Data Submitted (UTC 11): 11/1/2019 8:00:00 AM
First name: Andrew
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Organization:
Title:
Comments: To whom it may concern,

I am writing in regard to the proposal of exempting the Tongas National Forest from the Alaskan Roadless Rule.

I have read through the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and the six potential alternatives. The "preferred" alternative (#6) allows for the over 9 million acres of untouched forest lands to be opened for logging. This is unacceptable! This is clearly motivated by money and not the environment. More time and energy were wasted explaining the "benefits" of this proposal than the actual research of the environmental costs of such a plan. While a monetary value cannot be objectively placed on ecosystem services provided by untouched, virgin forest lands - such as air quality, water quality, or carbon sequestration - these are vital and natural processes that need to be taken into consideration over the profit margins of the logging industry.

I formally posit that Alternative 1 - leaving these lands under the protection of the Roadless Rule - is the only acceptable course of action. Any other alternative would be the first step in deregulating environmental safeguards for this area which has the potential to be devastating to the environment and the ecosystem services it provides.

Alaska is known for its wildness! Let's spend our energy protecting these lands and preserving its resources. Let's make Alaska an exemplar of environmentalism, not just another exploited landscape.

The "No Action" plan of Alternative 1 is the only choice to protect these great lands.

[Attachment is a PDF version of the same comment above.]

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