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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Alaska Roadless Rule

Forest Service Public Comment Reviewer,

I am a long-time Southeast Alaska resident and I object to exempting the Tongass from the National Roadless Rule. I support Alternative 1: No Action.

From 1981 through 1998 I owned and operated a commercial fishing vessel here in Southeast, so like many other commenters I am interested in protecting salmon populations from the kinds of adverse impacts that come from clearcutting and road building in valuable riparian watersheds.

From 1998 through 2017 I served various roles (Operations Manager, Captain, Alaska Shore Support) for a small cruise ship company conducting week-long wilderness cruises during summer months from Dixon Entrance to Glacier Bay, so like many other commenters I am interested in protecting wildlands for public access and public enjoyment.

As a lifelong conservationist, I am concerned that if we as a society continue to ignore the need for us humans to reduce our collective negative impact on the biosphere, we are going to impose immense future suffering on today's children.

I concede that if the Tongass fails to be exempted from the National Roadless Rule it will continue to impose some constraints on some communities in the region by restricting future economic development or transportation options. But though such consequences are unfortunate, I'm much less concerned about the future of economic development than I am about the future of human civilization in an era of radically changing climate.

Modern road building and industrial scale logging activities are fossil fuel intensive, generating high CO2 emissions.

If there were a way for the Forest Service to allow road building and logging projects within Tongass Roadless Areas so long as they don't generate any fossil fuel related CO2 emissions, I could support exemptions to the Roadless Rule. But that will never happen. Loggers won't go back to using crosscut saws and road builders won't go back to using oxen.

So there you have it.

Joel Hanson

[Position]