

Public Comment on the Proposed Rescission of the 2001 Roadless Rule – Tongass National Forest

Submitted by: [Your Name], Tlingit or Haida Tribal Citizen

Date: [Insert Date]

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is [Your Name], and I am a proud [Tlingit &Haida] tribal citizen. I am writing to strongly oppose the proposed rescission of the 2001 Roadless Rule in the Tongass National Forest.

The Tongass is our ancestral and present homeland. Our people live, hunt, fish, gather, and practice our culture here, just as our ancestors did for thousands of years before us. The Roadless Rule protects these lands, which are critical for our ways of life and community wellbeing.

Removing these protections would open the door to more old-growth logging and roadbuilding—actions that have the potential to harm salmon streams, deer habitat, sacred sites, and traditional plant-gathering areas. It also threatens potentially irreplaceable trees like old growth red and yellow cedar and Sitka spruce, which are vital to our identity and way of life.

The justification for this proposal is based on forest conditions in “the Lower 48”, not those within the Tongass National Forest. Our rainforest does not face the same wildfire risks. Using those conditions to remove protections here is scientifically wrong and culturally harmful. I oppose the old growth logging that would result from the rescission of the roadless rule. These forests are too precious to our culture and the world at-large.

I support forest management that respects Tribal sovereignty, supports second-growth restoration, ensures healthy ecosystems for future generations, and maintains our visitor economies—not outdated industrial logging.

Please keep the 2001 Roadless Rule in place and honor your trust responsibility to Tribes. Protecting the Tongass means protecting our way of life, our food security, and our future.

Gunalchéesh / Háw’aa,

[Your Full Name]

Tlingit/Haida Tribal Citizen

[City or Village, Alaska]

[Optional: Contact Information]