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Organization:

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Comments: HC3051

To the Roadless Rule Planning Team:

The Forest Service should reject any exemption from the Roadless Rule for Alaska and adopt Alternative 1: No Change/ No Action.

I have lived, fished, hunted, wandered the woods, and observed the Tongass for over thirty years, beginning when excessive, destructive clearcutting was routine 'management' practice. No more old growth should be cut because the accumulated damage to ecosystems has already ruined habitat, especially salmon spawning habitat, and produced thousands of acres of impenetrable regrowth, which the Forest Service has proved to be helpless to restore.

Cutting old-growth forest, the only excuse for exempting Alaska from the Roadless Rule, is contrary to the TLMP, the health of the Tongass as a forest rather than a tree farm, the interests of the residents of Southeast Alaska, the prosperity of many industries and enterprises much more valuable than the timber industry, carbon capture, restoring fish runs and habitat damaged by past logging, the beauty of a natural forest, access to land not smothered by regrowth, and the restoration of forest lands blighted by past malignant forest practices.

Much more public money has been spent by the Forest Service building roads in the Tongass than has been realized from the use of those roads. Road building in the Tongass has been and continues to be a flagrant waste of public funds.

If the Forest Service has that kind of money, it should be spent on thinning and restoring the great wastelands of past clear cuts and reversing the damage to watersheds and salmon spawning habitat inflicted by past logging.

The existing roads in the Tongass meet any legitimate need for development. Illegitimate purposes, such as logging for round-log export from Southeast Alaska, roadbuilding largely to profit contractors, and generating campaign contributions to political figures are indefensible, despite being tolerated previously.

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