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First name: Robert

Last name: Dana

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I write to express my opposition to actions which will adversely impact the natural state of our countrys remaining wild areas such as those intended to permit construction of more roads on the Tongass National Forest. The intent, stated or implied of these actions, is to facilitate more logging on the Forest, including clear cut logging practices. These practices result in irreparable damage to the natural environment, and can not be effectively remediated by mass plantings of new trees. Mass plantings of new trees do not duplicate the mixed state of old growth forests, either in mixed age or mixed species.

Mass tree cutting will adversely impact the fish and other wildlife that call the Tongass home. It will also affect those who currently work in the local fishing and tourism industries; industries which contribute over \$2 billion in economic activity and over 25% of the jobs in the region. We dont need more logging on areas such as the Tongass, especially since many of the cut logs are shipped out of the country. This distribution practice does not contribute to the economic growth of the area, since it doesnt add jobs in sawmills or finishing plants.

Furthermore, the Tongass contributes to the environment through carbon storage. By storing 8% of the carbon currently stored in Americas forests, the trees on the Tongass help reduce the adverse impact of climate change.

We dont need more roads on the Tongass. There are currently over 5,000 miles of permanent logging roads to access timber. The current Roadless Rule, which has previously gone through the public comment and rule making process, is working. It strikes a balance by allowing energy, infrastructure and other development activities while providing controls to allow exploration. Despite the name Roadless Rule, it does not prohibit roads. In fact, almost 60 applications for development activities have been approved, often in less than 3 weeks.

The Roadless Rule has been instrumental in conserving the Tongass National Forest and in supporting its fish and wildlife-based industries for more than 20 years. Please uphold the Rule's protections for important fish and wildlife areas, including the Tongass 77. Roadless areas are an important source of food, jobs, and income through commercial, subsistence, and recreational fishing. Salmon are part of Alaska's culture and we must protect them and their spawning streams. Please do not roll back roadless area protections for habitat that our irreplaceable fish and wildlife populations need to survive.

Thank you for considering my views.

[Position]

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