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Comments:

Hello,

I'm writing today as a Juneau resident and a frequent user of the Tongass National Forest to oppose any changes to the Roadless Rule in the Tongass. These proposed changes represent a step backwards - a step that is both unnecessary and that Southeast Alaska residents have made clear they do not want. The changes have the potential to adversely impact Southeast Alaska's economy, which is now driven mostly by tourism related in large part to the fact that the Tongass is roadless - and by commercial fishing and salmon, the health of which are tied in large part, again, to the Tongass being roadless. (Roads near salmon streams have been shown to adversely affect salmon habitat for a variety of reasons - disturbance, human activity, loss of floodplain, etc.)

As is clear from public testimony both for these proposed changes and in years past, Alaskans widely support moving away from old-growth logging and towards a more sustainable path - a path that was approved in the 2016 TLMP. Please do not make any changes to this plan, and if you do, please ensure that all alternatives preserve the Tongass 77's protections.

Sincerely,

Mary Catharine Martin