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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Tongass and the Roadless Rule

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing to express my support of the roadless rule that has been a boon to the Tongass National Forest, to the residents of Southeast Alaska, and to the globe's health and biodiversity.

I lived in Alaska for five years and have worked as a guide in Southeast Alaska for the past fifteen years. I have walked the bear trails, gaped at salmon runs, appreciated most caught on spruce and hemlock tops.

More, I have studied both the biological ecosystems of the region and the human history of the forest, too. My understanding of the economics of logging in the Tongass was informed by history classes I took at the University of Alaska. If legislators can't understand the innate value of the Tongass, then perhaps they could be persuaded by the horrible economics of its logging. Logging the Tongas never produced great "product" and the efforts of the timber companies were heavily subsidized by the federal government, which built the roads that private companies used to take the trees. This is not wise economically.

Keep the roadless rule. The residents of Alaska have had a punishing year under the governorship of Dunleavy, who has gutted state services. In southeast Alaska, tourism and fisheries are central to the economy, and logging would drastically damage both.

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