/S. 1311

I write in support of the No-Action Alternative for the Draft EIS on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule. The Tongass contains some of the largest intact old-growth temperat rain forest in the world.

Its value in providing clean water for fish & wildlife is essential to the economic & ecological health of SE Alaska Please oppose any efforts to weaken protections for Roadless areas in the Tongass.

Sincerely,

Kristin Tregillus

Seattle, WA 98144

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Terry
Last name: Treiber
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Terry Treiber 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, Terry Treiber

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Jacob
Last name: Treichler
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Jacob Treichler and I live in Northampton, 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, Jacob Treichler

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Sharon
Last name: Treistman
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
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Regards, Sharon Treistman

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Elspeth
Last name: Trejo Savani
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
To Whom It May Concern,

Please do NOT roll back the roadless rule in Alaska. The short term economic gain is not worth the long-term degradation of ecosystems, including habitat, water quality, recreation and tourism. In these times when we are facing huge consequences for our poor stewardship of the planet, we should be working overtime to protect environments, not remove protections. Myopia and short-sightedness in the relentless drive for profit will be the ruin of Alaska. Protect your precious resources and keep the roadless rule in place.

Sincerely,

Elspeth Trejo Savani

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/10/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Kristin
Last name: Trelegan
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Kristin Trelegan and I live in Ashland, Massachusetts.

Please put the interests of your fellow citizens, taxpayers and society at large ahead of the profit margins of business. This is one of those times when there is no question about what the right thing to do is. Please dont let us all 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, Kristin Trelegan

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Paula
Last name: Tremba
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Paula Tremba and I live in Shepherdstown, 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, Paula Tremba

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/10/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Brian
Last name: Tremback
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Brian Tremback 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, Brian Tremback

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/26/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Bill
Last name: Tremblay
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC300

Comments regarding the Roadless Rule for the Tongass National Forest

For years I advocated for the elimination of the Roadless Rule imposed on the Tongass National Forest because I felt the inclusion of the Tongass National Forest was capricious and unnecessary. Let's look at the circumstances surrounding its inclusion;

The Tongass had just completed a revision of a Forest Plan in 2000. This revision began in 1987 with the gathering of public comments. During the planning process there were significant changes to the management of the forest that had to be accommodated. The Tonass Timber Reform Act was passed in 1990 which revised the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act of 1980 to;

- Modify the two long-term timber sale contracts that had been in place since the 1950's

- Provided protections to fisheries habitat

- Added five Congressionally Designated Wilderness Areas, and expanded on other area

- Protected more than 500,000 acres as LUD II which prohibited timber operations

The modifications to the long-term timber sale contracts resulted in both timber companies (Ketchikan Pulp Company and Alaska Pulp Company) to close their pulp mills as they determined it was no longer economical to operate them under the revisions made by Congress. The U.S. Government considered these actions by the two companies to be a breech of contract and canceled the contracts. Both companies sued the Federal Government for arbitrarily changing their contracts without negotiations and both won in court (KPC awarded about $120 million and a three year supply of timber, with APC awarded $1.5 billion). APC took it further to sue the Federal Government for damage from lost revenue but their case was tossed out of court because the judge found that, after almost 40 years in business, the only revenue APC could identify to support their continued operations were the subsidizes they were given by the United States and Japanese Governments to operate.

During all of this hoopla, the folks on the Tongass continued with revisions, public comments, and discussions with the State and other Federal agencies to complete the Forest Plan. When it came time for make a final decision, the Undersecretary for the Department of Agriculture used his discretion to make the decision. I believe this was the first time an Undersecretary exercised this discretion and is the only Forest Plan done so to date. Mind you, his decision was not made in isolation. As told to me by persons back in DC helping with the fnal Forest Plan decision, the final negotiations regarding standards and guidelines were discussed in offices in the White House. (I have names for my sources if you care to follow up.)

After the Forest Plan decision was made, the Undersecretary (Jim Lyons) came to southeast Alaska and addressed a gathering of mayors who were attending a meeting for the Southeast Conference in Sitka, Alaska. In his presentation, he emphasized that te decision was made and it was time to move forward with the implementation. (This was his opinion despite reservations from Forest Service employees who managed the resources who considered some of the updated standards and guidelines too restrictive to be able to meet the expected annual sale quantity for timber sales.)

As we worked to implement the Forest Plan, rumors of the Tongass inclusion into the Natinal Roadless Rule persisted. We kept getting assurances internally that since our plan had been approved at the highest level of our organization that the Tongass would NOT be include. After all, the Undersecretary himself had come to assure us that it was time to move forward.

With this assurance and about a year of trying to move ahead with projects; we got some abrupt news one morning....15 minutes before the National Roadless Rule was announced we found that forests in Alaska would be included in the rule (both the Tonass and Chugach NF's). It's important to note that as Forest Service employees were finding this out fifteen minutes before the announcement, representatives of several southeast Alaska conservation groups were in attendance on the White House lawn where te announcement was taking place. When reacting to the inclusion of Alaska forests into the Roadless Rule, our democratic Governor wrote the President specifically telling him that this was a; "Stab in the back"....I agreed.

For decades I argued that the Roadless Rule was unnecessary given the standards and guidelines affording resources protections on the Tongass NF. However, when considering more current management actions I now believe the Roadless protections may be necessary. *The Forest Service does not appear to be able to offer the protections of resources that are provided under law.* [text bolded for emphasis] Let me go through some examples;

2016 GAO Report [text underlined for emphasis]

This report reviews the administration of two timber sales (Big Throne and Tonka) that took place on the Tongass. This review identified several issues;

- The contractor didn't remove all of the trees identified in the contractor

- Resulting in millions of dollars of revenue not recovered for the FS

- Resulting in dozens of stand improvement or infrastructure projects not completed

- Impacting improvements to resources promised by the FS to local communities

- The FS permitted these actions without repercussions to the contractor or personnel

- Local governments have requested (several times) information regarding the resolution of poor permit administration of these sales by the FS but have yet to receive information that the issues raised in the GAO report have been addressed or will be addressed in any future timber sale

I was certified as a timber sale administrator by the Forest Service in the Alaska Region in 1987. I also spent another three years as a Small Sales Forester and Timber Sale Administrator at the Priest Lake Ranger District. The contracts I administered had clauses that spelled out consequences for not taking the timber as specified in the contract. Apparently, these new "Stewardship" contracts allow the timber contractors to act at their own discretion without fear of repercussion or fiscal responsibility.

Current Planning Efforts that ignore protections provided by law [text underlined for emphasis]

In the last few years, the Tongass has had several planning efforts for projects. These documents do not provides specific information about where and when some projects would take place but rather, provide a framework under which projects might forward under an umbrella of protections? (The courts recently rejected moving forward with projects under one of these documents as it was too vague in spelling out the actual impacts for implementation.)

Of concern to me was the planning projects were attempting to ignore resource protections by "suspending" Forest Plan standards and guidelines to improve the economics of timber operations. Specifically; protections for scenery and karst.

There are a number of laws or regulations in place that speak to the protections of the scenic environment and for the protection of karst. (You can look in FSM 2300; 2380. 11a - Resource Management Planning as a start.) Standards and guidelines in a Forest Plan do not replace law or regulations. It's embarrassing to me that there seems to be any document that would be so imprudent as to suggest one could ignore laws and regulations to afford a priority to one resource over anohter in the agency. How long as the Forest Service prided itself on being a multiple-use agency?

Given the fact that one of the biggest industries in southeast Alaska is tourism, why would the Forest Service consider compromising thousands of jobs to support just hundreds of timber jobs? While I support the timber industry in general, I can't support ignoring impacts to resources and other industries to maintain a industry on decline. (Southeast By the Numbers is a source document that should be reviewed with considering the industries in southeast Alaska.)

While the indifference to scenery is one thing, the proposed impacts to karst may be irreversible. Before the 1988 Karst and Cave Protection Act came out, there was extensivie logging taking place in these areas on the Tongass National Forest (especially on the northern part of Prince of Wales Island). Following the passage of this legislation, the agency was required to do an extensive inventory of these resources took several years to map and excited volunteers from around the world to participate in these newly discovered caves. As a result, the understanding of the occupation of southeast Alaska was revised from 4,000 to more than 10,000 years based on discoveries in these caves. But now, instead of protecting these resources the Forest Service wants to "suspend" protections to allow for more economic timber sales?

The suspension of protections for scenery may impact visitors and the landscape for decades. The suspension of protections for karst may be irreparable.

I support applying the Roadless Rule on the Tongass [text underlined for emphasis]

Although the implementation of the Roadless Rule on the Tongass was arbitrary and capricious, I now see the protections afforded the Tongass are necessary given the agency's inability (or willful neglect) to protect the resources or interests of the American people. The Tongass Timber Reform Act of 1990 did away with the $45 millioin/year for supporting the timber industry and provided specific direction to seek to provide a supply of timber from the forest that meets the annual market demand (ANILCA Section 705(a)). It does NOT say to ignore the protection of other resource or to allow timber companies to walk away from contracts. Until the Forest Service can demonstrate their commitment to managing the resources well again, I think the restriction in the Roadless Rule are necessary.

Sincerely,

Bill Tremblay

11/7/19

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Chelsea
Last name: Tremblay
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Supporting option 1

I live in Petersburg, Alaska and serve on our Borough Assembly. I support the option 1, no action alternative, because I worry about our future otherwise. Protecting old growth needs to be our number one priority as we face down the climate catastrophe. I stand firmly opposed to option 6, full repeal.

Thank you.

Chelsea Tremblay

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Michael
Last name: Tremblay
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

The Tongass contains some of the largest intact old-growth temperate rainforest in the world, and its value in providing clean water for fish and wildlife habitat is essential to the economic and ecological health of Southeast Alaska. I urge you to keep the federal Roadless Rule intact and current protections in place for national forests in Alaska.

In addition, I strongly object to your plans to reduce and remove protections from our national forests roadless areas. The Roadless Rule is one of the smartest and most popular land management policies the Federal Government has ever adopted. Not only does it preserve some of Americas best fish and wildlife habitat, but it also saves untold millions of taxpayer dollars that might otherwise be spent to subsidize money-losing timber sales. The value of the Roadless Rule in preventing environmentally damaging and economically 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 Tremblay

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Michael
Last name: Tremblay
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Michael Tremblay and I live in Carsonville, 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, Michael Tremblay

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Dennis
Last name: Trembly
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Dennis Trembly and I live in Los Angeles, California.

Restore "Protection" to the purpose of the EPA

I am writing to express strong opposition to efforts to roll back the Roadless Area Conservation Rule (Roadless Rule) in Alaska or elsewhere. The Roadless Rule was implemented with unprecedented public support to protect some of our nations most pristine public lands, including large parts of the Tongass National Forest. You must choose the No Action alternative. Any other choice would ignore overwhelming 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 Trembly

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Christa
Last name: Tremel
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Christa Tremel and I live in Shawnee, Wyoming.

Old trees are the lungs of the earth - therefore 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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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Christa Tremel

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Anthony
Last name: Tremmel
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- 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, Anthony Tremmel

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Last name: Tremmel
Organization:
Title:
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Last name: Tremmel
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

The Tongass contains some of the largest intact old-growth temperate rainforest in the world, and its value in providing clean water for fish and wildlife habitat is essential to the economic and ecological health of Southeast Alaska. I urge you to keep the federal Roadless Rule intact and current protections in place for national forests in Alaska.

In addition, I strongly object to your plans to reduce and remove protections from our national forests roadless areas. The Roadless Rule is one of the smartest and most popular land management policies the Federal Government has ever adopted. Not only does it preserve some of Americas best fish and wildlife habitat, but it also saves untold millions of taxpayer dollars that might otherwise be spent to subsidize money-losing timber sales. The value of the Roadless Rule in preventing environmentally damaging and economically 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 Tremmel

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Anthony
Last name: Tremmel
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- 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, Anthony Tremmel

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Anthony
Last name: Tremmel
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
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Regards, Anthony Tremmel

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Leonard
Last name: Tremmel
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Leonard Tremmel 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, Leonard Tremmel

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Cameron
Last name: Trent
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: Daniel
Last name: Trent
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
4104

U.S. Forest Service Alaska Roadless Rule Committee:

Remember that once a wilderness is gone, it is gone forever. Few remain. Do the right thing.

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,
Daniel Trent
Las Vegas, NV 89123

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Daniel
Last name: Trent
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC4104

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Sincerely,

Daniel Trent

Las Vegas, NV 89123

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Norman
Last name: Trentcosta
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, Norman Trentcosta

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Betty
Last name: Trentlyon
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Betty Trentlyon and I live in New York, New York.

Large forests like the Tongass are vital in combating climate change and in providing vital habitat for many species of wildlife. Clearcutting in such a forest is an act of incredible vandalism.

I am writing to express strong opposition to efforts to roll back the Roadless Area Conservation Rule (Roadless Rule) in Alaska or elsewhere. The Roadless Rule was implemented with unprecedented public support to protect some of our nations most pristine public lands, including large parts of the Tongass National Forest. You must choose the No Action alternative. Any other choice would ignore overwhelming public support and harm Alaskans, including Alaska Natives, and taxpayers across the nation.

In Southeast Alaska, tourism accounts for 28% of employment and generate an annual $1 billion in economic benefit, making it far more of an economic driver than the timber industry, which is less than 1% of the regional economy.

Any choice but the No Action alternative would also put wildlife and critical habitat at risk, threaten access to clean water, and be a step in the wrong direction on climate change jeopardizing Alaskans at a time when the state already faces severe challenges related to rising temperatures. I urge you not to abandon the Roadless Rule in Alaska and instead 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 Trentlyon

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Michael
Last name: Trepkowski
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Michael Trepkowski and I live in Lutsen, 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, Michael Trepkowski

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Barbara
Last name: Trerice
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- 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 Trerice

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/11/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Emma
Last name: Tresemer
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Emma Tresemer and I live in Hood River, 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, Emma Tresemer

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: gil
Last name: trester
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is gil trester and I live in Santa Monica, California.

please comply.

I am writing to express strong opposition to efforts to roll back the Roadless Area Conservation Rule (Roadless Rule) in Alaska or elsewhere. The Roadless Rule was implemented with unprecedented public support to protect some of our nations most pristine public lands, including large parts of the Tongass National Forest. You must choose the No Action alternative. Any other choice would ignore overwhelming public support and harm Alaskans, including Alaska Natives, and taxpayers across the nation.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, gil trester

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Ann
Last name: Tretter
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Ann Tretter and I live in St. Louis, Missouri.

I recently read that 90% of a recent sample of rainfall tested in Denver contained plastic! Were eating it, drinking it, polluting the ocean with it and sending it into the atmosphere to rain back down on us. Unacceptable!

I am writing to express strong opposition to efforts to roll back the Roadless Area Conservation Rule (Roadless Rule) in Alaska or elsewhere. The Roadless Rule was implemented with unprecedented public support to protect some of our nations most pristine public lands, including large parts of the Tongass National Forest. You must choose the No Action alternative. Any other choice would ignore overwhelming 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 Tretter

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Linda
Last name: Treuhaft
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
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Regards, Linda Treuhaft

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/10/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: James
Last name: Trever
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is James Trever 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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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, James Trever

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: ursula
Last name: treves
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is ursula treves 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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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, ursula treves

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Evelyn
Last name: Trevethan
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Evelyn Trevethan 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, Evelyn Trevethan

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Maryann
Last name: Trevillion
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
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Regards, Maryann Trevillion

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/12/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Dave
Last name: Trevithick
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: Dave
Last name: Trevithick
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
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Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Felicia
Last name: Trevor
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: Shari
Last name: Trewin
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Shari Trewin and I live in Croton-on-hudson, New York.

Conserving forests is vital to the future of humanity and should be a top priority.

I am writing to express strong opposition to efforts to roll back the Roadless Area Conservation Rule (Roadless Rule) in Alaska or elsewhere. The Roadless Rule was implemented with unprecedented public support to protect some of our nations most pristine public lands, including large parts of the Tongass National Forest. You must choose the No Action alternative. Any other choice would ignore overwhelming public support and harm Alaskans, including Alaska Natives, and taxpayers across the nation.

In Southeast Alaska, tourism accounts for 28% of employment and generate an annual $1 billion in economic benefit, making it far more of an economic driver than the timber industry, which is less than 1% of the regional economy.

Any choice but the No Action alternative would also put wildlife and critical habitat at risk, threaten access to clean water, and be a step in the wrong direction on climate change jeopardizing Alaskans at a time when the state already faces severe challenges related to rising temperatures. I urge you not to abandon the Roadless Rule in Alaska and instead 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 Trewin

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/18/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Dawn
Last name: Trexel
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Please prevent the fragmentation of the Tongass National Forest. At a time in history when so many natural places on earth continue to be degraded and destroyed, we need to work even harder to save the places that are still the most pristine. Wildlife need intact forests. Our climate needs intact forests. Future generations need intact forests. With so much of our planet impacted by humans, we need to save the few areas that remain relatively untouched. We owe it to future generations and all life on this planet.

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Alice
Last name: trexler
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Alice trexler and I live in Arlington, Massachusetts.

It would be heartbreaking to lose the Tongass national Forest to clearcutting. The health of the planet is worth everything.

I am writing to express strong opposition to efforts to roll back the Roadless Area Conservation Rule (Roadless Rule) in Alaska or elsewhere. The Roadless Rule was implemented with unprecedented public support to protect some of our nations most pristine public lands, including large parts of the Tongass National Forest. You must choose the No Action alternative. Any other choice would ignore overwhelming public support and harm Alaskans, including Alaska Natives, and taxpayers across the nation.

In Southeast Alaska, tourism accounts for 28% of employment and generate an annual $1 billion in economic benefit, making it far more of an economic driver than the timber industry, which is less than 1% of the regional economy.

Any choice but the No Action alternative would also put wildlife and critical habitat at risk, threaten access to clean water, and be a step in the wrong direction on climate change jeopardizing Alaskans at a time when the state already faces severe challenges related to rising temperatures. I urge you not to abandon the Roadless Rule in Alaska and instead 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 trexler

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Tamera
Last name: Trexler
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Tamera Trexler and I live in Asheville, North Carolina.

It is wise, responsible and more profitable to protect our land and forests in this shrinking overpopulated world. Nature is an asset. We are so wasteful as a society. Clear-cutting is a mistake

I am writing to express strong opposition to efforts to roll back the Roadless Area Conservation Rule (Roadless Rule) in Alaska or elsewhere. The Roadless Rule was implemented with unprecedented public support to protect some of our nations most pristine public lands, including large parts of the Tongass National Forest. You must choose the No Action alternative. Any other choice would ignore overwhelming public support and harm Alaskans, including Alaska Natives, and taxpayers across the nation.

In Southeast Alaska, tourism accounts for 28% of employment and generate an annual $1 billion in economic benefit, making it far more of an economic driver than the timber industry, which is less than 1% of the regional economy.

Any choice but the No Action alternative would also put wildlife and critical habitat at risk, threaten access to clean water, and be a step in the wrong direction on climate change jeopardizing Alaskans at a time when the state already faces severe challenges related to rising temperatures. I urge you not to abandon the Roadless Rule in Alaska and instead to put the public interest above corporate profits by choosing to keep the rule in place unchanged.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Regards, Tamera Trexler

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/18/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Carey
Last name: Tri
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Protect the Tongas

To Whom it may Concern,

Please do all you can to protect the Tongass from any kind of development. Save pristine wild places-there are so few left.

Thank you.

Carey Tri

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Rosalia
Last name: Triana
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Rosalia Triana and I live in Espanola, 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, Rosalia Triana

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Michelle
Last name: Triano
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

The Tongass contains some of the largest intact old-growth temperate rainforest in the world, and its value in providing clean water for fish and wildlife habitat is essential to the economic and ecological health of Southeast Alaska. I urge you to keep the federal Roadless Rule intact and current protections in place for national forests in Alaska.

