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Comments:

I object the proposal by the Department for the long-lasting regulation of the Tongass roadless forest. Rescinding the 2001 Roadless Rule in any shape or form essentially mitigates the entire Tongass forest potentially opening for economic development and road construction activities in the future. This region should remain indefinitely off limits to any activity which shrinks the region so that Alaska can keep the unestimable value of its land, water and wildlife that the Tongass encompasses and to which it is known by the rest of the Nation and the world. Removing any protections of this land will be opening a flood gate to further eventual destruction by human activities. The economic "gain" proposed by the Department in no way justifies the clearing and deregulation of the forest because the value of the forest is unistaimable and therefore greatly outweighs any short term vain profit gains to be had by companies. The 2001 Roadless Rule was written during a Republican congress and its provisions were also favored by Democrats. After more than a decade of success, the 2001 Roadless Rules should be strengthened to ensure that the Tongass Nation Forest always remains protected unconditionally. The recent proposal to remove the 2001 Roadless Rule protections is unprecedented, vain and foolish and hints of evoking Citizens United as an excuse for the economic "need" of the region to steal away Federal land with the public.