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Organization:

Title:

Comments: My name is Tyrus Moffitt and I live in Sitka, AK. I am writing a comment on the Alaska Roadless Rule DEIS because I am concerned with how the Rule and the proposed full exemption will affect the Tongass National Forest and the Chugach National Forest.

I have lived in Sitka, AK for 14 years now. It is located in the heart of the last standing temperate rainforest on earth. This place is my home. Whether its my work, as a commercial salmon troller, or my recreational activities on my off days like hunting camping, subsistence fishing for salmon, hiking and trying to find serenity away from people, its all in the Tongass. My future as a commercial troller truly depends on the survival of this forest that we all call home. I grew up in Oregon where there are hundreds of thousands of miles of logging roads and new and old clear cuts. So Im very familiar with the consequences of turning this Forest into what used to be a forest down there. First off, the oil spills from loggers, trucks, or equipment with hydraulic leaks are inevitable and will happen. Although it sounds minuscule it amounts to a lot of every logger and piece of equipment does it. Not to mention destroying the salmon streams that myself and many many others rely on for our way of life. Secondly every dead end road WILL eventually become some sort of dump from lazy people not wanting to spend money at the dump when they can just pitch it at the end of a log landing. Its disgusting and I promise you it will happen. Thirdly, this forest is so old and has so much history to it that it would be detrimental to the natives who have lived here for generations and generations. The amount of revenue that would result from punching in roads and clear cutting what they can, will be nothing in comparison to the amount of revenue the state will loose from salmon streams dying, road maintenance, and depleting the salmon fisheries. Withdrawing the roadless rule In the Tongass is a horrible idea, and Im telling from experience. The result would be catastrophic. Please, please, please, reconsider this. We dont need to turn this pristine country into the lower 48, or treat it like the last of the Amazon. Thankyou for you time

I urge the Forest Service to select Alternative 1, the no action alternative, for the final decision on the Alaska Roadless Rule. This alternative protects the inventoried roadless areas in Alaska that are full of pristine wilderness and provide important fish and wildlife habitat, and already allows for important community and economic development projects. As an American citizen, I value the Tongass National Forest and the Chugach National Forest for its status as America's best natural solution to climate change and its sequestering of millions of metric tons of carbon and mitigating climate change, its wild salmon populations and the world-class fishing opportunities, its huge swaths of intact ecosystems and all the biodiversity it contains, its status as the largest intact temperate rainforest in the world, the recreational opportunities it provides, the high density of incredible wildlife it contains, to keep public lands wild for future generations, its status as a national and global treasure, the lifestyles of the indigenous communities that the forest supports. A full exemption does not protect these priorities, nor does it effectively balance economic development with the countless other benefits provided by roadless areas. I would like the Forest Service to manage roadless areas for low-impact recreation (camping, hiking, hunting, foraging, etc), medium-impact recreation (FS cabins, trails, mooring buoys, 3-sided shelters), passive/active watershed restoration (stream and habitat) to improve/maintain roadless characteristics (culvert removal/replacement, improve fish passage, wildlife thinning, etc). It is important to me that high-value intact habitat including the T77 watersheds and the TNC conservation priority areas retain their roadless protections in any alternative selected.

The Forest Service is wasting taxpayers' valuable time and money by trying to prop up a failing timber industry in Southeast Alaska. The nonpartisan, independent taxpayer watchdog Taxpayers for Common Sense reported that the Tongass timber program has losses of over \$600 million of taxpayers money in the past 20 years. I would rather see my taxpayer dollars used to restore salmon habitat that was hurt by past logging practices, perform restorative actions that support wildlife populations on previously degraded landscapes that support wildlife populations, develop more recreational opportunities, like trails and cabins, support small-scale, sustainable logging, establish the economic value of the carbon stored in the Tongass. We need to stop subsidizing the clearcutting of old growth on the Tongass through taxpayer funded roadbuilding. If a full exemption were chosen, it would not create opportunities and would instead prioritize the special interests of one industry over the interests of the entire American public.

The Tongass is Americas homegrown natural solution to climate change. The forest sequesters 8% of the carbon stored in forests throughout the contiguous US states, some 3 billion metric tons of it. We must take action to mitigate and adapt to climate change, and maintaining the Tongass in a roadless state is critical for a sustainable future.

I urge the Forest Service to listen to the voices of the American people and prioritize them over corporate interests. The Forest Service should strengthen public involvement in developing land management policy and focus on broadly supported work rather than allowing special corporate interests to guide policy changes. Attempting to exempt inventoried roadless areas on the Chugach National Forest from the Alaska Roadless Rule adds further insult to injury, and this proposal has not received any sufficient environmental impact analysis or public input. Choosing a full exemption will not create a long lasting, durable solution for roadless areas in Alaska it will only increase the legal challenges, uncertainty for businesses, and conflict over these forests going forward.

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