Data Submitted (UTC 11): 10/27/2019 8:00:00 AM
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Organization:
Title:
Comments: Alaska Roadless Rulemaking #54511

Roadless Rulemaking,

RE: Alaska Roadless DEIS Comment

Dear Secretary Perdue:

Tongass is a 500-mile coastal temperate rain forest that retains more carbon than any forest in the United States. Its thousand-year-old-growth trees provide habitat for iconic wild creatures, including bald eagles and everything from humpback and orca whales to bears, otters, and beavers. Local indigenous people, including the Tlingit and Haida, have also lived in this region for centuries and rely on the forest's healthy natural resources for survival. We can't let Trump destroy it.

Under Trump's proposal, old-growth trees that help us to mitigate climate change by storing vast amounts of carbon would be especially targeted. In addition, this rule could potentially undermine protection of the 5.4 million acres of roadless lands in Alaska's Chugach National Forest.

An IPCC expert whose report was cited by the Trump regime says, flat out: "Nothing in that report supports what they're claiming." From Ukrainean politics to border walls to climate change, nothing said or done by this administration can be trusted. It's up to us citizens to speak the truth.

In addition, I strongly object to your plans to reduce and remove protections from our national forest's roadless areas. The Roadless Rule is one of the smartest and most popular land management policies the Federal Government has ever adopted. Not only does it preserve some of America's best fish and wildlife habitat, but it also saves untold millions of taxpayer dollars that might otherwise be spent to subsidize money-losing timber sales. The value of the Roadless Rule in preventing environmentally damaging and economically wasteful road-building and logging is particularly relevant in the Tongass, where logging costs vastly exceed timber revenues and require unconscionable taxpayer subsidies.

Paul Wellin

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