

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 12/13/2019 9:00:00 AM

First name: Gill

Last name: Kirandeep

Organization: Friends of Earth

Title:

Comments: On behalf of Friends of the Earth, I am submitting 29,711 comments regarding Alaska Roadless Rulemaking #54511. The comments will be sent through 8 different attachments.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact:

Nicole Ghio, EMAIL

Martin Pittman, EMAIL

--

Kirandeep Gill

Digital Production Associate

Friends of the Earth

Content of form letters:

I strongly urge you to oppose the opening of 10 million acres of land in Alaska's Tongass National Forest for mining and logging projects. This would severely compromise our last remaining truly wild forest and be a huge blow to biodiversity. These lands are home to pacific salmon, iconic bald eagles, southern resident orcas, and even a 1000-year-old tree! It also contains the traditional homelands of the Tlingit, Haida and Tsimshian Peoples.

Beyond its natural beauty and cultural importance, the Tongass Forest is one of the world's best climate defenses. The old trees store nearly 10-12 percent of all carbon consumed by America's national forests -- and it's Alaska's first defense against the worsening climate crisis.

These lands must be protected and I urge the agency to take action to block this destructive proposal.

[Position]

96 of the attached submissions included Form Plus letters. Unique substantive formal comment (beyond that submitted in the master form (above) is below. Substantive formal comment is defined as "within the scope of the proposal, have a direct relationship to the proposal, and include supporting reasons for the responsible official to consider" (36 CFR 219.62).

1. Protect Tongass National Forest
2. This is absolutely insane-to destroy a crucial part of our natural protection from CO2. Stop this insanity!
3. A government of the people, by the people, and for the people. NOT for the fossil fuel buddies of the tRUMP

administration.

4. Your duty is to protect not destroy!

5. I am absolutely sick of Trump's constant war on the environment, the air, the water, the wildlife all things that millions of Americans care deeply about. Please stop Trump's attacks before he destroys our country....he is dangerous and is nothing more than a dictator wannabe...and a stupid one at that!!!!

6. You are not the arbitrator of this land. The public deserves to have a voice - here is mine

7. WE MUST PROTECT AND ENHANCE ALL OUR NATURAL TREASURES LIKE TONGASS !

8. We need to prevent the destruction of the forest and water in the Tongass Forest before it is too late. It is a right of future generations to inherit this pristine park, it is not an option.

9. Otherwise, the consequences of their destruction will fall on your head.

10. As an environmental scientist and a mom it is imperative we protect our natural resources for future generations now. With that being said I strongly urge you to oppose the opening of 10 million acres of land in Alaska's Tongass National Forest for mining and logging projects.

11. It is up to wise leaders now to make do the right thing for the future generations they will be the judges of history. Thank you for your time.

12. Leaving these lands pristine is MORE important than any extraction industries profits

13. This PUBLIC land is your land, my land, our land. Not corporate land. Protect it now!

14. As a voter at 19348, I strongly urge you to oppose the opening of 10 million acres of land in Alaska's Tongass National Forest for mining and logging projects. This would severely compromise our last remaining truly wild forest and be a huge blow to biodiversity.

15. Do not let the idiot ruin and destroy more environment than he already has

16. If we continue to rape the land so vigorously. The implications for human health, as well as the health of the planet are dire!!!!

17. Wild forests are the mothers of air; without them, earth and humanity may suffocate in natural and unnatural, humanly created, greenhouse gases.

18. Public lands should not be sold for short term profits.

19. What we do today affects our children's future.

20. "To all of you concerned, NOW IS THE TIME for you to oppose the self-serving, foolish, ill-fated opening of 10 million acres of land in Alaska's Tongass National Forest for mining and logging projects. This measure would severely compromise our last remaining truly wild forest and be a huge blow to biodiversity in addition to demonstrating that there is no leadership based on science, or respect for others whose cultures have been there longer than you, only on self-interests. These lands are home to Pacific salmon, iconic bald eagles, southern resident orcas, and even a 1000-year-old tree! It also contains the traditional homelands of the Tlingit, Haida and Tsimshian Peoples.-- and it's Alaska's first defense against the worsening climate crisis that exists, despite mere "beliefs" by ignorant stooges unwilling to become educated. These lands must be protected. The agency needs to take action to block this destructive proposal.

