

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 10/22/2019 8:00:00 AM

First name: Cheri

Last name: Olney

Organization:

Title:

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

Dear U.S. Forest Service,

I strongly oppose the Forest Service's plan to eliminate "Roadless Rule" protections for the Tongass National Forest and urge you to select the "no action" alternative instead.

The Tongass is America's wildest remaining national forest, with more than 9 million acres of roadless areas. It's home to a wide range of wildlife, including Alexander Archipelago wolves, grizzly bears and salmon. It also stores a vast amount of carbon with centuries-old trees serving as a carbon-reserve life raft in this time of climate change.

This proposal opens the door to clearcutting and bulldozing and is irresponsible. The Tongass belongs to all Americans and shouldn't be sacrificed because of irresponsibility and greed of the timber industry. It's even more important to save these last remaining roadless forests because it has been fragmented and logged impacting our national forests and displacing wildlife and compromising waters along the way.

I oppose your plan to allow the agency to open any of the 5 million acres of roadless areas on the Chugach National Forest to bulldozing and clearcutting for logging. This defies the 2001 Roadless Rule, which protects all roadless lands because of the critical role they play in protecting pure water, secure wildlife habitat and remote recreation.

Please - think of future generations by selecting the "no action" alternative to maintain "Roadless Rule" protections for the Tongass and Chugach.

Sincerely,

Cheri Olney

Greenbank, WA 98253