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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Tongass and Chugach Natl Forests should keep 'Roadless Rule' Protections

Dear U.S. Forest Service,

I strongly oppose the Forest Service's plan to eliminate "Roadless Rule" protections for the Tongass and Chugach National Forests. I urge you to select the "no action" alternative instead.

Proposals to enable massive clearcut and bulldozing in currently roadless areas of these forests are a needless and bad idea. Roadless lands are critical for protecting pure water, secure wildlife habitat and remote recreation. It's especially important to protect remaining roadless forests because so much of our national forests have been massively logged and fragmented - thereby harming both wildlife and waters.

In particular the Tongass is America's wildest remaining national forest, with more than 9 million acres of roadless areas. It's home to a uniquely massive and wide range of wildlife, including Alexander Archipelago wolves, grizzly bears and salmon. The Tongass belongs to all Americans and shouldn't 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.

These forests also store a vast amount of carbon which logging would quickly release into the atmosphere - with immediate and long-term adverse impact on climate. Theoretical eventual recapture of carbon by new trees will take far too long and will occur too late to undo the here-and-now damage to climate.

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

Sincerely,

Joseph Weinstein

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