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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I lived for 11 years in Southeast Alaska raising a family and working in the timber industry. I was forced to move away due to the complete decimation of what was a great and viable resource business. Southeast Alaska has seen many, and some very significant, harvesting operations over last 150 years. Having spent significant time hiking and hunting in many of these areas has been very instructive. Unless you understand what you are looking at there is virtually no way to tell there was ever a harvesting operation on the landscape.

Trees grow back. Timber harvesting and mining provide jobs and dollars to local economies. Real jobs preferred to the dependency of welfare.

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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