

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 11/8/2019 9:00:00 AM

First name: Patty

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: My name is Patty Ridenour and I live in Dayton, Ohio.

Anyone who knows anything (which, of course, excludes the Empty-Headed Orange Sphincter Mouth) knows that the Tongass National Forest is far more invaluable to our big, beautiful, blue planet now more than ever before. And that is because polluters, pesticide manufacturers, gas &&& oil frackers, etc., have all bet set loose by the current criminally corrupt administration and its enablers in the GOP/KKK/Fascist Party to destroy as much as possible as quickly as possible to enrich themselves to the detriment of our planet and all life on it. The Tongass National Forest serves as an irreplaceable 'carbon sink' that serves to to eliminate volumes of the destructive carbon and poisons that the polluters and other corporate heads are spewing into our atmosphere at an accelerated rate that we, the people, are currently being forced to endure.

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, Patty Ridenour

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