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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Keep 'Roadless Rule' Protections for Tongass N.F.

Dear U.S. Forest Service,

I oppose the Forest Service plan to eliminate "Roadless Rule" protections for Tongass N.F. Please select the "no action" alternative instead.

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 stores a vast amount of carbon, with centuries-old trees serving as a carbon-reserve in this time of climate change. Logging releases most stored carbon into the atmosphere.

Your proposal to open Tongass to clearcutting and bulldozing is irresponsible. The Tongass belongs to all Americans and shouldn't be given to the timber industry, which provides only a small number of jobs and income in southeast Alaska compared to tourism and fishing - both which rely on intact forests to thrive.

It's more important to save the last remaining roadless forests because your agency fragmented and logged so much of our national forests. Fragmented forests ruin biodiversity and ecosystems developed over millennia.

I also oppose opening any of the 5 million acres of roadless areas in the Chugach N.F. 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 water, wildlife habitat and recreation.

Please - think of the planet's future and that of wilderness denizens by selecting the "no action" alternative to maintain "Roadless Rule" protections for the Tongass and Chugach.

Sincerely,

Lianne Freese

[Position]