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First name: Thopmas

Last name: Kosel

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Maintain protections for Alaska Roadless Rule

Dear Secretary Secretary Perdue,

The Tongass National Forest is a national treasure which should be preserved. Old-growth forest should be protected from the damage that would inevitably follow repeal of the Roadless Rule of 2001. Before the Roadless Rule, the Tongass was subjected to extensive clear-cut logging of large areas on mountainsides and in valleys; much of the lumber was fed into pulp mills or shipped overseas. It is a travesty to clear-cut trees hundreds of years old for pulp mills which can use timber regrown in areas under sustainable forest management; and why should we strip such irreplaceable national forest for consumption in foreign countries, except to prop up the logging industry? The market for Tongass timber declined from the 70's through the 90's, while Alaska spent \$600 million to subsidize the loggers. We complain about such industrial subsidies by other countries. The Forest Service offers sales of timber which have recently garnered zero bids; is this a valid reason to eliminate the Roadless Rule? The logging industry generates only 1% of regional employment. Meanwhile, tourism and fishing in the region create \$2 billion annually, and would be adversely affected by repeal.

We have visited the Tongass twice in the last two years, contributing to the thriving tourist industry and enjoying the majestic natural beauty of Southeast Alaska.

Please protect the Tongass National Forest; preserve the Roadless Rule.

Sincerely,

Thomas H. Kosel

Professor Emeritus, Univ. Notre Dame

Sincerely,

Dr. Thopmas Kosel

[Position]