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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Tongass Forest - Roadless Rulemaking #54511

Roadless Rulemaking,

RE: Alaska Roadless DEIS Comment

Dear Secretary Perdue:

I am writing to support the NO-ACTION ALTERNATIVE for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. Please keep the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest.

The very important issues here are several -- involving climate change, biodiversity, and native rights.

Tongass is a crucial 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.

In addition, 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 the Federal Government has ever adopted. Not only does it preserve some of America's best fish and wildlife habitat, but 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.

Ruth Charloff

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