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Organization:
Title:
Comments: Do NOT exempt the Tongass from the roadless rule!

I'm writing to urge you, please, DO NOT exempt the Tongass National Forest from Roadless Rule protections!

As a natural resources professional, wild and natural places are the central part of my life and livelihood. I'm well-studied in the impacts of historic logging on the watersheds and ecology of the continental U.S. and the many problems associated with large-scale deforestation including erosion, siltation/sedimentation of streams, habitat destruction for terrestrial and avian species, and more. Old-growth ecosystems are increasingly rare around the world and should be prioritized for protection. Additionally, my understanding of the economic situation with the Tongass is that the fishing and tourism industries generate far more substantial AND sustainable economic value than a one-time extractive boom from additional logging in this region.

Continued extraction of natural resources AGAINST the better judgement of scientists, economists, and citizens' public opinion represents a failure of the government to serve its people, instead serving only special interests-in this case the logging industry. We all know that's how things tend to work, but we also know that the right to free speech and protest was protected precisely to speak out against this sort of manipulation of power against the public interest. Listen to the people, not the logging industry. We don't need taxpayer-subsidized roads to prop up the logging industry in 2019. We need natural and wild places much, much more.

-Pat Oelschlager

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We Believe | People Benefit When Nature Thrives

[Position]