In addition, I strongly object to your plans to reduce and remove protections from our national forests roadless areas. The Roadless Rule is one of the smartest and most popular land management policies the Federal Government has ever adopted. Not only does it preserve some of Americas best fish and wildlife habitat, but it also saves untold millions of taxpayer dollars that might otherwise be spent to subsidize money-losing timber sales. The value of the Roadless Rule in preventing environmentally damaging and economically 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 Triano

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: phyllis
Last name: triarsi
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is phyllis triarsi and I live in Covina, California.
Alaska one of our last pristine habitats must be protected not endangered.
I am writing to express strong opposition to efforts to roll back the Roadless Area Conservation Rule (Roadless Rule) in Alaska or elsewhere. The Roadless Rule was implemented with unprecedented public support to protect some of our nations most pristine public lands, including large parts of the Tongass National Forest.
You must choose the No Action alternative. Any other choice would ignore overwhelming public support and harm Alaskans, including Alaska Natives, and taxpayers across the nation.
In Southeast Alaska, tourism accounts for 28% of employment and generate an annual $1 billion in economic benefit, making it far more of an economic driver than the timber industry, which is less than 1% of the regional economy.
Any choice but the No Action alternative would also put wildlife and critical habitat at risk, threaten access to clean water, and be a step in the wrong direction on climate change jeopardizing Alaskans at a time when the state already faces severe challenges related to rising temperatures. I urge you not to abandon the Roadless Rule in Alaska and instead 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 triarsi

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Charles
Last name: Tribbey
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

The Tongass contains some of the largest intact old-growth temperate rainforest in the world, and its value in providing clean water for fish and wildlife habitat is essential to the economic and ecological health of Southeast Alaska. I urge you to keep the federal Roadless Rule intact and current protections in place for national forests in Alaska.

In addition, I strongly object to your plans to reduce and remove protections from our national forests roadless areas. The Roadless Rule is one of the smartest and most popular land management policies the Federal Government has ever adopted. Not only does it preserve some of Americas best fish and wildlife habitat, but it also saves untold millions of taxpayer dollars that might otherwise be spent to subsidize money-losing timber sales. The value of the Roadless Rule in preventing environmentally damaging and economically 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 Tribbey

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Peggy
Last name: Tribble
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Peggy Tribble and I live in Estacada, Oregon.

You are the Forest SERVICE ...and your service does not mean serve the money interests of the logging industry...it is send abroad anyway. You know better...you did better when I worked for 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, Peggy Tribble

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: john
Last name: tribuzio
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
The Tongass Forest should continue to be managed under the road less rule. Old growth protection is wanted by the majority and needed to insure ecosystem health.

Second growth forest management and utilization going forward is the logical path.

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Joe
Last name: Tricase
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Joe Tricase and I live in Clearwater, 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, Joe Tricase

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Billy
Last name: Trice
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

The Tongass contains some of the largest intact old-growth temperate rainforest in the world, and its value in providing clean water for fish and wildlife habitat is essential to the economic and ecological health of Southeast Alaska. I urge you to keep the federal Roadless Rule intact and current protections in place for national forests in Alaska.

In addition, I strongly object to your plans to reduce and remove protections from our national forests roadless areas. The Roadless Rule is one of the smartest and most popular land management policies the Federal Government has ever adopted. Not only does it preserve some of Americas best fish and wildlife habitat, but it also saves untold millions of taxpayer dollars that might otherwise be spent to subsidize money-losing timber sales. The value of the Roadless Rule in preventing environmentally damaging and economically wasteful road-building and logging is particularly relevant in the Tongass, where logging costs vastly exceed timber revenues and require unconscionable taxpayer subsidies.
Regards, Billy Trice

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Billy
Last name: Trice
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Billy Trice 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.

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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, Billy Trice

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Henry
Last name: Triches
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

The Tongass contains some of the largest intact old-growth temperate rainforest in the world, and its value in providing clean water for fish and wildlife habitat is essential to the economic and ecological health of Southeast Alaska. I urge you to keep the federal Roadless Rule intact and current protections in place for national forests in Alaska.

In addition, I strongly object to your plans to reduce and remove protections from our national forests roadless areas. The Roadless Rule is one of the smartest and most popular land management policies the Federal Government has ever adopted. Not only does it preserve some of Americas best fish and wildlife habitat, but it also saves untold millions of taxpayer dollars that might otherwise be spent to subsidize money-losing timber sales. The value of the Roadless Rule in preventing environmentally damaging and economically 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 Triches

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Scott
Last name: Tricia
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Scott Tricia and I live in Mason City, 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, Scott Tricia

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/11/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Hannahlore
Last name: Trickett
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Hannahlore Trickett and I live in Norridgewock, 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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Hannahlore Trickett

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Hannhlore
Last name: Trickett
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

The Tongass contains some of the largest intact old-growth temperate rainforest in the world, and its value in providing clean water for fish and wildlife habitat is essential to the economic and ecological health of Southeast Alaska. I urge you to keep the federal Roadless Rule intact and current protections in place for national forests in Alaska.

In addition, I strongly object to your plans to reduce and remove protections from our national forests roadless areas. The Roadless Rule is one of the smartest and most popular land management policies the Federal Government has ever adopted. Not only does it preserve some of Americas best fish and wildlife habitat, but it also saves untold millions of taxpayer dollars that might otherwise be spent to subsidize money-losing timber sales. The value of the Roadless Rule in preventing environmentally damaging and economically wasteful road-building and logging is particularly relevant in the Tongass, where logging costs vastly exceed timber revenues and require unconscionable taxpayer subsidies.
Regards, Hannhlore Trickett

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Hannhlore
Last name: Trickett
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- 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, Hannhlore Trickett

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/24/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Richard
Last name: Trieff
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.

So just stop it. Tongass is OUR National Forest not Alaskas or timber companies. It is part of our dwindling natural heritage and is of greater economic impact for hunting, fishing and tourism than for chopsticks and lumber in east Asia where they will end up.

Quit sucking up to a handful of corrupt Alaskans and a few greedy corporations at the expense to hundreds of millions of Americans today and in the future.

For Gods sake climate change is upon us and your considering exacerbating the problem by mangling an important carbon sink.

Unbelievabley stupid!

Richard Trieff

Indianola, Iowa

Sincerely,

Richard Trieff

Indianola, IA 50125

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/12/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Hans
Last name: Trieselmann
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Tongass national forest

I am adding my voice to help keep the tongass roadless. We need to keep this area safe for wild salmon as well as helping the planet deal with climate change. Please keep the Tongass roadless. Hans Trieselmann.

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Jason
Last name: Triest
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Jason Triest and I live in Oconto, 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, Jason Triest

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/20/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Austin
Last name: Trigg
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: Lori
Last name: Triggs
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Lori Triggs 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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Any choice but the No Action alternative would also put wildlife and critical habitat at risk, threaten access to clean water, and be a step in the wrong direction on climate change jeopardizing Alaskans at a time when the state already faces severe challenges related to rising temperatures. I urge you not to abandon the Roadless Rule in Alaska and instead to put the public interest above corporate profits by choosing to keep the rule in place unchanged.

Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Lori Triggs

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Lori
Last name: Triggs
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Lori Triggs 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, Lori Triggs

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Carolyn
Last name: Trimarchi
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

The Tongass contains some of the largest intact old-growth temperate rainforest in the world, and its value in providing clean water for fish and wildlife habitat is essential to the economic and ecological health of Southeast Alaska. I urge you to keep the federal Roadless Rule intact and current protections in place for national forests in Alaska.

In addition, I strongly object to your plans to reduce and remove protections from our national forests roadless areas. The Roadless Rule is one of the smartest and most popular land management policies the Federal Government has ever adopted. Not only does it preserve some of Americas best fish and wildlife habitat, but it also saves untold millions of taxpayer dollars that might otherwise be spent to subsidize money-losing timber sales. The value of the Roadless Rule in preventing environmentally damaging and economically 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 Trimarchi

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/14/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Irene
Last name: Trimble
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Irene Trimble and I live in Mystic, Connecticut.

Please dont help destroy that which can never 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, Irene Trimble

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Michael
Last name: Trimble
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Michael Trimble and I live in Rhinebeck, New York.

Please preserve what we can never replace.

I am writing to express strong opposition to efforts to roll back the Roadless Area Conservation Rule (Roadless Rule) in Alaska or elsewhere. The Roadless Rule was implemented with unprecedented public support to protect some of our nations most pristine public lands, including large parts of the Tongass National Forest. You must choose the No Action alternative. Any other choice would ignore overwhelming 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 Trimble

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Michael
Last name: Trimble
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

The Tongass contains some of the largest intact old-growth temperate rainforest in the world, and its value in providing clean water for fish and wildlife habitat is essential to the economic and ecological health of Southeast Alaska. I urge you to keep the federal Roadless Rule intact and current protections in place for national forests in Alaska.

In addition, I strongly object to your plans to reduce and remove protections from our national forests roadless areas. The Roadless Rule is one of the smartest and most popular land management policies the Federal Government has ever adopted. Not only does it preserve some of Americas best fish and wildlife habitat, but it also saves untold millions of taxpayer dollars that might otherwise be spent to subsidize money-losing timber sales. The value of the Roadless Rule in preventing environmentally damaging and economically 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 Trimble

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/10/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Troy
Last name: Trimble
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: William
Last name: Trimble
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

The Tongass contains some of the largest intact old-growth temperate rainforest in the world, and its value in providing clean water for fish and wildlife habitat is essential to the economic and ecological health of Southeast Alaska. I urge you to keep the federal Roadless Rule intact and current protections in place for national forests in Alaska.

In addition, I strongly object to your plans to reduce and remove protections from our national forests roadless areas. The Roadless Rule is one of the smartest and most popular land management policies the Federal Government has ever adopted. Not only does it preserve some of Americas best fish and wildlife habitat, but it also saves untold millions of taxpayer dollars that might otherwise be spent to subsidize money-losing timber sales. The value of the Roadless Rule in preventing environmentally damaging and economically 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 Trimble

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Lisa
Last name: Trimboli
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Lisa Trimboli and I live in Long Branch, New Jersey.

It's simply really. Just stop clear cutting our national forests which provide resources to indigenous peoples, a habitat for a vast number of plant and animal species, clear poisonous carbon dioxides from the atmosphere (due in part to this administration's negligent regulatory rollbacks) and provide a sense of wonder and awe in all who view 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, Lisa Trimboli

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/14/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Lisa
Last name: Trimboli
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Lisa Trimboli and I live in Long Branch, New Jersey.

In this climate crisis to save our planet, it makes no sense to remove protections from the last remaining natural areas on the earth, including the Alaskan Tongas. Not only do the trees help moderate climate change but serve as the last remaining habitat for many native species, and provides the means of cultural livelihood to indigenous peoples. This administration's constant pandering to corporate lobbies is backwards, without precedent and destructive to our society on many levels.

I am writing to express strong opposition to efforts to roll back the Roadless Area Conservation Rule (Roadless Rule) in Alaska or elsewhere. The Roadless Rule was implemented with unprecedented public support to protect some of our nations most pristine public lands, including large parts of the Tongass National Forest. You must choose the No Action alternative. Any other choice would ignore overwhelming 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 Trimboli

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Paula
Last name: Trimborn
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

The Tongass contains some of the largest intact old-growth temperate rainforest in the world, and its value in providing clean water for fish and wildlife habitat is essential to the economic and ecological 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, Paula Trimborn

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: bill
Last name: trinble
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is bill trinble and I live in Williamsport, Indiana.

please, save the Alaskan frontier!!! it is a human obligation!!!!!

I am writing to express strong opposition to efforts to roll back the Roadless Area Conservation Rule (Roadless Rule) in Alaska or elsewhere. The Roadless Rule was implemented with unprecedented public support to protect some of our nations most pristine public lands, including large parts of the Tongass National Forest. You must choose the No Action alternative. Any other choice would ignore overwhelming 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 trinble

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Kathleen
Last name: Trinity
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Kathleen Trinity and I live in Acton, California.

The Tongass Forest is priceless and should remain as pristine as possible. To exploit this forest is to lose part of our soul...and once destroyed by mining, deforestation and drilling, it will never return. Stand on the right side of history with courage against profiteers who care nothing for what truly matters.

I am writing to express strong opposition to efforts to roll back the Roadless Area Conservation Rule (Roadless Rule) in Alaska or elsewhere. The Roadless Rule was implemented with unprecedented public support to protect some of our nations most pristine public lands, including large parts of the Tongass National Forest. You must choose the No Action alternative. Any other choice would ignore overwhelming 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 Trinity

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Kathleen
Last name: Trinity
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

The Tongass contains some of the largest intact old-growth temperate rainforest in the world, and its value in providing clean water for fish and wildlife habitat is essential to the economic and ecological health of Southeast Alaska. I urge you to keep the federal Roadless Rule intact and current protections in place for national forests in Alaska.

In addition, I strongly object to your plans to reduce and remove protections from our national forests roadless areas. The Roadless Rule is one of the smartest and most popular land management policies the Federal Government has ever adopted. Not only does it preserve some of Americas best fish and wildlife habitat, but it also saves untold millions of taxpayer dollars that might otherwise be spent to subsidize money-losing timber sales. The value of the Roadless Rule in preventing environmentally damaging and economically 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 Trinity

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Emily
Last name: Trinkaus
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- 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, Emily Trinkaus

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Eric
Last name: Trinque
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Eric Trinque 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, Eric Trinque

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Ann
Last name: Trinz
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Ann Trinz 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, Ann Trinz

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: K.
Last name: Triola
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is K. Triola and I live in Holmdel, 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, K. Triola

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/22/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Jay
Last name: Tripathi
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Let's keep the Tongass NF exactly as it is. There is no need to take out old growth timber or install roads into this area. So much of our native forest lands have been decimated by logging and over logging. Old growth trees (really all trees) sequester an enormous amount of carbon and help to slow down the effects of carbon pollution caused by the burning of fossil fuels.

Please do not succumb to the interests of a few to the detriment of the many. Protect this valuable wild land for generations to come. If you have any idea of what happens to logged lands, look no further than Northern CA and the Oregon Cascades Mt. areas. Creating short term economic benefit and jobs does not balance against the destruction of these forests which will last forever.

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/7/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Torrey
Last name: Tripe
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): 11/19/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Tia
Last name: Triplett
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Tia Triplett 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, Tia Triplett

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/19/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Tia
Last name: Triplett
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Tia Triplett 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, Tia Triplett

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/7/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Charles
Last name: Tripp
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: CONNOR
Last name: TRIPP
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
This forest should be preserved at all costs not only for carbon storage but also for the natural beauty that it is. It's about time we started appreciating and preserving these kinds of areas.

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Glenn
Last name: Tripp
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

The Tongass contains some of the largest intact old-growth temperate rainforest in the world, and its value in providing clean water for fish and wildlife habitat is essential to the economic and ecological health of Southeast Alaska. I urge you to keep the federal Roadless Rule intact and current protections in place for national forests in Alaska.

In addition, I strongly object to your plans to reduce and remove protections from our national forests roadless areas. The Roadless Rule is one of the smartest and most popular land management policies the Federal Government has ever adopted. Not only does it preserve some of Americas best fish and wildlife habitat, but it also saves untold millions of taxpayer dollars that might otherwise be spent to subsidize money-losing timber sales. The value of the Roadless Rule in preventing environmentally damaging and economically wasteful road-building and logging is particularly relevant in the Tongass, where logging costs vastly exceed timber revenues and require unconscionable taxpayer subsidies.
Regards, Glenn Tripp

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Katherine
Last name: Tripp
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

The Tongass contains some of the largest intact old-growth temperate rainforest in the world, and its value in providing clean water for fish and wildlife habitat is essential to the economic and ecological health of Southeast Alaska. I urge you to keep the federal Roadless Rule intact and current protections in place for national forests in Alaska.

In addition, I strongly object to your plans to reduce and remove protections from our national forests roadless areas. The Roadless Rule is one of the smartest and most popular land management policies the Federal Government has ever adopted. Not only does it preserve some of Americas best fish and wildlife habitat, but it also saves untold millions of taxpayer dollars that might otherwise be spent to subsidize money-losing timber sales. The value of the Roadless Rule in preventing environmentally damaging and economically 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 Tripp

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/18/2019 9:03:33 PM
First name: Martin
Last name: Tripp
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,
Martin Tripp
Santa Clarita, CA 91390

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Martin
Last name: Tripp
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Martin Tripp and I live in Santa Clarita, California.

There's something wrong when a protection that has been in place for 18 years is under attack by the current administration. What does that say about their motives?

I am writing to express strong opposition to efforts to roll back the Roadless Area Conservation Rule (Roadless Rule) in Alaska or elsewhere. The Roadless Rule was implemented with unprecedented public support to protect some of our nations most pristine public lands, including large parts of the Tongass National Forest. You must choose the No Action alternative. Any other choice would ignore overwhelming public support and harm Alaskans, including Alaska Natives, and taxpayers across the nation.

In Southeast Alaska, tourism accounts for 28% of employment and generate an annual $1 billion in economic benefit, making it far more of an economic driver than the timber industry, which is less than 1% of the regional economy.

Any choice but the No Action alternative would also put wildlife and critical habitat at risk, threaten access to clean water, and be a step in the wrong direction on climate change jeopardizing Alaskans at a time when the state already faces severe challenges related to rising temperatures. I urge you not to abandon the Roadless Rule in Alaska and instead 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 Tripp

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Tom
Last name: Tripp
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Tom Tripp 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, Tom Tripp

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Tracy
Last name: Trobridge
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Tracy Trobridge and I live in West Friendship, 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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Any choice but the No Action alternative would also put wildlife and critical habitat at risk, threaten access to clean water, and be a step in the wrong direction on climate change jeopardizing Alaskans at a time when the state already faces severe challenges related to rising temperatures. I urge you not to abandon the Roadless Rule in Alaska and instead 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 Trobridge

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Christine
Last name: Troche
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

The Tongass contains some of the largest intact old-growth temperate rainforest in the world, and its value in providing clean water for fish and wildlife habitat is essential to the economic and ecological health of Southeast Alaska. I urge you to keep the federal Roadless Rule intact and current protections in place for national forests in Alaska.

In addition, I strongly object to your plans to reduce and remove protections from our national forests roadless areas. The Roadless Rule is one of the smartest and most popular land management policies the Federal Government has ever adopted. Not only does it preserve some of Americas best fish and wildlife habitat, but it also saves untold millions of taxpayer dollars that might otherwise be spent to subsidize money-losing timber sales. The value of the Roadless Rule in preventing environmentally damaging and economically 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 Troche

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/4/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Jason
Last name: trochessett
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: Clayton
Last name: Troegle
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: Timothy
Last name: Troendle
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Timothy Troendle and I live in Fort Thomas, 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, Timothy Troendle

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/12/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Tammy
Last name: Troiani
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Tammy Troiani and I live in New Lenox, Illinois.

Please stop! We have destroyed too much of nature causing habitat destruction, animal food shortage and decreasing animal populations. Stop being greedy.

I am writing to express strong opposition to efforts to roll back the Roadless Area Conservation Rule (Roadless Rule) in Alaska or elsewhere. The Roadless Rule was implemented with unprecedented public support to protect some of our nations most pristine public lands, including large parts of the Tongass National Forest. You must choose the No Action 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, Tammy Troiani

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Mike
Last name: Trokan
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

The Tongass contains some of the largest intact old-growth temperate rainforest in the world, and its value in providing clean water for fish and wildlife habitat is essential to the economic and ecological health of Southeast Alaska. I urge you to keep the federal Roadless Rule intact and current protections in place for national forests in Alaska.

In addition, I strongly object to your plans to reduce and remove protections from our national forests roadless areas. The Roadless Rule is one of the smartest and most popular land management policies the Federal Government has ever adopted. Not only does it preserve some of Americas best fish and wildlife habitat, but it also saves untold millions of taxpayer dollars that might otherwise be spent to subsidize money-losing timber sales. The value of the Roadless Rule in preventing environmentally damaging and economically 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 Trokan

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/7/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Seth
Last name: Trokey
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: Mary
Last name: Troland
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Mary Troland and I live in Oceanside, New York.

Please leave the Tongass 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.

In Southeast Alaska, tourism accounts for 28% of employment and generate an annual $1 billion in economic benefit, making it far more of an economic driver than the timber industry, which is less than 1% of the regional economy.

