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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Alaska Roadless Rulemaking #54511

Roadless Rulemaking,

RE: Alaska Roadless DEIS Comment

Dear Secretary Perdue:

I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1.

I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. The Tongass is a carbon sink containing some of the largest intact old-growth temperate rainforest in the world, and its value in providing clean water for fish and wildlife habitat is essential to the economic and ecological health of Southeast Alaska.

I urge you to keep the federal Roadless Rule intact and current protections in place for national forests in Alaska.

Tongass is a carbon sink, in climate science jargon. Its old-growth trees store vast amounts of carbon - an estimated 10-12 percent of all of America's national forests - and play a critical role when it comes to reaching global climate goals.

The Roadless Rule

In addition, I strongly object to your plans to reduce and remove protections from our national forest's roadless areas.

1. The Roadless Rule is one of the smartest and most popular land management policies the Federal Government has ever adopted.
2. It protects 9.3 million acres of undeveloped roadless land in the Tongass--twice the size of Yellowstone, Glacier, and Grand Canyon National Parks combined.

Not only does it preserve some of America's best fish and wildlife habitat.

3. it also saves untold millions of taxpayer dollars that might otherwise be spent to subsidize money-losing timber sales.
4. The value of the Roadless Rule in preventing environmentally damaging and economically wasteful road-building and logging is particularly relevant in the Tongass.
5. The Tongas Forest logging costs vastly exceed timber revenues and require unconscionable taxpayer subsidies.

Carolynn Kohout

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