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First name: Melissa
Last name: Alley
Organization: Skagway Traditional Council
Title:
Comments: Public Comment in Support of Alternative One

To Whom it May Concern,

I have attached my public comment in regards to the Alaska Roadless Rule. I am in favor of supporting Alternative One, No Action.

Thank you,

Melissa Alley

Skagway Traditional Council

Office Hours:

Monday-Friday

8am to 4pm

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

Melissa Alley

Skagway, AK 99840

USDA Forest Service

ATTN: Alaska Roadless Rule

PO Box 21628

Juneau, AK 99802

To Whom it May Concern:

While I did not grow up in Southeast Alaska, I have found my home here in Skagway. I can truly attest to the awe-inspiring effect that the landscape has on everyone who gets the privilege to encounter it. The Tongass National forest is wild and I want to see it kept that way. That is what draws people in; that is what makes this area so special. It is the largest National Forest in the United States and one of the last remaining intact temperate rainforests in the world. To open this area up to the possibilities of logging and building roads would destroy not only animal and human habitats here but would also take away the beauty and unique identity that is

the Tongass. I spend a lot of my time in the Tongass. Whether it be hiking or subsistence berry picking & mushroom harvesting or fishing, parts of my livelihood and happiness depend on keeping this area wild.

I attended the Public Meeting with the Forest Service in Skagway last night. I was appalled to learn that despite receiving a 90% response from Southeast Alaskans in opposition of lifting the Roadless Rule, other alternatives are still being sought. Additionally, across the United States there was a 70% opposition response to lifting the Roadless Rule in the Tongass and STILL Secretary Perdue's preferred alternative is six. This makes absolutely no sense to me. If the citizens of Southeast Alaska and the United States are opposed to opening the Tongass National Forest, then how is this idea even being entertained anymore? I urge you to please listen to the people who live here; listen to the people who visit here. We live in a democratic country and the citizen's priorities are what matters, despite Secretary Perdue's agenda.

To read in the Environmental Impact Statement that alternative six would have minimal adverse effects on the economy and animal habitats is absolutely crass. Of course these areas will be impacted. For Skagway specifically, we rely heavily on tourism. If the access road is built to Skagway, that will dramatically change our entire tourism industry. Logging is not'a very profitable industry, we know this. It is also incredibly destructive. The number of animals whose habitats will be destroyed is innumerable. Climate change is still on the rise and cutting down the Tongass will negatively impact the world's oxygen supply. I work for Skagway Traditional Council, a federally recognized tribal government. Many of our members practice subsistence hunting and fishing. Alternative six would absolutely have negative impacts on their way of life & on the land they have inhabited since time immemorial.

I stand alongside my fellow Southeast Alaskans in support of Alternative One, no action. Keep the Roadless Rule in place to protect the Tongass National Forest for future generations.

Sincerely,

Melissa Alley

[Position]