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Organization:

Title:

Comments:

Tongass National Forest "No Action" alternative

Dear Forest Service personnel,

I am writing to ask that you support the "No Action" alternative, which will continue to safeguard the Tongass National Forest and all of its inhabitants by preserving the Roadless Rule. This is important so we can continue to provide the much needed protection of the last wild public lands in our National Forest system. The Roadless Rule in the Tongass has ensured the conservation of over 9 million acres, protecting old-growth forests and salmon habitat from clear-cutting and the development of logging roads.

It is true that I don't live in Alaska, but have visited it often. Every time I travel to the state I am amazed at the beauty of Alaska and marvel at the pristine quality of the untouched old-growth forests and lands. The only reason we still have them is because clear-cutting and logging roads have been prevented.

The future of Alaskan salmon also depends on the preservation of the Tongass National Forest. The salmon need the clean nutrient-rich waters and essential spawning and rearing conditions the forest provides. Tongass has been referred to as America's Salmon's Forest.

Finally, every tree that will be cut down will remove a tiny part of the buffer against climate change that the Tongass National Forest provides. Presently this forest stores 8 percent of the nation's annual global warming pollution. To clear-cut an 800 year old Sitka spruce isn't worth the price when we know how important they are in the climate change battle we are involved in.

Thank you for considering my comments as you make a ruling on preserving the Roadless Rule in the Tongass National Forest.

Lezlie Popik

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