Any choice but the No Action alternative would also put wildlife and critical habitat at risk, threaten access to clean water, and be a step in the wrong direction on climate change jeopardizing Alaskans at a time when the state already faces severe challenges related to rising temperatures. I urge you not to abandon the Roadless Rule in Alaska and instead 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 Troland

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Charlotte
Last name: Trolinger
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I write in support of the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.
The Tongass contains some of the largest intact old-growth temperate rainforest in the world, and its value in providing clean water for fish and wildlife habitat is essential to the economic and ecological health of Southeast Alaska. I urge you to keep the federal Roadless Rule intact and current protections in place for national forests in Alaska.
In addition, I strongly object to your plans to reduce and remove protections from our national forests roadless areas. The Roadless Rule is one of the smartest and most popular land management policies the Federal Government has ever adopted. Not only does it preserve some of Americas best fish and wildlife habitat, but it also saves untold millions of taxpayer dollars that might otherwise be spent to subsidize money-losing timber sales. The value of the Roadless Rule in preventing environmentally damaging and economically wasteful road-building and logging is particularly relevant in the Tongass, where logging costs vastly exceed timber revenues and require unconscionable taxpayer subsidies.
Regards, Charlotte Trolinger

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Janice
Last name: Troll
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Janice Troll and I live in Olivet, 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, Janice Troll

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Ray
Last name: Troll
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Dear Secretary Perdue and Chief Christensen,

I am an artist, educator and businessman who has lived in Southeast Alaska for 36 years. I strongly believe in the inherent value of intact, roadless wilderness and protecting the absolutely priceless last stands of old growth forests. My business depends directly on a healthy visitor and seafood industry, both of which are threatened by industrial scale logging. People do NOT visit Alaska to see clear-cut mountain sides and 'developed' areas, they come to see the last remnants of functioning wild ecosytems.

I strongly urge you to 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.

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.

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,

Ray Troll

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Laurie
Last name: Trombla
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Laurie Trombla and I live in Fairfax, 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, Laurie Trombla

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: kitt
Last name: troncone
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is kitt troncone and I live in Greenville, South Carolina.

ALASKA'S FORESTS SHOULD BE PROTECTED. WHY MUST WE DESTROY EVERYTHING. SOME THINGS NEED TO SAVED.

I am writing to express strong opposition to efforts to roll back the Roadless Area Conservation Rule (Roadless Rule) in Alaska or elsewhere. The Roadless Rule was implemented with unprecedented public support to protect some of our nations most pristine public lands, including large parts of the Tongass National Forest. You must choose the No Action alternative. Any other choice would ignore overwhelming public support and harm Alaskans, including Alaska Natives, and taxpayers across the nation.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, kitt troncone

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Mick
Last name: Tronquet
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
The proposed abandonment of the Roadless Rule in the Tongass National Forest makes no sense and is supported by no practical rationale. Reasonable Americans, employing just a modicum of due diligence, will quickly understand that there is no credible justification for removing the Roadless Rule. We-Americans and our government-need to be honest about this: The proposed removal of the Roadless Rule is based almost solely on greed-the desire to harvest America's natural resources for the benefit of very few. There is no actual economic or other need for lumber in America, nor will logging provide more than a barely and briefly visible blip to the economy of Alaska or the U.S. Not only does it destroy nationally owned resources to benefit exceedingly few persons, it is astonishingly unenlightened from an environmental standpoint. Quite simply, it should not be permitted.

NEPA is our basic national charter for protection of the environment. It was enacted to declare a national policy which will encourage productive and enjoyable harmony between man and his environment; to promote efforts which will prevent or eliminate damage to the environment and biosphere and stimulate the health and welfare of man; to enrich the understanding of the ecological systems and natural resources important to the Nation; and to establish a Council on Environmental Quality. 42 U.S. Code [sect] 4321. The Roadless Rule was and is absolutely consistent with the goals and purposes of NEPA.

It is the theory among many conservatives now running our government that we should exploit every national resource, squeeze every ounce of blood from each and every national turnip. That thinking is in the nature of Ayn Rand as well as climate change deniers; it also ignores the (declining) condition of America's natural resources and is in derogation of basic principles of wild lands protection and preservation. Perhaps conservatives have forgotten that it was one of their own, President Nixon, who signed into law the National Environment Policy Act (NEPA), and also established the Environmental Protections Agency, back in 1970.

The Tongass is one of the few remaining areas in the United States-indeed, the world-which remains essentially unchanged by humans. To those who say we should build roads and log the place, I say before you do that go there. See it for yourself. Walk and sleep among the old growth trees that are centuries old. Look for grizzlies, wolves, eagles, streams teeming with anadromous fishes. Feel the calm, the quiet. Spend days or weeks there. If you do, you will understand. And you will leave it be.

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Cheryl
Last name: Trosper
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Cheryl Trosper 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, Cheryl Trosper

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Cheryl
Last name: Trosper
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Cheryl Trosper and I live in Portland, Oregon.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Cheryl Trosper

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: J
Last name: Trosper
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is J Trosper and I live in Provo, 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, J Trosper

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Michelle
Last name: Trosper
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

The Tongass contains some of the largest intact old-growth temperate rainforest in the world, and its value in providing clean water for fish and wildlife habitat is essential to the economic and ecological health of Southeast Alaska. I urge you to keep the federal Roadless Rule intact and current protections in place for national forests in Alaska.

In addition, I strongly object to your plans to reduce and remove protections from our national forests roadless areas. The Roadless Rule is one of the smartest and most popular land management policies the Federal Government has ever adopted. Not only does it preserve some of Americas best fish and wildlife habitat, but it also saves untold millions of taxpayer dollars that might otherwise be spent to subsidize money-losing timber sales. The value of the Roadless Rule in preventing environmentally damaging and economically 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 Trosper

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/10/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Jake
Last name: Trott
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: Eric
Last name: Trotta
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
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Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Jeramia
Last name: Trotter
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Tongass National Forest

I support Alternative One.

The ancient growth forests are important to the planet in terms of carbon storage and the roads could damage the state's important salmon industry.

-Jeramia Trotter

Sent from my iPhone

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Betty
Last name: Trottier
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

The Tongass contains some of the largest intact old-growth temperate rainforest in the world, and its value in providing clean water for fish and wildlife habitat is essential to the economic and ecological health of Southeast Alaska. I urge you to keep the federal Roadless Rule intact and current protections in place for national forests in Alaska.

In addition, I strongly object to your plans to reduce and remove protections from our national forests roadless areas. The Roadless Rule is one of the smartest and most popular land management policies the Federal Government has ever adopted. Not only does it preserve some of Americas best fish and wildlife habitat, but it also saves untold millions of taxpayer dollars that might otherwise be spent to subsidize money-losing timber sales. The value of the Roadless Rule in preventing environmentally damaging and economically 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 Trottier

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Brenda
Last name: Troup
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
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Regards, Brenda Troup

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/10/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Scott
Last name: Troup
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Scott Troup and I live in Oregon City, 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, Scott Troup

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 1/1/0001 12:00:00 AM
First name: Gloria
Last name: Trout
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: Gloria
Last name: Trout
Organization:
Title:
Comments:

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Comments:

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Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Gloria
Last name: Trout
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC1201

Dear Secretary Perdue,

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Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/5/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Jacob
Last name: Trout
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.
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Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 1/1/0001 12:00:00 AM
First name: Roger
Last name: Trout
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC3336

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,
Roger Trout
Springfield, IL 62704

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Roger
Last name: Trout
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
3336

U.S. Forest Service Alaska Roadless Rule

Comment Period

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Sincerely,

Roger Trout

Springfield, IL 62704

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Bruce
Last name: Troutman
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Bruce Troutman and I live in Key West, Florida.

Let's stop thinking about today and start thinking about tomorrow. The future of our children and the quality of life is at stake. Be problem solvers instead of adding to the existing problems.

I am writing to express strong opposition to efforts to roll back the Roadless Area Conservation Rule (Roadless Rule) in Alaska or elsewhere. The Roadless Rule was implemented with unprecedented public support to protect some of our nations most pristine public lands, including large parts of the Tongass National Forest. You must choose the No Action alternative. Any other choice would ignore overwhelming public support and harm Alaskans, including Alaska Natives, and taxpayers across the nation.

In Southeast Alaska, tourism accounts for 28% of employment and generate an annual $1 billion in economic benefit, making it far more of an economic driver than the timber industry, which is less than 1% of the regional economy.

Any choice but the No Action alternative would also put wildlife and critical habitat at risk, threaten access to clean water, and be a step in the wrong direction on climate change jeopardizing Alaskans at a time when the state already faces severe challenges related to rising temperatures. I urge you not to abandon the Roadless Rule in Alaska and instead 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 Troutman

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Andrew
Last name: Trowbridge
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Andrew Trowbridge and I live in Forest, 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, Andrew Trowbridge

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: E.H.
Last name: Trowbridge
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is E.H. Trowbridge and I live in Punta Gorda, Florida.

Stop undoing things, and do something positive for the country 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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, E.H. Trowbridge

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/4/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Geoffrey
Last name: Trowbridge
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: Martha
Last name: Trowbridge
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Martha Trowbridge 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, Martha Trowbridge

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 8:26:24 PM
First name: Amanda
Last name: Trower
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Amanda Trower and I live in Kenai, AK. I don't live in Southeast Alaska, I live in South central Alaska. I have been to the forest once and found it indescribably beautiful. I would like to see it stay that way for the future generations. 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 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 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.. 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.

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): 12/10/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Ron
Last name: Troy
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Besides making it easier to destroy a national forest, it is a huge assault on our tax funds, a real taxpayer ripoff. Too many of our public resources are being sold off at a fraction of what they are worth, often incurring all sorts of damage along the way. Time for it to stop!

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/26/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Timothy
Last name: Troy
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Timothy Troy and I live in Atkinson, 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.

I currently live in New Hampshire, where for my 19 years on this earth I have adventured through the White Mountains and all the natural beauty it offers. Id love to go to Alaska one day to go hiking, hunting or whatever it might be and Id appreciate those woods still being there. Furthermore, I believe government is ineffective in countless things but there is one thing they are damn good at: conservation, and Id like to see some action in protecting 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 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). 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 12:00:00 AM
First name: Barbara
Last name: Troyan
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Barbara Troyan and I live in San Luis Obispo, California.

National forests are a precious part of our natural history - a gift from God. I believe we have a moral right and obligation to keep them safe and prevent them from be destroyed by selfish 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 urge you not to abandon the Roadless Rule in Alaska and instead 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 Troyan

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/13/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Aaron
Last name: Troyansky
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC612

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 not interested in learning more!

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/12/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Janice
Last name: Troyer
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Comments to oppose modification to the Roadless Rule

Dear U.S. Forest Service,

I urge you to support the NO ACTION alternative for the Tongass National Forest. It is long past time to bring the clear cutting of our old growth forests to an end. What is left of our old growth in Southeast Alaska provides vital fish and wildlife habitat. In addition, the Tongass serves as a significant "carbon sink" and helps in moderating our ever growing global warming, something we in Alaska are keenly aware of as we are seeing its impacts on a regular basis now. Not only that, I keep hearing about how taxpayers are subsidizing Alaska's timber industry. That makes no sense to me. We should not be losing money while cutting down this valuable resource. I urge you strongly oppose the proposal to exempt the Tongass National Forest from the Roadless Rule.

Sincerely,

Janice Troyer

Anchorage, AK 99508

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/14/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Leora
Last name: Troyer
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Leora Troyer and I live in Dalton, 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, Leora Troyer

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Marella
Last name: Troyer
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Marella Troyer and I live in Murfreesboro, Tennessee.

Alaska is one of the last frontiers. Please 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, Marella Troyer

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Joann
Last name: Trozzo
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Joann Trozzo and I live in Cookeville, 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, Joann Trozzo

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/5/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Donald
Last name: Truax
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: David
Last name: Truban
Organization: None
Title:
Comments:
These areas are not roadless to start with. These areas are full of old logging roads. It is high time to start logging National Forest. Young forest is a needed component to support many species of wildlife. I fully support cutting on public lands.

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/21/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Joe
Last name: Trudeau
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Keep 'Roadless Rule' Protections for the Tongass National Forest

Dear U.S. Forest Service,

It's simply unbelievable that the Forest Service would ever slash the roadless rule and open the Tongass or Chugach to logging. These are the last remaining sanctuaries of vast old growth left in this nation. Have some wisdom and increase protections, rather than decrease them.

I strongly oppose the USFS plan to eliminate "Roadless Rule" protections for the Tongass and Chugach National Forests. If you value biodiversity, carbon sequestration, water quality, salmon, or wildness, you should select the "no action" alternative.

I spent 3 weeks on the Kenai peninsula this summer mountain biking and watching wildlife. I was awestruck by the vastness and beauty of Alaska - it was my first trip. I couldn't imagine the hemlock and spruce forests being ravaged for a dying industry, especially when we have so many industrial timberlands that can easily produce the fiber needs of our country.

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.

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,

Joe Trudeau

Prescott, AZ 86302

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Stephanie
Last name: Trudeau
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Stephanie Trudeau and I live in West Palm Beach, Florida.

It is time to take a stand for what is right and healthy for all people and the planet. Short-sighted greed is detrimental to 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.

In Southeast Alaska, tourism accounts for 28% of employment and generate an annual $1 billion in economic benefit, making it far more of an economic driver than the timber industry, which is less than 1% of the regional economy.

Any choice but the No Action alternative would also put wildlife and critical habitat at risk, threaten access to clean water, and be a step in the wrong direction on climate change jeopardizing Alaskans at a time when the state already faces severe challenges related to rising temperatures. I urge you not to abandon the Roadless Rule in Alaska and instead 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 Trudeau

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: James
Last name: TRUE
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is James TRUE 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, James TRUE

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Marina
Last name: True
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

The Tongass contains some of the largest intact old-growth temperate rainforest in the world, and its value in providing clean water for fish and wildlife habitat is essential to the economic and ecological health of Southeast Alaska. I urge you to keep the federal Roadless Rule intact and current protections in place for national forests in Alaska.

In addition, I strongly object to your plans to reduce and remove protections from our national forests roadless areas. The Roadless Rule is one of the smartest and most popular land management policies the Federal Government has ever adopted. Not only does it preserve some of Americas best fish and wildlife habitat, but it also saves untold millions of taxpayer dollars that might otherwise be spent to subsidize money-losing timber sales. The value of the Roadless Rule in preventing environmentally damaging and economically wasteful road-building and logging is particularly relevant in the Tongass, where logging costs vastly exceed timber revenues and require unconscionable taxpayer subsidies.
Regards, Marina True

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Brenda
Last name: Trueblood
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Brenda Trueblood and I live in Anderson, 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, Brenda Trueblood

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: James
Last name: Truesdale
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is James Truesdale and I live in Wheaton, Illinois.

Please stop destroying our environment and save these 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, James Truesdale

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Gina
Last name: Truex
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Gina Truex and I live in Arcadia, California.

This short sighted action of clear cutting old forests sickens me and the world. Once again its greed and Republican shortsightedness.

I am writing to express strong opposition to efforts to roll back the Roadless Area Conservation Rule (Roadless Rule) in Alaska or elsewhere. The Roadless Rule was implemented with unprecedented public support to protect some of our nations most pristine public lands, including large parts of the Tongass National Forest. You must choose the No Action alternative. Any other choice would ignore overwhelming public support and harm Alaskans, including Alaska Natives, and taxpayers across the nation.

In Southeast Alaska, tourism accounts for 28% of employment and generate an annual $1 billion in economic benefit, making it far more of an economic driver than the timber industry, which is less than 1% of the regional economy.

Any choice but the No Action alternative would also put wildlife and critical habitat at risk, threaten access to clean water, and be a step in the wrong direction on climate change jeopardizing Alaskans at a time when the state already faces severe challenges related to rising temperatures. I urge you not to abandon the Roadless Rule in Alaska and instead to put the public interest above corporate profits by choosing to keep the rule in place unchanged.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Regards, Gina Truex

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Hal
Last name: Trufan
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.
In Southeast Alaska, tourism accounts for 28% of employment and generate an annual $1 billion in economic benefit, making it far more of an economic driver than the timber industry, which is less than 1% of the regional economy.
Any choice but the No Action alternative would also put wildlife and critical habitat at risk, threaten access to clean water, and be a step in the wrong direction on climate change jeopardizing Alaskans at a time when the state already faces severe challenges related to rising temperatures. I urge you not to abandon the Roadless Rule in Alaska and instead to put the public interest above corporate profits by choosing to keep the rule in place unchanged.
Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Hal Trufan

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: John
Last name: Truitt
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

The Tongass contains some of the largest intact old-growth temperate rainforest in the world, and its value in providing clean water for fish and wildlife habitat is essential to the economic and ecological health of Southeast Alaska. I urge you to keep the federal Roadless Rule intact and current protections in place for national forests in Alaska.

In addition, I strongly object to your plans to reduce and remove protections from our national forests roadless areas. The Roadless Rule is one of the smartest and most popular land management policies the Federal Government has ever adopted. Not only does it preserve some of Americas best fish and wildlife habitat, but it also saves untold millions of taxpayer dollars that might otherwise be spent to subsidize money-losing timber sales. The value of the Roadless Rule in preventing environmentally damaging and economically 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 Truitt

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Linda
Last name: Trujillo
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

The Tongass contains some of the largest intact old-growth temperate rainforest in the world, and its value in providing clean water for fish and wildlife habitat is essential to the economic and ecological health of Southeast Alaska. I urge you to keep the federal Roadless Rule intact and current protections in place for national forests in Alaska.

In addition, I strongly object to your plans to reduce and remove protections from our national forests roadless areas. The Roadless Rule is one of the smartest and most popular land management policies the Federal Government has ever adopted. Not only does it preserve some of Americas best fish and wildlife habitat, but it also saves untold millions of taxpayer dollars that might otherwise be spent to subsidize money-losing timber sales. The value of the Roadless Rule in preventing environmentally damaging and economically 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 Trujillo

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Liz
Last name: Trujillo
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Liz Trujillo and I live in Las Cruces, 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, Liz Trujillo

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/10/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: silvia
Last name: trujillo
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is silvia trujillo and I live in Selma, 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, silvia trujillo

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/11/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Rebecca
Last name: Trull
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 3:00:00 PM
First name: Mary
Last name: Truman
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Mary Truman and I live in Apex, 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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Mary Truman

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Melissa
Last name: Truman
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Melissa Truman and I live in Beach City, 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, Melissa Truman

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Nathan
Last name: Truman
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC787

Dear Secretary 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.

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): 11/7/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Rusty
Last name: Truman
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: Mark
Last name: Trumbull
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Mark Trumbull and I live in Boulder, Colorado.

Why would anyone want to breath and drink coal ash? How about we start to take care of mother 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, Mark Trumbull

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Mark
Last name: Trumbull
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

The Tongass contains some of the largest intact old-growth temperate rainforest in the world, and its value in providing clean water for fish and wildlife habitat is essential to the economic and ecological health of Southeast Alaska. I urge you to keep the federal Roadless Rule intact and current protections in place for national forests in Alaska.

In addition, I strongly object to your plans to reduce and remove protections from our national forests roadless areas. The Roadless Rule is one of the smartest and most popular land management policies the Federal Government has ever adopted. Not only does it preserve some of Americas best fish and wildlife habitat, but it also saves untold millions of taxpayer dollars that might otherwise be spent to subsidize money-losing timber sales. The value of the Roadless Rule in preventing environmentally damaging and economically 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 Trumbull

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Dale
Last name: Trunk
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Dale Trunk 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, Dale Trunk

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/7/2019 3:36:03 PM
First name: Christian
Last name: Trunley
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Christian Trunley and I live in Minneapolis, 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.

Keep the Roadless Rule. I do not support the full expemption of the Roadless Rule in the Tongass. I do not support logging, clear cutting, or road building on public lands. I only support the health of public lands, local economies, and communities.

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 to keep public lands wild for future generations, the high density of incredible wildlife it contains, its status as the largest intact temperate rainforest in the world, 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 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: Justin
Last name: Truong
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

The Tongass contains some of the largest intact old-growth temperate rainforest in the world, and its value in providing clean water for fish and wildlife habitat is essential to the economic and ecological health of Southeast Alaska. I urge you to keep the federal Roadless Rule intact and current protections in place for national forests in Alaska.

In addition, I strongly object to your plans to reduce and remove protections from our national forests roadless areas. The Roadless Rule is one of the smartest and most popular land management policies the Federal Government has ever adopted. Not only does it preserve some of Americas best fish and wildlife habitat, but it also saves untold millions of taxpayer dollars that might otherwise be spent to subsidize money-losing timber sales. The value of the Roadless Rule in preventing environmentally damaging and economically wasteful road-building and logging is particularly relevant in the Tongass, where logging costs vastly exceed timber revenues and require unconscionable taxpayer subsidies.
Regards, Justin Truong

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/12/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Nic
Last name: Truscott
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.

