

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

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I support Alternative 6, the full exemption. The Tongass should be managed as a multiple-use forest. Activities such as timber harvesting, mining, energy development, and recreational access are severely inhibited by the current roadless rule. And the current roadless rule is not needed to "save" anything. Fish habitat is already protected in the national forest. Wildlife is also fully protected in the national forest. Historical records show that salmon populations have doubled in the forest since the mid fifties when logging started. Also wildlife have thrived in the new growth stands where logging has occurred. Most of the recreational activities occur where access has been created by logging roads. All these resource development and recreational activities can co-exist and thrive under a properly managed forest system. I've seen this co-existence of diverse groups occur successfully in other parts of the world, such as New Zealand. It's only in the US that the Environmental organizations and their attorneys can shut down regions of our country from any development activity by preaching an unsubstantiated and biased "doomsday" scenario that the facts don't support. Forest managers are professionals that take their responsibilities of managing a dynamic forest seriously. Let these professional managers do their job and let regulated multiple use development create an economic base for this region in Alaska.

In summary, I fully support Alternative 6 which is a full exemption. The management of any development or recreational activities by the various regulatory agencies will allow development and forest sustainability and prosperity to co-exist. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Regards,

Jerome Birch

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