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Organization:

Title:

Comments: USFS Docket ID: FS-2019-0023 Alaska Roadless Rule #54511

Barry Whitehill

December 16, 2019

Subject: USFS Docket ID: FS-2019-0023 Alaska Roadless Rule #54511

Dear Secretary Perdue and Ms. Christiansen:

I am an Alaskan resident who relies on public lands in Alaska for hunting the meat for my family's dinners and dip netting salmon for the majority of the fish we eat. The Tongass National Forest not only contributes to providing food for my table, it is also a huge contributor to fellow Alaskans who rely on subsistence activities, commercial fishing, the outdoor recreation industry, and for personal recreational pursuits.

To exempt the Tongass, is a huge leap backward and risks undoing the progress made through hard work and compromise on the part of many. This decision goes against years of collaboration between the U.S. Forest Service, Southeastern Alaskan tribes, outdoor recreation and fishing interests and local communities.

Roadless areas on the Tongass include some of the most productive fish and wildlife habitat on the forest. These roadless areas offer the best combinations of stunning scenery, wild landscapes, fish and wildlife, and access for Alaska's tourism and recreation industry. Allowing large-scale logging is not only a bad idea for tourism and recreation, but for the environment and climate crisis as well.

Abandon this foolish leap backwards. Instead, maintain protections for the Tongass roadless areas by selecting the Alternative 1, "No Action" alternative.

Sincerely,

Barry Whitehill

[Position]