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First name: Dena

Last name: Allen

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Support for current Alaska Roadless Rule protections

Dear Secretary Perdue:

I was fortunate to visit the Tongass National Forest this past summer and meet Indigenous people that have lived and have cared for the forest for 100s of years.

I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative 1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest, which exists within the traditional territories of the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples. The Tongass is the world's largest intact temperate rainforest and has been called "America's Climate Forest" as it is the single most important national forest for carbon sequestration and climate change mitigation in the United States.

As parts of Alaska are warming at roughly twice the rate of the rest of the planet, maintaining an intact Tongass ecosystem is critical to providing climate change solutions for Alaska and international climate efforts. Additionally, keeping the Tongass intact will also protect unique habitat for hundreds of species, like salmon, bears, and deer, all of which, in turn, support local economies based on fishing, hunting, and tourism. Currently, logging is one percent of jobs in Southeast Alaska while tourism and fishing account for 25 percent of the jobs.

The right thing to do is leave the protections in place for jobs, the inhabitants and the environment.

Sincerely,

Dena Allen

[Position]