

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

First name: Yvonne

Last name: Smith

Organization:

Title:

Comments: My name is Yvonne Smith and I live in Upland, California.

Please protect our communities from coal ash pollution. Thank you for your care, concern, and consideration of this critical issue.

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

Tourism accounts for 28 percent of employment and generate an annual \$1 billion in economic benefit in Southeast Alaska, making it far more of an economic driver than the timber industry, which is less than 1 percent 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, put the public interest above corporate profits by choosing to keep the rule in place unchanged.

Thank you for care, concern, and consideration of this important issue.

Regards, Yvonne Smith

[Position]

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