21. These lands must be protected and I urge the agency to take action to block this destructive proposal. If we don't protect our environment, our environment can't protect us.

22. I am going to keep writing whenever I can to do my part to save this planet.

23. Thank you for taking the time to read and consider my comments on an issue that's very important to me.

24. Remember that forests provide and help keep our air cleaner...naturally. We need more of the NATURAL way of keeping our vital resources to sustain human life!!!!

25. "Dear USDA and to whom it may concern -As a lifelong coastal resident and an over four decade working, taxpaying, voting Rural American[acirc][euro][rdquo]one of 330,000,000 of your employers[acirc][euro][rdquo]I oppose opening up ten million acres of land in Alaska's Tongass National Forest for the purpose of mining and logging projects. Confirming this cavalier and unilateral action would severely compromise and impact our last remaining and truly wild forest. The result would leave a tremendous disaster to this region's collective biodiversity in its wake. As our present elected or appointed public-servant-employees, it is within your duties and responsibilities to be made aware, uphold and protect Alaska's Tongass National Forest. This is the home of diverse wildlife and marine life including our National bird[acirc][euro][rdquo]bald eagles, salmon, southern

resident orcas, to name only a fraction of animal inhabitants. As far as botanical specimens, documented are one thousand year old trees. Residing within this grand region are the traditional homelands of the Tlingit, Haida and Tsimshian people, along with their unique cultures and livelihoods. To quote the Friend of the Earth: Beyond its natural beauty and cultural importance, the Tongass Forest is one of the world's best climate defenses. The old trees store nearly 10-12 percent of all carbon consumed by America's national forests -- and it's Alaska's first defense against the worsening climate crisis. These lands must be protected... Please honor your job description, and block this counterproductive destructive proposal. With appreciation for your time and thoughtful consideration of this far reaching concern. Every good intention for random mining and logging projects. This wanton destruction would severely compromise America's last remaining truly wild forest, reduce the natural climate and environmental buffers, and be a gratuitous blow to biodiversity. These lands are home to Pacific salmon, iconic bald eagles, southern resident orcas, and at least one 1000-year-old tree. It also contains the traditional homelands of the Tlingit, Haida and Tsimshian Peoples. It is an icon to our heritage, and a symbol of the power of preservation. Our lands are held in trust, for us and for future generations; our lands must be protected from kleptocrats and greed, and I urge the agency to take action to block this destructive proposal.

26. HAVEN'T WHITE MEN DONE ENOUGH DAMAGE. FOR CHRIST'S SAKE!!!! BUT THEY CONTINUE, SOULLESS NITWITS THAT THEY ARE!

27. This trashing of earth must stop. This is a matter of species survival, the Human Species is in grave danger due to ignorance of the natural world. To quote an Andean shaman, she said "The world doesn't need to be saved, the world is not in danger. We are. We humans. If we don't change our ways, Mother Earth will shake us off like so many fleas." The "shaking" has begun in earnest, just look around.

28. OUTRAGEOUS ABUSE OF OUR PUBLIC LANDS- OWNED BY THE PEOPLE! WHAT YOU ARE PROPOSING IS A BLATANT GIVEAWAY TO LIBERTARIAN LOBBYISTS THAT HAVE BOUGHT THE GOP WITH TRUCKLOADS OF CAMPAIGN CASH- DARK MONEY. NO NEW ROADS IN THE TONGASS. THIS IS ESTABLISHED LAW AND WE SAY ABSOLUTELY NO WAY.

29. The Tongass National Forest is protecting us - humanity - from ourselves. Take down the Tongass and we eventually take down humanity. It's that simple. Why? It's a death of a thousand cuts.

