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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Response to USFS public comment invitation: ALASKA ROADLESS RULE

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I write to provide my comment on the U. S. Forest Service's proposed recommendation to eliminate protections for the Tongass National Forest ("Alaska Roadless Rule").

As a visitor to Alaska and a longtime supporter of protecting our public lands, I am OPPOSED to the agency's recommendation to allow logging and road-building in America's largest national forest and one of the world's largest intact temperate rainforests.

The Tongass absorbs greenhouse gases, thus helps to contribute to a healthy climate. Its watersheds sustain fish populations, which are important food sources and a critical part of Alaska's economy. The entire forest is a driver of tourism, which is also a primary economic driver for the State of Alaska.

Logging and road building will irreparably harm southeast Alaska's tourism, commercial fishing industry, and natural beauty.

Furthermore, I am opposed to private corporations profiting off of our public lands. The Forest Service's recommendation appears to be based on appeasing corporate greed. Instead, as stewards of our national forests, the agency should be considering what is best for the land, the climate, and the generations of people and wildlife who depend on its unspoiled bounty and beauty.

For these reasons, I write in SUPPORT OF ALTERNATIVE 1, which "takes no action and would leave all of Alaska under the 2001 Roadless Rule, including the Tongass National Forest."

Sincerely,

Joanne Napper

Castle Pines, CO 80108

[Position]