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Comments: I am writing to strongly support the "No Change" alternative in the Roadless Rule for the Tongass National Forest. The Roadless rule currently keeps over 9 million acres of the Tongass wild, protecting clean water sources and critical fish and wildlife habitat. These are the elements that truly support a sustainable future and economy for Alaskans.

Fishing and tourism are two immensely important economic drivers of the economy of Alaska. To sacrifice these for a short-sighted allowance of logging would be truly unfortunate. The Tongass National Forest is recognized as a wild salmon producer where most of the salmon on the West Coast spawn. It is a place that gets millions of visitors and is becoming more affordable to visit.

Alaska Native tribes voiced their opposition to logging in the Tongass, as did and thousands of Alaskans and other US citizens. In their comments they urged the Forest Service not to touch the 2001 Roadless Rule during the scoping period last September and October.

Opening the Tongass to old-growth logging would only serve to prop up a timber industry that needs tens of millions of dollars a year in subsidies to keep it afloat. Timber sales are being put up by the Forest Service that cost them \$4 million for planning and road building, while being offered for minimum bids of \$120,000. This is insanity, especially since part of the cost is degradation of fisheries habitat.

Old-growth forests not only maintain clean water, stable salmon spawning grounds, and other wildlife habitat, but are also among our continent's most important and stable carbon sinks.

Please adopt the "No Change" alternative.

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