30. What are future generations going to do with a stripped old growth forest? We must preserve this land for them

31. Please take a close look at independent, peer-reviewed science. Allowing the fox to tell you it isn't eating the chickens usually results in more dead chickens. Every day the criminal in the White House, along with Moscow Mitch, Billie (must be) (de)Barr(ed) and their cronies destroy more of our Democracy. This must be stopped now. No more national socialist inspired appointees. No more appointees from the Criminal in the White House. This is a Time for Progress not a continuation of the same or regression. Time to impeach and fire d. trump. The creature is obviously unfit for the job. Then lock him up or send him to live in Russia. This is 2000s America not 1930s Germany. Stop the attempted fascist takeover of America. Impeach, Charge, Convict and Imprison d trump and his cohorts. Regards,

32. The proposal is shortsighted and destructive to our nation and the global environment.

33. You really should go there.... and THEN rethink opening this unspoiled land to industry!

34. "STOP DESTROYING AMERICA THE BEAUTIFUL!!!! THAT WE CITIZENS OF THE UNITED STATES HAVE TO PLEAD TO PROTECT AND PRESERVE AMERICA THE BEAUTIFUL IS OUTRAGEOUS!!!!!!

35. "Let us leave a splendid legacy for our children...let us turn to them and say, this you inherit: guard it well, for it is far more precious than money...and once destroyed, nature's beauty cannot be repurchased at any price." - Ansel Adams

36. "To Whom it may Concern: I am deeply opposed to any use of the Tongass National Forest for logging or mining. This forest is a true wonder, unique to our continent, and is home to salmon and highly endangered southern orcas and is a needed sanctuary for all wildlife due to its size and type of growth. It would be worse than folly to use this forest with all its life-giving trees to feed human greed. This forest is the homeland of several First Nation peoples: the Tlingit, Tsimshian and Haida Peoples. They are the ones who should be in charge of the fate of the Tongass Forest. Since that is not how things stand, we must defend the forest. This destructive proposal must be blocked. Look at this forest, knowing that climate change is real, that the forest helps buffer the

effects of climate change and protects the a vast array of animals and plants, and take actions to protect the Tongass National Forest from mining and logging. Block this destructive proposal.

37. Wake up folks, this logging is ridiculous and I strongly urge you to oppose the opening of 10 million acres of land in Alaska's Tongass National Forest for mining and logging projects.

38. I completely agree that these lands MUST be SAVED/PROTECTED and DEFENDED at all costs! Trump seems to be hell bent on destroying anything that is beautiful!

39. The USDA should not be playing politics when it allows the destruction for a few private corporations to make billions of dollars as a favor when they are donating to Trump for these favors in campaign donations...The USDA should be doing what is right for the people of the U.S. and their children....

40. Please protect Tongass National Forest Our environment is more important than corporations.

41. This, like numerous other issues (climate change, food labeling, gun safety, immigration reform, prison reform, education reform, short-term lending regulation, healthcare reform, banking regulation, opioid regulation) remains a vexing problem primarily due to corporations' ability to curry favor with elected officials. The corrupting influence of money in our political system is undermining our democratic traditions and discouraging Americans from voting and/or running for office. This ominous development may well end our experiment in representative democracy unless we alter this decades-long trend. For the sake of the republic, we must amend the US Constitution to state that corporations are not people (and do not have constitutional rights) and money is not speech (and thus can be regulated by state and/or federal campaign finance laws). Short of accomplishing this, no other reform of significance will be achieved. The moneyed interests will turn any reform to their benefit, often at the expense of the nation as a whole.

42. You have NO RIGHT to go through this country and just decide to stop protecting these areas set aside and protected and just DISMISS that protection for big oil companies!!

43. Donald Trump and the republicans are nothing less than heinous criminals and will go down in history as such.

44. Makes a much better tourist attraction than a means to increase global warming and kill people.

45. Let's stop wrecking the planet.

46. Seriously, we have to ask for this? What is wrong with you people? Why does the current administration want to destroy everything and everyone? And why are you going to allow it to happen?

