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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 everywhere, and especially in the Tongass National Forest. The Tongass is one of the largest intact virgin temperate rainforests in the world. It is a national and global treasure, not loot! The value of the intact rainforest includes providing clean water for fish and local communities, wildlife habitat, a vast carbon sink to help fight global warming, and recreation and tourism which are beneficial, maybe even vital for the economic and ecological health of Southeast Alaska. Keep the Tongass rainforest as a place to go, not a place to avoid! Please keep the federal Roadless Rule intact and current protections in place for national forests in Alaska.

The Tongass National Forest belongs to all Americans. Local communities thrive only with a healthy forest. Logging leaves a wasteland which can not support any communities. Logging tears up the land and pollutes the streams and rivers. Destroying a forest not only kills ancient trees that ought to be revered, but also leaves the wild creatures that live there homeless and exposed, without food or clean water or shelter. Some of these species are already threatened or endangered. We need to protect nature because, sacredness and beauty aside, nature keeps us alive!

And the destruction caused by logging our irreplaceable ancient forests does not even benefit taxpayers! Taxpayer dollars are wasted so private individuals can get rich by destroying our treasures! This is theft and gross mismanagement. Everyone loses when a virgin forest is destroyed except a few greedy exploiters. The forest service needs to act in stewardship, and protect our American lands for the people, not ruin our lands for private greed.

I strongly object to your plans to reduce or remove Roadless Rule protections from any of our national forest's roadless areas. The Roadless Rule is one of the smartest and most popular land management policies the Federal Government has ever adopted. Not only does it preserve some of America's best fish and wildlife habitat, but it 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.

Thank you for leaving our virgin forests intact!

Larry Lawton

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