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First name: Lee

Last name: Hart

Organization:

Title:

Official Representative/Member Indicator:

Address1: 490 Resurrection Loop

Address2:

City: Valdez

State: AK

Province/Region:

Zip/Postal Code: 99686

Country: United States

Email: brandamp@gmail.com

Phone: 3038984141

Comments:

We need a Roadless Rule that all business sectors, particularly those in Southeast Alaska, can live with. Otherwise this issue will continue to simmer and fester as the political winds change from those favoring extractive industries to those favoring the sustainable forestry business sector that is tourism. The speed at which the citizen's committee was formed, its composition and compressed timeline for public input combine to paint a picture that the deck is stacked in favor of a pre-determined outcome. This nearly guarantees any Tongass-specific Roadless Rule change is at risk of being debated anew once the political tides change. Every time the issue is re-opened it tears off scabs on a community not yet healed from the last time the issue was discussed. The State and Feds (Forest Service) should work together for the best interests of the ecosystem and strengthening ties in Southeast rather than perpetuating processes that continue to sow divisions between Alaskans. I would like to see a course correction that provides equal representation for interests on all sides of this debate so we can finally create an Alaska-specific Roadless Rule that everyone can live with to so this issue is put to bed once and for all.