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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I would like to respectfully ask the Forest Service to select the No Action Alternative and keep the 2001 Roadless Rule in place for the Tongass National Forest.

The Tongass Forest is the largest intact temperate rainforest on earth - it is a unique and spectacular landscape, something that is becoming increasingly rare in our quickly developing world.

This intact forest provides economic, ecological, cultural and social value left standing - removing the roadless rule corrodes the tangible and intangible value of the Tongass and the resources it provides.

I would like to refer to Elsa Sebastian's words - a life-long Alaskan who grew up in the fishing village of Point Baker on Prince of Wales Island, to explain what the Tongass provides as a standing forest and how logging in this area is not economically viable or an adequate solution to ensure the resilience of coastal communities or our national responsibility to combat climate change.

"The Tongass, known as America's Climate Forest, is the largest carbon sink of all of the national forests in the United States. Studies done by the USFS demonstrate that the Tongass holds 10 - 12 % of the carbon stored in the United State's national forests. Research has shown that protecting old-growth forests is essential to the climate fight. Right now our nation faces an unprecedented threat from global climate change. We have a responsibility to protect ancient forests as natural buffers against climate change.

Millions of wild salmon spawn in the Tongass. Every year commercial fishermen in Southeast Alaska harvest 49 million wild salmon that were spawned in the streams and rivers of the Tongass, and the rest return to the forest to reproduce and nourish wild animals and massive trees.

The Tongass is a globally significant refuge for healthily functioning coastal rainforest ecosystems; home to bears, wolves, deer, birds, and salmon.

Logging the Tongass is costing taxpayers a colossal amount of money. Tax Payers for Common Sense have recently reported that \$600 million federal dollars have been lost to Tongass logging since 1999."

I live in Ketchum, Idaho and spend my summers up in Alaska. I work for a company that sells wild Alaska seafood - primarily salmon. The thousands of miles of salmon-spawning streams that the Tongass shelters are integral to the commercial fishing industry in South East Alaska. Salmon offer the promise of sustainable jobs and resilient coastal communities - logging the Tongass does not. Please consider the effect that removing

Roadless Rule protections would have on this valuable industry and the communities that rely on salmon both for subsistence and commercial use.

As someone who spends the majority of the year in a place where salmon are struggling due in part to dams, pollution and habitat loss, going back up to Alaska is always an eye-opening experience. We are spending millions and millions of dollars in the Columbia River basin to restore salmon that offer tremendous economic, ecological and cultural value - the ironic part is that salmon will return every year, for free ... if we let them. Southeast Alaskans do not want to see the same thing happen to their abundant salmon runs.

Thank you very much,

Amy Rawn

[Position]