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First name: Scott

Last name: Williams-Riseng

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Tongass National Park

Dear Alaska Forest Service,

I am writing about the proposed law change to The Tongass National Park, to change to Roadless Rule to allow roads and logging development there. I oppose this change.

In the age of Climate change and a world population of over 7 billion humans, I am disgraced, disgusted and ashamed that any human living today would willingly cut down such beautiful, pristine and rare forests. But the Department of Agriculture "prefers" Alternative 6, which would open this pristine wilderness including 165,000 acres of old growth forest, to logging and road development, a nail in the coffin of the state of the nature there now.

In Brazil today, the new president wants to develop the Amazon for economic gain, and it's been on fire, and we've seen the horrific images of the Amazon forest, home to some of the greatest diverse ecology on the planet and literally the lungs of the planet. Just because someone is from Brazil, does that give them the right to destroy it for personal profit at the cost of the entire human population? I would say no. The same I feel is true of the Tongass National Forest, and Alaskans. It is your responsibility to protect this natural environment.

Right here in Ohio, over the last 20 years, I have witnessed the continued development and destruction of open areas, forests and open lands. What used to be farmland is now a residential development, or a big box store (with a larger parking lot). As an Ohioan, I have learned that less than 5% of the old growth forests in Ohio remain. Five percent. They destroyed almost all of it in the last few generations in the name of development and economy. It seemed impossible back then, when Ohio was almost all forested, that it could all be gone. But there it is. The same can, and will, happen to Alaska with reckless and selfish actions like logging its national forests.

Please, think about your grandchildren, support Alternative One, no change to the Roadless Rule, for Tongass National Park. Don't give way to corporate greed and short-term profits. The world needs old growth forest to support the sensitive and important wildlife that needs this habitat. Like the panda that needs the eucalyptus. If we don't act now to save our planet, if we don't act with restraint and continue the same old way of economic growth at the behest of our environment, we are doomed to a future void of diversity, environment, hope or life.

Sincerely,

Scott Williams-Riseng, Lakewood, OH 44107

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