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First name: Laurent

Last name: Deviche

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I support Alternative 1 - No Action

Hello,

I am writing in response to the proposed Alternatives to the Alaska Roadless Rule by the USDA Forest Service.

As an 8 year current resident of Sitka, Alaska and a prior 11 year resident of Fairbanks, Alaska, I support Alternative 1, no action or change to the Alaska Roadless Rule.

As you know, the Alaska Roadless Rule was created to protect areas from the devastating effects of clear cut logging. There is much scientific evidence that clear cuts of old growth forest stands are detrimental to the health of forest ecosystems in Southeast Alaska, two examples are the negative effects on deer populations by eliminating understory forage plants necessary for survival, and another is by raising stream temperatures which negatively impact salmon populations. These two species are integral to ecosystem health in southeast Alaska and also provide subsistence hunting and fishing for resident.

Additionally, I support Alternative 1 because the Tongass National Forest is of great scenic beauty which a national treasure, and this would be greatly altered by the visual impact of logging. Environmental tourism is a major industry in southeast Alaska and visitors come here to see untouched landscapes and a world unaltered by civilization. Old growth, virgin forests are rare on a global scale, and once harvested can never be recreated. The Tongass National Forest harbors some of the largest stands of old growth timber in the world, and this should be preserved for future generations to enjoy, research, and admire.

The reinstatement of heavy logging on the Tongass only provides short term benefits but long term negative consequences for the ecosystems and people of the region and outside visitors. The mission statement and of the Forest Service is "caring for the land and serving people". I strongly feel like Alternative 1 is the only alternative that keeps this mission statement true.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Laurent Deviche.

[Position]