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First name: Judy

Last name: Silverstein

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Alaska Roadless Rulemaking #54511

Roadless Rulemaking,

RE: Alaska Roadless DEIS Comment

Dear Secretary Perdue:

I support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current federal Roadless Rule protections for the Tongass National Forest, among the planet's best carbon sink containing some of the world's largest intact old-growth temperate rain forest (which help mitigate climate change by storing vast amounts of carbon), and its value in providing clean water for fish and wildlife habitat is essential to southeast Alaska's economic and ecological health.

I strongly object to reducing and removing protections from our national forest's roadless areas. The Roadless Rule is one of the smartest and most popular land management policies our government has ever adopted: it preserves some of America's best fish and wildlife habitat AND 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.

The new proposal undermines the Roadless Rule, a law that has long protected much of our last remaining wild national forests from logging and other development across the country. In this case, Alaska's 17 million-acre Tongass National Forest in Alaska is in the crosshairs as the nation's largest national forest and among one of the world's few remaining relatively intact temperate rain forests. The Roadless Rule protects 9.3 million acres of breathtaking, undeveloped roadless Tongass (twice the size of Yellowstone, Glacier, and Grand Canyon National Parks combined!). This attack threatens habitat for wildlife (like grizzly bears, moose, and salmon) AND sets a bad precedent that could lead to logging and road construction in remote, wild forest areas across the U.S. Under this proposal, the planet's old growth carbon sink would be especially targeted. Plus, this rule could potentially undermine protection of the 5.4 million acres of roadless lands in Alaska's Chugach National Forest.

THANK YOU for standing up for tens of millions of acres of our wildest forests in our own backyard by taking 'No Action' on the newly proposed Alaska Roadless Rule and for keeping the Roadless Rule protections intact for national forests in Alaska.

Judy Silverstein

Spokane, Washington 99223

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