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Organization:

Title:

Comments: HC177

Dear Forest Service,

The Roadless Rule, issued by the Forest Service in 2001, protects the largest carbon sequestration forest in the US, the Tongass National Forest. The forest is also habitat to hundreds of species of animals and trees.

Since the lumber/timber industry is a very small part of the economy in this part of Alaska the only excuse for cutting anything in this forest is greed. At a time when climate change and carbon sequestration are front and center in the minds and hearts of the majority of Americans, it seems crazy to allow a single tree in the Tongass to be cut down for some wealthy person(s) or companies to make money at the expense of the climate and the animals that live there.

When scientists say that over a million species will go extinct in the next 20 years, any habitat that supports hundreds of species should be maintained pristine.

Furthermore, the roadless policy helps resolve some of the challenges facing our national forests: reducing the taxpayer burden for road maintenance; limiting the damage to watersheds and habitat caused by vehicle traffic and construction; and safeguarding mid-elevation landscapes, which are often vulnerable to development.

Finally in addition to the benefits cited above, roadless areas in national forests are major economic drivers for rural communities, drawing hunters, anglers, hikers, mountain bikers, and others seeking the increasingly scarce solitude and quietude that these vast, undisturbed places offer. With more than half of all national forests already open to logging, roads, and other industrial operations, the roadless rule helps ensure that most of the rest of these pristine wild lands stay as they are.

I oppose ANY logging or roads built into the Tongass National Forest and support Alternative 1: no changes to the current roadless rule.

[Signature]

Thank you,

Honora Wolfe

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