

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 11/1/2019 8:00:00 AM

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Keep the Tongass roadless!

As a 25-yr ADF&G employee, I have witnessed previous attempts to destroy the Tongass to benefit a few corporate profit-takers. However, these sweeping changes the current administration is promoting are obscene; they would completely remove the Tongass National Forest from roadless protections.

As you are well aware in your capacity as managers of the Forest, the Tongass is one of the last intact temperate rainforests on Earth, with pristine old growth forest, a stunningly diverse array of wildlife - salmon, wolves, bear, deer, and birds of prey such as the Northern Goshawk. This is because of Roadless Rules.

The Tongass is also America's largest national forest. It plays a vital role in absorbing greenhouse gas emissions, storing approximately 8 percent of the total carbon of all the national forests of the lower 48 states combined. And, it contains sacred sites of great importance to Native people of Alaska.

The proposed rule opens an additional 165,000 acres to logging and strips Roadless Rule protections from ALL 9.2 million acres of inventoried roadless areas in the Tongass. This action would destroy the Tongass National Forest - land you are sworn and paid to protect.

As you are also well aware, an overwhelming majority of public and stakeholder input favored either maintaining roadless areas or making small modifications. The course chosen by the administration ignores the public, fails to find balance, and threatens the crown jewel of the National Forest System.

I strongly urge the Forest Service to protect our Tongass National Forest and select Alternative 1, the "no-action" alternative.

Thank you,

Alma Seward

[Position]