That does it for the form letter portion of this comment. Now I'll give a brief personal opinion not pre-formed by any organization or individual other than myself. I consider myself very lucky because I get to work as a water resources engineer in Washington State analyzing, designing, and overseeing implementation of habitat restoration projects. I love the challenge of the job and the reward of seeing something other than hard infrastructure being constructed solely for the benefit of the river and fish and wildlife that rely on it. As a hunter and angler I feel proud to have a career that focuses on preserving the fish that so many anglers and outdoorsmen and women enjoy. One of the most humbling aspects of my job is coming to terms with the fact that we even need restoration at all. It's hard to find a single place on this earth that hasn't been influenced in one way or another by the hands of man. Almost every project I work on shares some common root causes of degraded habitat and river function: old growth logging, landuse modifications, and direct channel modification are among the most common. I get to make a living because over a century ago we humans figured the best way to develop land for our purpose was to make use of the centuries-old timber for construction of buildings and bridges; to straighten the rivers that meander through our valleys so that they can "carry water more efficiently". Now there is a wonderful little microeconomy which I am a part of dedicated at reversing these well-intentioned though incredibly harmful actions from decades or centuries ago. I write this to urge you to consider the many, many effects the proposed rule-making will have on the Tongass 77 and the nearly impossible to determine cumulative effects that will undoubtedly be realized in the future if the proposed rule-making moves forward. The Tongass isn't untouched by man's hand, but it is in much, much better shape than a vast majority of other forests in the U.S. Please carefully consider keeping it that way and maintaining the current roadless protections; the salmon fishermen and women of the west coast are relying on you to do the right thing and protect these vital watersheds and the habitat they provide.

[position]

[position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Jeanette
Last name: Trusky
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- 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, Jeanette Trusky

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/14/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Al
Last name: Trutter
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Al Trutter and I live in Glenarm, Illinois.

Leave the Tongass forest alone ! It's huge trees provide protection for our planet from global warming, protect wildlife and birds, keep streams and rivers clean etc.

I am writing to express strong opposition to efforts to roll back the Roadless Area Conservation Rule (Roadless Rule) in Alaska or elsewhere. The Roadless Rule was implemented with unprecedented public support to protect some of our nations most pristine public lands, including large parts of the Tongass National Forest. You must choose the No Action alternative. Any other choice would ignore overwhelming public support and harm Alaskans, including Alaska Natives, and taxpayers across the nation.

In Southeast Alaska, tourism accounts for 28% of employment and generate an annual $1 billion in economic benefit, making it far more of an economic driver than the timber industry, which is less than 1% of the regional economy.

Any choice but the No Action alternative would also put wildlife and critical habitat at risk, threaten access to clean water, and be a step in the wrong direction on climate change jeopardizing Alaskans at a time when the state already faces severe challenges related to rising temperatures. I urge you not to abandon the Roadless Rule in Alaska and instead to put the public interest above corporate profits by choosing to keep the rule in place unchanged.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Regards, Al Trutter

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Jackie
Last name: Tryggeseth
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Jackie Tryggeseth and I live in North Freedom, 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, Jackie Tryggeseth

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/11/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Brandon
Last name: Tryon
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: Haiden
Last name: Tryon
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC6049

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[Text circled] No

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Barbara
Last name: Trypaluk
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Barbara Trypaluk and I live in Saratoga Springs, New York.

If the U.S. Forest Service opens up the roadless area to clearcutting this would promote habitat fragmentation, diminish the rich wildlife populations and damage salmon spawning streams. Existing roads are sufficient. Furthermore, timber sales in the Tongass are a dead loss for taxpayers, costing some $30 million annually.

I am writing to express strong opposition to efforts to roll back the Roadless Area Conservation Rule (Roadless Rule) in Alaska or elsewhere. The Roadless Rule was implemented with unprecedented public support to protect some of our nations most pristine public lands, including large parts of the Tongass National Forest. You must choose the No Action alternative. Any other choice would ignore overwhelming public support and harm Alaskans, including Alaska Natives, and taxpayers across the nation.

In Southeast Alaska, tourism accounts for 28% of employment and generate an annual $1 billion in economic benefit, making it far more of an economic driver than the timber industry, which is less than 1% of the regional economy.

Any choice but the No Action alternative would also put wildlife and critical habitat at risk, threaten access to clean water, and be a step in the wrong direction on climate change jeopardizing Alaskans at a time when the state already faces severe challenges related to rising temperatures. I urge you not to abandon the Roadless Rule in Alaska and instead 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 Trypaluk

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Margot
Last name: Tsakonas
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Thank you for the extensive analysis. Unfortunately, I am adamantly opposed to the USFS granting a blanket exemption of "Roadless Rule" on the Tongass National Forest (Alternative 6). I am familiar with the overall history of the Roadless Rule and have reviewed the petition document from The State of Alaska posted on the USDA website along with the summaries of the Alternatives. The complicated history of the exemption for the Tongass nearly obscures some underlying facts.

1. Having a uniform policy on this subject for ALL federally managed public lands within its scope was the original intent and is still necessary to prevent piecemeal erosion of the values that the policy was intended to preserve. It is also still is the clear desire of millions of Americans who have weighed in on the Roadless Rule over the years. Piecemeal exemptions will eventually result in a state-by- state or forest-by- forest set of rules that will not serve the broader National goals of conservation of wildlands with the attendant environmental and human benefits. Arguing that the Tongass Forest Management plan provides adequate protection is insufficient. Arguing that Alaska is "unique" is not persuasive. Yes, Alaska is very different in many ways from much of the rest of the country. But that in itself does not justify blanket exemptions. Every state can argue that their situation is unique in some way.

2. The economic arguments always seem compelling but they turn out to be short-lived (or just wrong) as world markets and technologies change. Many of us have seen this first hand here in Washington state where the timber industry was forced to evolve -ultimately for the better-- after the recognition of the need to protect remaining old growth habitat and to rein-in dysfunctional corporate and governmental policies and practices. I am not anti-logging; I was an employee of a timber-based company for many years and I believe harvest in appropriate areas can be done sustainably. However, there is no justification for harvesting old growth in the Tongass or anywhere else in this country. Have we not learned our lesson?

3. In the analysis, the Agency has outlined alternatives with much narrower exemptions which strike a more reasonable balance between economic activity and conservation requirements. Please reconsider some of these. A total permanent exemption for the entire Forest is completely unnecessary at best and may turn out to be extremely damaging in ways that we cannot fully predict or control.

Respectfully submitted,

[Attachment is a PDF version of the same comment above.]

[Position]

[Position]

Comments on proposed exemption of Tongass NF from Roadless Rule

Thank you for the extensive analysis. Unfortunately, I am adamantly opposed to the USFS granting a blanket exemption of "Roadless Rule" on the Tongass National Forest (Alternative 6). I am familiar with the overall history of the Roadless Rule and have reviewed the petition document from The State of Alaska posted on the USDA website along with the summaries of the Alternatives. The complicated history of the exemption for the Tongass nearly obscures some underlying facts.

1. Having a uniform policy on this subject for ALL federally managed public lands within its scope was the original intent and is still necessary to prevent piecemeal erosion of the values that the policy was intended to preserve. It is also still is the clear desire of millions of Americans who have weighed in on the Roadless Rule over the years. Piecemeal exemptions will eventually result in a state-by- state or forest-by- forest set of rules that will not serve the broader National goals of conservation of wildlands with the attendant environmental and human benefits. Arguing that the Tongass Forest Management plan provides adequate protection is insufficient. Arguing that Alaska is "unique" is not persuasive. Yes, Alaska is very different in many ways from much of the rest of the country. But that in itself does not justify blanket exemptions. Every state can argue that their situation is unique in some way.

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3. In the analysis, the Agency has outlined alternatives with much narrower exemptions which strike a more reasonable balance between economic activity and conservation requirements. Please reconsider some of these. A total permanent exemption for the entire Forest is completely unnecessary at best and may turn out to be extremely damaging in ways that we cannot fully predict or control.

Respectfully submitted,

Margot Tsakonas

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/5/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Michael
Last name: Tsang
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: Demetra
Last name: Tsantes
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Demetra Tsantes 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, Demetra Tsantes

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Senta
Last name: Tsantilis
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Senta Tsantilis 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, Senta Tsantilis

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: NICHOLAS
Last name: TSAPATSARIS
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC3566

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,

NICHOLAS TSAPATSARIS

Santa Fe, NM 87501

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 1/1/0001 12:00:00 AM
First name: NICHOLAS
Last name: TSAPATSARIS
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
3566

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,
NICHOLAS TSAPATSARIS
Santa Fe, NM 87501

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/10/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: cathi
Last name: Tschirhartr
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is cathi Tschirhartr and I live in Xenia, 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, cathi Tschirhartr

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/10/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Doris
Last name: Tse
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Doris Tse and I live in Philipstown, New York.

Methane is bad for the environment as well as your 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, Doris Tse

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Elaine
Last name: Tselikis
Organization: 1957
Title:
Comments:
Every intact tree and forest is essential to cooling the earth and giving life - ESPECIALLY Tongass National Forest. Any thought to cut these old-growth trees down and build roads into Tongass is reckless, reprehensible, suicidal and totally unjustified as we are battling Global Heating. Nature placed these irreplaceable trees here to cool, sustain and support her intricate web of plant and animal LIFE on which we all depend.
Genuine science verifies if these old trees are destroyed, many which are 1,000-years old, the delicate and vital ecosystems supporting millions of lives will be gone FOREVER. Technology will not replace them. We will have lost the carbon-sink capacity they provide that is so desperately needed right now, tipping the scales irreversibly to fall deeper into a man-made hell on earth.
The Tongass Forest helps protect Alaska, which is heating more than twice as fast from the Climate Crisis as our planet. Alaska and the Arctic are barometers - protecting their forests helps the rest of the US and the earth.
Our National Forests are in the public trust - they are NOT cash crops for a few greedy men to rape and exploit, under the guise of junk science. We must preserve wilderness and leave it untouched. Haven't humans done enough damage to God's earth and climate?
I OPPOSE THIS DEADLY PLAN, AND URGE YOU TO OPPOSE IT AND STOP IT FROM MOVING FORWARD. LEAVE THE FORESTS AND THE ANIMALS ALONE TO LIVE & DO THEIR JOBS FOR THE PLANET AND FOR ALL LIFE, which means HUMAN LIFE, TOO.

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Elaine
Last name: Tselikis
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Every intact tree and forest is essential to cooling the earth and giving life - ESPECIALLY Tongass National Forest. Any thought to cut these old-growth trees down and build roads into Tongass is reckless, reprehensible, suicidal and totally unjustified as we are battling Global Heating. Nature placed these irreplaceable trees here to cool, sustain and support her intricate web of plant and animal LIFE on which we all depend.

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I OPPOSE THIS DEADLY PLAN, AND URGE YOU TO OPPOSE IT. LEAVE THE FORESTS AND THE ANIMALS ALONE TO LIVE & DO THEIR JOBS FOR THE PLANET AND FOR ALL LIFE, which means HUMAN LIFE, TOO.

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/10/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Mandy
Last name: Tshibangu
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Mandy Tshibangu and I live in Devon, 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, Mandy Tshibangu

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Jamie
Last name: Tsitouras
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Jamie Tsitouras 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, Jamie Tsitouras

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Karma
Last name: Tsomo
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Karma Lekshe Tsomo and I live in San Diego, CA.

As recent fires and natural disasters have shown, we really need to protect wild areas for the health of the planet and for future generations to be 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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.

Regards, Karma Tsomo

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Alex
Last name: Tsouvalas
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Alex Tsouvalas and I live in Lexington, 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, Alex Tsouvalas

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Wayne
Last name: Tsuji
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

The Tongass contains some of the largest intact old-growth temperate rainforest in the world, and its value in providing clean water for fish and wildlife habitat is essential to the economic and ecological health of Southeast Alaska. I urge you to keep the federal Roadless Rule intact and current protections in place for national forests in Alaska.

In addition, I strongly object to your plans to reduce and remove protections from our national forests roadless areas. The Roadless Rule is one of the smartest and most popular land management policies the Federal Government has ever adopted. Not only does it preserve some of Americas best fish and wildlife habitat, but it also saves untold millions of taxpayer dollars that might otherwise be spent to subsidize money-losing timber sales. The value of the Roadless Rule in preventing environmentally damaging and economically wasteful road-building and logging is particularly relevant in the Tongass, where logging costs vastly exceed timber revenues and require unconscionable taxpayer subsidies.
Regards, Wayne Tsuji

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 1/1/0001 12:00:00 AM
First name: Kris
Last name: Tsujikawa
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: Kris
Last name: Tsujikawa
Organization:
Title:
Comments:

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Organization:
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Comments:

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Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Kris
Last name: Tsujikawa
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC1186

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): 11/10/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Linda
Last name: Tuan
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Linda Tuan and I live in Poway, California.

Rainforests are needed now more than ever for the future of life itself here on earth. Please do not let the Tongass be destroyed for the sake of profit for 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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Any choice but the No Action alternative would also put wildlife and critical habitat at risk, threaten access to clean water, and be a step in the wrong direction on climate change jeopardizing Alaskans at a time when the state already faces severe challenges related to rising temperatures. I urge you not to abandon the Roadless Rule in Alaska and instead 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 Tuan

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Ann
Last name: Tubbs
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

The Tongass contains some of the largest intact old-growth temperate rainforest in the world, and its value in providing clean water for fish and wildlife habitat is essential to the economic and ecological health of Southeast Alaska. I urge you to keep the federal Roadless Rule intact and current protections in place for national forests in Alaska.

In addition, I strongly object to your plans to reduce and remove protections from our national forests roadless areas. The Roadless Rule is one of the smartest and most popular land management policies the Federal Government has ever adopted. Not only does it preserve some of Americas best fish and wildlife habitat, but it also saves untold millions of taxpayer dollars that might otherwise be spent to subsidize money-losing timber sales. The value of the Roadless Rule in preventing environmentally damaging and economically 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 Tubbs

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Jack
Last name: Tuber
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- 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, Jack Tuber

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Jack
Last name: tuber
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Jack tuber 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.

In Southeast Alaska, tourism accounts for 28% of employment and generate an annual $1 billion in economic benefit, making it far more of an economic driver than the timber industry, which is less than 1% of the regional economy.

Any choice but the No Action alternative would also put wildlife and critical habitat at risk, threaten access to clean water, and be a step in the wrong direction on climate change jeopardizing Alaskans at a time when the state already faces severe challenges related to rising temperatures. I urge you not to abandon the Roadless Rule in Alaska and instead to put the public interest above corporate profits by choosing to keep the rule in place unchanged.

Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Jack tuber

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 9:08:11 AM
First name: Celeste
Last name: Tubman
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Celeste Tubman and I live in Santa Monica, CA. I live in California but visited / loved 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 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 .

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 keeping public lands wild for future generations, carbon sequestration and local climate change mitigation, healthy fish habitat. 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 At this point in time we must do all we can to mitigate climate change and protect the existing species.. 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.

nope.

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): 11/13/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Seth
Last name: Tubman
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Seth Tubman and I live in Scottsville, 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, Seth Tubman

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Sherwood
Last name: Tubman
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

The Tongass contains some of the largest intact old-growth temperate rainforest in the world, and its value in providing clean water for fish and wildlife habitat is essential to the economic and ecological health of Southeast Alaska. I urge you to keep the federal Roadless Rule intact and current protections in place for national forests in Alaska.

In addition, I strongly object to your plans to reduce and remove protections from our national forests roadless areas. The Roadless Rule is one of the smartest and most popular land management policies the Federal Government has ever adopted. Not only does it preserve some of Americas best fish and wildlife habitat, but it also saves untold millions of taxpayer dollars that might otherwise be spent to subsidize money-losing timber sales. The value of the Roadless Rule in preventing environmentally damaging and economically wasteful road-building and logging is particularly relevant in the Tongass, where logging costs vastly exceed timber revenues and require unconscionable taxpayer subsidies.
Regards, Sherwood Tubman

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Marlene
Last name: Tucay
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Marlene Tucay and I live in Anaheim, 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, Marlene Tucay

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Christopher
Last name: Tuccitto
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- 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, Christopher Tuccitto

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Organization:
Title:
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Regards, Christopher Tuccitto

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Christopher
Last name: Tuch
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Christopher Tuch and I live in New Braunfels, 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, Christopher Tuch

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/5/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Gregory D
Last name: Tuchel
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: Leslie
Last name: Tuchmann
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Leslie Tuchmann and I live in Albuquerque, NM.
Protect our National Forests; they are a precious resource 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, Leslie Tuchmann

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Frederick
Last name: Tuck
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Frederick Tuck and I live in Stanardsville, Virginia.

You are Environmental Protection, not profit protection. Get your priorities straight or get out of our government!

I am writing to express strong opposition to efforts to roll back the Roadless Area Conservation Rule (Roadless Rule) in Alaska or elsewhere. The Roadless Rule was implemented with unprecedented public support to protect some of our nations most pristine public lands, including large parts of the Tongass National Forest. You must choose the No Action alternative. Any other choice would ignore overwhelming public support and harm Alaskans, including Alaska Natives, and taxpayers across the nation.

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Thank you for considering my comments.

Regards, Frederick Tuck

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/17/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Alicia
Last name: Tucker
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Alicia Tucker and I live in San Angelo, 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, Alicia Tucker

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/10/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: arlen
Last name: tucker
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is arlen tucker 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, arlen tucker

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Brent
Last name: Tucker
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- 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, Brent Tucker

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/18/2019 5:33:00 PM
First name: Brent
Last name: Tucker
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,
Brent Tucker
Salt Lake City, UT 84121

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Brent
Last name: Tucker
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
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Regards, Brent Tucker

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/6/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: christine
Last name: tucker
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
The Tongass is one of the last remaining public jewels. Industry is already able to exploit 45% of it. Maybe an examination of how that's going would make Congress more willing to protect the remainder! Alaska's resources are not just theirs. They belong to the nation. Extractive industries are already big business in Alaska, harming the entire planet. And they are not conducive to a booming tourism industry!! We urge you to protect the Tongass

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: CIndy
Last name: Tucker
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is CIndy Tucker and I live in Greenwood, 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, CIndy Tucker

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: David
Last name: Tucker
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Please down allow the logging of this ancient forest, it is a very important carbon sink and Native Alaskan citizens rely on that land for their survival.

Regards, David Tucker

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Gary
Last name: Tucker
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

The Tongass contains some of the largest intact old-growth temperate rainforest in the world, and its value in providing clean water for fish and wildlife habitat is essential to the economic and ecological health of Southeast Alaska. I urge you to keep the federal Roadless Rule intact and current protections in place for national forests in Alaska.

In addition, I strongly object to your plans to reduce and remove protections from our national forests roadless areas. The Roadless Rule is one of the smartest and most popular land management policies the Federal Government has ever adopted. Not only does it preserve some of Americas best fish and wildlife habitat, but it also saves untold millions of taxpayer dollars that might otherwise be spent to subsidize money-losing timber sales. The value of the Roadless Rule in preventing environmentally damaging and economically wasteful road-building and logging is particularly relevant in the Tongass, where logging costs vastly exceed timber revenues and require unconscionable taxpayer subsidies.
Regards, Gary Tucker

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Jeff
Last name: Tucker
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Jeff Tucker and I live in New Hope, 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, Jeff Tucker

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Jeff
Last name: Tucker
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

The Tongass contains some of the largest intact old-growth temperate rainforest in the world, and its value in providing clean water for fish and wildlife habitat is essential to the economic and ecological health of Southeast Alaska. I urge you to keep the federal Roadless Rule intact and current protections in place for national forests in Alaska.

