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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Protect the Tongass National Forest with the 'Roadless Rule'

Dear U.S. Forest Service,

If you have any understanding of the importance of the Tongass National Forest, you would oppose the Forest Service's plan to eliminate the protections provided by the "Roadless Rule". I urge you to select the "no action" alternative instead.

We have farmed, paved or developed most of the country. This deprives the ecosystem of needed elements. Tongass is America's wildest remaining national forest, with more than 9 million acres of roadless areas. Therefore it supports a wide range of wildlife, including wolves, grizzly bears and salmon. It also stores a vast amount of carbon, with its centuries-old trees serving as a carbon-reserve life raft in this time of climate change. Logging releases most of that carbon into the atmosphere.

Your proposal to open the door to clear-cutting and bulldozing is irresponsible and short-sighted. Tongass belongs to all Americans and shouldn't be sacrificed to the timber industry. It's even more important to save these last remaining roadless forests because your agency has fragmented and logged so much of our national forests, harming wildlife and waters along the way.

I also oppose your plan to allow the agency to open to bulldozing and logging any of the 5 million acres of roadless areas on the Chugach National Forest . This amounts to a repeal of the 2001 Roadless Rule, which protects all roadless lands because of the critical role they play in protecting pure water, and securing wildlife habitat and remote recreation. We can not maintain our own lives without supporting places for a wide range of other life to persist.

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

Sincerely,

Sally Lederman

[Position]