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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Comments to oppose modification to the Roadless Rule

Dear U.S. Forest Service,

I am a small-business owner in Denali National Park, Alaska, where my family operates two wilderness lodges inside Denali National Park. We rely on Alaska's intact ecosystems to continue to attract visitors to our state. Wild lands are a critical part of tourism sustainability for Alaska, including the viability of our tourism partners who operate in SE Alaska.

The Roadless Rule helps protect wild lands and old-growth forests for numerous species of wildlife. Opening roadless areas to more logging and roads will fragment the forest and eliminate more of the big old trees that these animals rely on. Ancient forests such as exist in the Tongass, are strongholds of climate resilience, and the Tongass is one of world's largest.

All of the action alternatives in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement allow more roadbuilding and logging across the Tongass National Forest. Logging roads and timber operations cost tens of millions of taxpayer dollars every year, with zero return on investment. Meanwhile, these destructive activities degrade the naturally sustainable wealth of salmon, wildlife watching, and tourism opportunities.

I urge the US Forest Service to select the "No Action" Alternative (Alternative 1) and allow the Roadless Rule to remain in effect on the Tongass National Forest to safeguard the wildlife and intact ecosystem of the Tongass, and to safeguard the tourism businesses, large and small, who rely on such wildlife and intact ecosystems. As tourism continues to be the only growth sector in Alaska's economy, this is the Alaska industry that we need to support, not the losing proposition of old growth timber sales.

Sincerely,

Jenna Hamm

Denali National Park, AK 99755

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