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First name: Den

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I support No-Action Alternative for Draft Environmental Impact Statement on proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for Tongass National Forest.

Trumps plan is yet another attack on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities. We simply cannot let it disappear.

Tongass contains some of the largest intact old-growth temperate rainforest in the world, and its value in providing clean water for fish and wildlife habitat is essential to economic and ecological health of Southeast Alaska. I urge you to keep federal Roadless Rule intact and current protections in place for national forests in Alaska.

In addition, I strongly object to your plans to reduce and remove protections from national forest roadless areas. Roadless Rule is one of the smartest and most popular land management policies Federal Government has ever adopted. Not only does it preserve some of Americas best fish and wildlife habitat, but it also saves untold millions of taxpayer dollars that might otherwise be spent to subsidize money-losing timber sales. Value of Roadless Rule in preventing environmentally damaging and economically wasteful road-building and logging is particularly relevant in Tongass, where logging costs vastly exceed timber revenues and require unconscionable taxpayer subsidies.

Regards, Den Wichar

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