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First name: Jeanette

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Organization:

Title:

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

Dear U.S. Forest Service,

I OPPOSE the Forest Service's plan to eliminate "Roadless Rule" protections for the Tongass National Forest. You should select the "NO ACTION" ALTERNATIVE instead.

The Tongass is America's WILDEST REMAINING national forest, with more than 9 million acres of roadless areas; home to a wide range of wildlife like Alexander Archipelago WOLVES, GRIZZLY BEARS and SALMON. It also stores a HUGE AMOUNT OF CARBON in its centuries-old trees. But logging releases most of that carbon into the atmosphere.

Opening the door to clearcutting and bulldozing is IRRESPONSIBLE. The Tongass BELONGS TO ALL Americans and should NOT be sacrificed to the timber industry, that provides only a SMALL FRACTION of the jobs and income in Southeast Alaska COMPARED TO TOURISM AND FISHING that need INTACT FORESTS to thrive. These last remaining roadless forests MUST BE SAVED because your agency has already fragmented and logged so much of our national forests, thereby harming wildlife and waters.

I ALSO OPPOSE your plan to open any of the 5 million acres of roadless areas on the Chugach National Forest to bulldozing and clearcutting for logging. This is a DIRTY-TRICK 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.

Future generations need you to select the "NO ACTION" ALTERNATIVE to maintain "Roadless Rule" protections for the Tongass and Chugach.

Sincerely,

Jeanette Nickels

[Position]