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Comments:

Hello,

I am currently a Wildlife Ecology and Management student at the University of Wisconsin Stevens Point, enrolled in a class called Public Relations in Natural Resources. One of our assignments is to comment on a public topic/project open to comment. Being that I am not from Alaska or have even been there I know my opinion doesn't mean all that much here. However, the education I have received has taught me a few things about land management. Up until this year I had mostly learned about the details of actively managing land, be it habitat management for target species, or timber management, etc. This year I have two different classes that bring in the public relations/human dimensions of natural resource management. One of the most important things we are taught is to identify and understand the stakeholders. We manage landscapes for more than just the trees and the animals, we also manage for the people's wants, concerns, and needs. In order to effectively manage such a vast and roadless area such as the Tongass National Forest, there should be a public rulemaking process. With so many stakeholders spread across such a large and natural area there needs to be a process in place that gives all stakeholders a voice in management of their natural resources. Thank you.