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First name: Britainy

Last name: Wright

Organization:

Title:

Comments: HC454

Dear Roadless Rule Planning Team,

The health of the Tongass National Forest is important to me. I depend on the Tongass which is a unique and global treasure.

The freshwater streams where salmon and old growth forest of the Tongass provide spawning habitat for these fish, which in turn feed a matrix of bears, birds, insects, and other wildlife that Alaska is so famous for. The health of our economy, which is heavily dependent on the fishing and tourism industries, also depends on the salmon, wildlife and presence of old growth forests. A sustainable future for Southeast Alaska requires protecting expansive areas of intact habitat - in short, it requires keeping our Roadless areas roadless! I urge the Forest Service and the Secretary to protect important salmon spawning habitat, maintain old growth forests for winter deer habitat, and keep the places I like to recreate free of clearcuts and roadbuilding.

**\*WHO I AM:** [text bolded for emphasis] Include your name, where you live, and any relevant biographical information. Do you live or work on the Tongass National Forest? What is your relationship to the Tongass?

Britainy Wright, Sitka, AK. I live in the Tongass routinely walk/hike/bike/bird sail through the Tongass, & work literally nestled into the Tongass @ the Alaska Raptor Center. (with eagles that also inhabit the Tongass)

**\*PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE:** [text bolded for emphasis] The Forest Service will choose how to proceed from a number of different alternatives. If you want the Roadless Rule to remain on the Tongass, write "No Action."

**\*NO ACTION\*** [text double underlined for emphasis] PLEASE!!!!!!

**\*WHY I PREFER THIS ALTERNATIVE:** [text bolded for emphasis] How would this alternative affect you and Southeast Alaskans?

Besides my leisure activities, it hosts a wealth of wildlife that can only nest or survive nestled deep within the forest. Think about how unbalanced SE would be if we were to displace all of it's natural residents.

**\*AREAS:** [text bolded for emphasis] Are there specific islands, watersheds, or mountains that you depend on? Name the most important areas that the Roadless Rule to protect. Examples include the Tenakee Inlet, Nakwasina Sound, Fish Bay, Ushk Bay, Northern Prince of Wales, T77 salmon watershed areas, Audobon TNC ecological priority areas, etc.

Everything! I know it's great to be specific but working directly with Alaska's birds has proven to me all of this sacred forest is important. We receive birds from all over Alaska -> from the tiniest villages that send them to us by float. Bald eagles alone inhabit & nest in the first mile of old growth from the coast. These birds, like many others, return to the same nest site over & over again. It would be catastrophic to demolish.

**\*USE:** [text bolded for emphasis] What activities do you use the Tongass National Forest for? Hunting, fishing, recreation, subsistence, business, tourism, etc.

I use the Tongass National Forest for the hiking, camping, subsistence, foraging, fishing, hunting, & tourism.

It's lush canopy is a great place to escape to for any reason.

**\*SUGGESTION:** [text bolded for emphasis] How should the Forest Service manage the Tongass National Forest, rather than old-growth clearcut logging? More sustainable alternatives to timber harvest include salmon watershed restoration, visitor industry infrastructure, deer habitat enhancement, young growth thinning, and maintenance of recreation infrastructure such as trails and cabins.

To think appropriately - the, 2nd, 3rd & 4th & down growth should be thinned. Never, ever clear cutting & only taking what will benefit the ecosystem as a whole. The Forestry Service should return to their roots & sustainably manage the forest - not be profiting or destroying the forest itself.

Additional comments for the Forest Service:

Don't forget what you are protecting & fighting. Your decisions impact so many -> not just people, but the wildlife, communities, economy, & watersheds. You can't regrow old growth. Don't mess up a good thing.

Sincerely,

Britainy Wright

I want to receive a copy of the Draft Environmental Statement

[Position]

[Position]