

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 10/20/2019 8:00:00 AM

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: With regard to the Alaska Specific Roadless Rule, please utilize Alternative 1 and take no action.

The Tongass National Forest is an incredible, diverse, and critically important part of Southeast Alaska's ecosystem and culture.

Opening watersheds to development would irreversibly damage natural salmon habitats, which would directly harm the commercial fishing industry.

Opening new lands to development would be an expensive undertaking with little to no financial gain for the logging industry. It is also important to note that in old-growth forests, trees are felled then inspected. This allows for the increase in human-influenced carbon release into the atmosphere.

Consider the extreme dependence upon tourism throughout the Tongass. Tourists, who now see a lush, largely untouched, and inspirational landscape, would begin to see more and more the effects of industry, and the image of clear-cut forest would soon dominate the face of Alaska.

In my own employment, I guide in small sections of the Tongass outside of Skagway, and I have the pleasure of educating locals and tourists alike to the beauty and diversity of the natural world that is this forest. If the Alaska Specific Roadless Rule were to pass, my career would be directly influenced, and I fear that the pristine wilderness I guide in would no longer exist.

Please, for the sake of the sustainable future of the ecosystem and future of Southeast Alaska, take No Action on the Alaska Specific Roadless Rule.

[Position]

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