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Comments: comment on roadless rule

The Roadless Rule of 2001 protected a large area, including virgin forests. It makes no sense to now decide that the majority of said forest can be removed after-all.

We are led to believe that logging is now conducted sustainably and w/ little collateral damage. I am not so gullible-I have viewed many areas in Oregon and California that have been logged. The ground is completely gouged, all topsoil removed. There are huge piles of branches not taken-generally larger piles of discard than of logs.

We can see the ubiquitous logging trucks carrying huge and obviously very old logs. None of this is sustainable. And of the many lumber yards that receive these logs, most have enormous piles of seemingly abandoned logs left to rot.

We can expect a repeat of these practices if the Tongass is opened to logging. Logging companies will destroy forests as long as they are allowed and until there is not a tree standing. (The same as fishers will fish the ocean to species extinction.)

It has been shown that we must have wild areas for our physical and emotional health. As our world shrinks and wild areas are removed, people suffer.

The Roadless Rule is in place for the very purpose of protecting the Tongass-one of Earth's few remaining virgin forests. I beg you to not change the Roadless Rule but to leave this large area as protected as it is now-which is already a compromise.

Thank you.

Janet levins

[Position]