

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 12/17/2019 9:00:00 AM

First name: Michael

Last name: Kohan

Organization:

Title:

Comments: As a born and raised local to Southeast Alaska, I have followed the ongoing conversation around timber resource extraction. As a community member, my interest lies in protecting the values that I hold and have determined why I have chosen to stay and live in Southeast Alaska. The values of the Tongass and the lifestyle that I have chosen to pursue do not align with harvesting timber from our backyard. Instead, my values are associated with protecting habitat for our hunting, fishing, and common property rights as citizens of Alaska. Forest management in Alaska should have this as a priority as well and not the development of a timber industry that has no future and can barely support the independent native organizations that still rely on this as a economic resource. Instead, these organizations are looking to diversify their portfolio and trend away from logging and timber extraction and more towards the business of adding value to seafood resources, a valuable industry in Southeast Alaska that depends on the healthy riparian habitat.

I am in favor of Alternative 1; to take no action and leave Alaska under the 2001 Roadless Rule. AS a state, we need to evolve and be more innovative in how we can provide jobs and sectors for the next generation of Alaskans. Continuing to extract resources from a dying industry and resorting to old practices of using the habitat for immediate benefit, but no long term plan is a threat not only to the growth of our economy in Alaska, but also to the existing resources and the right to common property benefit for the livelihoods and community appeal to the next generation of Alaska locals.

[Position]