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First name: Kimberly

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Title:

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Comments:

Dear U.S. Forest Service,

My name is Kimberly Valverde, I am an Alaskan resident (living in Juneau), and I support conserving roadless areas in Tongass National Forest, especially the Tongass 77 areas. It deeply concerns me that the Forest Service is considering overturning the Roadless Rule. Financial gains through natural resource exploitation are short-lived and never worth the everlasting destruction caused to the environment. Opening Tongass National Forest to new roads and unsustainable timber practices will greatly damage one of the last wild places in our nation. At risk are old growth forests, sacred grounds of the indigenous peoples, pristine watersheds, countless animals, critical salmon habitat, and people who rely on subsistence fishing and hunting. When will the government consider the aforementioned instead of buckling under the pressure imposed by big logging and mining industries who care only about making money? When will the total disregard for our natural surroundings end? When will clean water and salmon take precedence over oil and gold? I'm afraid I already know the answers to these questions, but I will not give up in doing whatever I can to protect what I believe is the greatest place on Earth. Please do not overturn the Roadless Rule. Thank you for allowing a public comment period and for taking the time to listen to us all.

Sincerely,

Kim Valverde