Data Submitted (UTC 11): 11/9/2019 9:00:00 AM
First name: Cathy
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Organization:
Title:
Comments: My name is Cathy Morris and I live in Vermontville, New York.

Preserving the Tongass Forest is crucial to prevent further acceleration of climate change. The issue is clear: Profit vs saving all life on our planet. We cannot buy clean air and water; we cannot buy back natural resources that are depleted, we cannot buy back the plants and animals that become extinct; we cannot buy human life. The time is now to make the future of all life a top priority, not making money that buys things that are here today and gone tomorrow.

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, Cathy Morris

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