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Organization:

Title:

Comments: My Comments on the Roadless Rule

Dear Secretary Perdue and Chief Christensen,

Please select the "no-action" alternative on the Alaska-specific Roadless Rule and protect all inventoried roadless areas on the Tongass National Forest under the 2001 National Roadless Rule.

The Tongass contains some of the last remaining intact old-growth temperate rainforests in the world, and its value in providing endless recreation opportunities, clean water, and fish and wildlife habitat is essential to the economic, cultural, and ecological health of Southeast Alaska. I urge you to keep the 2001 National Roadless Rule intact and current protections in place on the Tongass National Forest.

The 2001 National Roadless Rule is well designed and flexible enough to allow for access and development projects. Since 2009 48 projects have been approved in the Tongass, the majority relating to surface exploration of potential mining and hydropower. The USFS has also taken steps to expedite this approval process, now taking only one to three weeks for the Tongass National Forest.

For these reasons, again, I strongly urge you to select the "no-action" alternative on the Alaska-specific Roadless Rule and keep the 2001 National Roadless Rule on the Tongass.

Thank you

Mark Berry

[POSITION]