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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Keep the Roadless Rule in Place for the Tongass National Forest

Dear Interdisciplinary Team Leader, Alaska Roadless Rule Ken Tu,

I am both a frequent visitor to our National Forests and work in outdoor education, helping thousands of people experience wild places in the Pacific Northwest. Today I'm writing to urge the National Forest Service to continue protecting the Tongass National Forest and its backcountry and roadless areas from unnecessary logging and other development. I am highly concerned about the proposal to end Roadless Rule protections for the Tongass.

The Tongass has tremendous value for outdoor recreation in the region, and also provides clean water, clean air, and wildlife habitat, all of which are foundational to the economic and ecological health of Southeast Alaska. As I'm sure you know, in addition to being an important ecological area, the Tongass is a critically important forest in terms of sequestering carbon, 8% of the total of all our National Forests. Road building, logging, and development should continue to be prohibited in the Tongass's roadless areas through upholding the Roadless Rule.

The Roadless Rule was created after significant public outreach and is a popular and sensible approach to land management. Undoing it in the Tongass to benefit logging, mining and other extractive industries should not be permitted.

Thank you for considering my feedback and that of thousands of other people who care about our public lands and our planet.

Sincerely,

Tom Vogl

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