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Comments: I support option 1 of the DEIS, No Action. The Alaska Roadless Rulemaking #54511 exemption from the 2001 Roadless Rule will harm fisheries, a main source of income in the region, representing about 5 to 10% of Alaska's total annual income.\* It will also harm the tourism industry, Alaska's second largest private sector employer employing 1 in 8 Alaskans. The only clear winners will be Alaska's timber companies (in particular Alcan/Transpac and Viking Lumber).

Timber companies only represent 1% of the region's economy. The U.S. Forest Service (i.e., U.S. taxpayers) heavily subsidizes the industry. Most of the logs are exported to China which makes them into high value products using well-paid labor. This seems contrary to the Trump administration goal of creating high paying jobs for Americans.

Furthermore, the complete disregard for the environmental value of the living Tongass Forest is criminal in the face of our need to REDUCE GHG emissions. Removal of trees from the Tongass will result in a significant net increase of CO2 from the forest as living trees that absorb CO2 and release oxygen are cut down leaving behind tons of decaying debris releasing CO2. Of all the CO2 sequestered by U.S. Forest Service lands, 8% is from the Tongass.

Forest fragmentation by building roads and increasing timber harvest will also result in the loss of species adding to the current loss of biodiversity on our planet. Please read this letter from 16 professors of biology and the environment:

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/pukgfha9fn4x6j6/Scientists%20tr%20re%20Alaska%20forest%20riders.pdf?dl=0>

The U.S. Forest Service's mission is clear:

"The mission of the Forest Service is to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations."

It is clear that road-building and the timber harvest it will ultimately lead to in the Tongass are entirely contrary to this mission. This rule making decision is motivated by politics, not the protection of our natural resources.

\*Total GDP of Alaska, \$55.5 billion, Q2, 2019 (<https://fred.stlouisfed.org/series/AKNQGSP>)

Fisheries income of Alaska, "\$5 billion every year (<https://www.akrdc.org/fisheries>)

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