

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 10/21/2019 8:00:00 AM

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: What will be YOUR legacy?

Dear U.S. Forest Service,

The Tongass National Forest is a natural treasure with which you have been entrusted. Your predecessors have guarded and cared for this land for the benefit of all Americans. Now it is your turn to step up and preserve it for upcoming generations. Are you up to this challenge to be a part of this awesome legacy? Or will you buckle to the pressures of greed and violate the trust of the American citizenry?

As such, I strongly urge you to oppose the Forest Service's plan to eliminate "Roadless Rule" protections for the Tongass National Forest and urge you to select the "no action" alternative instead.

As you know the Tongass is America's wildest remaining national forest, with more than 9 million acres of roadless areas. And it's home to a wide range of wildlife, including Alexander Archipelago wolves, grizzly bears and salmon. It also 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.

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 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.

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

Sincerely,

Robert Moyer

York, PA

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