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Title:

Comments: RE: 36 CFR Part 294 RIN 0596-AD37 Special Areas; Roadless Area Conservation; National Forest System Lands in Alaska

I live in Southeast Alaska, use the Tongass National Forest for various purposes and wish to express my strong disagreement with the proposed Tongass roadless rule exception.

There are allowances for limited scale roads already within the roadless rule, which have been approved previously. Consequently, the only feasible reason for altering the rule would be to allow large scale logging operations. Such activity in the past resulted in massive public funds used for large clear cutting operations. Such logging is not consistent with the tourism industry which has blossomed the past decades. Impacts on fishing, subsistence, recreation, among others, would be detrimental to our present way of life, and many jobs would be adversely affected.

Additionally, our forest plays an important role as a carbon dioxide reservoir. Already our State is experiencing significant impacts from climate change due to atmospheric carbon dioxide increases. Removing large numbers of our productive trees would not only reduce their role as a carbon sink, but it also would contribute to increasing carbon in the atmosphere.

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