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Comments: Please accept my comments on the Alaska Roadless Rule Exemption.

I believe it is imperative that the USFS be managed for multiple use. Having a roadless rule for the Tongass in particular takes away that concept. The Land Use Designations in the Tongass are more than adequate to protect uses other than resource development and removing the rule would only open up an amount of land less than 200,000 acres in a 17 million acre forest. Forestry, mining and most forms of tourism and recreation would benefit from restoring proper land use planning in the forest. A national rule based on unsound science does not allow for local managers and communities, the people best suited to make the decisions, allowed to make them.

In Ketchikan, where I live, and much of Southeast Alaska, the economy struggles to an extent that is not fathomable to people from outside the area. It is a shame to watch our resources be locked up while young people have to leave their homes to find work elsewhere. The timber industry is virtually destroyed and while it won't come back to where it once was, it needs to be a vital part of the equation, providing jobs and livelihoods to people who want to stay in Southeast Alaska and live and work. There is little opportunity, outside of government to own homes and raise children in our communities with the resources locked up and freeing up a small sliver of the forest is needed, which is why the entire Alaska delegation, all the Governors past and present and most of the knowledgeable people in the region support this repeal as do I.

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