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Organization:

Title:

Comments:

To whom it may concern,

I request that the "no-action" alternative be selected on the Alaska-specific Roadless Rule. The intent of the roadless rule is "to provide lasting protection for inventoried roadless areas within the National Forest System in the context of multiple-use management." Rather than the exception, Alaska should stand as the example of this rule. Since 2010, Alaska's tourism has seen an increase of 26%. Why do all of these people want to come see Alaska? Because there is literally no where else in the United States that is as untouched and natural as Alaska. As more and more people make their way into this state, roads will allow people easy access to areas that would otherwise remain mostly untouched except by those willing to find alternative means of travel. And as the climate changes and weather patterns are altered, and people move to settle further north, the impacts to the wild areas are going to increase drastically.

This rule was set in place recognizing that progress and development will happen, but that places must be set aside and protected to ensure that some places remain wild and untouched for future generations. Once the decision is made to reverse the decision and develop an area, that cannot be undone EVER. The portion of undeveloped areas for future generations just gets smaller. And then, once Alaska has traded our wild areas for development, where will all the people seeking nature turn? Where will all the subsistence hunter and gatherer people turn to sustain themselves? What will define Alaska's and our culture and make it a state that stands out as the Last Frontier? Perhaps we will have to change our motto to "The Last Developed State". Please don't send us in that direction.

Thank you,

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