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First name: Rebecca

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: My name is Rebecca Dresser and I live in Westfield, North Carolina.

This simply cannot happen! We must leave Tongass National Forest, as well as all other national parks and forests, as they are for the public to enjoy for years and years to come. We cannot afford to lose any of these treasures, and cutting trees and clearing landscapes will certainly affect our climate in negative ways. I am appalled that there is even consideration of making such changes to our precious lands. Past presidents had the foresight to protect these areas by creating national parks and wild lands; we cannot let our current administration wreak havoc and undo everything that past administrations have done for this country and these beautiful wild places.

I am writing to express strong opposition to efforts to roll back the Roadless Area Conservation Rule (Roadless Rule) in Alaska or elsewhere. The Roadless Rule was implemented with unprecedented public support to protect some of our nations most pristine public lands, including large parts of the Tongass National Forest. You must choose the No Action alternative. Any other choice would ignore overwhelming public support and harm Alaskans, including Alaska Natives, and taxpayers across the nation.

In Southeast Alaska, tourism accounts for 28% of employment and generate an annual \$1 billion in economic benefit, making it far more of an economic driver than the timber industry, which is less than 1% of the regional economy.

Any choice but the No Action alternative would also put wildlife and critical habitat at risk, threaten access to clean water, and be a step in the wrong direction on climate change jeopardizing Alaskans at a time when the state already faces severe challenges related to rising temperatures. I urge you not to abandon the Roadless Rule in Alaska and instead to put the public interest above corporate profits by choosing to keep the rule in place unchanged.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Regards, Rebecca Dresser

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