

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/24/2019 12:00:00 AM

First name: Andrew

Last name: Taylor

Organization:

Title:

Comments:

The recommended alternative, which is an exemption of the Tongass National Forest from the 2001 Roadless Rule, ignores the local community, particularly the tribal governments, and the science of climate change. Instead, this alternative completely favors short term profiteering for a select few individuals in the forest products industry, at the expense of all others. It is an unfair decision which chooses a few winners and many, many losers. The seemingly deliberate ignoring of so many concerned voices is deeply undemocratic.

The Tongass is a unique ecosystem as one of the world's most important carbon sinks, playing a critical role in mitigating climate change. Exposing this ecosystem to timber extraction would greatly diminish this role and contribute to future temperature rises, which will result in widespread economic destruction and public health and safety risks across the globe. People will literally die in part due to this proposed alternative.

When considering the benefits and drawbacks of the proposed management options, there is no question that ecosystem conservation achieves more critical goals for the local community and for all citizens of the United States. Therefore, I support the alternative to leave the 2001 Roadless Rule fully intact for all of Alaska.

[Position]

[Position]