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Comments:

Roadless areas within the Tongass National Forest are critically important to the entire economy of Southeast Alaska, along with my two businesses. That is why I support conserving roadless areas in the Tongass National Forest, especially the Tongass 77 areas. I have the good fortune to guide fly fishermen in the Spring/Summer throughout the Tongass and have spent numerous months guiding anglers in areas such as Rocky Pass, Port Camden, Sandborn Canal, Farragut Bay, Thomas Bay, Rusty River and many more locations of critical value for salmon and steelhead habitat. I also work as a broker to over 40 yachts and small ships that cruise through the Tongass bringing millions of dollars to the regional economy annually.

Conserving roadless areas within the Tongass is basic economics. Figures provided by Rain Coast Data at Southeast Conference in Ketchikan in September 2018 illustrates \$250,000,000 in earnings annually from commercial fishing and \$250,000,000 in earnings from the tourism industry in Southeast Alaska. We need to retain conservation measures, including Tongass 77, as these watersheds support our sport and commercial fisheries and tourism industries that make up ¼ of Southeast Alaska's jobs and contribute over \$2 billion to our regional economy annually.

To put these economic drivers at risk for a heavily subsidized timber industry that creates just a fraction of these earnings at \$18,700,000 and less than 1% of the region's employment is beyond comprehension.

There is a forest plan that was just recently completed. All parties & communities were at the table for collaboration and negotiation including timber, tourism and fisheries. Why waste the time and money to rehash this issue again? Why do we keep placing our region's primary economic drivers on the chopping block?

Conserve the roadless areas within the Tongass National Forest and protect our region's economy for future generations.

Sincerely,

Greg Schlachter

Haines, Alaska

Owner, Expedition Broker & Fly Guides