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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Against Proposed Alaska Roadless Rule.

We are writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule. The Forest Service should not reduce and remove protections from roadless areas on the Tongass National Forest. The Tongass contains some of the last remaining old-growth temperate rainforest in the world and its health is imperiled from numerous environmental insults. Chief among them is the forest's ability to cope with the adverse impacts of climate change. Road intrusions and subsequent human activities will overly stretch the forest's capacity to remain healthy as the climate warms. In addition, it is a significant carbon sink to combat climate change. The recommended alternative seems designed to benefit the timber industry instead of looking at the regional and global long-term significance of this forest. We need to harvest younger trees not the irreplaceable old growth trees to provide sustainable economic opportunities for local communities and the timber industry. The Forest Service also needs to consider the larger fishing and tourism industries which rely on critical habitat for wildlife and an intact pristine environment. We urge you to keep the federal Roadless Rule intact and current protections in place for national forests in Alaska (as well as all roadless areas on National Forest Lands).

Sincerely

Jennie and Steve Tuckerman

[Position]