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Comments: I am writing in support of the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. Keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest is very important. Trumps plan is one more attack from the Trump administration on Indigenous rights. Alaskan Native communities -- including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples -- have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for thousands of years. It is the backbone of their culture, traditions, and communities -- we have no right to just let it disappear.

The 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 the economic and ecological health of Southeast Alaska. I urge you to keep the federal Roadless Rule intact and current protections in place for national forests in Alaska.

Furthermore, I strongly oppose your plans to reduce and remove protections from our national forests roadless areas. The Roadless Rule is one of the most intelligent and most popular land management policies the 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. The value 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.

Regards, Jason Schulman