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First name: Kathy

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Organization: .

Title:

Comments:

I am completely opposed to removing the Tongass National Forest from the 2001 Roadless Rule. Therefore, I do not support Alternatives 2-6 of this proposal. Instead, I support Alternative 1, which leaves the Tongass National Forest under the 2001 Roadless Rule. Removing over half of the Tongass forest from the Roadless Rule will severely impact the remaining pristine forest plants and animals whose habitats will be destroyed. Also, the Tongass represents one of the largest carbon sinks, which is actually one of our most effective ways to mitigate climate change. Another thing to consider is that the timber industry provides less than 1 percent of regional employment and wages. The Tongass forest provides \$1 billion annually to the regional economy through the recreation and tourism industries. Under the Roadless Rule, the Tongass can support the region's thriving subsistence, fishing, recreation and tourism industries, but those industries need a healthy forest in order to be sustained over time. I want the Roadless Rule to stay in place so that practices like clearcutting cannot occur. I have seen the damage that clearcutting does in our local forests of Idaho and I do not want it to happen in national forests where it kills streams with silt and debris, kills fish and destroys their habitat, prevents healthy salmon hatch and affects all insects, mammals and other fish species that rely on salmon.

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