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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Tongass Roadless Rule - Comments on draft EIS

Dear Sirs,

I support the No Action alternative to the draft Environmental Impact Statement to exempt the Tongass National Forest from the Roadless Rule that is in effect for all other national forests. The Tongass should be under the same rules as all other national forests and not be given a special exemption. Our national forests belong to all the American public and not only to Alaska. This sets a bad precedent if a lone state has the ability to change national laws.

Alaska is already experiencing the effects of global warming more than any other state. The melting permafrost is emitting methane contributing to the green house gases causing the warming. The Tongass National Forest and especially its 9 million acres of roadless areas moderate that effect storing carbon in the trees. We can not ask

Brazil to preserve the Amazon forest unless our country is also willing to do our part. Forests are also moderating influences reducing temperatures in and around them.

Timber sales in the Tongass have long been money losing affairs and the timber industry failing even with federal subsidies. There is no point in trying to prop up failing industry to the detriment to more profitable industries that Alaska more desperately at this time of economic downturn.

The complete forest canopy will better protect salmon streams cool temperature, which is even more important as open streams become too hot for salmon survival. Logging will also cause disturbance and sedimentation of streams which also harm salmon spawning and survival. It is better to support Alaska's still healthy salmon fishing industry, than damage it. In Washington state's Puget Sound area, we have many fishing fleets that go to southeast Alaska to fish so we too have an interest in what happens in Alaska. Alaska has already had to close its cod fishery for the season because of the heat kills the fish.

Tourism is the growing industry in Alaska and it is very important to the economy. Clearcuts seen

from tourist ships are not inviting. Scenes of vibrant spruce forests and bald eagles, and the opportunity to see wildlife is what draws people to take an Alaska cruise up the inside passage.

Please support the NO ACTION alternative.

Thank you for taking comments,

Raelene Gold

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