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Organization:

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Comments: Dear Forest Service Officials,

The proposal to lift the Roadless Rule is a reckless and short-sighted effort designed to benefit very few people in the short term at the long-lasting expense of the vast majority in this country. This will result in a crime against humanity in the form of environmental destruction which cannot be reversed or undone once it has been realized. The enormous and long-lasting costs of these actions will far outweigh the short-term benefits gained by the few who actually benefit. How can a small handful of politicians and logging lobbyists have the power to destroy an ecosystem at the expense of the local people and the people of this nation?

The pristine forests of the Tongass are a source of clean water and contain excellent spawning habitat for salmon. The Tongass Forest is home to some of the few remaining places where salmon populations can thrive in the United States. Logging of old growth forest and mining will have long-term, possibly irreversible effects on the ecosystem. These actions will destroy the remaining spawning habitat for the salmon. The cutting of the trees will help accelerate climate change and will extirpate species obligate to the old growth forests. The resulting erosion will result in loss of clean water and will affect other fisheries. Who will be held accountable when the long-lasting effects of this destruction become evident? Have we not done enough destruction of our environment for the benefit of very few people at the expense of everyone else?

I urge you to do the right thing and keep the Roadless Rule intact. This is not about politics or political parties. Stop reacting to political whims and start thinking about the future of this nation and of this planet.

Concerned Scientist and U.S. Citizen

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