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Comments: I am grateful for the opportunity to comment on this matter, and to the staff whose job it is to compile and review all this public commentary I say - thank you.

I only learned about the proposal to allow roads and therefore more logging in the Tongass last week in a very informative and very moving piece on NPR. I have never visited the Tongass and perhaps I never will. If it isn't there anymore I'll never have the chance.

I've read enough and learned enough to tell whoever is making this decision to Choose Alternative 1: No Change. Do not add roads to this forest. Do not further impede upon the modern native tribal members who use this forest as a place to gather what I would reckon is both nourishment and medicine. Do not further deforest this place. Do not give in to the pressure to create short-term, purely financial gains by the timber industry and their lobbyists. Do not decrease the capacity of this carbon sink to keep cleansing our atmosphere. Do not destroy more wildlife habitat.

Do keep your eyes on a further horizon. Do keep things as they are now, and go further. Do cooperate with tribal nations. Do spend money on helping those who were in the timber industry retrain and build businesses that are sustainable instead of extractive - ecotourism, solar energy.

This is an old-growth forest. It can't be replanted like a tree farm. It would take at least a couple of average human lifetimes - 150 years or more I've learned, to grow back like it is. It belongs to the whole world, not to the timber industry, not to any political party or leader. And ultimately it doesn't even belong to Alaska or to United States, although I understand it is a national forest.

Thanks for reading and for adding my voice to the many comments I read that also oppose and change and that support Alternative 1.

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