47. No tree cutting in Tongass.

48. We need to take better care of what is left of our environment, our wildlife, and our marine life.

49. UPHOLD THE ROADLESS RULE AND PROTECT THESE OLD-GROWTH FORESTS!!!

50. These lands are home to Pacific salmon, Bald eagles, Southern resident orcas, and ancient trees. It also contains the traditional homelands of the Tlingit, Haida and Tsimshian Peoples. As importantly, the ancient trees and other rich flora of the Tongass capture and store a significant amount of global carbon dioxide emissions, thereby curbing climate change. These lands must be protected. I pray that the USDA will block this destructive proposal.

51. I have been to southern Alaska many times and the Tongass National Forest is one of the only temperate old growth forests left in the U.S. Most of the old growth is gone in Washington and Oregon. Logging is only 1% of Alaska's economy. Fishing is much more of the economy. Salmon is severely depleted in the lower 49 states and this is having a devastating effect on ocean life there. Mining and oil and gas development would do irreplaceable damage. The Southern Resident Orcas are endangered. There is no more salmon in California and the reduced runs in Oregon and Washington can not sustain them. They are starving to death. Must we ruin our country for current and future generations greed and short term profit

52. protect Irreplaceable Tongass National Forest

53. Trump just announced plans to strip the Tongass National Forest -- America's

Amazon -- of key protections that keep out the logging and drilling industries.

That is completely unacceptable. Our National Forests belong to " we the people ", not Trump or his corrupt Administration. Are we suppose to believe that " a very stable genius" came up with this plan? It sounds more like someone who would betray and abandon our Kurdish allies who actually defeated the Islamic Caliphate with the help of our military and lost 12,000 of their fighters doing it. USDA, don't abandon and betray the American people who want their National Forests preserved and 1000-year-old trees not turned into " Charmin ".

54. A healthy Tongass National Forest contributes to a healthy planet.
55. STOP THIS WHOLESAL DESTRUCTION!!!!
56. The value of the Tongass in terms of ecosystem services far exceeds the value of the commodities that logging and mining companies take from the destruction of the forest.
57. These lands must be protected and I urge the agency to take action to block this destructive proposal. WHY WOULD YOU NOT PROTECT IT AND ALL OF OUR LANDS, WATERWAYS, MONUMENTS AND LIVE SPECIES? PLEASE, PLEASE PROTECT TONGASS NATIONAL FOREST AND ALL THE OTHERS. TRUMP HAS NO RIGHT TO SELL, TRADE, LEASE, MINE OR ANYTHING ELSE ON OUR NATIONAL PROPERITES!
58. Please stand up to Trump - he is destroying the planet never mind the country. Don't be just another one of Trump's cowardly, morally corrupt lackeys.
59. IT'S UNCONSCIONABLE TO DEFOREST TONGASS. PROTECT OUR ENVIRONMENT FROM BIG CORPORATIONS!
60. I absolutely oppose the USDA's unconscionable proposed rule intended to "amend" the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) regulations for the U.S. Forest Service. This is a dangerous piece of legislation, clearly written by and introduced at the behest of the carefully unaccountable private and corporate interests who have only one thing in mind: Sell our irreplaceable national legacy, because "it pays" them to do so. This rule would have a profoundly negative and irreversible impact on birds and other wildlife, limit my ability or chance -- or anyone's -- to provide input on foundation-level decision-making by the U.S. Forest Service. It would do so by intentionally and crassly reducing the already too weak environmental analysis of Forest Service projects. Our National Forests and other areas provide highly valuable habitat for birds, excellent opportunities for recreation, a powerful bulwark against global climate breakdown, and are an ages-long home for our Indigenous people, among other values. We must not allow this proposed legislation to authorize the terrifying step of reducing our ability to comment on or understand the effects of projects that impact these lands and wildlife. Allowing the Forest Service to choose this backhanded secretive mode of setting up provisions that promote the deliberate destruction of our public lands and forests by commercial interests violates both its mission and any trust formerly placed in this government agency - - and other branches of government. I have major concerns about the proposed expansion of the use of categorical exclusions for logging projects, road building, and all other forms of destructive, exploitative development; the shocking elimination of public scoping; and removing Inventoried Roadless Areas and potential wilderness areas from certain fundamentally necessary NEPA requirements, among other concerns. This proposal is one that only supports the short-sighted greed of a few corporate interests, and must be soundly rejected. NEPA is a bedrock environmental law that informs science-based, honest, transparent, and accountable decision making, but this proposed rule would obviously and deliberately weaken those vital standards in light of nothing more than short-term financial benefit for a handful of unaccountable special interests. I ask all those who stand with Friends of the Earth, Audubon, First Peoples, and the bedrock protective provisions of our public lands to join me in working actively to reject this proposal and any and all others like it. The Tongass National Forest is not a cheap plastic soft-drink bottle to be treated like so much trash. Please do not allow its destruction -- reject this terrible proposal and uphold a strong NEPA.
61. Enough!! I've seen enough extremism from Trump and his bogus appointees!!
62. I have visited this region and recognize it as a national treasure.
63. These lands must be protected and I urge the agency to take action to block this destructive proposal. It is becoming more and more important to protect our environmental resources from this kind of exploitation.
64. Our nation has been protecting this precious resource for decades.
65. This is OUR LAND and we, the majority or American VOTERS do NOT want roads or mining in there.
66. Please oppose the opening of 10 million acres of land in Alaska's Tongass National Forest for mining and logging projects. This would severely compromise our last remaining truly wild forest. Encroaching on the Tongass would be a huge blow to biodiversity. These lands are home to pacific salmon, iconic bald eagles, southern resident orcas, and even a 1000-year-old tree! The Tongass National Forest also contains the traditional homelands of the Tlingit, Haida and Tsimshian Peoples. It is well past time for the U.S. to take more concrete action to honor the rights and history of indigenous peoples.-- and it is Alaska's first defense against the worsening climate crisis. These lands must be protected. For the sake of the climate, the environment, and all American people, I strongly urge your agency to take action to block this destructive proposal

