

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

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Keep 'Roadless Rule' Protections for the Tongass National Forest

Dear U.S. Forest Service,

It's simply unbelievable that the Forest Service would ever slash the roadless rule and open the Tongass or Chugach to logging. These are the last remaining sanctuaries of vast old growth left in this nation. Have some wisdom and increase protections, rather than decrease them.

I strongly oppose the USFS plan to eliminate "Roadless Rule" protections for the Tongass and Chugach National Forests. If you value biodiversity, carbon sequestration, water quality, salmon, or wildness, you should select the "no action" alternative.

I spent 3 weeks on the Kenai peninsula this summer mountain biking and watching wildlife. I was awestruck by the vastness and beauty of Alaska - it was my first trip. I couldn't imagine the hemlock and spruce forests being ravaged for a dying industry, especially when we have so many industrial timberlands that can easily produce the fiber needs of our country.

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.

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,

Joe Trudeau

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