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First name: Thomas

Last name: Dukes

Organization:

Title:

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

Dear U.S. Forest Service,

I oppose the USFS plan to eliminate "Roadless Rule" protections for the Tongass National Forest. I strongly urge you to select the "no action" alternative for the Tongass.

The Tongass's nine million acres of roadless areas are home to wildlife including Alexander Archipelago wolves, grizzly bears and salmon. It also sequesters a huge amount of carbon. Logging would release most of that carbon into the atmosphere, exacerbating climate chaos.

The Tongass belongs 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.

I also 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.

Choose the "no action" alternative to maintain "Roadless Rule" protections for the Tongass and Chugach.

Sincerely,

Thomas Dukes

San Antonio, TX 78209

[Position]