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First name: Mark

Last name: ODell

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Maintain 'Roadless Rule' Protections for the Tongass National Forest & Guard Chugach National Forest with your good name against abuse

Dear U.S. Forest Service,

I vehemently oppose the ridiculous proposal to eliminate "Roadless Rule" protections for the Tongass National Forest, and stand ready to greatly publicize any spineless Forest Service inaction that might allow Chugach National Forest to be raped by the short-sighted and self-serving unethical policy choices of our current executive branch.

I urge you to select the "no action" alternative for Tongass, and to fight for Chugach, allowing the oval office occupant -- who shall remain nameless, as he has no good name to stand for -- choke on his disgusting Chugach poison pill politics.

As you know, the Tongass is America's wildest remaining national forest, with more than 9 million acres of roadless area. Also undoubtedly familiar, it is home to a wide range of wildlife, including Alexander Archipelago wolves, grizzly bears and salmon. Its vast stores of sequestered carbon -- in centuries-old trees -- remain among the few forces buoying our atmospheric ecology against CO2 suffocation.

I similarly oppose your intent to allow opening 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 lands with the most critical role in protecting pure water, secure wildlife habitat, and ultimate sustainability of our forests.

Your aim -- to open these preserves to clearcutting and bulldozing -- is grossly irresponsible and fundamentally conflicts with the values of your office and the Forest Service. The Tongass and Chugach belong to all Americans and should not be sacrificed to the timber industry, which provides a small fraction of the jobs and income in SouthEast Alaska compared to tourism and fishing - both of which rely on intact forests to thrive. This ignores the far more basic Ecological Preservation objectives which have motivated protecting such lands for all these years. It's especially important to save these last remaining roadless forests because your agency has so severely fragmented and logged much of our national forest resources, harming wildlife, ecosystems, and clean water along the way.

Think of future generations by selecting the "no action" alternative to maintain "Roadless Rule" protections for the Tongass, and do not give up Chugach.

You have contributed much to the wild lands care of our country -- across a respectable career in public service - - to now just flush your entire reputation purely to please a few 'Rump cronies and the very few who will profit at the expense of the hundred of millions of [us other also-] citizens who trust and rely on you to prevent just this sort of slimy exploitation of the many for the few.

Please do your job and protect these lands.

Sincerely,

Mark ODell

[Position]