In addition, I strongly object to your plans to reduce and remove protections from our national forests roadless areas. The Roadless Rule is one of the smartest and most popular land management policies the Federal Government has ever adopted. Not only does it preserve some of Americas best fish and wildlife habitat, but it also saves untold millions of taxpayer dollars that might otherwise be spent to subsidize money-losing timber sales. The value of the Roadless Rule in preventing environmentally damaging and economically wasteful road-building and logging is particularly relevant in the Tongass, where logging costs vastly exceed timber revenues and require unconscionable taxpayer subsidies.
Regards, Jeff Tucker

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/23/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Jennifer
Last name: Tucker
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I object to the USDA Forest Service Alaska Roadless rulemaking #54511. Forests in Alaska should be included in the roadless rule of 2001, not exempt. It is critical that these forest ecosystems continue to be protected from the degradation of timber harvesting, mining and other destructive enterprises. This is the purpose of the original federal roadless rule - to protect our critical natural systems that we absolutely depend on for our future survival.

Additionally, I found the wording in your federal register submission to be insulting in its description of "roaded roadless" areas where the Forest Service circumvented its own regulations to allow destruction of these forests. Shame on you.

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Julie
Last name: Tucker
Organization: Ms.
Title:
Comments:
Good evening. Julie Tucker, here. I am requesting that the government not release the nation's parks to any sort of mineral or exploitation of their grandeur. Look beyond the money that these parks can muster, and look to the future generations who will thank you for leaving them for their beauty and prestige. Please do NOT let trump destroy America. Thank you for your time. Julie Tucker

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Karen
Last name: Tucker
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Karen Tucker 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, Karen Tucker

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Kelly
Last name: Tucker
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

The Tongass contains some of the largest intact old-growth temperate rainforest in the world, and its value in providing clean water for fish and wildlife habitat is essential to the economic and ecological health of Southeast Alaska. I urge you to keep the federal Roadless Rule intact and current protections in place for national forests in Alaska.

In addition, I strongly object to your plans to reduce and remove protections from our national forests roadless areas. The Roadless Rule is one of the smartest and most popular land management policies the Federal Government has ever adopted. Not only does it preserve some of Americas best fish and wildlife habitat, but it also saves untold millions of taxpayer dollars that might otherwise be spent to subsidize money-losing timber sales. The value of the Roadless Rule in preventing environmentally damaging and economically wasteful road-building and logging is particularly relevant in the Tongass, where logging costs vastly exceed timber revenues and require unconscionable taxpayer subsidies.
Regards, Kelly Tucker

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Laurel
Last name: Tucker
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

The Tongass contains some of the largest intact old-growth temperate rainforest in the world, and its value in providing clean water for fish and wildlife habitat is essential to the economic and ecological health of Southeast Alaska. I urge you to keep the federal Roadless Rule intact and current protections in place for national forests in Alaska.

In addition, I strongly object to your plans to reduce and remove protections from our national forests roadless areas. The Roadless Rule is one of the smartest and most popular land management policies the Federal Government has ever adopted. Not only does it preserve some of Americas best fish and wildlife habitat, but it also saves untold millions of taxpayer dollars that might otherwise be spent to subsidize money-losing timber sales. The value of the Roadless Rule in preventing environmentally damaging and economically wasteful road-building and logging is particularly relevant in the Tongass, where logging costs vastly exceed timber revenues and require unconscionable taxpayer subsidies.
Regards, Laurel Tucker

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Laurel
Last name: Tucker
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Laurel Tucker and I live in Claremont, 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, Laurel Tucker

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Laurel
Last name: Tucker
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

The Tongass contains some of the largest intact old-growth temperate rainforest in the world, and its value in providing clean water for fish and wildlife habitat is essential to the economic and ecological health of Southeast Alaska. I urge you to keep the federal Roadless Rule intact and current protections in place for national forests in Alaska.

In addition, I strongly object to your plans to reduce and remove protections from our national forests roadless areas. The Roadless Rule is one of the smartest and most popular land management policies the Federal Government has ever adopted. Not only does it preserve some of Americas best fish and wildlife habitat, but it also saves untold millions of taxpayer dollars that might otherwise be spent to subsidize money-losing timber sales. The value of the Roadless Rule in preventing environmentally damaging and economically wasteful road-building and logging is particularly relevant in the Tongass, where logging costs vastly exceed timber revenues and require unconscionable taxpayer subsidies.
Regards, Laurel Tucker

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/5/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Lauren
Last name: Tucker
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Lauren Tucker and I live in New York, 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 believe public land deserves to be in the publics hands. Protecting this national forest is in everyones best interest.

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). 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]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Lucinda
Last name: Tucker
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Lucinda Tucker and I live in Hamilton 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.

In Southeast Alaska, tourism accounts for 28% of employment and generate an annual $1 billion in economic benefit, making it far more of an economic driver than the timber industry, which is less than 1% of the regional economy.

Any choice but the No Action alternative would also put wildlife and critical habitat at risk, threaten access to clean water, and be a step in the wrong direction on climate change jeopardizing Alaskans at a time when the state already faces severe challenges related to rising temperatures. I urge you not to abandon the Roadless Rule in Alaska and instead to put the public interest above corporate profits by choosing to keep the rule in place unchanged.

Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Lucinda Tucker

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/11/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Mary
Last name: Tucker
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Mary Evelyn Tucker and I live in Woodbridge, CT. 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 teach at Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies. I have been concerned about forest protection for some 50 years.

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 passiveactive watershed restoration (stream and habitat) to improvemaintain roadless characteristics (culvert removalreplacement 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.

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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): 1/1/0001 12:00:00 AM
First name: Melody
Last name: Tucker
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: Melody
Last name: Tucker
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC1217

Dear Secretary Perdue,

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Organization:
Title:
Comments:

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Last name: Tucker
Organization:
Title:
Comments:

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First name: Melody
Last name: Tucker
Organization:
Title:
Comments:

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Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Meredith
Last name: Tucker
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Meredith Tucker and I live in Inverness, 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, Meredith Tucker

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: michael
Last name: tucker
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is michael tucker 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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, michael tucker

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/18/2019 5:33:54 PM
First name: Nancy
Last name: Tucker
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 Tucker
Salt Lake City, UT 84121

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Rebecca
Last name: Tucker
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Rebecca Tucker and I live in Vancouver, 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, Rebecca Tucker

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Rexford
Last name: Tucker
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

The Tongass contains some of the largest intact old-growth temperate rainforest in the world, and its value in providing clean water for fish and wildlife habitat is essential to the economic and ecological health of Southeast Alaska. I urge you to keep the federal Roadless Rule intact and current protections in place for national forests in Alaska.

In addition, I strongly object to your plans to reduce and remove protections from our national forests roadless areas. The Roadless Rule is one of the smartest and most popular land management policies the Federal Government has ever adopted. Not only does it preserve some of Americas best fish and wildlife habitat, but it also saves untold millions of taxpayer dollars that might otherwise be spent to subsidize money-losing timber sales. The value of the Roadless Rule in preventing environmentally damaging and economically wasteful road-building and logging is particularly relevant in the Tongass, where logging costs vastly exceed timber revenues and require unconscionable taxpayer subsidies.
Regards, Rexford Tucker

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Rosemary
Last name: Tucker
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Rosemary Tucker and I live in Oregon City, 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, Rosemary Tucker

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Ruth
Last name: Tucker
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing you to make Alaska Exempt from the roll back of the roadless rule. Our Temperate Rain Forests are increasingly at risk of devistation as we lose more and more acreage year after year. Scientists haven't even begun to understand the impacts this is having on the global ecosystem but know with the little we do understand that it's not positive. Everything has it's place in that ecosystem and human interference will only have a negative impact on future generations. Leave Alaska wild, leave something for your children and grand children.

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/14/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Sally
Last name: Tucker
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Sally Tucker 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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Sally Tucker

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Susan
Last name: Tucker
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Susan Tucker and I live in Warren, 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, Susan Tucker

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Terry
Last name: Tucker
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

The Tongass contains some of the largest intact old-growth temperate rainforest in the world, and its value in providing clean water for fish and wildlife habitat is essential to the economic and ecological health of Southeast Alaska. I urge you to keep the federal Roadless Rule intact and current protections in place for national forests in Alaska.

In addition, I strongly object to your plans to reduce and remove protections from our national forests roadless areas. The Roadless Rule is one of the smartest and most popular land management policies the Federal Government has ever adopted. Not only does it preserve some of Americas best fish and wildlife habitat, but it also saves untold millions of taxpayer dollars that might otherwise be spent to subsidize money-losing timber sales. The value of the Roadless Rule in preventing environmentally damaging and economically wasteful road-building and logging is particularly relevant in the Tongass, where logging costs vastly exceed timber revenues and require unconscionable taxpayer subsidies.
Regards, Terry Tucker

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Natasha
Last name: Tuckett
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Natasha Tuckett and I live in College Station, Texas.

Perhaps we need actual models of why the world needs trees? If we were to put a dome over the burned swaths of the Amazon and compare the CO2 and heat build-up versus the forests, why we need forests would become clear. Oh no, wait, we can't charge the flora and fauna money, so obviously we should go the route that destroys the environment faster.

I am writing to express strong opposition to efforts to roll back the Roadless Area Conservation Rule (Roadless Rule) in Alaska or elsewhere. The Roadless Rule was implemented with unprecedented public support to protect some of our nations most pristine public lands, including large parts of the Tongass National Forest. You must choose the No Action alternative. Any other choice would ignore overwhelming public support and harm Alaskans, including Alaska Natives, and taxpayers across the nation.

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Thank you for considering my comments.

Regards, Natasha Tuckett

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Blair
Last name: Tuckman
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Blair Tuckman and I live in Long Beach, California.

Our planet is dying. That is indisputable. If you roll back protections on the Tongass you are proving yourselves to be immoral and without integrity. Is that really how this agency and the people that staff if want to be thought of and remembered by the American 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, Blair Tuckman

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Roy
Last name: Tuckman
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

The Tongass contains some of the largest intact old-growth temperate rainforest in the world, and its value in providing clean water for fish and wildlife habitat is essential to the economic and ecological health of Southeast Alaska. I urge you to keep the federal Roadless Rule intact and current protections in place for national forests in Alaska.

In addition, I strongly object to your plans to reduce and remove protections from our national forests roadless areas. The Roadless Rule is one of the smartest and most popular land management policies the Federal Government has ever adopted. Not only does it preserve some of Americas best fish and wildlife habitat, but it also saves untold millions of taxpayer dollars that might otherwise be spent to subsidize money-losing timber sales. The value of the Roadless Rule in preventing environmentally damaging and economically wasteful road-building and logging is particularly relevant in the Tongass, where logging costs vastly exceed timber revenues and require unconscionable taxpayer subsidies.
Regards, Roy Tuckman

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/18/2019 4:32:40 PM
First name: April
Last name: Tuech
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,
April Tuech
Cookeville, TN 38506

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Ted
Last name: Tuescher
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

The Tongass contains some of the largest intact old-growth temperate rainforest in the world, and its value in providing clean water for fish and wildlife habitat is essential to the economic and ecological health of Southeast Alaska. I urge you to keep the federal Roadless Rule intact and current protections in place for national forests in Alaska.

In addition, I strongly object to your plans to reduce and remove protections from our national forests roadless areas. The Roadless Rule is one of the smartest and most popular land management policies the Federal Government has ever adopted. Not only does it preserve some of Americas best fish and wildlife habitat, but it also saves untold millions of taxpayer dollars that might otherwise be spent to subsidize money-losing timber sales. The value of the Roadless Rule in preventing environmentally damaging and economically wasteful road-building and logging is particularly relevant in the Tongass, where logging costs vastly exceed timber revenues and require unconscionable taxpayer subsidies.
Regards, Ted Tuescher

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Dianne
Last name: Tuff
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- 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 Tuff

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Dianne
Last name: Tuff
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
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Regards, Dianne Tuff

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Travis
Last name: Tufte
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: Thomas
Last name: Tugwell
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Thomas Tugwell and I live in Monroe, 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, Thomas Tugwell

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Linda
Last name: Tulett
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Please dont! Maybe take a lesson from our forefathers? Or national and state parks are there for enjoyment, for our generations to enjoy. we would not have our parks today, which Im quite certain you appreciate and have enjoyed along with your family and friends... if not for them, I would see barren land for trees; I would see condos for beaches; I would see factories for rivers. Why does our current government continue to destroy? Mother nature does not need us, but we certainly need her. Please dont do this!

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Rashana
Last name: Tulip
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Rashana Tulip 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, Rashana Tulip

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Svea
Last name: Tullberg
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Svea Tullberg and I live in Liberty, 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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Svea Tullberg

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Kenneth
Last name: Tullipano
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Kenneth Tullipano and I live in Carmel Hamlet, 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, Kenneth Tullipano

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Ercil
Last name: Tullis
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Ercil Tullis and I live in Brooksburg, Indiana.

Please do not undo the accomplishments we have made toward clean air. Take additional steps to secure the future of our children and 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, Ercil Tullis

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/29/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Jan
Last name: Tullis
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 urge you to KEEP the Roadless Area Conservation Rule intact for the Tongass National Forest.

The Tongass 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 cause irreversible damage. Keep the Roadless Rule -- and the Tongass National Forest -- INTACT for present and future generations.

Sincerely,

Sincerely,

Jan Tullis

Providence, RI 02906

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Jan
Last name: Tullis
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Jan Tullis and I live in Providence, Rhode Island.

Do not roll back the Roadless Rule! US citizens want to protect our few remaining unspoiled forests, and we pay good tourism dollars that support them. Preserve them for 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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.

Regards, Jan Tullis

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: George
Last name: Tulloch
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is George Tulloch 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, George Tulloch

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: hilary
Last name: tulloch
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is hilary tulloch and I live in Boulder, Colorado.

save 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, hilary tulloch

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Mary
Last name: Tullock
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Mary Tullock and I live in Rohnert 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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Mary Tullock

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Martha
Last name: Tully
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

The Tongass contains some of the largest intact old-growth temperate rainforest in the world, and its value in providing clean water for fish and wildlife habitat is essential to the economic and ecological health of Southeast Alaska. I urge you to keep the federal Roadless Rule intact and current protections in place for national forests in Alaska.

In addition, I strongly object to your plans to reduce and remove protections from our national forests roadless areas. The Roadless Rule is one of the smartest and most popular land management policies the Federal Government has ever adopted. Not only does it preserve some of Americas best fish and wildlife habitat, but it also saves untold millions of taxpayer dollars that might otherwise be spent to subsidize money-losing timber sales. The value of the Roadless Rule in preventing environmentally damaging and economically 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 Tully

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Martha
Last name: Tully
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

The Tongass contains some of the largest intact old-growth temperate rainforest in the world, and its value in providing clean water for fish and wildlife habitat is essential to the economic and ecological health of Southeast Alaska. I urge you to keep the federal Roadless Rule intact and current protections in place for national forests in Alaska.

In addition, I strongly object to your plans to reduce and remove protections from our national forests roadless areas. The Roadless Rule is one of the smartest and most popular land management policies the Federal Government has ever adopted. Not only does it preserve some of Americas best fish and wildlife habitat, but it also saves untold millions of taxpayer dollars that might otherwise be spent to subsidize money-losing timber sales. The value of the Roadless Rule in preventing environmentally damaging and economically 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 Tully

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Richard
Last name: Tully
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Richard Tully and I live in Redlands, California.

Don't let "smog" days return to the Inland Empire, 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, Richard Tully

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Richard
Last name: Tully
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

The Tongass contains some of the largest intact old-growth temperate rainforest in the world, and its value in providing clean water for fish and wildlife habitat is essential to the economic and ecological health of Southeast Alaska. I urge you to keep the federal Roadless Rule intact and current protections in place for national forests in Alaska.

In addition, I strongly object to your plans to reduce and remove protections from our national forests roadless areas. The Roadless Rule is one of the smartest and most popular land management policies the Federal Government has ever adopted. Not only does it preserve some of Americas best fish and wildlife habitat, but it also saves untold millions of taxpayer dollars that might otherwise be spent to subsidize money-losing timber sales. The value of the Roadless Rule in preventing environmentally damaging and economically 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 Tully

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Baysan
Last name: Tulu
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

The Tongass contains some of the largest intact old-growth temperate rainforest in the world, and its value in providing clean water for fish and wildlife habitat is essential to the economic and ecological health of Southeast Alaska. I urge you to keep the federal Roadless Rule intact and current protections in place for national forests in Alaska.

In addition, I strongly object to your plans to reduce and remove protections from our national forests roadless areas. The Roadless Rule is one of the smartest and most popular land management policies the Federal Government has ever adopted. Not only does it preserve some of Americas best fish and wildlife habitat, but it also saves untold millions of taxpayer dollars that might otherwise be spent to subsidize money-losing timber sales. The value of the Roadless Rule in preventing environmentally damaging and economically wasteful road-building and logging is particularly relevant in the Tongass, where logging costs vastly exceed timber revenues and require unconscionable taxpayer subsidies.
Regards, Baysan Tulu

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Walter
Last name: Tulys
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Walter Tulys and I live in Perth Amboy, New Jersey.

How is it that the Trump administration is willing to poison 300 million Americans so that a handful Rich Americans and some corporations can make a 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, Walter Tulys

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/18/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Dennis
Last name: Tuma
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
It's quite simple really, keep it roadless and discourage with great prejudice any and all commercial extraction industries. End of story.

There is no known cure for the greed driven DEVELOPERS DISEASE.

DT

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/20/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Grace
Last name: Tuma
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Comments to oppose modification to the Roadless Rule

Dear U.S. Forest Service,

The Roadless Rule helps protect humans from self-destruction by keeping intact old-growth habitat.

Trees are the resource needed to sustain climate health for future humans. Maintaining old growth forests also supports all wildlife that is already on the verge of extinction due to the climate changes of Now.

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.

Your grandchildren and great -grandchildren will thank you for your right actions of keeping forests intact for their possible future on this planet ??

Sincerely,

Grace Tuma

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Mary
Last name: Tuma
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Mary Tuma and I live in Charlotte, North Carolina.

these chemicals are terrifying. This is chemical warfare against your own 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, Mary Tuma

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Rick
Last name: Tuma
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

The Tongass contains some of the largest intact old-growth temperate rainforest in the world, and its value in providing clean water for fish and wildlife habitat is essential to the economic and ecological health of Southeast Alaska. I urge you to keep the federal Roadless Rule intact and current protections in place for national forests in Alaska.

In addition, I strongly object to your plans to reduce and remove protections from our national forests roadless areas. The Roadless Rule is one of the smartest and most popular land management policies the Federal Government has ever adopted. Not only does it preserve some of Americas best fish and wildlife habitat, but it also saves untold millions of taxpayer dollars that might otherwise be spent to subsidize money-losing timber sales. The value of the Roadless Rule in preventing environmentally damaging and economically 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 Tuma

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/5/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Justin
Last name: Tumberg
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: Rebecca
Last name: Tumicki
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC3065

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 12:00:00 AM
First name: Elizabeth
Last name: Tuminski
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Elizabeth Tuminski and I live in Stamford, Connecticut.

This is a crime to poison our kids. We need ya smart generation so we can complete intelectaly with China and other countries.

I am writing to express strong opposition to efforts to roll back the Roadless Area Conservation Rule (Roadless Rule) in Alaska or elsewhere. The Roadless Rule was implemented with unprecedented public support to protect some of our nations most pristine public lands, including large parts of the Tongass National Forest. You must choose the No Action alternative. Any other choice would ignore overwhelming public support and harm Alaskans, including Alaska Natives, and taxpayers across the nation.

In Southeast Alaska, tourism accounts for 28% of employment and generate an annual $1 billion in economic benefit, making it far more of an economic driver than the timber industry, which is less than 1% of the regional economy.

Any choice but the No Action alternative would also put wildlife and critical habitat at risk, threaten access to clean water, and be a step in the wrong direction on climate change jeopardizing Alaskans at a time when the state already faces severe challenges related to rising temperatures. I urge you not to abandon the Roadless Rule in Alaska and instead 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 Tuminski

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Christopher
Last name: Tumolo
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Christopher Tumolo and I live in Killingly, 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, Christopher Tumolo

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Daniel
Last name: Tumpson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

The Tongass contains some of the largest intact old-growth temperate rainforest in the world, and its value in providing clean water for fish and wildlife habitat is essential to the economic and ecological health of Southeast Alaska. I urge you to keep the federal Roadless Rule intact and current protections in place for national forests in Alaska.

