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First name: Therese

Last name: Patton

Organization:

Title:

Comments: AK Roadless Rule

The intent of the 2001 Roadless Rule is to provide lasting protection for inventoried roadless areas within the National Forest System in the context of multiple-use land management.

Lasting protection should mean just that. These protections were made under careful scrutiny by administrations less crazy than this one and should not be undone by one crazy man with no understanding of anything other than personal profit and adulation.

Why should the Tongass remain under permanent protection? There is a bonafide climate crisis facing planet earth and its biodiversity, including humans. The tropical rain forest is being burned up with out concern for anything but money. The temperate rain forest is as valuable as tropical rain forests and becomes even more so as we lose the oxygen giving life support of trees being cut, burned, killed by climate change and urban interface..

Trees remove CO2 from the atmosphere. We aren't slowing down this production of CO2 and we have no means for removing what we produce so we need trees. Lots of trees, Large forests of trees like the Tongass and other forests might save us.

Forests are reservoirs of biodiversity. Humans rely on this diversity for its survival. We have experienced the consequences of removing a single species and have learned how the web of life is intertwined with us in the middle. Forests are wonderful places for recreational opportunities and have been shown to promote health and well being. People need nature. Without the trees the rains will not come, the snow will not fall in winter. Much will be lost. The climate crisis will worsen.

Once these gifts are taken away from us there is no replacing them. The Tongass does not belong to "industry", it does not belong to Alaska, and it does not belong to Trump. The Tongass belongs to all Americans and I want to keep it for all of us into the future. Short sighted profits are not the answer. Please keep the roadless areas, especially the Tongass, as they are, permanently protected.

Thank you,

Therese Patton

Angel Fire, NM

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