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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Hi, I am writing to express strong opposition to efforts to roll back the Roadless Area Conservation Rule (Roadless Rule) in Alaska or elsewhere. I appreciate that "the State's preference" is "to emphasize rural economic development opportunities," but it does not appear that opening the Tongass to roads and logging will accomplish this. Damaging an old growth carbon sink while we are fast approaching 1.5 degrees Celsius of warming will only exacerbate natural resource degradation and economic output in the Arctic. I did want to understand the federal argument in favor of opening the Tongass forest to roads, and therefore attempted to read the 2016 Forest Plan to learn more about these purported economic benefits. However, when I followed this url: [https://www.fs.usda.gov/internet/FSE\\_DOCUMENTS/fseprd527907.pdf](https://www.fs.usda.gov/internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/fseprd527907.pdf), I was redirected to this url: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/invalidurl>. It is unclear what the economic development argument in the 2016 Forest Plan argument is. It is clear that tourism is far more of an economic boon to the region than timber harvesting. This tribal review of the Alaska economy shows that 20x more people are employed by the visitor industry than the timber industry, and has been growing steadily, thanks to the beauty and scenery of places like the Tongass:

<http://www.seconference.org/sites/default/files/Southeast%20Alaska%20by%20the%20numbers%202018%20FINAL-compressed.pdf>.

Please choose the No Action alternative. Any other choice would ignore overwhelming public support and harm Alaskans, including Alaska Natives, and taxpayers across the nation. Any choice but the No Action alternative would also put wildlife and critical habitat at risk, threaten access to clean water, and be a step in the wrong direction on climate change jeopardizing Alaskans at a time when the state already faces severe challenges such as permafrost melt related to rising temperatures. I urge you not to abandon the Roadless Rule in Alaska and instead to put the public interest above corporate profits by choosing to keep the rule in place unchanged.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Regards, Brianna McGuire

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