Data Submitted (UTC 11): 12/17/2019 9:00:00 AM
First name: Melissa
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Organization:
Title:
Comments: HC738

Dear Alaska Roadless Rule Planning Committee,

I live and work on the lands and waters of the Tongass National Forest. From hunting and fishing, to hiking and camping, to our tourism and commercial fishing-based economies, Southeast Alaskans rely on the intact habitat that the roadless areas of the Tongass National Forest contain. *That is why I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule.* [text bolded for emphasis]

The Tongass contains some of the largest intact old-growth temperate rainforest in the world, and its value in providing clean water for fish and wildlife habitat is essential to the economic and ecological health of Southeast Alaska. I strongly oppose any efforts to weaken protections for Roadless areas in the Tongass National Forest and the Chugach National Forest.

The Forest Service needs to continue phasing out old-growth clearcutting. Please prioritize conservation of the T77 and TNC conservation priority areas in any new Alaska Roadless Rule. The Forest Service should focus on restoring degraded watershed and fish streams and carbon sequestration.