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Comments: I am writing to support Alternative 6

Restoring the ability to build roads in the Tongass allows us to create the necessary infrastructure to develop mining and timber, build roads to connect communities, to develop hydropower energy, and foster access for all Southeast Alaska residents.

If all acres in the Tongass Forest Management plan were to be developed for logging and mining, the total acres of development would comprise approximately 2-3% of the 16.9 million acres in the Tongass. Clear headed thinking reveals that this is insignificant and non-impactful.

Many with an opposing viewpoint like to charge their opposition to Alternative 6 with emotional statements about how opening the Tongass to road development will have an enormous impact on fishing, hunting, and peaceful enjoyment of the "forest". Yet, many of these individuals rely on roads to get to their favorite "wilderness experiences". I believe that developing roads will create more access to enjoy the wilderness! Roads and enjoyment of the forest are not mutually exclusive terms.

Many of these same commenters also make the statement that we shouldn't exempt the Tongass because of the greed of large corporations. This is a baseless claim. Certainly, some corporations will benefit - but so will the Southeast Alaska population! Just as the residents and corporations in the lower 48 states have benefited from the access building roads has created.

Under any scenario, all development activity in the Tongass must undergo a significant permitting process, let's let existing science-based regulations be allowed to work as they are designed. The Tongass is nationally owned, access for all should be one of the main goals of managing this 16.9-million-acre forest.

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