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Organization:

Title:

Comments: The Tongass is Important: My Roadless Comments

Dear Secretary Perdue and Chief Christensen,

I urge you to keep the 2001 National Roadless Rule intact and current protections in place on the Tongass National Forest.

I live in Juneau, Alaska and consider the beautiful land of the Tongass National Forest to be among my best friends. I enjoy hiking, pack rafting, biking, running, skiing, fishing, drawing, and generally enjoying the beauty of untouched nature we are so blessed to enjoy. Like a good friend, the Tongass picks me up when I am down, and highlights when things are good. I am very concerned about the negative impact that the Tongass would suffer if the 2001 National Roadless Rule were altered.

I attended the informational meeting that was put on by the National Forest Service in Juneau. I left that meeting feeling more worried than when I first arrived. The proposed plans that were created to replace the Roadless Rule do not take into account the unavoidable consequences the changes would have on recreation opportunities, clean water, and the fish and wildlife habitat that is essential to the economic, cultural, and ecological health of Southeast Alaska.

I also want to share that in the meeting, Ken, the Forest Service staff member who was presenting the information to us, estimated that 90% of the extraordinary number of comments the Forest Service had received during the comment period for this topic were in support of the "no-action" alternative on the Alaska-specific Roadless Rule. It is clear that the Alaskan people want to continue to protect all inventoried roadless areas on the Tongass National Forest under the 2001 National Roadless Rule. I hope our voices will be heard.

Again, I strongly urge you to select the "no-action" alternative on the Alaska-specific Roadless Rule and keep the 2001 National Roadless Rule on the Tongass.

Thank you

Katie Kowalchuk

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