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First name: Kathryn

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: As someone who grew up in Southeast Alaska and lived there for 20 years; who regularly comes back to visit friends and family and experience the incredible natural landscapes; who retains some of the Tongass forest in my heart wherever I go; who sees and understands the way our Native tribes in Southeast are in essential relationship with the forest and how their traditions and lives are intertwined with it; who has seen and learned about the myriad ways the Tongass supports the livelihood and future well-being of all human and animal life in Southeast Alaska; and who was raised in a commercial fishing family and came to know the essential ways the forest sustains the health of our salmon populations, and I am writing to voice my support for the roadless rule and share my deep concerns about the damaging, irreparable impact that additional road construction, mining, clearcutting, and other forms of intensive industry would have on the Tongass. The science is clear in that our plant and animal wildlife does not recover after activities like this, and the people who make their home in the Tongass have a duty to stand up and oppose this project for all those beings who do not have the same kind of agency. I hope the Forest Service will put more time and resources into a non-partisan evaluation of the impacts of a roadless rule rescission and come to understand how this is not an action that will benefit Alaskans now or in the future--protections for the Tongass are our best path forward as a collective so that we can make sure all its beauty and resources are preserved for our children and their children.