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Comments:

The Roadless Rule has helped protect the old growth forests of the Tongass that weren't devastated in the first rounds of clear-cut logging that passed there way through. These remaining forests are critical habitat that not only hold unique species that may be pushed closer to extinction by more invasive logging, but also hold an important cultural place for many of us in Southeast Alaska. While second growth forest is adequate for most industry, productions that requires older lumber can still access it by less extreme means. The Roadless Rule has served as a limit to the amount of habitat that can be damaged in these critical areas. We need to strike a balance between ecology and wise use, and the proposed modifications to this rule would completely undermine the balance that exists now.