

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 10/19/2019 8:00:00 AM

First name: Alicia

Last name: Lundell

Organization:

Title:

Comments: It may appear that the Tongass National Forest is large enough to develop and harvest small areas here and there but please consider future desires for the same expansion of "economic development." At what point will wilderness be considered valuable? Once it's gone? As populations grow everywhere on this planet, what will stop future generations from wanting the same thing? In as little as 30-50 years there may very well be the same desire for more expansion in order to provide rural economic opportunities.

As a Michigan resident an Alaskan may think I should have no say in what goes on in their state. I can only offer our beautiful Upper Peninsula as an example of what the future may hold for Alaskans. Little by little more areas in the UP are becoming homogenized and look like anywhere USA. Big box stores pop up and the pay is not a living wage for the average worker. Small towns become clogged during tourist season and soon afterwards everyone wants to move out from the city and so the expansion continues.

A once seemingly endlessly large area can quickly become not so large and the noise from highway trucks can be heard from miles away. Why can't we leave wilderness alone for future generations and wildlife to enjoy???

[Position]

[Position]