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Organization:

Title:

Comments: To Whom It May Concern:

I am a research scientist studying Alaska's boreal forests. I am writing to oppose the exemption of the Tongass National Forest from the Roadless Rule. As the world's largest intact temperate rainforest, the Tongass is of global significance. It is crucial habitat for rare and endangered species, and serves as an important sink for atmospheric carbon dioxide. Deforestation is the current greatest threat to global biodiversity. Deforestation also decreases the ability of terrestrial ecosystems to mitigate the effects of human-caused climate change by removing carbon from fossil fuels from the atmosphere.

Removing roadless protections from the Tongass and thereby opening this unique ecosystem up to logging would further jeopardize the Earth's climate stability and biodiversity, and would be evidence of the administration's

prioritization of private interests over the public good.

Thank you for your consideration,

Mara Y. McPartland

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