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First name: Mitchell

Last name: MD

Organization:

Title:

Comments: You must protect the 'Roadless Rule' for the Tongass National Forest. We've destroyed enough.

Dear U.S. Forest Service,

I am unshakably opposed the Forest Service's plan to eliminate "Roadless Rule" protections for the Tongass National Forest and demand that you select the "no action" alternative.

As a frequent visitor to the wild lands of Alaska, I know firsthand of the majesty that is there, a majesty that must be protected for future generation of wildlife and humans.

We are destroying the natural world for ephemeral profit and our behavior is exemplary of an extreme stupidity and ignorance.

We must allow these places to be as they are, for the simple reason of their existence on the Earth, as well as their potential to be biological islands from which the processes of evolution can repopulate the world with unique organisms, after we have extirpated everything else.

The Tongass is America's wildest remaining national forest and your proposal to open the door to clearcutting and bulldozing is patently irresponsible and is anathema to everything I hold dear about life on our dust mote in a vacuum. The Tongass belongs to all Americans and must not be sacrificed to the timber industry, which provides a tiny fraction of the jobs and income in Southeast Alaska compared to tourism and fishing - both of which rely on intact forests to thrive.

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.

I respectfully demand that you leave this place alone, now and forever.

Sincerely,

Mitchell Gershten MD

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