

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 9/29/2020 7:22:53 PM

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Comments: I urge you to keep in place the Roadless Rule as it stands. It is vitally important that the Tongass National Forest keep its current protections, because it is the largest remaining coastal temperate rainforest remaining on our planet, and it is a critical carbon sink. Because of this, protecting the Tongass is likely to help us lessen the effects of climate change. In the 20 years since the Roadless Rule was applied to the Tongass, there have been many exceptions granted for infrastructure needs, and this could continue into the future, while keeping the Roadless Rule in place.

As a biologist working in the Tongass for 29 years, I appreciate the complexity and the wildness of the Tongass. If the forest is left as it is, with the Roadless Rule intact, more income can be generated by tourism - visitors seeking time in wild places, seeing bears, whales, salmon, etc.

Finally, Native Alaskan have lived, foraged and hunted in the Tongass for millenia, and their ability to continue their lifestyle would be better protected - by protecting the Tongass and keeping the Roadless Rule intact.

We should all be stewards of the great Tongass National Forest, and do what we can to ensure future generations may benefit from it.

Respectfully,

Berit Solstad