

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/15/2019 12:00:00 AM

First name: Andrew

Last name: Gross

Organization:

Title:

Comments:

Born in South East Alaska in 1977 and raised in coastal Oregon I have see firsthand the effects of logging on local communities and ecosystems. Educated at Oregon State University I have lived and worked in South East Alaska the Pacific Northwest, Australia and now in the Republic of Maldives. I have come to realise how precious the temperate rainforests of SE Alaska are. They are unique in this world and climax communities the exist in the roadless areas of the Tongass National Forest and Prince of Whales Island exist nowhere else on this planet. I have observed the rapid decline of the coral reef ecosystems in many tropical oceans, the steady decline of salmon runs in Alaska and the western United States. The the old-growth, climax forests on Prince of Whales, if logged, will never return. I implore you to retain the roadless status of Prince of Whales Island and to preserve the remaining old growth forests in the Tongas National Forest. Please take NO Action and choose Not to Exempt the Tongass from the Roadless Rule.

[Position]