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First name: Martha

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Organization:

Title:

Comments:

I'm writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections intact for the Tongass National Forest.

Delegates to the Paris climate talks identified protecting the Earth's forests as one of the most important means of curbing the damaging effects of climate change. Ancient forests like the Tongass help reduce global warming by keeping carbon dioxide out of the atmosphere. But logging exacerbates warming, releasing enormous amounts of carbon back into the air.

The Tongass is carbon-rich, storing substantially more carbon than any other U.S. national forest. That's why it is so important to protect its ancient forests, instead of locking in another decade or more of climate-damaging devastation.

The Forest Service should not miss this important opportunity to transition the Tongass quickly away from large-scale old-growth logging, which is completely dependent on taxpayer subsidies and creates few local jobs, yet threatens the sustainable fishing and tourism jobs that serve as the backbone of the economy of southeast Alaska.

I urge you to chart a diverse, sustainable economic future for southeast Alaska based on restoration, recreation, fishing and tourism. Adopting a forest plan that commits the Tongass to more than a decade of large-scale logging will do irretrievable damage to our country's rainforest. I ask that the Forest Service keep the current Roadless Rule protections intact for the Tongass National Forest.

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