

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 10/22/2019 8:00:00 AM

First name: Veronika

Last name: (Student)

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Tongass Forest

Regarding the recent petition to exempt the Tongass National Forest from the 2001 Roadless Rule, I believe that Alternative 1 should be implemented. All of Alaska should be left under the 2001 Roadless Rule. The implications of ending this policy would have disastrous effects on the Tongass forest. Even just laying down roads would upset the dark, moist environment and expose plants to sun and wind. Roads can also help invasive species to infiltrate the forest. Finally, exempting the Tongass forest from the Roadless Rule would undermine tribal governments, who have deep, historic roots in the land of the Tongass National Forest.

Thank you,

Veronika Zsenits

[Position]