

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 10/21/2019 8:00:00 AM

First name: Steve

Last name: Crimmin

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear Secretary Perdue,

I am opposed to allowing road building and logging in the Tongass National Forest, the largest intact temperate rain forest in North America. If the world needs anything, it's not fewer trees and more roads. The Tongass is a national forest that belongs to all American citizens, not just the Republican Congressional representatives, the residents of Alaska, and owners of extraction companies.

Tongass is home to massive old-growth stands and provides habitat for a range of wildlife. As the Forest Service itself reports, roughly 40 percent of wild salmon that swim along the West Coast spawn in the Tongass, generating a fishery that is worth an estimated \$986 million a year.

As the Washington Post has reported, "scientists who have worked in the area say the road building that would be required to take out more timber could fragment critical habitat, and logging could remove trees that trap sediment and keep waterways cool.

"They went to the easy places first. Now they're going to have to build roads to get to the next round of timber," Forest Service emeritus scientist Gordon Reeves, who worked as a research scientist in the Pacific Northwest and Alaska for 35 years, said in a recent interview. "You put the roads in, and that tends to change everything."

The roadless rule was enacted by President Bill Clinton in 2001. President Trump should not be allowed to exempt the Tongass from this rule. When President George W. Bush sought in 2003 to reverse Clinton's roadless policy in the Tongass, a federal judge reinstated it in 2011, and the decision was upheld on appeal. What makes the Trump Administration think the result would be any different this time around?

The Trump Administration's attempt to pillage the public lands on behalf of timber, energy, and mining interests must be stopped. The continued existence of our endangered planet depends on the maintenance of critical habitats such as the Tongass. Let's leave some natural areas unexploited by the destructive hands of man.

[Position]

[Position]