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Organization:
Title:
Comments: See attached file(s)

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To: The United States Forest Service

Re. Comments on the Roadless Rule

I urge the United States Forest Service to keep the 2001 Roadless rule intact and current protections in place on the Tongass National Forest. The 1000s of miles of roads already built in the Tongass have cost the U.S. tax payers millions of dollars and have caused much environmental damage. According to Taxpayers for Common Sense, the Forest Service has lost 30 million dollars a year providing timber to industry. Much of that loss is the cost of building roads.

Not only have the roads cost the tax payers millions of dollars, the roads have been detrimental to wild life including deer and salmon by fragmenting the forest and creating access to clear cut logging of the last remaining stands of old growth forest.

The economy has changed from the day of destructive unsustainable practice of industrial logging to one that relies on a healthy intact forest that will support a growing recreation business along with providing a healthy habitat for wildlife including salmon and deer.

There is more and more scientific evidence that the Tongass is a huge carbon sink. With climate change threating the globe, it is paramount we understand how our actions of building roads and harvesting old growth timber will magnify the release of carbon into the atmosphere. (see article from the Juneau Empire Feb 19th 2016 From Rock to Forest Southeast Carbon Sink and E&E News Oct.22 2019 Experts Claim Admin used "misinformation" to justify logging)

I urge the Forest Service not to turn back the clock on prudent protections of our public land by exempting the Tongass from the roadless rule. Instead, keep the roadless rule in place saving the U.S. tax payers millions of dollars and conserving an amazing ecosystem for future generations to enjoy and sustainably benefit from.

Clay Frick

Haines, AK 99827

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