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First name: Tim

Last name: Hines

Organization:

Title:

Comments: HC385

November 20, 2019

Good morning,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments about the Preferred Alternative 6, full exemption for the Tongass National Forest from the 2001 Roadless Rule.

As a resident of Southeast Alaska, the Tongass National Forest is my home. I live in it, I work in it and I provide for my family from it and I feel privileged to do so. For years and years, we have been dealing with the repercussions of the Roadless Rule and how it was implemented and the impact it had on our communities. The uncertainty that our communities face in trying to plan for the future is limiting our ability to keep our children in Alaska. To have our future based on an "all or nothing" attitude, is the wrong approach to this issue. Resources and land need to be managed, they don't need to be made inaccessible to the people who count on it most.

The Tongass has over 17 million acres, 17 MILLION! Most people can't comprehend that size. It is bigger than most States. With the forest being that large, we should be able to have "our cake and eat it too". We can have communities that rely on resources to provide jobs for the residents. We can have the ability to provide natural power to expand our communities and to bring in new employers. We can (and do have) large swaths of old growth set aside for future generations to appreciate and respect.

To have the balance that a managed Tongass National Forest can provide, we need to have the ability to build roads; for hydro power, for managed resource development and for just plain recreation. We are the keepers of the Tongass and have been for decades. We are the best caretakers for the Tongass, not someone from somewhere who just wants the Tongass to be a big park in the middle of nowhere.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Tim Hines

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[Position]