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Organization:

Title:

Comments: To the US Department of Agriculture:

I am concerned citizen of the United States and strongly oppose the US Department of Agriculture's proposal to exempt the Tongass National Forest from the 2001 Roadless Rule.

From my understanding the basis of the proposal is to open up areas that have been protected from resource extraction. In particular opening up large parts of the Tongass National Forest to the logging and forestry industries. I am in deep opposition to this. Not only due to my love of nature and the Tongass as one of the United States last remaining old growth forests, but I strongly believe in prioritizing the long term health of ecosystems and biodiversity over short term profits for a very small percentage of the population. Were logging in the Tongass National Forest to begin many species and their habitat would be at risk, including salmon populations. Salmon rely on the old growth trees of the Tongass National Forest to continue spawning and producing healthy growing populations. This is not only important due to a love of nature and all its animals, but it is deeply important to the local population made up almost entirely of fisherman and not those in the forest industry. Fishing and Tourism are the areas two largest industry, with logging only supporting a small minority. It is for this reason I do not wish to see the destructive clear cutting proposed by exempting the Tongass from the Roadless Rule. It will not only destroy one of the last remaining magical old growth forests in our beautiful country, but it will deeply effect for the worse the two largest economies of the area.

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