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Organization:

Title:

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

Dear U.S. Forest Service,

I very much oppose the USDA Forest Service's plan to eliminate "Roadless Rule" protections for the Tongass National Forest, and I urge you to select the "no action" alternative. The right policy is wise management, not political theft..

The Tongass is now America's wildest national forest, with more than 9 million acres of roadless areas. And it's home to a wide range of wildlife, including Alexander Archipelago wolves, grizzly bears, and salmon. It stores a vast amount of carbon, with its centuries-old trees serving as a carbon-reserve life raft in this time of climate change. Logging would release most of that carbon into the atmosphere.

Your agency proposal to open the door to clearcutting and bulldozing is irresponsible and fundamentally threatens these needs and values. The Tongass belongs to all Americans and should not be sacrificed to 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. It is highly important to save our last remaining roadless forests!

Further, 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 is simply a backdoor repeal of 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. I hike in our national forests, and greatly value their natural role.

Please - think of future generations by selecting the "no action" alternative to maintain "Roadless Rule" protections for the Tongass and Chugach. Do what is professionally sound, not what is politically expedient.

Sincerely,

Bruce MacBryde

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