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First name: Rachel

Last name: Youens

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Don't exempt the Tongass from the Roadless Rule

U.S. Forest Service

RE: Don't exempt the Tongass from the Roadless Rule

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Docket Number: FS-2019-0023

Secretary Perdue:

I urge you to keep the Roadless Area Conservation Rule intact for the Tongass National Forest. Scientists have reported that even limited logging, and therefore the destruction of habitat to build a road, greatly reduces species of birds, insects and animals. America and our past presidents have recognized and set aside the Tongass and other pristine wildernesses as part of our national heritage, not to be used for profit. That is especially important now. The loss of so many species is inevitable if it isn't protected as a safe place for these creatures, upon whom we depend for our planetary health and our national identity.

The Tongass serves as a habitat for hundreds of species of wildlife, including wolves, grizzly bears and so many others. More than 300 species of birds make their homes in its trees, and its streams and waterways provide habitat for spawning salmon and trout.

To open this pristine wild space up for destructive development by removing its Roadless Rule protections would be a tragedy. Keep the Roadless Rule -- and the Tongass National Forest -- intact.

Sincerely,

Sincerely,

Rachel Youens

[Position]