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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Keep the Tongass roadless

The Trump administration must not lift protections on 9.2 million acres of the pristine Tongass National Forest and allow roads and destructive commercial logging within this pristine wilderness area.

Please select the "No Action" alternative on the Alaska-specific Roadless Rule. Do not accept destructive changes this administration is promoting that would remove the Tongass National Forest from roadless protections.

The Tongass National Forest is one of the last intact temperate rainforests on Earth. The old growth forests in its roadless lands are crucial to the survival of salmon, wolves, bear, deer, and birds of prey such as the Northern Goshawk. It is the largest and wildest national forest in America, and plays a vital role in absorbing greenhouse gas emissions. It also contains sacred sites of great importance to Native people of Alaska.

The proposed rule would open 165,000 acres to logging and strips Roadless Rule protections from all 9.2 million acres of inventoried roadless areas in the Tongass. There is no justification or documented support for such a move.

The course chosen by the administration ignores the public and threatens the most valuable roadless wilderness remaining in the National Forest System. I strongly urge the Forest Service to select Alternative 1, the "no-action" alternative.

Thank you,

Susan Westervelt

[Position]