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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Keep the Roadless Rule in Place for the Tongass National Forest

Dear Interdisciplinary Team Leader, Alaska Roadless Rule Ken Tu,

I am an outdoor recreation enthusiast writing to express my interest in continuing to protect the Tongass National Forest and its backcountry and roadless areas from unnecessary logging and development.

The Tongass has tremendous value for outdoor recreation in the region, and also provides clean water, clean air, and wildlife habitat, all of which are foundational to the economic and ecological health of Southeast Alaska. Road building, logging, and development should continue to be prohibited in the Tongass's roadless areas through upholding the Roadless Rule.

The Roadless Rule was created after a lot of public outreach. It's a popular and sensible approach to land management. It would be wrong for the Tongass National Forest to be used for lumber, mining sites, or road construction. The devastation from these acts will hurt the forest, reduce tourism, and affect the wildlife beyond measure. Look at other areas of the world where species are almost extinct because of habitat loss, will deforesting and mining not affect species in the Tongass Forest?

I am from North Dakota and I have seen first hand how the environment and animals are affected when the oil boom was going on in the western part of the state. The boom brought many sketchy people to the state and it was realized that many deer, pronghorn antelope, etc., were poached by these horrible people. Please consider this when making a final decision, having Tongass exempt from the roadless rule will bring nothing but bad things to SE Alaska.

Sincerely,

Jamie Wahler

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[Position]