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First name: Anne

Last name: Cawood

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Roadless Rule Protest

To: USDA Forest Service

I am writing to register my comment against the proposed changes to the Roadless Rule. Please protect our national forests from clear cutting, mining and logging in our national forests, such as the Tongass National Forest. These wild places only exist with our protection and once gone cannot be recreated.

The Roadless Rule prevents clear-cutting in nearly 56 million acres of national forests across the country, including half of the Tongass. It also saves taxpayers millions of dollars by limiting the number of expensive roadbuilding projects on our public lands.

As our last and largest national temperate rainforest -- often called our "Amazon" -- the Tongass National Forest should be protected, not opened for clear-cutting. Once one National Forest is open for destruction, there's no telling where this will stop. If this plan is approved, it would be a huge blow to both our planet's biodiversity and our pockets.

The Tongass and other national forests provide clean drinking water to millions of Americans. And the Tongass in particular provides habitats for thousands of wildlife species -- including most of the remaining wild salmon population. The only beneficiary of this senseless rollback will be Trump's Big Polluter cronies. Now it's up to engaged environmentalists like you and me to speak up against Trump's obsessive attacks on the Tongass.

The Tongass is home to pacific salmon, iconic bald eagles, southern resident orcas, and even a 1000-year-old tree! It also contains the traditional homelands of the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian Peoples.

And beyond its natural beauty and cultural importance, the Tongass Forest is one of the world's best climate defenses. The old trees store nearly 10-12 percent of all carbon consumed by America's National Forests.

Let's be clear: This is a giveaway to Big Polluters at the expense of our climate, endangered wildlife, and Indigenous communities.

This is NOT management of a National Forest - this is an environmental catastrophe.

National Forests belong to the nation - NOT corporations.

Sincerely,

Anne Cawood

San Leandro, CA 94577

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