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Comments: HC3008

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To Whom It May Concern:

My husband and I have been remiss in waiting so long to visit the great State of Alaska. We are both in our 70s and just made our first trip this summer. For our maiden venture, we chose a 10 day sail boat trip into Glacier Bay National Park and Tongass National Forest, departing out of Juneau.

When I first heard that the USDA was considering changing the protected status of the Tongass National Forest, i was sickened. I am appalled at the trend by the federal government (USDA, Bureau of Land Management) to usurp land that has been entrusted to the citizens of the United States, to be enjoyed by all of us - not to be harvested and destroyed. Theodore Roosevelt, in his wisdom and foresight, created the National Park System, designating national parks and monuments to be preserved for all to enjoy. Our parks are so valuable as conservation areas, to protect all the species that live within them. Importantly for me, Tongass was a place to reflect and recharge. I remembr sitting on the deck of our sail boat, listening to two hump back whales feeding in the cove where we had anchored for the night. It was amazing and timeless.

The only option that makes sense is to leave Tongass and all of Alaska under the 2001 Roadless Rule. Any type of development will indelibly alter the landscape in a negative way. I can't imagine the concern being felt by all of the businesses who are dependent on an intact forest. I don't understand the reasoning in taking land that can never be replaced and ruin it with roads and infrastructure. You might want to consider the damage done to the florida Everglades and the River of Glass, when development tried to change the landscape. Now the State of Florida is spending huge amounts of money to repair the damage. But it is too late now to fix what was done.

If you believe the saying that history repeats itself, please heed the lesson. I wholeheartedly support the "NO ACTION" alternative and the current roadless designations for all of Alaska.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Suzanne Orschell

[Position]