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First name: John

Last name: Jr

Organization:

Title:

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

Dear U.S. Forest Service,

I want you to know as a citizen who loves our country, and the remaining wilderness sanctuaries, I am upset with the Forest Service's plan to eliminate "Roadless Rule" protections for the Tongass National Forest and am in stern opposition to it. I would ask that you select the "no action" alternative instead.

We need to protect wilderness areas like Tongass, being home to a wide range of wildlife, including Alexander Archipelago wolves, grizzly bears, and salmon. In this day and age of air pollution and cutting back on carbon dioxide emissions, we need this area since it is a sink for carbon dioxide, with its centuries-old trees. Allowing logging to occur will only release most of that stored carbon into the atmosphere, adding to our current problem.

Allowing bulldozing and clearcutting will destroy the area and are irreversible and unwarranted. Your agency has fragmented and logged so much of our national forests, harming wildlife and waters along the way that it is even more important to not allow the logging industry to take over. The timber industry provides fewer jobs and less income than fishing and tourism. The Tongass should not be sacrificed to where fishing and tourism will be diminished due to destruction of the ecosystem.

Further, I fully oppose your plan to open any of the 5 million acres of roadless areas on the Chugach National Forest to bulldozing and clearcutting for logging. This is a bypass of the 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 - I implore you to think of all future generations by selecting the "no action" alternative to maintain "Roadless Rule" protections for the Tongass and Chugach. Our pristine areas are dwindling worldwide.

Natural disasters, such as the Amazonian fires, cause enough damage on their own that we do not need to add to destroying what little wilderness is left in our country. I ask for your support in disallowing any of these actions. Thank you.

Sincerely,

John Lapp Jr

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