

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 10/21/2019 8:00:00 AM
First name: Ruth
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Organization:
Title:
Comments: Tongass National Forest: Roadless Rule

Dear U.S. Forest Service,

I strongly urge the Forest Service not to eliminate "Roadless Rule" protections for the Tongass National Forest. Select the "no action" alternative instead.

The Tongass is America's wildest remaining national forest, with more than 9 million acres of roadless areas. It stores a vast amount of carbon, with its centuries-old trees serving as a carbon-reserve life raft in this time of climate change. Logging releases most of that carbon into the atmosphere.

It's also home to a wide range of wildlife, including Alexander Archipelago wolves, grizzly bears and salmon.

Your proposal to open the door to clearcutting and bulldozing is irresponsible and fundamentally threatens these values. The Tongass belongs to all Americans and shouldn't be sacrificed to the short-term interests of the timber industry, which provides a small fraction of the jobs and income in Southeast Alaska compared to tourism and fishing - both of which rely on intact forests to thrive. It's even more important to save these last remaining roadless forests because your agency has fragmented and logged so much of our national forests, harming wildlife and waters along the way.

Further, I oppose your plan to allow the agency to open any of the 5 million acres of roadless areas on the Chugach National Forest to bulldozing and clearcutting for logging. This is simply a backdoor repeal of the 2001 Roadless Rule, which protects all roadless lands because of the critical role they play in protecting pure water, secure wildlife habitat and remote recreation.

Think of future generations by selecting the "no action" alternative to maintain "Roadless Rule" protections for the Tongass and Chugach.

Sincerely,

Ruth Charloff

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