Data Submitted (UTC 11): 11/9/2019 9:00:00 AM
First name: Catherine
Last name: Alcorn
Organization:
Title:
Comments: My name is Catherine Alcorn and I live in Haddam, Connecticut.

My name is Catherine Alcorn. I was a 35 year resident of the state of Alaska, 5 years spent in SE AK.

Rolling back protections is an epically bad idea. Anyone that has flown over the Tongass can see areas logged decades ago that are still not recovered, denuded mountains and on the ground destroyed habitat and salmon streams that will never function again. It actually looks like a bomb was dropped on the area. The closest thing I can describe as resembling the destruction was seeing was the area destroyed by the volcanic blast of Mt. St. Helen roughly 10 years later.

I realize that this is a very pro-resource extraction administration but for the sake of following generations of Alaskans and for the wildlife depending upon these forests I urge "No Action".

Thank you.

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, Catherine Alcorn

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