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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Alaska Roadless Rule, Comment on proposed alternatives

USDA Forest Service

Attn: Alaska Roadless Rule

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To USDA Forest Service,

We support option 1 that would take no action and leave Alaska under the 2001 Roadless Rule, including the Tongass National Forest.

All the current roadless areas were identified as old growth and/or prime habitat areas that benefits people, wildlife and fisheries. When these areas are clear cut of trees, there will be little incentive to reseed, soil erosion will silt waterways and salmon habitat, invasive weeds will spread. Even if reseeded, as evidenced from past clear cutting and second growth timber, thick stands of trees are highly fire prone and with remoteness, no thinning will occur. It even rarely occurs in the lower 48 states where funding is low for proper thinning and fire prevention.

Once roads are cut, other activities will follow such as mining with associated environmental impacts of silt and contamination runoff into streams.

The local Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian Alaskan people and many other Alaskan people support the current 9.2 million acre roadless rule along with 1.5 million people that had input in supporting Americas roadless forests.

In this age of rampant Amazon forest destruction contributing to worsening global ecological disasters with warmer, drier climate, more forests everywhere needs to be protected than lost. Healthy forests provide carbon sink and are less fire prone than second growth where more fires contribute more atmospheric carbon. Our oceans are also producing less food supply, and every small amount of habitat degradation from logging contributes to a worsening salmon and other fish stocks.

Although this plan has many options with various levels of forest acreage for cutting, we need to realize that with global warming, more fires, strain on the oceans food supply, no amount of logging this area can benefit, and in turn contributes to harming our planet and the puts all of us more in peril.

We urge the forest service to keep the roadless rule intact and preserve the 9.2 million acres of Alaska's Tongass Forest 16.7 million acres. As it benefits people as a prime ecological resource and would cause multiple detrimental effects from any logging.

Sincerely,

Larry and Lois Read

[Attachment is a Word document version of the same comment above.]

[Position]