67. PLEASE DON'T DOOM US ANY MORE THAN WE ALL READY ARE. PLEASE BE ON THE FIRST LINES OF DEFENSE AND SEEK ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS.
68. The old trees store nearly 10-12 percent of all carbon consumed by America's national forests -- and it's Alaska's first defence against the worsening climate crisis. It would be ridiculously shortsighted to wreck it - from the human perspective - but it would be catastrophic to our fellow creatures and we must fight their corner.
69. The Trump/Putin regime is the most corrupt and deadly cabal this nation has ever faced. Likely the attempt to steal our Tongass NF is under one of this monsters minions. We warn you- the people own our forests not you and we will not allow this! Promise!
70. Protect the Tongass National Forest RIGHT NOW!!! NOW IS NOT THE TIME TO DESTROY FORESTS ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD!!! WE NEED ALL THE DAMN TREES TO STAY LIVING SO THAT WE MIGHT HAVE A CHANCE TO LIVE, TOO!
71. These lands belong to all Americans, not just the president and his wealthy cronies who want to develop the land for their profit. These natural areas must be protected and we urge the agency to take action to block this destructive proposal.
72. Ongoing and strengthened protection are highly valued and will conserve value for generations to come. Short sighted plunder of this forest would be an ignorant, shameful and greedy grab by those that don't recognize the true value of the Tongass.
73. Please stop tearing down all of our forests. They are vital lungs of this Earth. Please oppose the opening of 10 million acres of land in Alaska's Tongass National Forest for mining and logging projects. This would severely compromise our last remaining truly wild forest and be a huge blow to biodiversity.
74. Fossil fuels need to stay in the ground.
75. Generations of Americans to come should be able to enjoy the beauty of the Tongass National Forest - for their mental and physical health. We need the protection this National Forest gives against climate change and we need to preserve the ecosystems in the forest. Once gone to mining or logging, the forest will not come back. It should be preserved for future generations as well as the present generation.
76. I have visited the Pacific Northwest and Alaska area near Tongass National Forest and know the difference between old growth forests and disturbed forest ecosystems. I have seen the related destruction to watersheds, streams, and fish habit even from so-called "careful" logging. As someone who worked 32 years in federal service doing environmental analysis and watershed restoration, I strongly urge you to oppose the opening of 10 million acres of land in Alaska's Tongass National Forest. These lands and the native people and local residents must be protected and I urge the agency to take action to block this destructive proposal.
77. The Roadless Rule states that certain special places on our earth under the protection of the United States are to be permanently protected. So how is this rule being undermined by one crazy man and his administration so easily. I have not seen the various cabinets under this administration actually do what they were created to do. Instead it seems that weakening the department, reducing staff and funding and heading the various department with men who are not qualified to do their particular job. That is what is facing our public lands under the USDA, the Dept. of Interior, the USFS, the EPA etc. As the head of one of these departments you are in a position to protect, not destroy. There is a climate crisis and the earth needs trees/forests to give us oxygen, sequester CO2, provide recreational and emotional health and well being, and support bio-diversity. All of this is threatened when our temperate forests are sacrificed to industry for short term profits. How will this benefit your off spring? Even you are not in a position to escape the effects of climate change.
78. Every last tree in the Tongass is vital for carbon sequestration. Not a single one should be cut down or otherwise compromised.
79. Why desecrate an entire ecosystem for profit?
80. We are sick and tired of Trump's doing everything he can to destroy our country. This is just one more example of why he is the most dangerous domestic enemy of the United States. He was Putin's pick and Putin's pick is Putin's puppet, to diminish our country in every way. Enough is more than enough.
81. As a patriotic American and voter, I hold that our country's undeveloped natural spaces are part of our nation's identity and must be preserved.
82. Please think of the future of Mother Earth and future generations.

