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First name: Jill
Last name: Leukhardt
Organization:
Title:
Comments: I strongly support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I strongly support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest.

The proposed plan to change this Rule is another attack on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities. America and Americans must not let it disappear or be damaged.

When Ive visited Alaska, the essential value of this region to indigenous Alaskans has been obvious. My conversations with people about their daily lives have made their practical uses and spiritual value for the Tongass abundantly clear.

The Tongass contains some of the largest intact old-growth temperate rainforest in the world. Its value in providing clean water for fish and wildlife habitat is essential to the economic and ecological health of Southeast Alaska. I implore you to keep the federal Roadless Rule intact and current protections in place for national forests in Alaska. This benefits both indigenous Alaskan peoples, all Alaskans, and, indeed, all Americans, now and for generations to come.

Further, I strongly object to your plans to reduce and remove protections from the roadless areas of our national forests. The Roadless Rule is one of the most well-considered and popularly-valued land management policies ever adopted by the Federal Government. The Roadless Rule preserves some of Americas best fish and wildlife habitat, and also saves untold millions of taxpayer dollars that might otherwise be spent to subsidize money-losing timber sales. The benefit of the Roadless Rule in preventing environmentally damaging and economically wasteful road-building and logging is particularly relevant in the Tongass, where logging costs vastly exceed timber revenues and require unconscionable taxpayer subsidies. Before changing this Rule, the Department must answer numerous questions, but one is basic: Why build roads in the Tongass where logging is unprofitable?

Changing the Rule certainly doesnt benefit Americans, now or for future generations, and does not meet the Departments mission,

Regards, Jill Leukhardt

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