

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM

First name: Beth

Last name: Adams

Organization:

Title:

Comments:

HC6392

Dear Secretary Purdue,

I am writing in opposition to your decision to proceed with a full exemption for the Tongass from the Roadless Rule. This is not what you told the American people, especially us Alaskans, what you were going to do last fall. You told us, or at least your people did because you didn't come talk to the people like me, that you were going to develop an Alaskan rule that met the needs of our communities. A full exemption does not do that. It only helps the timber industry.

Because your purpose of the project and what you said you were going to do changed, you should have considered other alternatives that would have made the so-called protections provided by the Tongass Forest Plan, which you rely on, more permanent. The real economic drive of southeast Alaska- us fishermen and the recreation and tourism people- depend on the protections the Roadless Rule provides. These protections are part of the Forest plan, and by failing to consider alternatives that would have made some of them more permanent- like the T77 protections- you have failed to comply with NEPA, and you have failed Alaskans. When you changed your mind your purpose, and your proposal, you should have started over again and learned more about what that would do to the majority of the people who rely on the Forest for food, for well being, for our livelihoods.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

State of Alaska resident

Ketchikan and Juneau

[Position]