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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Do not remove Roadless Rule Protections for Tongass National Forest

Dear U.S. Forest Service,

The Roadless Rule is fundamental in protecting the Tongass National Forest's clean air, water, wildlife and recreation. During a time of worldwide trends towards the destruction of our planet's last wild places, we need to do more to combat the loss of biological diversity, climate change, and the overall declining health of our planet. The Forest Service is uniquely positioned to bolster these goals, and stooping to corporate giveaways will undermine that.

You might believe that the timber industry will help the local economy. This is true to a certain extent, but only looks at the situation myopically. Most of the profits will go to white collars, and the jobs it creates will be vastly outnumbered by the recreation industry, the same industry that will be affected by rolling back the Roadless Rule. Likewise it ignores science, and we ignore science at our own peril.

Giving in to the Trump Administration's proposal to simply undo this rule and clearcut millions of acres, which is nothing short of a giveaway to the timber industry, couldn't possibly be more un-American. These lands belong to us, not the suits which happen to lobby D.C. at any given moment.

I would hope the Forest Service would be above the short-term, profit centred thinking of Wall Street, and take on the noble goal of protecting these ancient, old growth ecosystems. If you choose "no action" on this proposal, you will help continue a long lasting legacy of conservation.

Sincerely,

Darrel R. Martin

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[Position]