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Organization:

Title:

Comments: More access so the people can drive to enjoy the true beauty of the Tongass. By plane and boat you don't see the real beauty, of the wilderness or wildlife. The ones against it have interest or agenda of their own, Sea Alaska is a monopoly on timber cutting on native lands, all part owners of native tribes. Open it to the rest of us, to enjoy. Will also give us access to build roads to connect to other towns, cities, supplies, freight less expensive. Barge line another monopoly, Airline there too another high cost. State ferrys taken away less access to other towns. Another reason for the roads. Give access back to us to enjoy, and live a little less confined.

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 where 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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