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Comments: Alaska Roadless Rule Public Comment Submission # 54511

Mr David E. Schmid

Regional Forester

Tongass National Forest

USDA Forest Service Alaska Region

Alaska Roadless Rule,

P.O. Box 21628,

Juneau, Alaska 99802-1628.

akroadlessrule@fs.fed.us

Dear Mr. Schmid, October 18th, 2019

Re: Alaska Roadless Rulemaking #54511

While cutting old trees, often to be carted off to Japan, South Korea, etc may create short term jobs and value to the local economy , in the end the jobs will be gone, the economy will be gone, and natural environment will be impacted . The idea that cutting these old trees offers a sustainable economy for the local communities is not supported by the historic facts .

Here there is the increasingly rare opportunity to preserve this narrow coastal environment in its natural balance for the long term value to the local communities, the State, and our Nation. There still are these limited and diminishing remnants of the native North American landscapes. Please find a way to preserve them for the long term sustainable benefit of the local citizens and our entire Nation.

Please continue the management of the Tongass National Forest in accordance with the 2001 Roadless Rule for the benefit of the environment, the climate, the fisheries, the wildlife, a sustainable economy, --- in a word the lives of people, local, regional, and nationally. .

On the topic of preserving native forests it brings to mind a sign tacked to the end of a massive log on a truck in the Pacific Northwest "Happiness is a three log load". This was in the mid 1970's . In barely half a lifetime the forests, centuries in the making, are gone & the happiness is gone.

Whatever the eventual decision, please find a balance so that happiness of an old forest is not lost . Keeping in mind a preserved and undisturbed old growth natural landscape has great value as well.

Hopefully this input is helpful and thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely, Doug Colclasure