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Comments:

I am a frequent visitor to Alaska and have been a wilderness user all over the state. I am writing to express my strong disapproval for allowing an Alaska specific version of the Roadless Rule, or exempting Alaska from the language of the Roadless Rule that governs public lands in the United States. Millions of acres are currently designated wilderness in Alaska and the opening of these lands to road construction and timber harvest would be a mistake for the environment and for the economy. Currently the tourism, fishing, and recreation industries account for a much larger portion of Alaska's economy than the timber industry. They represent the future of the Alaska economy. Opening lands in the Chugach and Tongass National Forests to timber harvest would directly impact these thriving and important industries. Constructing roads in remote areas represents a massive taxpayer subsidy to private corporations. In many cases, the cost of building the roads exceeds the value of the timber harvested from these lands. Alaska is home to one third of the world's remaining temperate old growth rainforest. These forests should be preserved and not clearcut for a quick profit by the timber industry. Decision makers would be placing the interest of a small minority ahead of the general welfare if Alaska were granted an exemption to the roadless rule. Say no to roadbuilding in wild roadless areas. Say no to the exemption from the national standards of the roadless rule.

Thank you,
Adam Kaufman