In addition, I strongly object to your plans to reduce and remove protections from our national forests roadless areas. The Roadless Rule is one of the smartest and most popular land management policies the Federal Government has ever adopted. Not only does it preserve some of Americas best fish and wildlife habitat, but it also saves untold millions of taxpayer dollars that might otherwise be spent to subsidize money-losing timber sales. The value of the Roadless Rule in preventing environmentally damaging and economically 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 Tumpson

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Daniel
Last name: Tumpson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Daniel Tumpson and I live in Hoboken, New Jersey.

Beautiful and complex ecosystems must be protected. It took millions of years for Bears Ears to evolve to its present state, and degrading or eliminating it will be a major reduction to the earth's few remaining natural forest ecosystems which cannot be undone. To allow the survival of this rare and complex neighborhood of our living world, I ask that you continue to protect all of the lands in the original boundaries of Bears Ears National Monument.

I am writing to express strong opposition to efforts to roll back the Roadless Area Conservation Rule (Roadless Rule) in Alaska or elsewhere. The Roadless Rule was implemented with unprecedented public support to protect some of our nations most pristine public lands, including large parts of the Tongass National Forest. You must choose the No Action alternative. Any other choice would ignore overwhelming public support and harm Alaskans, including Alaska Natives, and taxpayers across the nation.

In Southeast Alaska, tourism accounts for 28% of employment and generate an annual $1 billion in economic benefit, making it far more of an economic driver than the timber industry, which is less than 1% of the regional economy.

Any choice but the No Action alternative would also put wildlife and critical habitat at risk, threaten access to clean water, and be a step in the wrong direction on climate change jeopardizing Alaskans at a time when the state already faces severe challenges related to rising temperatures. I urge you not to abandon the Roadless Rule in Alaska and instead to put the public interest above corporate profits by choosing to keep the rule in place unchanged.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Regards, Daniel Tumpson

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/21/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Charlotte
Last name: Tunney
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Tongass National Forest: Please don't let this ignorant President destroy our irreplaceable forests!

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,

Charlotte Tunney

Pittsburgh, PA

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Rosalie
Last name: TUNSON
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

The Tongass contains some of the largest intact old-growth temperate rainforest in the world, and its value in providing clean water for fish and wildlife habitat is essential to the economic and ecological health of Southeast Alaska. I urge you to keep the federal Roadless Rule intact and current protections in place for national forests in Alaska.

In addition, I strongly object to your plans to reduce and remove protections from our national forests roadless areas. The Roadless Rule is one of the smartest and most popular land management policies the Federal Government has ever adopted. Not only does it preserve some of Americas best fish and wildlife habitat, but it also saves untold millions of taxpayer dollars that might otherwise be spent to subsidize money-losing timber sales. The value of the Roadless Rule in preventing environmentally damaging and economically wasteful road-building and logging is particularly relevant in the Tongass, where logging costs vastly exceed timber revenues and require unconscionable taxpayer subsidies.
Regards, Rosalie TUNSON

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: J.
Last name: Tuomey
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

The Tongass contains some of the largest intact old-growth temperate rainforest in the world, and its value in providing clean water for fish and wildlife habitat is essential to the economic and ecological health of Southeast Alaska. I urge you to keep the federal Roadless Rule intact and current protections in place for national forests in Alaska.

In addition, I strongly object to your plans to reduce and remove protections from our national forests roadless areas. The Roadless Rule is one of the smartest and most popular land management policies the Federal Government has ever adopted. Not only does it preserve some of Americas best fish and wildlife habitat, but it also saves untold millions of taxpayer dollars that might otherwise be spent to subsidize money-losing timber sales. The value of the Roadless Rule in preventing environmentally damaging and economically wasteful road-building and logging is particularly relevant in the Tongass, where logging costs vastly exceed timber revenues and require unconscionable taxpayer subsidies.
Regards, J. Tuomey

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: R.
Last name: Tuomi
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

The Tongass contains some of the largest intact old-growth temperate rainforest in the world, and its value in providing clean water for fish and wildlife habitat is essential to the economic and ecological health of Southeast Alaska. I urge you to keep the federal Roadless Rule intact and current protections in place for national forests in Alaska.

In addition, I strongly object to your plans to reduce and remove protections from our national forests roadless areas. The Roadless Rule is one of the smartest and most popular land management policies the Federal Government has ever adopted. Not only does it preserve some of Americas best fish and wildlife habitat, but it also saves untold millions of taxpayer dollars that might otherwise be spent to subsidize money-losing timber sales. The value of the Roadless Rule in preventing environmentally damaging and economically 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. Tuomi

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: R.G.
Last name: Tuomi
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is R.G. Tuomi and I live in Thousand Oaks, California.

Please leave the forest as it is.

I am writing to express strong opposition to efforts to roll back the Roadless Area Conservation Rule (Roadless Rule) in Alaska or elsewhere. The Roadless Rule was implemented with unprecedented public support to protect some of our nations most pristine public lands, including large parts of the Tongass National Forest. You must choose the No Action alternative. Any other choice would ignore overwhelming public support and harm Alaskans, including Alaska Natives, and taxpayers across the nation.

In Southeast Alaska, tourism accounts for 28% of employment and generate an annual $1 billion in economic benefit, making it far more of an economic driver than the timber industry, which is less than 1% of the regional economy.

Any choice but the No Action alternative would also put wildlife and critical habitat at risk, threaten access to clean water, and be a step in the wrong direction on climate change jeopardizing Alaskans at a time when the state already faces severe challenges related to rising temperatures. I urge you not to abandon the Roadless Rule in Alaska and instead 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.G. Tuomi

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Anthony
Last name: Tupasi
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Anthony Tupasi and I live in San Francisco, California.

Please help our wonderful wildlife in saving these bears

I am writing to express strong opposition to efforts to roll back the Roadless Area Conservation Rule (Roadless Rule) in Alaska or elsewhere. The Roadless Rule was implemented with unprecedented public support to protect some of our nations most pristine public lands, including large parts of the Tongass National Forest. You must choose the No Action alternative. Any other choice would ignore overwhelming public support and harm Alaskans, including Alaska Natives, and taxpayers across the nation.

In Southeast Alaska, tourism accounts for 28% of employment and generate an annual $1 billion in economic benefit, making it far more of an economic driver than the timber industry, which is less than 1% of the regional economy.

Any choice but the No Action alternative would also put wildlife and critical habitat at risk, threaten access to clean water, and be a step in the wrong direction on climate change jeopardizing Alaskans at a time when the state already faces severe challenges related to rising temperatures. I urge you not to abandon the Roadless Rule in Alaska and instead to put the public interest above corporate profits by choosing to keep the rule in place unchanged.

Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Anthony Tupasi

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Robert
Last name: Turano
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

The Tongass contains some of the largest intact old-growth temperate rainforest in the world, and its value in providing clean water for fish and wildlife habitat is essential to the economic and ecological health of Southeast Alaska. I urge you to keep the federal Roadless Rule intact and current protections in place for national forests in Alaska.

In addition, I strongly object to your plans to reduce and remove protections from our national forests roadless areas. The Roadless Rule is one of the smartest and most popular land management policies the Federal Government has ever adopted. Not only does it preserve some of Americas best fish and wildlife habitat, but it also saves untold millions of taxpayer dollars that might otherwise be spent to subsidize money-losing timber sales. The value of the Roadless Rule in preventing environmentally damaging and economically 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 Turano

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Heather
Last name: Turbush
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Heather Turbush and I live in Wading River, 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, Heather Turbush

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Janina
Last name: Turchin
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
STOP STEALING OUR LAND! RENEWABLE ENERGY IS THE FUTURE. CLIMATE CHANGE IS REAL. STOP RUINING OUR HOME!
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.
The Tongass contains some of the largest intact old-growth temperate rainforest in the world, and its value in providing clean water for fish and wildlife habitat is essential to the economic and ecological health of Southeast Alaska. I urge you to keep the federal Roadless Rule intact and current protections in place for national forests in Alaska.
In addition, I strongly object to your plans to reduce and remove protections from our national forests roadless areas. The Roadless Rule is one of the smartest and most popular land management policies the Federal Government has ever adopted. Not only does it preserve some of Americas best fish and wildlife habitat, but it also saves untold millions of taxpayer dollars that might otherwise be spent to subsidize money-losing timber sales. The value of the Roadless Rule in preventing environmentally damaging and economically wasteful road-building and logging is particularly relevant in the Tongass, where logging costs vastly exceed timber revenues and require unconscionable taxpayer subsidies.
Regards, Janina Turchin

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Dennis
Last name: Turco
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- 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, Dennis Turco

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Jill
Last name: Turco
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Jill Turco 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, Jill Turco

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 6:59:34 AM
First name: Laura
Last name: Turcott
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Laura Turcott and I live in Sitka, AK. I was born and raised in Southeast Alaska. My father was and still is a commercial fisherman. When I was a kid our whole family would move onto our 50-foot troller every summer so that we could be together and help out in the industry that supported us throughout the year. 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 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, foraging and gathering wild foods, 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, 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 have a working system right now. Our mostly untouched forests are one of the things that make Alaska special, both for the locals that depend on them and the visitors that come to experience them. Alaskans are connected to and reliant on their environment in a way that few cultures are anymore. If you hurt our habitat, you hurt us.. 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): 11/8/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Elizabeth
Last name: Turecek
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Please uphold the roadless ruling. I recreate in the Tongass and it's pristine and wild nature will be destroyed with a change. Resource finiteness is inevitable and let us preserve the few remaining in tact forests BEFORE we as a country realize this. For us and future generations. Thank you for the opportunity to comment

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Richard
Last name: Turegano
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Richard Turegano and I live in Hayward, California.

Time to do your job and protect the interests of we the 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, Richard Turegano

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/13/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Samantha
Last name: Turetsky
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Samantha Turetsky and I live in Ormond 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, Samantha Turetsky

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Samantha
Last name: Turetsky
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

The Tongass contains some of the largest intact old-growth temperate rainforest in the world, and its value in providing clean water for fish and wildlife habitat is essential to the economic and ecological health of Southeast Alaska. I urge you to keep the federal Roadless Rule intact and current protections in place for national forests in Alaska.

In addition, I strongly object to your plans to reduce and remove protections from our national forests roadless areas. The Roadless Rule is one of the smartest and most popular land management policies the Federal Government has ever adopted. Not only does it preserve some of Americas best fish and wildlife habitat, but it also saves untold millions of taxpayer dollars that might otherwise be spent to subsidize money-losing timber sales. The value of the Roadless Rule in preventing environmentally damaging and economically wasteful road-building and logging is particularly relevant in the Tongass, where logging costs vastly exceed timber revenues and require unconscionable taxpayer subsidies.
Regards, Samantha Turetsky

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Donna
Last name: Turiano
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- 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, Donna Turiano

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Donna
Last name: Turiano
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Donna Turiano and I live in Lake Clarke, 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, Donna Turiano

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/25/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Kimberly
Last name: Turiano
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Kimberly Turiano and I live in Powell, 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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Kimberly Turiano

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Kimberly
Last name: Turiano
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

The Tongass contains some of the largest intact old-growth temperate rainforest in the world, and its value in providing clean water for fish and wildlife habitat is essential to the economic and ecological health of Southeast Alaska. I urge you to keep the federal Roadless Rule intact and current protections in place for national forests in Alaska.

In addition, I strongly object to your plans to reduce and remove protections from our national forests roadless areas. The Roadless Rule is one of the smartest and most popular land management policies the Federal Government has ever adopted. Not only does it preserve some of Americas best fish and wildlife habitat, but it also saves untold millions of taxpayer dollars that might otherwise be spent to subsidize money-losing timber sales. The value of the Roadless Rule in preventing environmentally damaging and economically wasteful road-building and logging is particularly relevant in the Tongass, where logging costs vastly exceed timber revenues and require unconscionable taxpayer subsidies.
Regards, Kimberly Turiano

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Larry
Last name: Turigliatto
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC3364

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,

Larry Turigliatto

Napa, CA 94558

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/25/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Patricia
Last name: Turk
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
The Forest Service loses $30,000,000 each year it logs in the Tongass National Forest. How does it make sense to increase logging and losing more money? Most of the forest is low-quality timber, good for mostly nothing. One thing the forest is good for is producing oxygen, habitat for animals, and salmon streams that help keep the population up. This proposal makes absolutely no sense at all, it seems to be based on nothing but a way to ruin the environment and hatred of the Roadless Rule and its author, President Obama. I urge you to throw this idea into the garbage, the same way Erdogan is said to have thrown Trump's letter telling him not to be a bad guy. This president's unswaying devotion to canceling every good thing that President Obama did because Trump's ego can't stand the fact that he will never, in any manner or way, come anywhere near being the president, the father, the husband and the MAN that President Obama is and always will be. His sick fascination with destroying the legacy of one of the best presidents this country has ever had is dragging our country down and ruining every good thing the United States stands for!

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Ron
Last name: Turk
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Ron Turk and I live in Lyndhurst, 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, Ron Turk

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Donald
Last name: Turken
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
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Regards, Donald Turken

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Donald
Last name: Turken
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Donald Turken and I live in Englewood, Colorado.

The concept is simple, kill the planet and its life is to kill ourselves. no thanks.

I am writing to express strong opposition to efforts to roll back the Roadless Area Conservation Rule (Roadless Rule) in Alaska or elsewhere. The Roadless Rule was implemented with unprecedented public support to protect some of our nations most pristine public lands, including large parts of the Tongass National Forest. You must choose the No Action alternative. Any other choice would ignore overwhelming 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 Turken

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Denise
Last name: Turley
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I would like to see no logging within the Tongass national forest, and certainly no plans to increase lands available to harvest, beyond those which are already impacted. I also am against increasing road building within the Tongass National Forest.
Historically, logging within the Tongass was done at a cost to our nation (I believe I'm right when I say millions of dollars annually) that was paid primarily to overseas companies. We lost our timber. We lost much of our high quality wildlife and fish habitat. We gained some roads and the growth of communities. And some local individuals had challenging lives and were paid for their labor. In my opinion, if our nation wanted to spend millions of dollars per year, it would be better spent supporting communities and individuals directly promoting activities and facilities that did not result in the loss of one of our most valuable assets . . .our wilderness and wildlife. I fail to see the value in supporting overseas companies and countries at a cost of money and natural resources.
I suppose, legally, native lands should continue to be allowed to "harvest" the timber off of their land since my understanding is that it is private property. I would hope that we would discontinue the practice of allowing these corporations to destroy a piece of forest, and then be allowed to "trade" that barren and destroyed clearcut land for a pristine section of wilderness, which they proceed to destroy anew. It blows my mind that this goes on and is in any way legal. I have to think that there is some serious corruption at play.
I'm not sure how many people reading this have seen a "clear cut" in South East Alaska, but I have had to cross many of them in various stages of regrowth for almost 30 years. Typically the clear cut is practically impassable, even to deer, because of the "waste logs" that were cut down and left. The perimeter of the clearcut always has a swath of up to 500 feet or more of blowdown, because the trees in our forests have no taproot (they are growing in a thin soil layer on top of solid rock, typically) and need each other for support during any sort of wind event. While all of the clearcuts that I have seen in SE Alaska are a horrific mess, the ones by native land corporations, that I have personally seen, are by far the worst. I'm not sure why that would be, but it does seem to be the case.
In short, I see no value to our nation in harvesting in the Tongass National Forest. Keeping that ecosystem intact supports fisheries, wildlife, recreation and our world. I would argue that the our nations users that benefit from those aspects, both financially and inherently, of the Tongass, far outweigh the tiny portion who would benefit from logging in the Tongass.

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Leann
Last name: Turley
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Leann Turley and I live in Clearfield, Pennsylvania.

Please save at least one large area of nature from destruction by corporations trying to make a fast buck. It is easy to see repeated trails of destruction behind them, which they refuse to clean up. 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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.

Regards, Leann Turley

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Joy
Last name: Turlo
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Joy Turlo and I live in Redondo 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, Joy Turlo

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Joy
Last name: Turlo
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
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Regards, Joy Turlo

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/10/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Katya
Last name: Turnbow
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Katya Turnbow 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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Any choice but the No Action alternative would also put wildlife and critical habitat at risk, threaten access to clean water, and be a step in the wrong direction on climate change jeopardizing Alaskans at a time when the state already faces severe challenges related to rising temperatures. I urge you not to abandon the Roadless Rule in Alaska and instead to put the public interest above corporate profits by choosing to keep the rule in place unchanged.

Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Katya Turnbow

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Lisa
Last name: Turnbow
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Lisa Turnbow and I live in Daly 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, Lisa Turnbow

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Tim
Last name: Turnbull
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Tongass National Forest

I believe there isn't any reason to open the forest up to logging and that you should stay with option 1.

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Willy
Last name: Turnbull
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Willy Turnbull and I live in Keene, New Hampshire.

We cant replace wilderness! When its gone, its gone forever. Trumps theme: Tear down paradise And put up a parking lot.

I am writing to express strong opposition to efforts to roll back the Roadless Area Conservation Rule (Roadless Rule) in Alaska or elsewhere. The Roadless Rule was implemented with unprecedented public support to protect some of our nations most pristine public lands, including large parts of the Tongass National Forest. You must choose the No Action alternative. Any other choice would ignore overwhelming public support and harm Alaskans, including Alaska Natives, and taxpayers across the nation.

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Thank you for considering my comments.

Regards, Willy Turnbull

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Ann
Last name: Turner
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Ann Turner and I live in Portland, Oregon.

Forests sequester carbon. Our world is on fire. We have no time 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, Ann Turner

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Barbara
Last name: Turner
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

The Tongass contains some of the largest intact old-growth temperate rainforest in the world, and its value in providing clean water for fish and wildlife habitat is essential to the economic and ecological health of Southeast Alaska. I urge you to keep the federal Roadless Rule intact and current protections in place for national forests in Alaska.

In addition, I strongly object to your plans to reduce and remove protections from our national forests roadless areas. The Roadless Rule is one of the smartest and most popular land management policies the Federal Government has ever adopted. Not only does it preserve some of Americas best fish and wildlife habitat, but it also saves untold millions of taxpayer dollars that might otherwise be spent to subsidize money-losing timber sales. The value of the Roadless Rule in preventing environmentally damaging and economically 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 Turner

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Bernadine
Last name: Turner
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Bernadine Turner and I live in Newberry, 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, Bernadine Turner

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/23/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Carolyn
Last name: Turner
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Carolyn Turner and I live in Tucker, 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, Carolyn Turner

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Donna
Last name: Turner
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

The Tongass contains some of the largest intact old-growth temperate rainforest in the world, and its value in providing clean water for fish and wildlife habitat is essential to the economic and ecological health of Southeast Alaska. I urge you to keep the federal Roadless Rule intact and current protections in place for national forests in Alaska.

In addition, I strongly object to your plans to reduce and remove protections from our national forests roadless areas. The Roadless Rule is one of the smartest and most popular land management policies the Federal Government has ever adopted. Not only does it preserve some of Americas best fish and wildlife habitat, but it also saves untold millions of taxpayer dollars that might otherwise be spent to subsidize money-losing timber sales. The value of the Roadless Rule in preventing environmentally damaging and economically 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 Turner

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Douglass
Last name: Turner
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Douglass Turner and I live in Alfred, 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, Douglass Turner

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Jack
Last name: Turner
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

The Tongass contains some of the largest intact old-growth temperate rainforest in the world, and its value in providing clean water for fish and wildlife habitat is essential to the economic and ecological health of Southeast Alaska. I urge you to keep the federal Roadless Rule intact and current protections in place for national forests in Alaska.

In addition, I strongly object to your plans to reduce and remove protections from our national forests roadless areas. The Roadless Rule is one of the smartest and most popular land management policies the Federal Government has ever adopted. Not only does it preserve some of Americas best fish and wildlife habitat, but it also saves untold millions of taxpayer dollars that might otherwise be spent to subsidize money-losing timber sales. The value of the Roadless Rule in preventing environmentally damaging and economically 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 Turner

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/10/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: James
Last name: Turner
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is James Turner and I live in Merritt Island, 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, James Turner

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Jan
Last name: Turner
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

The Tongass contains some of the largest intact old-growth temperate rainforest in the world, and its value in providing clean water for fish and wildlife habitat is essential to the economic and ecological health of Southeast Alaska. I urge you to keep the federal Roadless Rule intact and current protections in place for national forests in Alaska.

