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Organization:

Title:

Comments: The proposed repeal of the Roadless Rule on the Tongass is a direct result of political and special interest decision-making against the wishes of the public, and threatens the fish and wildlife habitat which makes the Tongass a world-class destination for outdoor recreation.

The Roadless areas of the Tongass, as well as the Tongass 77 salmon priority watersheds, contain highly productive fish habitat and unspoiled wildlands that are critical to the vibrant and ever-growing fishing, guide/outfitter, and tourism industries of southeast, which combine to contribute more than \$2 billion in economic activity and roughly 26% of jobs in the region annually. The proposed repeal of the conservation measures inherent in the Roadless rule is a direct threat to the success and continued contributions of these industries.

The current backlog of road maintenance in the Tongass is \$68 million, and the current backlog of stream restoration for salmon habitat impaired by prior roadbuilding and development is close to \$100 million. Given the inability to address these much-needed repairs, it makes no economic sense to green-light new roadbuilding on the Tongass for non-critical functions.

Many of my clients rely on the roadless areas for their livelihood. Any repeal of the roadless rules will take away from work they have done to protect this and their businesses. Affecting them, affects me. What is not even accounted for in the value of this roadless area are the trickle down affects that can reach businesses like mine that have clients that rely on this being protected. We need no more roads in this area.

Thanks,

Ben Furimsky

President/CEO

The Fly Fishing Show

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