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Comments: I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative 1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest, which exists within the traditional territories of the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples. The Tongass is the world's largest intact temperate rainforest and has been called "America's Climate Forest" as it is the single most important national forest for carbon sequestration and climate change mitigation in the United States.

Globally, deforestation (8-15%) and forest degradation (6-13%) contribute more greenhouse gas pollution than the world's entire transportation network, which is why countries, including the U.S., must commit to reducing emissions and protecting forest carbon sinks, like the Tongass National Forest.

During the original rulemaking process, more than 1.5 million Americans voiced support for the Roadless Rule, which followed decades of clear-cutting that had a destructive and lasting impact on the Tongass. The rule continues to receive overwhelming support, with a 2019 poll finding three-fourths of the general public in support of the Roadless Rule.

If Alaska is exempt from the Roadless Rule, it will open up the forest to further industrial scale logging. Deforestation of the Tongass will threaten the health of Alaskan salmon by polluting rivers and streams, harm cultural and sacred sites of great importance to Indigenous communities, jeopardize local economies based on tourism and fisheries, and continue to cost taxpayers money. New budget data revealed that the US Forest Service could end up losing more than \$180 million in the Tongass over the next four years.

The Tongass National Forest has been called "America's Climate Forest" as it is the single most important national forest for carbon sequestration and climate change mitigation in the U.S. It is critical that we see the intrinsic value our old growth forests provide to us as a society. In an era of rapid climate change and biodiversity loss, we cannot afford to continue business as usual and bulldoze the few remaining ecological assets we have to sustain life on this planet.

The last thing we need is more dumb roads for more dumb cars. We know better at this point, so now we need to do better. Please do what is right to retain the Roadless Rule.