

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 11/16/2019 9:00:00 AM

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Organization: Ms.

Title:

Comments: I do not support the proposed exemption for the Tongass National Forest from the current Roadless Rule, and I urge the USDA not to proceed with the proposed exemption.

I was raised mostly in western Montana and western Washington when conservation-supporting Republicans protected our national forests from over-roadbuilding and logging. I have the most treasured memories of my times camping and hiking in national parks and forests near my homes with my parents and Girl Scout troop. I learned a lot about nature -- and I want to see my grandchildren and future great-grandchildren enjoy both the nature lessons and the contribution to planetary health that the forests and parks provide.

We cannot survive as a species without forests. The Tongass is special because it is pristine. Careful stewardship has left it that way.

I know many families in and around Puget Sound and western Montana whose livings depend on logging and reforestation. Their livelihoods do not depend on allowing roadbuilding and logging in a pristine forest such as the Tongass and it is a mistake of economics and conservation policy to argue to the contrary.

So, Mr. Secretary and members of the Administration, do not exempt the Tongass from the 2001 Roadless Rule promulgated during the presidency of George Walker Bush. Your grandchildren and great-grandchildren will not thank you for destroyng an ecosystem on which all Americans, and particularly westerners, depend.

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