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First name: Care

Last name: Burpee

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Why 'Roadless Rule' Protections for the Tongass National Forest matter to me

Dear U.S. Forest Service,

When our family meets tourists enjoying the Chugach State Park-which adjoins the National Forest of the same name-they never fail to tell my children how blessed we are to live with one of America's last great wildernesses as our literal backyard. As I have spent time in many of Alaska's wild places, I have met countless people from all over the U.S. and the world, and interacting with them has taught me something: these spaces need safeguarding because what they give people goes beyond what the climatologists teach us about their ability to absorb the carbon emitted in more populous places or even the flora and fauna they shelter. What they give is an intangible, immeasurable something that happens in your body and soul as you spend time absorbing the peace, solitude, and the good old standby our mothers always told us to get outside and partake of: fresh air and exercise (both of which are in short supply in most Americans' lives).

What will happen to the ability of our children and generations yet to come to experience that rarest of things in America today, that ability to breathe free in a truly wild place? What will happen if this shortsighted push to open America's last great places to loggers and their bulldozers becomes the law of the land? You and I both know that if the door is opened in the Tongass and my Chugach, it will not stop here. Before time has the chance to show the longterm effects on our planet and her people, there will be legal precedent that will be used again and again to justify the destruction of millions more acres of forests that keep our planets' air fresh and ozone intact and give our people places to roam free.

When Teddy Roosevelt began setting aside America's wildest places, he did so because he was farsighted enough to see that America's consumerism would drive her to the destruction of her wilderness areas. I beg of you not to be the shortsighted woman who will go down in history as the one who allowed the opening of that door of destruction in our wild places.

Please ensure that many generations of people, wildlife, and flora have these valuable spaces in which to thrive by choosing the "no action" alternative to maintain "Roadless Rule" protections for the Tongass and Chugach. Not only will it save these two places, but your holding the line now will provide legal precedent for saving other spaces as well. Choose to go down in history as the woman who stood firm and upheld the legacy of Teddy Roosevelt.

Thank-you,

Care Burpee

Eagle River, Alaska

Sincerely,

Care Burpee

Eagle River, AK 99577

[Position]