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First name: Anthony

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Organization:

Title:

Comments:

Hello,

I am writing to express my objection to the proposed rule to exempt the Tongass National Forest from the Roadless Rule.

Having read the explanatory text in the Federal Register, I feel that the economic benefit will not accrue to native Alaskans, nor to Native American communities, but to logging and timber concerns that are not local to Alaska. In addition, the environmental impact of opening the Tongass to roading and logging will cause deforestation and local climate changes, the impacts of which I feel have not been adequately considered by the Department.

In particular, to open the Tongass to roading and logging may introduce invasive species to the Tongass that may have negative impacts both on the health of the forest and the value of the lumber that the Department clearly sees as the economic benefit.

I consider the best option to be Alternative 2, as it increases the extent of Tongass covered by the Roadless Rule while removing acreage that, as a result of previous non-enforcement, has--by fait accompli--become 'roaded roadless' areas.

If Alternative 2 is not to be adopted, I consider the next feasible option to be to abandon the proposed rule and maintain the status quo (Alternative 1).

Stewardship of our natural resources, and conservation of them, is not only ethical and logical and moral, but is the Christian thing to do. As such it is imperative to preserve these wild areas so that the beauty that the Lord created for us is not despoiled by the greed of mankind.

I hope that you will consider my comment in the spirit it is submitted.

[Position]

[Position]