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First name: Karen

Last name: McGrew

Organization:

Title:

Official Representative/Member Indicator:

Address1: 4317 Sprague Road

Address2:

City: Raleigh

State:

Province/Region: North Carolina

Zip/Postal Code: 27613

Country: United States

Email: kingrew@earthlink.net

Phone:

Comments:

* Please do not allow the exemption of Tongass National Forest from the Roadless Rule. This exemption ignores that the Tongass is North America's largest carbon sink, which captures 8% of all greenhouse warming gases of national forests in the US. Logging these forests will have severe long-term environmental and economic consequences from climate change. The Roadless Rule does not block all road construction in roadless areas. It already allows roads necessary for hydropower and mine development and for linking communities. In fact, "some 55 projects within roadless areas in Alaska have been rapidly approved by the Forest Service".

* This proposed exemption forces the American tax payer to further subsidize round log exports to China and elsewhere in support of their manufacturing base-not Alaska's. In fact, the 2016 Tongass Forest Plan makes clear that the Forest Service intends to authorize the export of roughly two-thirds of the timber removed from federal forests as unprocessed logs. Enactment of this proposed rule would continue the trend of managing Tongass public lands as a subsidized timber colony for the exclusive benefit of Alcan/Transpac Group, an international raw log exporter headquartered in Vancouver B.C., and Viking Lumber of Klawock.

* The Roadless Rule protects this old-growth forest that fish and wildlife depend on, American people treasure and Alaskans rely on for their livelihoods, quality of life, and subsistence.