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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Concerns w DEIS

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed rule and DEIS. I have submitted comments from my perspective working in the tourism sector. These comments are written from my personal perspective.

Please reject the Proposed Rule. It promotes division and perpetuates controversy.

My concern with the analysis is that it significantly downplays impacts by relying on the 2016 TLMP, despite admissions by senior Forest Service leadership that this roadless rule repeal would undo the 2016 Amendment. By dismissing all impacts from repealing the Roadless Rule, the Forest Service is hiding impacts. We also don't get to hear from experts about the real impacts to fish, bears and deer.

The people who know a lot about deer have told us repeatedly that we need to leave the remaining old growth alone to ensure healthy deer numbers. As a deer hunter, I am deeply concerned that the Proposed Rule opens up logging in new areas, disrupts the conservation strategy of the TLMP and disregards local voices in favor of outside political pressure. Claiming the proposed rule doesn't permit any specific projects is insufficient and misleading: this repeal opens a Pandora's box for the Tongass and could start a series of role-backs that threaten the resources that make this place unique.

Secretary Purdue, please listen to the overwhelming weight of comments from those of us who live here and reject the proposed rule.

Dan Kirkwood

Juneau, Alaska

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Daniel F. Kirkwood

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