

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 10/21/2019 8:00:00 AM

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Retain 'Roadless Rule' Protections for the Tongass National Forest

Dear U.S. Forest Service,

I strongly oppose the Forest Service's plan to eliminate "Roadless Rule" protections for the Tongass National Forest and urge you to select the "no action" alternative instead.

As you know the Tongass is America's wildest remaining national forest, with more than 9 million acres of roadless areas and is home to a wide range of wildlife. It currently also stores a vast amount of carbon, with its centuries-old trees, but logging releases most of that carbon into the atmosphere.

Your proposal to open the door to clearcutting and bulldozing fundamentally threatens these values. The Tongass belongs to all Americans and shouldn't be sacrificed to the timber industry, which provides a small fraction of the jobs and income in Southeast Alaska compared to tourism and fishing.

Further, I oppose your plan to allow the agency to open any of the 5 million acres of roadless areas on the Chugach National Forest to bulldozing and clearcutting for logging. This is simply a backdoor repeal of the 2001 Roadless Rule, which protects all roadless lands because of the critical role they play in protecting pure water, secure wildlife habitat and remote recreation.

Please consider future generations by selecting the "no action" alternative to maintain "Roadless Rule" protections for the Tongass and Chugach.

Sincerely,

Debora Sergent-McCreedy

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