

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/16/2019 12:00:00 AM

First name: Alicia

Last name: Jackson

Organization:

Title:

Comments:

Public Comment Alaska Roadless Rule

To Whom It May Concern,

I have had the privilege of working on Prince of Wales Island for three consecutive years. I have been in awe of the Tongass National Forest's remoteness and intact ecosystems. There is no forest like the Tongass left on Earth and we are fortunate enough to have it right here in the United States. When I learned that the forest was being threatened by logging, resource extraction, and roads I geared my graduate studies to better serve this forest. It would be a mistake to take from the Tongass. Once an ecosystem like this has been damaged it could take hundreds of years to heal and perhaps be what it once was. The large old-growth trees also offer the largest amount of carbon sequestration among trees further proving their value. If the environmental value doesn't hold enough wait on its own, there is also the cultural aspects that make this forest unique and worth preserving.

I ask you to please help us (the people of this country) keep the 2001 National Roadless Rule intact and current protections in place on the Tongass National Forest. Please stand up for this living, breathing ecosystem that isn't capable of standing up for itself. This forest matters so incredibly much.

The Roadless Rule is among the smartest and most popular land management policies the Federal Government has ever adopted. Not only does it preserve that pristine habitat, but it also saves untold millions of taxpayer dollars that might otherwise be spent to subsidize money-losing timber sales. The value of the Roadless Rule in preventing environmentally damaging and economically wasteful road-building and logging is particularly relevant in the Tongass, where logging costs vastly exceed timber revenues and require unsustainable taxpayer subsidies.

Please select "No Action" and let us leave something pristine for our children and grandchildren because currently, things are looking all too grim environmentally.

I stand with the Tongass.

Respectfully,

--

Alicia Jackson

M.S. Environmental Science, Oregon State University Alumna 2019

[See attachment containing a picture of a woman standing in front of a lake and forest]

[Position]