

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 12/1/2019 9:00:00 AM

First name: Kristin

Last name: Zibell

Organization:

Title:

Comments: The Tongass National Forest is a public forest, meaning that every American citizen can benefit from the forest through clean air, recreation, cultural heritage, and beauty. Repealing the roadless rule and selling the Tongass forest to private companies will destroy this one of a kind forest and betray the promise of public land. There are other ways to provide jobs for rural communities - invest in strong internet infrastructure, public education, public libraries, community colleges, and extension services of land-grant universities. Studies by the Joint Economic Committee have shown that when government invests in education in rural communities - not the destruction of their natural environment - there is more upward mobility than urban areas.

Selling off the Tongass National Forest to private companies to create more jobs is a lie. The act of selling public lands to private interests results in higher poverty rates, lower life expectancy, and less opportunities.

Not only that, repealing the protection of the roadless rule and logging the Tongass National Forest will cause the rural communities more harm by removing their access to public forests, destroying ecosystems and ability to sustain themselves, and poisoning their natural environment.

There are a variety of alternatives proposed. I support Alternative #1 - no change. Save the Tongass National Forest to save rural communities. Invest tax dollars in education to create long-lasting jobs and opportunities.

[Position]

[Position]