In addition, I strongly object to your plans to reduce and remove protections from our national forests roadless areas. The Roadless Rule is one of the smartest and most popular land management policies the Federal Government has ever adopted. Not only does it preserve some of Americas best fish and wildlife habitat, but it also saves untold millions of taxpayer dollars that might otherwise be spent to subsidize money-losing timber sales. The value of the Roadless Rule in preventing environmentally damaging and economically 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 Turner

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/24/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Jane
Last name: Turner
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: Jay
Last name: Turner
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Jay Turner and I live in Port Orange, 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, Jay Turner

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Jessica
Last name: Turner
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Jessica Turner 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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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Jessica Turner

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Joan
Last name: Turner
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Joan Turner and I live in Tigard, 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, Joan Turner

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: John
Last name: Turner
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

The Tongass contains some of the largest intact old-growth temperate rainforest in the world, and its value in providing clean water for fish and wildlife habitat is essential to the economic and ecological health of Southeast Alaska. I urge you to keep the federal Roadless Rule intact and current protections in place for national forests in Alaska.

In addition, I strongly object to your plans to reduce and remove protections from our national forests roadless areas. The Roadless Rule is one of the smartest and most popular land management policies the Federal Government has ever adopted. Not only does it preserve some of Americas best fish and wildlife habitat, but it also saves untold millions of taxpayer dollars that might otherwise be spent to subsidize money-losing timber sales. The value of the Roadless Rule in preventing environmentally damaging and economically 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 Turner

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Joseph
Last name: Turner
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- 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 Turner

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Judith
Last name: TURNER
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Judith TURNER 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, Judith TURNER

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Karen
Last name: Turner
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- 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, Karen Turner

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Kathy
Last name: Turner
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Kathy Turner and I live in Clearfield, 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, Kathy Turner

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/10/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Kristi
Last name: Turner
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Kristi Turner 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, Kristi Turner

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Kyle
Last name: Turner
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: Logan
Last name: Turner
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: Patricia
Last name: Turner
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

The Tongass contains some of the largest intact old-growth temperate rainforest in the world, and its value in providing clean water for fish and wildlife habitat is essential to the economic and ecological health of Southeast Alaska. I urge you to keep the federal Roadless Rule intact and current protections in place for national forests in Alaska.

In addition, I strongly object to your plans to reduce and remove protections from our national forests roadless areas. The Roadless Rule is one of the smartest and most popular land management policies the Federal Government has ever adopted. Not only does it preserve some of Americas best fish and wildlife habitat, but it also saves untold millions of taxpayer dollars that might otherwise be spent to subsidize money-losing timber sales. The value of the Roadless Rule in preventing environmentally damaging and economically 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 Turner

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Paul
Last name: Turner
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

The Tongass contains some of the largest intact old-growth temperate rainforest in the world, and its value in providing clean water for fish and wildlife habitat is essential to the economic and ecological 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, Paul Turner

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Paula
Last name: Turner
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Paula Turner and I live in Sacramento, California.

Please stop the clear cutting of this home to many living creatures.

I am writing to express strong opposition to efforts to roll back the Roadless Area Conservation Rule (Roadless Rule) in Alaska or elsewhere. The Roadless Rule was implemented with unprecedented public support to protect some of our nations most pristine public lands, including large parts of the Tongass National Forest. You must choose the No Action alternative. Any other choice would ignore overwhelming public support and harm Alaskans, including Alaska Natives, and taxpayers across the nation.

In Southeast Alaska, tourism accounts for 28% of employment and generate an annual $1 billion in economic benefit, making it far more of an economic driver than the timber industry, which is less than 1% of the regional economy.

Any choice but the No Action alternative would also put wildlife and critical habitat at risk, threaten access to clean water, and be a step in the wrong direction on climate change jeopardizing Alaskans at a time when the state already faces severe challenges related to rising temperatures. I urge you not to abandon the Roadless Rule in Alaska and instead 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 Turner

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Peter
Last name: Turner
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

The Tongass contains some of the largest intact old-growth temperate rainforest in the world, and its value in providing clean water for fish and wildlife habitat is essential to the economic and ecological health of Southeast Alaska. I urge you to keep the federal Roadless Rule intact and current protections in place for national forests in Alaska.

In addition, I strongly object to your plans to reduce and remove protections from our national forests roadless areas. The Roadless Rule is one of the smartest and most popular land management policies the Federal Government has ever adopted. Not only does it preserve some of Americas best fish and wildlife habitat, but it also saves untold millions of taxpayer dollars that might otherwise be spent to subsidize money-losing timber sales. The value of the Roadless Rule in preventing environmentally damaging and economically 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 Turner

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: RD
Last name: Turner
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

The Tongass contains some of the largest intact old-growth temperate rainforest in the world, and its value in providing clean water for fish and wildlife habitat is essential to the economic and ecological 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, RD Turner

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: RD
Last name: Turner
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- 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, RD Turner

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Richard
Last name: Turner
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

The Tongass contains some of the largest intact old-growth temperate rainforest in the world, and its value in providing clean water for fish and wildlife habitat is essential to the economic and ecological health of Southeast Alaska. I urge you to keep the federal Roadless Rule intact and current protections in place for national forests in Alaska.

In addition, I strongly object to your plans to reduce and remove protections from our national forests roadless areas. The Roadless Rule is one of the smartest and most popular land management policies the Federal Government has ever adopted. Not only does it preserve some of Americas best fish and wildlife habitat, but it also saves untold millions of taxpayer dollars that might otherwise be spent to subsidize money-losing timber sales. The value of the Roadless Rule in preventing environmentally damaging and economically 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 Turner

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: ROBERT
Last name: TURNER
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is ROBERT TURNER and I live in Seattle, Washington.

Please consider protecting the Tongass National Forest from exploitation for private 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, ROBERT TURNER

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Sharon
Last name: Turner
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- 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 Turner

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Sharon
Last name: Turner
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
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Regards, Sharon Turner

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Sharon
Last name: Turner
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
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Regards, Sharon Turner

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Sherri
Last name: Turner
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Sherri Turner and I live in Newport Beach, California.

This is Sherri Turner from Newport Beach California. We need to protect our environment!! Our planet wont last forever if we keep putting profit before saving our Earth! Do the right thing and STOP putting profit before 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, Sherri Turner

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/11/2019 10:17:52 AM
First name: Shiloh
Last name: Turner
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Shiloh Turner and I live in Fairbanks, Alaska. test 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, foraging for wild foods, the peace and solitude I find in nature, recreating, 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 deer habitat and subsistence hunting, foraging and gathering wild foods, practicing my culture, carbon sequestration and local climate change mitigation, viewing wildlife. 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, the northern mainland above Port Snettisham (around Juneau), 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 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, hydroelectric development, intertie and transmission line construction . 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 test. 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): 11/6/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Shiloh
Last name: Turner
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Shiloh Turner and I live in Fairbanks, 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.

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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,. 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,. 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: Steve
Last name: Turner
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC3432

U.S. Forest Service Alaska Roadless Rule Committee:

I love salmon. I believe management methods exist where the harvesting of timber is possible while maintaining the habitat needed to sustain our wildlife.

Sincerely,

Steve Turner

Kenai, AK 99611

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/12/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Steve
Last name: Turner
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I do not support 'No Action' alternative: Conserve the Roadless Rule in Alaska

Dear Comment Period Alaska Roadless Rule,

I believe the timber resources can be developed while providing the preservation of other resources.

Sincerely,

Steve Turner

Kenai, AK 99611

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Steve
Last name: Turner
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC5589

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): 11/17/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Terri
Last name: Turner
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Terri Turner and I live in Prosper, 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, Terri Turner

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: THOMAS
Last name: TURNER
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

The Tongass contains some of the largest intact old-growth temperate rainforest in the world, and its value in providing clean water for fish and wildlife habitat is essential to the economic and ecological health of Southeast Alaska. I urge you to keep the federal Roadless Rule intact and current protections in place for national forests in Alaska.

In addition, I strongly object to your plans to reduce and remove protections from our national forests roadless areas. The Roadless Rule is one of the smartest and most popular land management policies the Federal Government has ever adopted. Not only does it preserve some of Americas best fish and wildlife habitat, but it also saves untold millions of taxpayer dollars that might otherwise be spent to subsidize money-losing timber sales. The value of the Roadless Rule in preventing environmentally damaging and economically 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 TURNER

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/1/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Torrick
Last name: Turner
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: Traci
Last name: Turner
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Traci Turner and I live in Boston, Massachusetts.

We must stop putting corporations and profits over what is 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, Traci Turner

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Vicki
Last name: Turner
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

The Tongass contains some of the largest intact old-growth temperate rainforest in the world, and its value in providing clean water for fish and wildlife habitat is essential to the economic and ecological health of Southeast Alaska. I urge you to keep the federal Roadless Rule intact and current protections in place for national forests in Alaska.

In addition, I strongly object to your plans to reduce and remove protections from our national forests roadless areas. The Roadless Rule is one of the smartest and most popular land management policies the Federal Government has ever adopted. Not only does it preserve some of Americas best fish and wildlife habitat, but it also saves untold millions of taxpayer dollars that might otherwise be spent to subsidize money-losing timber sales. The value of the Roadless Rule in preventing environmentally damaging and economically 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 Turner

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Vicki
Last name: Turner
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

The Tongass contains some of the largest intact old-growth temperate rainforest in the world, and its value in providing clean water for fish and wildlife habitat is essential to the economic and ecological health of Southeast Alaska. I urge you to keep the federal Roadless Rule intact and current protections in place for national forests in Alaska.

In addition, I strongly object to your plans to reduce and remove protections from our national forests roadless areas. The Roadless Rule is one of the smartest and most popular land management policies the Federal Government has ever adopted. Not only does it preserve some of Americas best fish and wildlife habitat, but it also saves untold millions of taxpayer dollars that might otherwise be spent to subsidize money-losing timber sales. The value of the Roadless Rule in preventing environmentally damaging and economically 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 Turner

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: TAMMI
Last name: TURNER-FRANKLIN
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is TAMMI TURNER-FRANKLIN and I live in Issaquah, 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, TAMMI TURNER-FRANKLIN

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: David
Last name: Turnoy
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is David Turnoy and I live in Eastsound, Washington.

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, David Turnoy

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Ilya
Last name: Turo
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Ilya Turo 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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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Ilya Turo

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Martha
Last name: Turobiner
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Martha Turobiner and I live in Scottsdale, 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, Martha Turobiner

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Joan
Last name: Turpin
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Joan Turpin and I live in Taylorsville, Utah.

After reading countless articles and reports on this proposed idea to rollback the roadless rules I am convinced that it would be a very bad idea for the environment and even worse for the wildlife in these areas that would be accessible if the rules are changed. These pristine areas are a big draw for tourists and a god send for the wildlife we are decimating in the lower 48 states and we don't need to change that for the worse, we need to work even harder to protect these places so we don't lose them forever. Stop the madness, NO roads!

I am writing to express strong opposition to efforts to roll back the Roadless Area Conservation Rule (Roadless Rule) in Alaska or elsewhere. The Roadless Rule was implemented with unprecedented public support to protect some of our nations most pristine public lands, including large parts of the Tongass National Forest. You must choose the No Action alternative. Any other choice would ignore overwhelming 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 Turpin

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Todd
Last name: Turrel
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Todd Turrel and I live in Petaluma, 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, Todd Turrel

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Robert
Last name: Turski
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Robert Turski and I live in Sebastian, 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 Turski

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/10/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Michele
Last name: Tusinac
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Michele Tusinac 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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Michele Tusinac

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Carol
Last name: Tuskey
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

The Tongass contains some of the largest intact old-growth temperate rainforest in the world, and its value in providing clean water for fish and wildlife habitat is essential to the economic and ecological health of Southeast Alaska. I urge you to keep the federal Roadless Rule intact and current protections in place for national forests in Alaska.

In addition, I strongly object to your plans to reduce and remove protections from our national forests roadless areas. The Roadless Rule is one of the smartest and most popular land management policies the Federal Government has ever adopted. Not only does it preserve some of Americas best fish and wildlife habitat, but it also saves untold millions of taxpayer dollars that might otherwise be spent to subsidize money-losing timber sales. The value of the Roadless Rule in preventing environmentally damaging and economically 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 Tuskey

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/11/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: John
Last name: Tusvik
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
i strongly object to the roadless rule being suspended in Tongass National Forest. We need every tree on this planet to fight global warming and sequester as much carbon as possible. How are we to ask other nations to stop deforestation if we do not stop it ourselves?

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: SHAWN
Last name: TUTHILL
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is SHAWN TUTHILL and I live in Mountlake Terrace, 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, SHAWN TUTHILL

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/21/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Douglas
Last name: Tuttle
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
This just seemed a bit, insane. Not just from the ecological standpoint, but the economical standpoint. Let's see we have lost more that $66 million, from opening territory. Let's open even more because surely something is different, NOT.

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Judy
Last name: Tuttle
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

The Tongass contains some of the largest intact old-growth temperate rainforest in the world, and its value in providing clean water for fish and wildlife habitat is essential to the economic and ecological health of Southeast Alaska. I urge you to keep the federal Roadless Rule intact and current protections in place for national forests in Alaska.

In addition, I strongly object to your plans to reduce and remove protections from our national forests roadless areas. The Roadless Rule is one of the smartest and most popular land management policies the Federal Government has ever adopted. Not only does it preserve some of Americas best fish and wildlife habitat, but it also saves untold millions of taxpayer dollars that might otherwise be spent to subsidize money-losing timber sales. The value of the Roadless Rule in preventing environmentally damaging and economically wasteful road-building and logging is particularly relevant in the Tongass, where logging costs vastly exceed timber revenues and require unconscionable taxpayer subsidies.
Regards, Judy Tuttle

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Steven
Last name: Tuttle
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

The Tongass contains some of the largest intact old-growth temperate rainforest in the world, and its value in providing clean water for fish and wildlife habitat is essential to the economic and ecological health of Southeast Alaska. I urge you to keep the federal Roadless Rule intact and current protections in place for national forests in Alaska.

In addition, I strongly object to your plans to reduce and remove protections from our national forests roadless areas. The Roadless Rule is one of the smartest and most popular land management policies the Federal Government has ever adopted. Not only does it preserve some of Americas best fish and wildlife habitat, but it also saves untold millions of taxpayer dollars that might otherwise be spent to subsidize money-losing timber sales. The value of the Roadless Rule in preventing environmentally damaging and economically 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 Tuttle

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/18/2019 4:46:09 PM
First name: Tamara
Last name: Tuttle
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,
Tamara Tuttle
San Diego, CA 92102

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/11/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Tamara
Last name: Tuttle
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Tamara Tuttle 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, Tamara Tuttle

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Carol
Last name: Tuveson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Carol Tuveson and I live in Durham, 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, Carol Tuveson

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/20/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Wes
Last name: Tuveson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Please please do not consider this beautiful place for logging! Our poor earth is going through a lot of trouble right now with the melting of the glaciers all the wild fires and tornadoes! With the Amazon burning that was a huge portion of our oxygen we cannot have anymore of it taken away! Wes Tuveson

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Denis
Last name: Tuzinoviz
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: Denis Tuzinovic

Address: [redacted]

City:

Email:

Phone:

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

99802-162828

Wenda Berry

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Natascha
Last name: Tuznik
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Natascha Tuznik and I live in West Sacramento, 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, Natascha Tuznik

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/10/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Cheryl
Last name: Twaddell
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Cheryl Twaddell and I live in Woodland Park, 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, Cheryl Twaddell

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/30/2019 4:00:00 PM
First name: Matt
Last name: Twaddle
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: Barbara
Last name: Twardowski
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Barbara Twardowski 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.

Any choice but the No Action alternative would also put wildlife and critical habitat at risk, threaten access to clean water, and be a step in the wrong direction on climate change jeopardizing Alaskans at a time when the state already faces severe challenges related to rising temperatures. I urge you not to abandon the Roadless Rule in Alaska and instead 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 Twardowski

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Jeanne
Last name: Tweedy
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Jeanne Tweedy 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, Jeanne Tweedy

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Jeanne
Last name: Tweedy
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

The Tongass contains some of the largest intact old-growth temperate rainforest in the world, and its value in providing clean water for fish and wildlife habitat is essential to the economic and ecological health of Southeast Alaska. I urge you to keep the federal Roadless Rule intact and current protections in place for national forests in Alaska.

In addition, I strongly object to your plans to reduce and remove protections from our national forests roadless areas. The Roadless Rule is one of the smartest and most popular land management policies the Federal Government has ever adopted. Not only does it preserve some of Americas best fish and wildlife habitat, but it also saves untold millions of taxpayer dollars that might otherwise be spent to subsidize money-losing timber sales. The value of the Roadless Rule in preventing environmentally damaging and economically 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 Tweedy

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/19/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Julie
Last name: Twichell
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
As an urban dweller I have treasured the opportunity to visit the forests of Alaska. The Tongass National forest is a natural gem that is critical in protecting breathable air and the indigenous people who live there. Without it our experience, and that of future generations, is forever changed.

Please protect the Roadless Rule! Listen to what the public overwhelmingly supports and not to the corporations who want to destroy our forests.

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/20/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Kristina
Last name: Twigg
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I urge the U.S. Forest Service to uphold the roadless rule, adopted with overwhelming public support, and to protect the Tongass National Forest from additional logging and development. The wealth of this area lies in the ecosystem services it provides (clean water, subsistence resources, carbon sequestration, and many others) as well as its recreational value for hiking, hunting, and fishing, which support many local jobs. The Tongass National Forest is an extremely important habitat for bears, moose, and numerous other species, including salmon that are vital to the regions economy.

The Tongass is one of the most pristine old-growth forests in the world and the countrys largest national forest. Stripping protections from it would irreparably damage the ecosystems and local economy it supports.

This plan doesnt make sense from a national economic perspective either. A report from Taxpayers for Common Sense shows that the Forest Service has historically lost money, an average of $20 million per year over the last decade, conducting timber sales in the Tongass.

This plan is bad news for Alaskas environment, the states economy, and for all of us American taxpayers. Again, I urge the U.S. Forest Service to uphold the roadless rule and conserve key areas of the Tongass National Forest.

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Beasley
Last name: Twigs
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Beasley Twigs and I live in Atlanta, 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, Beasley Twigs

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Mary
Last name: Twinem
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

The Tongass contains some of the largest intact old-growth temperate rainforest in the world, and its value in providing clean water for fish and wildlife habitat is essential to the economic and ecological health of Southeast Alaska. I urge you to keep the federal Roadless Rule intact and current protections in place for national forests in Alaska.

In addition, I strongly object to your plans to reduce and remove protections from our national forests roadless areas. The Roadless Rule is one of the smartest and most popular land management policies the Federal Government has ever adopted. Not only does it preserve some of Americas best fish and wildlife habitat, but it also saves untold millions of taxpayer dollars that might otherwise be spent to subsidize money-losing timber sales. The value of the Roadless Rule in preventing environmentally damaging and economically 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 Twinem

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/12/2019 5:01:06 PM
First name: Blossom
Last name: Twitchell
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Blossom Twitchell and I live in Sitka, Alaska. I have lived on Baranof Island for over 24 years. I am a mother of three children, who also enjoy the Tongass National Forest. 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, 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 fishing.

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, 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 central mainland from Hobart Bay to Stikine River, Kupreanof Island, Wrangell and Etolin Islands, 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 The full exemption does not serve our best interests, impart to the losses out weighting the projected gains. It will jeopardize our way of life and the nature that we depend on.. 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 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): 11/8/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Jane
Last name: Twitmyer
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Jane Twitmyer and I live in Roseland, Virginia.

Curbing methane offers a unique opportunity to thwart climate change. The first 15 years it is in the atmosphere it is 85 times more destructive than CO2. Strengthen, don't weaken methane standards

I am writing to express strong opposition to efforts to roll back the Roadless Area Conservation Rule (Roadless Rule) in Alaska or elsewhere. The Roadless Rule was implemented with unprecedented public support to protect some of our nations most pristine public lands, including large parts of the Tongass National Forest.

In Southeast Alaska, tourism accounts for 28% of employment and generate an annual $1 billion in economic benefit, making it far more of an economic driver than the timber industry, which is less than 1% of the regional economy.

Any choice except the No Action alternative will put wildlife and critical habitat at risk, threaten access to clean water, and be a step in the wrong direction on climate change jeopardizing Alaskans at a time when the state already faces severe challenges related to rising temperatures.

