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Organization:

Title:

Comments: For the Public Record.

Dear Policy Maker,

This letter serves as my comment against the proposal to remove roadless rule protections through the Tongass National Forest.

I am a 20 year Alaskan and have traveled by foot and boat along the Gulf Coast of Alaska and many areas that are part of the Tongass National Forest. I am a firm believer that logging in Alaska's temperate rain forest is an ill conceived non-sustainable industry. Old growth forests of Cedar and Spruce are national treasures that are ecological sanctuaries to many animals. Logging these forests is non-sustainable as it destroys the ecosystem of old growth and would take 150 years or more to grow back and establish itself.

In traveling the coast around of Cape Yakataga I have seen the destruction that logging has done leaving hillsides barren with derelict work camps, fuel drums and waste in it's path. Southeast Alaska is just not the right area for sustainable logging practices as it is simply NOT sustainable.

I am not anti-logging, but proposed logging on these lands is wrong. A few timber industry jobs are not worth saving for destroyed ecosystems, increased sediment load into Salmon streams and a negative impact on Tourism. Tourism and fishing are the future of the economy which provides sustainable jobs and \$ to nearby communities.

I urge you to select the NO ACTION alternative and keep the Tongass wild and beautiful for future generations to enjoy, then take a walk through an old growth forest in southeast Alaska and see the magic yourself.

Thank you,

Eric Parsons

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