83. If there is one thing we need in order to modulate climate change it's large, intact, old-growth forests. There are hardly any left. Please, I beg you to oppose the opening of 10 million acres of land in Alaska's Tongass National Forest. Once these lands and creatures have been decimated it will take centuries, if ever, to bring them back to usable land. We must preserve our planet!

84. I STRONGLY URGE you to OPPOSE the opening of 10 million acres of land in Alaska's Tongass National Forest for mining and logging projects. This would SEVERELY DESTROY our last remaining truly wild forest and be a huge blow to biodiversity. These lands do NOT belong to corporate entities such as mining and logging companies!! They BELONG TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE !!!!!

85. No mining or logging in the Tongass National Forest. The invaluable Tongass National Forest must remain protected from any development.

86. This is about our future, what do you want for your children?

87. These lands are critical to the future of our planet. I urge you to protect the land by blocking this destructive proposal.

88. Beyond its magnificent natural beauty and cultural importance, the Tongass Forest is one of the world's best climate defenses. The old trees store nearly 10-12 percent of all carbon consumed by America's national forests -- and it's Alaska's first defense against the worsening climate crisis. How can generations of environmental human idiocy be followed by yet more of the same??? Do we NEVER learn?

89. These are our lands and wildlives to protect; not theirs to pollute and destroy!

90. Protect Tongass National Forest--that air is MY air, that water is MY water. trees don't regrow on karst.

91. We taxpayers are tired of subsidizing the destruction of our National Forests!

92. Like many other Trump administration attacks on our God-given environmental stewardship, opening up the Tongas National Forest to mining and logging is a wantonly unnecessary assault on our environment and Planet Earth, These lands must be protected and I urge the agency to take responsible and proper action to block this. Please do the right thing.

93. If we don't immediately do something now we all die if animals die we die if plants/trees die we die because trees help with breathing healthy air in the world by preventing toxic carbon monoxide pollution

94. For about the 50th time over the last 4 decades, I strongly urge you to oppose the opening of 10 million acres of land in Alaska's Tongass National Forest for mining and logging projects. It is unnecessary, unproductive and would severely compromise our last remaining truly wild forest and be a huge blow to biodiversity.

95. I live in Southeast Alaska and the Tongass National Forest is critical to the tourism industry that I and many of my fellow citizens rely on for work. Don't prioritize the short term profits of these greedy, foreign corporations over the health and economical well being of the people that live here and the communities in which they reside.

96. This is a national forest SO I own part of the land an trees . Leave the trees alone because I do not want to pay a museum to see trees on any scale.