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Organization:
Title:
Comments: Comments on AK Roadless Rule

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November 11, 2019

USDA Forest Service

Attention: Alaska Roadless Rule

P.O. Box 21628

Juneau, AK 99802

akroadlessrule@fs.fed.us

Re: Alaska Roadless Rule Comments

I support leaving the Tongass "Roadless Rule" in place. I support conserving all the roadless areas in the Tongass National Forest for future generations.

It is long past time for us to move beyond unsustainable development and old growth logging. Roadless areas on the Tongass are far more important to Alaska for their salmon streams, wildlife habitat and recreational values than a heavily subsidized logging industry that creates less than 1% of jobs in our region.

We need to retain the protections we've gained in the Tongass, including the Tongass 77. These watersheds support our sport and commercial fisheries and tourism industries, which combined are responsible for over 25% of jobs and over $2 billion in economic contribution to our regional economy annually.

The majority of Alaska residents voted in favor of the "Roadless Rule" for many reasons. In Southeast the "Roadless Rule" will help preserve our way of life and our livelihoods. It is disheartening to have to continually revisit that ruling.

President Trump, Governor Dunleavy, Senators Murkowski & Sullivan and Representative Young all claim they want to address infrastructure, timber, energy, mining, access and transportation needs to further economic growth in rural Alaska. The reality is that opening up the Tongass to more road building is all about logging for round log export to China. The heavily subsidized Southeast logging industry is a poor use of our tax dollars. We, the U.S. taxpayers, would be subsidizing the destruction of the Tongass National forest.

China and one or two multinational companies stand to gain from our loss while receiving the round logs for a song. Southeast would be left with further destruction of the Tongass Forest, destruction of wildlife habitat,

endangered salmon streams, logs left in the rain to rot (like the hemlock and yellow cedar logs at Tonka), new and bigger wind tunnels and more landslides. Basically we in Southeast would be left holding the bag.

The Tongass sequesters more carbon than any other national forest in the nation. What is left of the Tongass should be allowed to do what it does naturally at no charge when left standing.

In closing I would like to note that in Southeast while valuable taxpayer dollars are spent on thinning some second growth trees, nobody wants second growth. Those trees are useless except maybe for firewood or pulp. Logging of the Tongass National Forest is not something that will ever grow back to what it once was.

Sincerely,

[signature]

Anna Holmes

Petersburg, AK 99833

[Position]