

Dear Chief Christiansen,

I live and work on the lands and waters of Southeast Alaska. 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 other private sectors is bad business, and bad for Southeast Alaska. I support the Tongass Transition and 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. This forest is a salmon forest, and the Forest Service should focus on restoring degraded watersheds and fish streams.

Vicki Christiansen

Chief of the U.S. Forest Service

USDA Forest Service

1400 Independence Ave., S.W.

Washington, DC 20250

Sonny Perdue

Secretary of the USDA

U.S. Department of Agriculture

1400 Independence Ave., S.W.

Washington, DC 20250

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