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Comments:

In regards to the proposed drafts to make a state specific, Alaska Roadless Rule, that in turn is also specific to the Tongass Forest, my home for the past 10 years, I'd like to submit my comment regarding what I believe to be important for this area.

My time here in the Tongass has mostly been living in remote areas, mainly subsistence, and very dependent on our lush and healthy bioregion. I moved here specifically for this quality of life, that an intact Tongass Forest ecosystem can provide.

I believe the Roadless Rule to be effective in many aspects of what I deem valuable. Not only is it the largest temperate old growth rainforest in the world, it is home to many marine and forest based wildlife that are losing their homes and quality of life elsewhere in the world.

If I were to make any amendments on the Roadless Rule in regards to the Tongass, I would create more restrictions around extractive industries such as timber, and mining, which have proved to create environmental backlash that far outweighs its 'potential' economic incentive. And speaking on economic incentive, Timber harvest and sales has never proved to be economically viable in Southeast Alaska. Its been a highly subsidized industry, that will do much more damage to our salmon habitat, which is historically, and presently, way more fruitful to Alaska's economy.

In my opinion projects allowed in the areas protected by the Roadless Rule should be involved in directly creating community resilience and sustainable practices. Projects like hydro power, second growth timber harvesting on already roaded areas designated under the protection of the Roadless Rule, creating geothermal, or tidal power systems.

Alaska has a chance to not make the mistakes of previous countries, states, and communities. We can be a leader in creating viable communities that focus on the sustainability of their use of resources, their ingenuity and their respect for the environment that shapes so many of Alaskan's lives.

These lands support intact indigenous communities, salmon habitat, whale migrations, natural biodiversity from old growth stands, fisherfolk, subsistence folk, a booming tourism industry, carbon sequestration that benefits THE WORLD. This place is a treasure that is a benefit to all Americans, and the rest of the world. I want it be kept pristine.

In my opinion, these areas can support low impact activities like hiking, camping, backpacking, and foraging. Projects that I support involve what I stated previously as 'community resilience projects', also building forest service cabins, watershed restoration, habitat restoration (like cleaning up old mines etc), and wisely managed second growth timber harvesting within already roaded areas.

I would like to see the Forest Service invest in education and workshops, for young people in this region (especially in native communities), to learn the skills and knowledge involved in sustainable forestry practices. Maybe even using the Tongass as an example of how to successfully manage an old growth intact forest, because there aren't that many left in America. I want the Forest Service to invest their time in creating a deep legacy, maybe even a school here, encouraging and educating the community, and our country on how to

restore damaged areas, and how to tend the wild in a sustainable way, so that the Tongass Forest can continue to thrive well into the future.

Thank you for reading my comment, please take it to heart. I'm 26, and I want my grandchildren to enjoy this pristine wilderness, and their children after them.