Data Submitted (UTC 11): 10/20/2019 8:00:00 AM
First name: Mark
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Organization:
Title:
Comments: Do not exempt the Tongass National Forest from the 2001 Roadless Area Conservation Rule. The forest is the largest temperate rainforest in the world and the largest national forest in the U.S. At almost 17 million acres, it's a wonderland for hunting, fishing, and other recreational activities. The U.S. Forest Service must manage lands for a wide range of beneficial uses, habitat protection, and conservation not just for making profits. The 2001 Roadless Area Conservation Rule specifically identified this area as a roadless are to protect and conserve and this classification, protection, and conservation must be maintained. The 2001 Rule specifically prohibits tree harvest and road construction/reconstruction within inventoried roadless areas. The United States is not making any new roadless areas and once roads are created it is almost impossible to restore the land and ecosystem to pre-road condition. The United States has enough roads and road areas---we do not need to make more.... Abide by the existing law, the existing 2001 Roadless Area Conservation Rule and do not exempt any of the inventoried area from this rule, do not create roads, do not log in these areas, and uphold the intent and conservation of this very limited resource and wild land.

Furthermore, do not exempt or revise roadless inventories to include less roadless areas or to make more areas available for roads or logging within the Chugach National Forest or within any area identified in the 2001 Roadless Area Conservation Rule or other roadless areas that should be added to the roadless inventory.

Uphold the courts ruling that these areas be protected via the 2001 Roadless Area Conservation Rule. Roadless areas can never truly be restored to "roadless" areas once they have been scarred by roads, debris, and impacted vegetation. Keep roadless areas roadless. Protect these wildlands like the 2001 Roadless Area Conservation Rule intended!

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