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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Alaska Roadless Rule

USDA Forest Service

Attn: Alaska Roadless Rule

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14 December 2019

Dear Folks

I support Alternative 1 which takes no action and would leave all of Alaska under the 2001 Roadless Rule, including the Tongass National Forest.

Seven decades of high-grading has dramatically depleted the Tongass Forest's largest (4-10 feet in diameter) old-growth trees. And those rare, old-growth stands provide some of the most valuable fish and wildlife habitats on the Tongass. If the new Prince of Wales timber sale moves forward and the Roadless Rule protections are removed, most of the remaining large-tree forest stands will be clear-cut and their habitat values for wildlife and salmon will be permanently lost.

This would further jeopardize two of southeast Alaska's significant economic drivers: fisheries and tourism. For both ecological and economic reasons, this is why the Tongass should not be exempted from the Roadless Rule.

We cannot replace large old-growth trees and the habitat they create. The time has come to stop cutting them down.

Sincerely,

Garth Ferber

Seattle, WA 98125

[Position]