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Comments:

As a frequenter of the Tongass for my own personal recreation and as a tool for personal growth and skill building for youth, I strongly oppose any changes to the Roadless Rule. I have spent hundreds of days paddling the waters and hiking the mountains of the Tongass, and while there exists opportunity for backcountry travel in other areas of the US, there are not many places that parallel the degree of freedom and introsp

ection that occur as a result of existing in a truly pristine environment. While I recognize and appreciate the access that has been created through previous logging roads, I feel strongly that there are options available to allow for responsible and community-sustainable logging that will not further damage the networks of our forest that have managed to remain intact. Wrangell as a town has moved forward from the days of a forestry dependent economy, and would only be hindered by a backwards step in economic diversity and resilient capacity building.

Our planet is not finite, and our thirst for resource profit should be clearly weighed against the consequences of continuing to deteriorate the remaining intact old-growth ecosystems. Changes to these environments have rippling effects, and I firmly believe they deserve our respect and dedication to protect.

Please consider my opinion as you make decisions regarding changes to the Roadless Rule. Fleeting success and profit should not outweigh the lasting effects that will result if increased ease of access is granted. Thank you.