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Comments: Please consider Alternate 1: not passing this exemption for the Tongass National Forest for the Roadless Area Rule. The local social and economic conditions were given specific consideration within the Roadless Area Rule in 2001, with logging and road construction allowed to continue on lands where notice of availability was posted prior to the date of the Rule to facilitate the transition. After that, the rule went into effect, almost 19 years ago.

The transition period is passed. This is federal land and a protected resource for all of the citizens of the United States. It is a critical wilderness area that needs to stop being viewed as a logging enterprise resource. It's oversight should not be turned over to the State of Alaska and it should remain protected under the Roadless Area Conservation Rule.

[Position]

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