

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 10/24/2019 8:00:00 AM

First name: Constance

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Alaska Roadless Rulemaking #54511

Roadless Rulemaking,

RE: Alaska Roadless DEIS Comment

Dear Secretary Perdue:

As an American taxpayer gravely concerned with thriving biodiversity, healthy ecology

and future generations, I strongly support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest.

The Tongass is a carbon sink containing some of the largest intact old-growth temperate rainforest in the world, and its value in providing clean water for fish and wildlife habitat is essential to the economic and ecological health of Southeast Alaska. I urge you to keep the federal Roadless Rule intact and current protections in place for national forests in Alaska.

I have been fortunate to have visited many of our National Parks, and like millions of Americans and tourists, I have spent time and money doing so, and with that said, I strongly object to your plans to reduce and remove protections from our national forest's roadless areas. The Roadless Rule is one of the smartest and most popular land management policies of the Federal Government. It has preserved some of America's best fish and wildlife habitat, and it also saves untold millions of taxpayer dollars that might otherwise be spent to subsidize money-losing timber sales. The value of the Roadless Rule in preventing environmentally damaging and economically wasteful road-building and logging is particularly relevant in the Tongass, where logging costs vastly exceed timber revenues and require unconscionable taxpayer subsidies.

Constance Franklin

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