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First name: Clancey

Last name: Cheeley

Organization:

Title:

Comments:

Tongass Roadless Rule - NO EXEMPTION (Alternative 1)

I strongly oppose the exemption to the Roadless Rule for the Tongass National Forest.

I was born and raised in Juneau, Alaska and my mom worked for the Alaska Department of Fish and Wildlife for 25 years. While I am currently working towards my degree in forestry from the University of Georgia, I intend to return to Alaska to pursue my career. Opening up Southeast Alaska to expanded logging and mining would not only cause critical damage to the region's natural environment, but it would also threaten to decimate Southeast Alaska's two largest industries: tourism and fishing. People from all over the world visit Alaska to experience the beauty and majesty of the untouched Inside Passage, not to see a bunch of clear-cut tree stumps. Southeast Alaska is also ill suited for an expanded logging industry. The trees of the region are slow growing and the logistics of harvesting them would end up costing the state more than logging would be able to generate in profits. Scaling up logging in Southeast Alaska is ridiculously impractical, especially in comparison to regions like the Southeastern United States which are perfectly suited for logging and have fast growing and easily harvestable trees. Opening up Southeast Alaska to industries like logging and mining is shortsighted and irresponsible; some profits may be garnered, but it would be at the expense of the region's most prosperous industries and the future of the environment.

The Alaska Roadless Rule is vital for the prosperity of Southeast Alaska and I voice "No" to any proposed exemption for the Tongass National Forest.

Thank you for your time,

Clancey Cheeley

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