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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Please end this rule, and help the State of Alaska get the much needed jobs back to the region. There are no clear indications that this rule has actually accomplished anything. There is a strong argument that keeping a logging industry strong in that region has more pro active results than leaving large tracts of land to rot.

I urge you to fully exempt the Tongass National Forest from the Roadless Rule. We have enough land permanently set aside already and the National Forest Management Act planning regulations are the proper way to manage the remaining areas on the Tongass as a multiple-use forest.

Other points to consider: Exempting the Tongass from the Roadless Rule will not cause harm to the region's fisheries. Fish habitat is already fully protected on the national forest. Wildlife habitat is also fully protected on the national forest and wildlife is thriving in the young growth stands were timber harvesting has taken place over the last 65-years. Mining, energy development and community access are inhibited by the Roadless Rule.

We need a larger timber supply in order to restore more year around jobs. Timber harvesting has not harmed the tourism industry. Most outdoor recreation on the forest takes place in or near the previously harvested areas because of the access provided by the logging roads.

Please restore the Roadless Exemption so that Southeast Alaska can have the same economic opportunities as communities in or near other national forests.

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