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Organization:

Title:

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

Dear U.S. Forest Service,

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

As you know the Tongass is America's wildest remaining national forest, with more than 9 million acres of roadless areas. It is home to a wide range of wildlife, including Alexander Archipelago wolves, grizzly bears and salmon. It stores a vast amount of carbon with its centuries-old trees serving as a carbon-reserve. Logging will release most of that carbon into the atmosphere.

The proposal to open the door to clearcutting and bulldozing is irresponsible. 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 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.

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 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,

Rosemarie Kozdron

[Position]