

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

First name: thomas

Last name: aldridge

Organization:

Title:

Comments: My name is thomas aldridge and I live in San Jose, California.

The Tongass should be protected from destructive road building which causes trees to be cut down and damages the environment and the habitat of our fast disappearing wildlife. Trump and his cronies are out to destroy the Tongass for profit-for the greedy logging and road building barons. They have declared WAR on our beloved environment and wildlife and are demanding unconditional surrender. Our planet is in crisis and Trump could not care less. Forests are being decimated all over the planet and now he wants to give the Tongass to the roadbuilders, loggers, the miners and anyone else who contributes money to his campaign coffers.

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, thomas aldridge

[Position]

[Position]