Data Submitted (UTC 11): 10/21/2019 8:00:00 AM
First name: Claire
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Organization:
Title:
Comments: Maintain 'Roadless Rule' Protections for the Tongass National Forest

Dear U.S. Forest Service,

I am strongly opposed to the Forest Service plan that will eliminate "Roadless Rule" protections for the Tongass National Forest. I urge that you instead select the "no action" alternative.

Most Americans know & respect the Tongass as America's wildest remaining national forest, with more than 9 million acres of roadless areas. The Tongass has been home for a millennia to a wide range of wildlife, including Alexander Archipelago wolves, grizzly bears and salmon. The forest stores a vast measures of carbon as its centuries-old trees serve as a carbon-reserve life raft in this time of climate change. Logging activity releases most of that carbon into the atmosphere.

Your proposal to permit clearcutting and bulldozing is irresponsible; it severely threatens these values. The Tongass belongs to all Americans. I am not alone in believing it must not be sacrificed to the timber industry. Jobs and income in tourism and fishing in Southeast Alaska provide more income than logging. Both rely on intact forests to thrive. Further, is it yet more vital to preserve these last remaining roadless forests already fragmented and logged by your agency in many of our national forests, harming wildlife and waters along the way.

In addition, I 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 a backdoor repeal of the 2001 Roadless Rule, written to protect all roadless lands because of their critical role in protecting pure water, secure wildlife habitat and remote recreation.

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

Sincerely,

Claire Alkire

Sequim, WA 98382

[Position]