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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Comments to oppose modification to the Roadless Rule

Dear U.S. Forest Service,

Despite living in Vermont, about 4,000 miles away from the Tongass National Forest, as a citizen of the U.S., I urgently ask you to take "No Action" Alternative (Alternative 1) and allow the Roadless Rule to remain intact on the Tongass National Forest.

Deforestation contributes to climate change. Intact, ancient forests are strongholds of climate resilience, and the Tongass is one of world's largest. That's why I am commenting from Vermont. Do not open this valuable old-growth forest to the interests of the timber industry.

This agency hasn't engaged any public listening and scoping sessions beyond SE Alaska even though this is a national issue. Additionally, at state level, this agency is not in compliance with ANILCA Section 810, specifically the four-step procedural processes:

"Introduction:

I) Public Law 96-487, the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA), Title VIII, Section 810, subtitled Subsistence and Land Use Decisions, outlines the requirements for addressing impacts to subsistence uses of resources in the federal land use decision-making process in Alaska." (Compliance with ANILCA Section 810, accessed 12/17/19, 9:07am EST, <https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.blm.gov&data=02%7C01%7C%7C8e69a3e254744e1549bf08d782fb8c44%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C0%7C1%7C637121889210170809&sdata=pfqrVlxLyPhmHbXa%2F6jTVBRkTriUIFP50ADeH85hX3c%3D&reserved=0>)

All of the action alternatives in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement allow more roadbuilding and logging across the Tongass National Forest.

Logging roads and timber operations are subsidized upwards of tens of millions taxpayers' dollars every year, with zero return on investment.

It is nothing but mythical propaganda from the timber industry that opening the Tongass will lead to economic development. Meanwhile, these destructive activities degrade the naturally sustainable wealth of salmon, wildlife watching, tourism opportunities and indigenous peoples' culture, ways of life.

In conclusion:

It is time to stop opening more and more acres to the timber industry and instead bolster protections to the old-growth forests and wild areas on the Tongass.

I repeat, I urge you to select the "No Action" Alternative (Alternative 1) and allow the Roadless Rule to remain intact on the Tongass National Forest.

Sincerely,

Alice Berlow

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[Position]