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First name: Lynn

Last name: Evenson

Organization:

Title:

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

Dear U.S. Forest Service,

Once in awhile, "nothing" is the best thing to do. That is the case here: choose the "no action" alternative as regards the Tongass National Forest's 9 million untouched acres. I ask that you choose that course of (non)action.

I speak as a lifelong outdoor bum, a happy citizen of wild areas where roads, phones, machines, power poles and buildings are banned. I am one of millions who spend billions of dollars a year to be in such places. I live in Ely, Minnesota, 3/4 of a mile from my front door to 2 million acres of unpolluted water in the Boundary Waters and Quetico canoe wildernesses.

The Forest Service's plan to eliminate "Roadless Rule" protections for the Tongass National Forest will open the door to clearcutting and bulldozing. You know this. The Tongass belongs to all Americans, not the timber industry, which provides a small fraction of the jobs and income in Southeast Alaska compared to tourism and fishing - both of which rely on intact forests to thrive. Your agency has fragmented and logged so much of our national forests, harming wildlife and waters along the way. I have little faith in your ability to change course here, but will demand it anyway.

Further, I vehemently oppose your plan to open the Chugach National Forest to bulldozing and clearcutting for logging. This is simply a backdoor repeal of the 2001 Roadless Rule, a sneaky move that is beneath you - or should be.

Besides being an outdoor enthusiast, I also have a nasty habit of breathing. The forests of the earth do massive amounts of work to keep our air suitable for such activities. Surely you know that. Surely you wish to keep the air clean enough to breathe, for yourself and everyone else (except possibly your orange-haired boss).

You know that this administration regards untouched wild places as worthless. It also takes great pleasure in harm for no reason other than spite. You must be the grown-up in the room. Please think of future generations by selecting the "no action" alternative to maintain "Roadless Rule" protections for the Tongass and Chugach, and all other wild lands.

Whatever course you take, you can expect to hear from me and my millions of like-minded dirtbags. It is up to you whether you'll welcome or dread the messages. No threat, but rather a promise.

Sincerely,

Lynn Evenson

Ely, MN 55731

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