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Organization:

Title:

Comments: To:

Secretary Perdue

Chief Christensen

I am writing in favor of the "no-action" alternative on the Alaska-specific Roadless Rule. I believe it is of critical national and global importance that we continue to protect all inventoried roadless areas on the Tongass National Forest under the 2001 National Roadless Rule.

While I may have aesthetic and biodiversity interests in seeing this land remain undisturbed it is far more important that we retain the carbon capture characteristics of the globally unique Tongass forest resource which contains some of the last remaining intact old-growth temperate rainforests in the world. The need to continue sequestration of the carbon in the Tongass both meets and transcends the interests of the state of Alaska which is already experiencing serious Climate Change consequences. Unchecked these impacts will continue to expand in the future. Around the globe vulnerable nations are experiencing destructive weather patterns and sea level rise.

Unless actions such as Tongass protection are taken to remove and sequester carbon from the atmosphere these trends will continue, increasingly destabilizing the global political environment with desperate immigration and potential for war over less affected land resources. In addition to helping to answer this critical need for climate mitigation, the Tongass provides endless recreation opportunities, wildlife habitat and clean water. It's fish and wildlife habitat is essential to the economic, cultural, and ecological health of Southeast Alaska.

The Roadless Rule is one of the most popular land management policies the Federal Government has ever adopted. It preserves pristine habitat while saving untold millions of taxpayer dollars that might otherwise be spent to subsidize unprofitable timber sales. The Roadless Rule's value in preventing environmentally damaging and economically wasteful road-building and logging is particularly relevant in the Tongass. Taxpayer subsidies would be necessary because of the challenges of logging this difficult terrain where harvest costs would greatly exceed timber revenues.

I strongly urge you to select the "no-action" alternative on the Alaska-specific Roadless Rule. Please keep the 2001 National Roadless Rule on the Tongass.

Thank you.

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