

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/15/2018 7:22:39 PM

First name: Kendra

Last name: Blochwitz

Organization:

Title:

Official Representative/Member Indicator:

Address1: PO Box 111267

Address2:

City: Anchorage

State: AK

Province/Region: AK

Zip/Postal Code: 99511

Country: United States

Email: kendrathunderbolt@gmail.com

Phone: 9073609050

Comments:

We need more restrictive laws to protect the Tongass forest and also the Chugach forest. The pristine untouched wilderness of Alaska is one of its resources that holds more value untouched than it would be if we ruined it. They should not even allow those mining drill pads. The scope should include the Chugach. The people should be given a direct vote and a voice in deciding how these untouched resources are protected. No roads should be allowed, that opens it up to further destruction. With climate change, the forests and streams are more important now than ever. The salmon need pristine habitats and we need salmon. This creates tourism and money for the state because people want to visit wilderness. People want to fish, kayak, hike and enjoy nature. If the forests are cut down it destroys an ecosystem that has developed over the history of the world, and it will never be the same as it was. All the flora and fauna, all the things that we haven't discovered yet will be gone if roads are built there. A complex ecosystem needs the old trees to survive. New trees do not have the complex ecosystem that a climax forest supports. Logging in this area isn't economical anyway. The value of a tree alive is much greater than a cut tree. The value of a living tree should be considered and researched. On top of that value should be added benefits of the ecosystem it supports. There are so few untouched beautiful wildernesses left in the world, Alaska needs to protect that rarity. This forest needs to remain untouched for the future generations. Like a savings account in these difficult times, it needs to be protected. No roads. No destruction of any kind, the world also has more than enough pollution floating around. Further research should be done to show how much pollution has already hurt this forest. What would Alaska be without its great wilderness that is it known for? What legacy are we leaving for the future?