

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 12/16/2019 9:00:00 AM

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Comments: The Tongass National Forest 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. Please keep the federal Roadless Rule intact and current protections in place for national forests in Alaska.

I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass. 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 -- we cannot/should not let it disappear.

In addition, the Roadless Rule is one of the smartest and most popular land management policies the Federal Government has ever adopted. We object to plans to reduce and remove protections from our national forests roadless areas. Not only does it preserve some of Americas best fish and wildlife habitat, it also saves 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 relevant in the Tongass where logging costs exceed timber revenues and require taxpayer subsidies.

Regards, Therese Vana

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