Data Submitted (UTC 11): 11/8/2019 9:00:00 AM
First name: Claire
Last name: Alkire
Organization:
Title:
Comments: My name is Claire Alkire and I live in Sequim, Washington.

Your organization is named Environmental PROTECTION Agency. However does that grant license to interfere with protection of the environment on which life in all forms is dependent? Please clean up our air and water and land rather than polluting them w with toxic, commercially driven materials.

I write to share my 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 ignores overwhelming public support and will 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. Tourism is, therefore, a far more effective economic driver than the timber industry which produces less than 1% of the regional economy.

Any choice other than No Action would also put wildlife and critical habitat at risk, threaten access to clean water, and lead 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 to not abandon the Roadless Rule in Alaska. Rather, put the public interest above corporate profits; choose to keep the rule in place unchanged.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Regards, Claire Alkire

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