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Comments:

Please accept these comments submitted on behalf of SalmonState to the Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for an Alaska-Specific Roadless Area Conservation Rule.

To keep this brief, we respectfully request the Tongass 77 and TNC/Audubon Conservation Priority Areas be conserved in all alternatives being crafted by the Forest Service.

The Tongass 77 (commonly referred to as the T77) and areas identified by the Audubon/TNC Eco-regional Conservation Assessment as either Conservation Priority or Core Integrated Management Watersheds were specially recognized by the last Tongass Advisory Committee and the 2016 TLMP amendment as NOT suitable for old-growth logging.

This entire process is based on deeply flawed information provided by the Walker Administration. It paints an inaccurate and deceptive picture of the overall economic picture of Southeast Alaska. In addition, the solution being offered will not improve the regional economy, will negatively impact both the environment and the real drivers of Southeast Alaska's economy that depend on intact forest and cost the American taxpayer tens, if not hundreds of millions of dollars in subsidies.

Finally, this wholly unnecessary and highly partisan political process will likely lead to a huge negative response from a broad base of Southeast Alaskans and draw the attention of the general public and members of Congress since the Tongass is a national treasure. To avoid this, selecting a no-action alternative would be the right choice, in lieu of that, please, at least, protect the Tongass 77. Thank you.