

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

First name: Helen

Last name: Perry

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I oppose the opening of the Tongass National Forest to logging and road making interests. I support Alternate 1, making no change to the roadless rule and maintaining the rule that timber in this area is unsuitable for logging. This forest is one of the last remaining rain forests in our hemisphere. As such, it plays an essential role in the balance of clean air and water. This forest also plays a role in containing carbon from being released into the atmosphere thus slowing the rising temperatures in the environment. This ecological balance is extremely important as the earth undergoes climate changes. I have been fortunate to spend time walking in the Tongass Forest and its role in providing refuge from urban life is not only important for human spirituality, but adds to the local economy in serving the many thousands of tourists who come to this part of Alaska. This area is home to salmon since the forest reaches all the way to the sea, making the area important for the breeding and sustainability of salmon. This area is home to wildlife that are unique to North America and which attracts visitors from around the world. This is a forest that belongs to our children and our children's children and far into the future. As urban and suburban areas in Alaska and across the country increase in density with attending commercialization and industrialization, national treasures such as the Tongass National Forest are our legacy to the future so that our children will be able to experience what we have known about the natural world. If this forest is given over to commercial interests, we will have given away our legacy to the future, and turned this nation treasure into a chewed up, polluted area that will infect the climate and the environment that extends from this focal point. Please, not everything is for sale. The Trump administration has not shown itself to favor preservation or to attending to the deep value of the natural world to our citizens and visitors from around the world. Past Republican presidents such as Theodore Roosevelt innately understood the value of preserving natural treasures for future generations. I respectfully request that this proposal for rule making that would open this pristine area to commercial logging be blocked and instead efforts should be taken to extend protections and restrictions to logging to the widest possible area in the Tongass Forest. Some have suggested making the Tongass Forest a national monument, and I strongly support, on behalf of my grandchildren and their children, this proposal to make the forest a monument. Thank you.

[Position]