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First name: Holly

Last name: McDonald

Organization:

Title:

Comments: No logging in the Tongass National Forest

U.S. Forest Service

RE: No logging in the Tongass National Forest

null

Docket Number: FS-2019-0023

I write as an American taxpayer and conservationist who believes that the Tongass National Forest is one of America's irreplaceable, national natural legacies that is a birthright of all Americans and must remain protected as such, now and for generations to come. True wilderness is a precious resource to be valued for itself and the Tongass is a truly wild place.

Wilderness havens must be protected in order to save threatened and endangered species. Moreover, this particular distinctly unique environment must be saved in order to try to stop out-of-control climate change in North America. As the largest temperate, old growth rain forest in North America, it is our duty as the temporary human caretakers of the environment during our time on Earth to pass on this precious legacy safely and intact to future generations.

Its treasured thousand-year-old trees are a refuge for animals that struggle to find safe homes elsewhere in the country. The rare Alexander Archipelago wolf roams there, as well as the nation's largest concentration of coastal brown bears. Bald eagles nest near its waters, and mountain goats climb the crags overhead. It is our moral imperative to protect all of this now before it is too late.

Logging, mining, and development within the borders of the Tongass National Forest, without a doubt, will destroy a precious, irreplaceable wilderness treasure that can never be retrieved and is not replicated anywhere else on the planet. I implore you please not to exempt portions of the already federally-protected Tongass National Forest which, as national public land, belongs in perpetuity to the American people as designated by an act of Congress through the Antiquities Act, from the Roadless Rule, and to keep this irreplaceable, oldest growth and largest temperate rain forest in North America pristine now and for future generations. Any action other than this is completely unacceptable to the overwhelmingly vast majority of Americans who, time and again, have spoken out publicly in support of maintaining full protections for all of our country's national public lands and waters. Please listen to the American people who know this land must be preserved for the public good, for the good of our nation, as well as for the good of the world.

Sincerely,

Holly McDonald

Robbinsville, NJ 08691

[Position]