I urge you maintain the Roadless Rule in Alaska. The public interest must take preference over corporate profits. Keep the rule in place unchanged.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Regards, Jane Twitmyer

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/14/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Glen
Last name: Twombly
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Glen Twombly and I live in Arcata, 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, Glen Twombly

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: James
Last name: Twomey
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

The Tongass contains some of the largest intact old-growth temperate rainforest in the world, and its value in providing clean water for fish and wildlife habitat is essential to the economic and ecological health of Southeast Alaska. I urge you to keep the federal Roadless Rule intact and current protections in place for national forests in Alaska.

In addition, I strongly object to your plans to reduce and remove protections from our national forests roadless areas. The Roadless Rule is one of the smartest and most popular land management policies the Federal Government has ever adopted. Not only does it preserve some of Americas best fish and wildlife habitat, but it also saves untold millions of taxpayer dollars that might otherwise be spent to subsidize money-losing timber sales. The value of the Roadless Rule in preventing environmentally damaging and economically 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 Twomey

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Matthew
Last name: Twomey
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Matthew Twomey and I live in El Paso, Texas.

Who truly benefits from clear-cutting forests other than logging concerns?

I am writing to express strong opposition to efforts to roll back the Roadless Area Conservation Rule (Roadless Rule) in Alaska or elsewhere. The Roadless Rule was implemented with unprecedented public support to protect some of our nations most pristine public lands, including large parts of the Tongass National Forest. You must choose the No Action alternative. Any other choice would ignore overwhelming public support and harm Alaskans, including Alaska Natives, and taxpayers across the nation.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Matthew Twomey

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/10/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Patrick
Last name: Twomey
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Patrick Twomey 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, Patrick Twomey

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Jessica
Last name: Twydell
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC659

Dear Secretary Perdue,

I live and work in the middle of the Tongass National Forest. Do not exempt Alaska from the Roadless Rule because our ecosystem is so unique! How many places in the world can you hike, ski, and surf all in the same day? Once roads get built we'll never be able to restore our Tongass to its original form. Please help us preserve this magical land for years to come!

-Jessica Twydell

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Ann
Last name: Tyler
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC5517

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,

Ann Tyler

Ketchikan, AK 99901

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): 11/26/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Bryce
Last name: Tyler
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC313

11/14/2019

My name is Bryce Tyler. I work for Icy Straits Lumber. I would like to see a full exemption from the 2001 Roadless Rule on the Tongass. Everyone in Hoonah relies on Forest Service roads for hunting and gathering. We would not have these opportunities without logging in the past and these roads built. Trees grow back. The Tongass is a national forest not a privately owned forest of a tribe or people. I am an American citizen who would like to see this multi-purpose forest put to use. The Forest Service is capable of balancing economics and environment. Everyone in Hoonah that uses firewood has the Forest Service to thank and their roads and the will if they get firewood from there.

Thank you,

Bryce

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: John
Last name: Tyler
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is John Tyler and I live in Ashland, Oregon.

Clear cutting leads to damaging erosion of the topsoil. When the forest is replanted it grows uniformly, which creates conditions for catastrophic fires. We must cease clear-cutting 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, John Tyler

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/3/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Jonathan
Last name: Tyler
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: Melissa
Last name: Tyler
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

The Tongass contains some of the largest intact old-growth temperate rainforest in the world, and its value in providing clean water for fish and wildlife habitat is essential to the economic and ecological health of Southeast Alaska. I urge you to keep the federal Roadless Rule intact and current protections in place for national forests in Alaska.

In addition, I strongly object to your plans to reduce and remove protections from our national forests roadless areas. The Roadless Rule is one of the smartest and most popular land management policies the Federal Government has ever adopted. Not only does it preserve some of Americas best fish and wildlife habitat, but it also saves untold millions of taxpayer dollars that might otherwise be spent to subsidize money-losing timber sales. The value of the Roadless Rule in preventing environmentally damaging and economically wasteful road-building and logging is particularly relevant in the Tongass, where logging costs vastly exceed timber revenues and require unconscionable taxpayer subsidies.
Regards, Melissa Tyler

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/12/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: WES
Last name: TYLER
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
ICY STRAITS LUMBER & MILLING INC.December 9, 2019

The Honorable Sonny PerdueSec US Department of Agriculture

Re: PLEASE EXEMPT THE TONGASS FROM THE ROADLESS RULE!

My name is Wes Tyler and I live in Hoonah and presently work on Chichagof Island.

I have been working in the Tongass National Forest since 1967, over 50 years in the timber industry.I have been actively in the woods every year and have witnessed what actually takes place on the ground in areas that we have worked in.

My wife and I have raised our two sons in the logging camps we were stationed in and have used the Tongass for hunting, fishing, gathering, sightseeing, camping and touring visitors.

The Tongass has not been degraded because of roads or timber harvesting. In fact, the roads and harvesting (multiple use) have improved the ability of the American people and others to enjoy the Tongass. Anyone can access roaded places in the Tongass that were previously inaccessible without a prohibitive cost.

I am not aware of places where Fisheries have been adversely impacted because of roads or harvesting. Salmon habitat has been protected for many years in and around federal lands. All salmon runs are more effected by game regulations (good or bad) and by Acts of God that are totally out of anyone's control.

I am not aware of game shortages related to roadbuilding and harvesting. Every location we harvested in has more game today than it had when we entered an area. More deer, more bear, more of everything. The cycles of life that effect game the most are, again, regulations (good or bad) and Acts of God. Who among us can control a drought year? Who among us can control a wet year?

The current push to create forest products from "young growth" wood is not sustainable much less profitable. Acres of timber land harvested from the 1960's and onward, in reality, need to grow for another 50 years. Timber land rotation should be 120 years instead of 60 years. Short rotation cycles in the Tongass will result in very low grade wood fibre.

Our family has operated Icy Straits Lumber for the past 16 years in Hoonah. We worked long and hard to produce high value added products that will make it to regional markets. Young growth is too young. It remains that selected tree harvesting from old growth is the only way to produce high value added products in our region. A few middle grade products can come from young growth but will not sustain an operation like ours.

Future generations will need to access portions of the forest that are not already accessed. A few new roads here and there would greatly help the survival of small operations like Icy Straits Lumber and the people they employ.

The Tongass had layers of restrictions on it before the Roadless Rule was imposed. Effects from exempting the Tongass from the Roadless will hardly be noticed from any realistic perspective. Restrictions already in place keep activities in check or subject to intensive review.

We, the people that live and work productively in the Tongass, need the freedom to access and utilize portions of the Tongass that are negatively impacted by the full blown Roadless Rule. In so doing, no harm is done to the great land we live in.

Please EXEMPT the Tongass from the Roadless Rule!

Sincerely,

Wes Tyler

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Wes
Last name: Tyler
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Roadless Rule Letter

Thank you,

Susan Tyler

Hoonah, AK 99829

The following text was copy/pasted from an attached letter. The system display the formatting, graphics, or tables from the attached original.

December 16, 2019

The Honorable Sonny Perdue

Sec US Department of Agriculture

1400 Independence Ave., SW

Washington, D.C. 20250

Re: PLEASE EXEMPT THE TONGASS FROM THE ROADLESS RULE

We have lived and worked in the Tongass National Forest for 49 years. During that time period, we have seen many changes which has greatly hurt the economy of Alaska, especially SE Alaska when it comes to regulations. There is so much propaganda being spread by organizations that do not know the facts on how to properly manage the great land base of Alaska. They simply want to shut down any kind of much needed industry that creates jobs.

If one looks back 40-50 years, the logged off areas are much healthier due to management. Proper management of the land creates jobs, contributing to local economies, revenue for schools, businesses, and the list goes on. Such a small piece of the Tongass was ever destined for development.

To say that, the infrastructure of logging is gone so there will be no real revival of large logging operations for the green movement to worry about, but the [ldquo]Roadless Rule[rdquo] will eliminate the expansion of tourism into more areas people would love to explore, alongside other infrastructure that could bring badly needed jobs into Alaska! There are already an abundance of areas of Alaska that can[rsquo]t be developed due to other regulations, so the small amount of land the Roadless Rule would actually apply to should be left alone and be exempted from the Roadless Rule!

As logging diminished new jobs were created by road systems developed during the logging days, opening the forest for tourism which has given many more a chance to see the forest, hike, hunt, camp, fish, access to view wildlife and a part of Alaska they could never get to if there were no roads. So much of Alaska will never be developed, so why not let people experience this great land while properly managing the forest and any area a [ldquo]Roadless Rule[rdquo] would limit people from accessing for pleasure or subsistence.

We have always believed a well-managed forest is a healthier forest, and if one looks back on how logged areas in Alaska have rejuvenated, they will realize proper management is the key to a long term healthier forest that benefits everyone for generations to come!

Please exempt the Tongass from the Roadless Rule, as it should not apply to Alaska!

Thank you,

Susan Tyler

Hoonah, Alaska 99829

[Position]

December 16, 2019

The Honorable Sonny Perdue

Sec US Department of Agriculture

1400 Independence Ave., SW

Washington, D.C. 20250

Re: PLEASE EXEMPT THE TONGASS FROM THE ROADLESS RULE

We have lived and worked in the Tongass National Forest for 49 years. During that time period, we have seen many changes which has greatly hurt the economy of Alaska, especially SE Alaska when it comes to regulations. There is so much propaganda being spread by organizations that do not know the facts on how to properly manage the great land base of Alaska. They simply want to shut down any kind of much needed industry that creates jobs.

If one looks back 40-50 years, the logged off areas are much healthier due to management. Proper management of the land creates jobs, contributing to local economies, revenue for schools, businesses, and the list goes on. Such a small piece of the Tongass was ever destined for development.

To say that, the infrastructure of logging is gone so there will be no real revival of large logging operations for the green movement to worry about, but the "Roadless Rule" will eliminate the expansion of tourism into more areas people would love to explore, alongside other infrastructure that could bring badly needed jobs into Alaska! There are already an abundance of areas of Alaska that can't be developed due to other regulations, so the small amount of land the Roadless Rule would actually apply to should be left alone and be exempted from the Roadless Rule!

As logging diminished new jobs were created by road systems developed during the logging days, opening the forest for tourism which has given many more a chance to see the forest, hike, hunt, camp, fish, access to view wildlife and a part of Alaska they could never get to if there were no roads. So much of Alaska will never be developed, so why not let people experience this great land while properly managing the forest and any area a "Roadless Rule" would limit people from accessing for pleasure or subsistence.

We have always believed a well-managed forest is a healthier forest, and if one looks back on how logged areas in Alaska have rejuvenated, they will realize proper management is the key to a long term healthier forest that benefits everyone for generations to come!

Please exempt the Tongass from the Roadless Rule, as it should not apply to Alaska!

Thank you,

Susan Tyler

PO Box 370

Hoonah, Alaska 99829

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Wesley
Last name: Tyler
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Wesley Tyler and I live in Painesville, 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, Wesley Tyler

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 1/1/0001 12:00:00 AM
First name: Wesley
Last name: Tyler
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC5049

ICY STRAITS LUMER & MILLING INC.
[Address]
HOONAH, AK 99829
[Phone number]

December 9, 2019

The Honerable Sonny Perdue
Sec US Department of Agricultre
[Address]
Washington D.C. 20250

Re: PLEASE EXEMPT THE TONGASS FROM THE ROASLESS RULE!

My name is Wes Tyler and i live in Hoonah and presently work on Chchagof Island.

I have been working in the Tongass National Forest since 1967, over 50 years in the timber industry.

I have been actively in the woods every year and have witnessed what actually takes place on the ground in areas that we have worked in.

My wife and I have riased our two sons in the logging camps we were stationed in and have used the Tongass for hunting, fishing, gathering, sightseeing, camping and touring visitors.

The Tongass has not been degraded because of roads or timber harvesting. In fact, the roads and harvesting (mulitple use) have improved the ability of the American people and others to enjoy the Tongass. Anyone can access roaded places in the Tongass that were previously inaccessible without a prohibitive cost.

I am not aware of places were Fisheries have be adversely impacted becuase of roads or harvesting. Salmon habitat has been protected for many years in and around federal lands. All salmon runs are more effected by game regulations 9good or bad0 and by Acts of God that are totally out of anyone's control.

I am not aware of game shortages related to roadbuilding and harvesting. Every location we harvested in has more game today than it had when we entered an area. More deer, more bear, more of everything. The cycles of life that effect game the more are, again, regulations 9good or bad0 and Acts of God. Who among us can control a drought year? Who among us can control a wet year?

The current push to create forest products from "younger growth" woods in not sustainable much less profitable. Acres of timber land harvested from the 1960's and onward, in reality, need to grow for another 50 years. Timber land rotation should be 120 years instead of 60 years. Short rotation cycles in the Tongass will result in very low grade wood fibre.

Our family has operated Icy Straits Lumber for the past 16 years in Hoonah. We worked long and hard to produce high value added products that will make it to regional markets. Young growth is the only way to produce high value added products in our region. A few middle grade products can come from young growth but will not sustain an operation like ours.

Future generations will need to access portions of the forest that are not already accessed. A few new roads here and there would greatly help the survival of small operations like Icy Striats Lumber and the people they employ.

The Tongass had layers of restrictions on it before the Roadless Rule was imposed. Effects from exemptiong the tongass from the Roadless will hardly be noticed from any realistic perspective. Restrictions already in place keep activities in check or subject to intensive review.

We, the people that live and work productively in the Tongass, need the freedom to access and utilize portions of the Tongass that are negatively impacted by the full blown Roadless Rule. In so doing, no hard in done to the great land we live in.

Please EXEMPT the Tongass from the Roadless Rule!

Sincerely,

[Signiture]

Wes Tyler

[Address]
Hoonah, Alaska 99829
[email]

owner
Icy Straits Lumber & Milling, Inc.

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Slawomir
Last name: Tylutki
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

The Tongass contains some of the largest intact old-growth temperate rainforest in the world, and its value in providing clean water for fish and wildlife habitat is essential to the economic and ecological health of Southeast Alaska. I urge you to keep the federal Roadless Rule intact and current protections in place for national forests in Alaska.

In addition, I strongly object to your plans to reduce and remove protections from our national forests roadless areas. The Roadless Rule is one of the smartest and most popular land management policies the Federal Government has ever adopted. Not only does it preserve some of Americas best fish and wildlife habitat, but it also saves untold millions of taxpayer dollars that might otherwise be spent to subsidize money-losing timber sales. The value of the Roadless Rule in preventing environmentally damaging and economically wasteful road-building and logging is particularly relevant in the Tongass, where logging costs vastly exceed timber revenues and require unconscionable taxpayer subsidies.
Regards, Slawomir Tylutki

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/23/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Liz
Last name: Tymkiw
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Liz Tymkiw and I live in Newark, Delaware.

It is insanity to weaken regulations like these in the face of 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, Liz Tymkiw

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/17/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: carl
Last name: tyndall
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is carl tyndall and I live in Brooklyn, New York.

Why aren't we doing more to protect are precious 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, carl tyndall

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Linda
Last name: Tyndall
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Linda Tyndall and I live in Lumberton, North Carolina.

Please open your eyes and see more than dollar signs for you are helping to destroy the very thing we need to continue to survive, how smart is 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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.

Regards, Linda Tyndall

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Paula
Last name: Tyner
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Paula Tyner and I live in Port Orchard, Washington.

Stop the destruction of our 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, Paula Tyner

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/14/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Marjut
Last name: tynkkynen
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Marjut tynkkynen and I live in Karkkila, [@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.

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Thank you for considering my comments.
Regards, Marjut tynkkynen

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/9/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Patricia
Last name: Tyra
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Patricia Tyra and I live in Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

The proposed action is totally unfair to all Americans!

I am writing to express strong opposition to efforts to roll back the Roadless Area Conservation Rule (Roadless Rule) in Alaska or elsewhere. The Roadless Rule was implemented with unprecedented public support to protect some of our nations most pristine public lands, including large parts of the Tongass National Forest. You must choose the No Action alternative. Any other choice would ignore overwhelming 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 Tyra

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Chris
Last name: Tyran
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC3758

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,

Chris Tyran

Chattaroy, WA 99003

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/17/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Meg
Last name: Tyrawa
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Meg Tyrawa and I live in Seminole, 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, Meg Tyrawa

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: JOAN
Last name: TYREE
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC3870

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,

JOAN TYREE

Philadelphia, PA 19141

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: David
Last name: Tyrell
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

The Tongass contains some of the largest intact old-growth temperate rainforest in the world, and its value in providing clean water for fish and wildlife habitat is essential to the economic and ecological health of Southeast Alaska. I urge you to keep the federal Roadless Rule intact and current protections in place for national forests in Alaska.

In addition, I strongly object to your plans to reduce and remove protections from our national forests roadless areas. The Roadless Rule is one of the smartest and most popular land management policies the Federal Government has ever adopted. Not only does it preserve some of Americas best fish and wildlife habitat, but it also saves untold millions of taxpayer dollars that might otherwise be spent to subsidize money-losing timber sales. The value of the Roadless Rule in preventing environmentally damaging and economically 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 Tyrell

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/12/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Erica
Last name: Tyron
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Erica Tyron and I live in Claremont, 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, Erica Tyron

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/8/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Kathleen
Last name: Tyson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Kathleen Tyson and I live in Riverside, California.

While growing up my parents and my four siblings had the opportunity to visit many of the national parks in the United States that is when I learned to,respect all manner of life be it our ethereal landscapes or our wild animal individuals though I have never the opportunity to see this magnificent place I feel it wI'll be a travesty to destroy any part of its beauty.

I am writing to express strong opposition to efforts to roll back the Roadless Area Conservation Rule (Roadless Rule) in Alaska or elsewhere. The Roadless Rule was implemented with unprecedented public support to protect some of our nations most pristine public lands, including large parts of the Tongass National Forest. You must choose the No Action 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, Kathleen Tyson

[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: Keith
Last name: Tyson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

The Tongass contains some of the largest intact old-growth temperate rainforest in the world, and its value in providing clean water for fish and wildlife habitat is essential to the economic and ecological health of Southeast Alaska. I urge you to keep the federal Roadless Rule intact and current protections in place for national forests in Alaska.

In addition, I strongly object to your plans to reduce and remove protections from our national forests roadless areas. The Roadless Rule is one of the smartest and most popular land management policies the Federal Government has ever adopted. Not only does it preserve some of Americas best fish and wildlife habitat, but it also saves untold millions of taxpayer dollars that might otherwise be spent to subsidize money-losing timber sales. The value of the Roadless Rule in preventing environmentally damaging and economically wasteful road-building and logging is particularly relevant in the Tongass, where logging costs vastly exceed timber revenues and require unconscionable taxpayer subsidies.
Regards, Keith Tyson

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: Sheri
Last name: Tyson
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
HC6331

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]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: John
Last name: Tyszkiewicz
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I Choose Alternative One

Good morning, I choose Alternative One - I do not want renewed road building or logging in the Tongass National Forest. These giant, ancient trees are important for the planet in terms of carbon storage, the roads would damage the salmon fishery, and the 1,000 year old trees cannot be replaced once they are gone.

--

John Tyszkiewicz

Virginia Tech '13

Civil and Environmental Engineering

Green Engineering Minor

Recruitment/Fundraising Chairperson - Virginia Tech Environmental Coalition

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM
First name: John
Last name: Tyszkiewicz
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
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[Position]

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Organization:
Title:
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[Position]

[Position]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 3:00:00 PM
First name: marlena
Last name: tzakis
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Trumps plan is yet another attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we simply cannot let it disappear.

The Tongass contains some of the largest intact old-growth temperate rainforest in the world, and its value in providing clean water for fish and wildlife habitat is essential to the economic and ecological health of Southeast Alaska. I urge you to keep the federal Roadless Rule intact and current protections in place for national forests in Alaska.

In addition, I strongly object to your plans to reduce and remove protections from our national forests roadless areas. The Roadless Rule is one of the smartest and most popular land management policies the Federal Government has ever adopted. Not only does it preserve some of Americas best fish and wildlife habitat, but it also saves untold millions of taxpayer dollars that might otherwise be spent to subsidize money-losing timber sales. The value of the Roadless Rule in preventing environmentally damaging and economically wasteful road-building and logging is particularly relevant in the Tongass, where logging costs vastly exceed timber revenues and require unconscionable taxpayer subsidies.
Regards, marlena tzakis