Data Submitted (UTC 11): 10/18/2019 8:00:00 AM
First name: Susan
Last name: Thompson
Organization:
Title:
Comments: Alaska Roadless DEIS Comments

Dear Secretary Perdue,

I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule. I strongly object to your plans to reduce and remove protections from roadless areas on the Tongass National Forest. The Tongass contains some of the last remaining old-growth temperate rainforest in the world, and its value in providing clean water and fish and wildlife habitat is essential to the economic and ecological health of Southeast Alaska. Furthermore, it's a critical carbon sink to combat climate change. I urge you to keep the federal Roadless Rule intact and current protections in place for national forests in Alaska.

Adopted in 2001, the National Forest Roadless Area Conservation Rule is one of our nation's bedrock conservation protections intended to safeguard more than 58 million acres of national forests. From 1999 to 2001, the Forest Service held over 600 public meetings nationwide, including 28 throughout Washington State. In what was one of the most extensive public participation efforts in the history of federal rulemaking, more than 1.6 million people commented during the rulemaking process, with 95% supporting strong roadless area protection.

The Roadless Rule is one of the most balanced and most popular land management policies the Federal Government has ever adopted. It protects our remaining ancient forests, pristine and unroaded watershed, core wildlife habitat and world class recreational opportunities, while leaving more than half of the national forest system available for sustainable logging and other development.

Sincerely,

Sincerely,

Susan Thompson

Port Townsend, WA 98368

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