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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule. I strongly object to your plans to reduce and remove protections from roadless areas on the Tongass National Forest. The Tongass contains some of the last remaining old-growth temperate rainforest in the world, and its value in providing clean water and fish and wildlife habitat is essential to the economic and ecological health of Southeast Alaska. Furthermore, it's a critical carbon sink to combat climate change, sequestering 8% (probably more due to soil sequestration) of the total carbon stored in our national forests. As temperatures warm across the globe, changes are growing increasingly apparent in the Tongass. This forest is already under threat: bird and fish populations have plummeted and glacier landscapes are disappearing impacting wildlife habitat and recreational opportunities (which will impact local economies). The Tongass is the only true wilderness left in America and as such provides Americans an opportunity to experience a landscape, geographically and culturally, where humans are not separate from the land. The preferred alternative WILL hurt this already endangered and truly one of a kind forest. The only responsible action is the first "no action" alternative. Please keep the federal Federal Roadless Rule intact. For the Tongas is, as Kim Heacox says, "a place to lost yourself and find yourself and lose yourself again, to explore deeply but also lightly- - with gratitude, curiosity and a healthy sense of wonder. Not an Alaska for the taking, but an Alaska for the saving. This is the gift we receive from those who came before, the gift we accept with wisdom, restraint, and a promise to pass it on as we received it."

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