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Organization:

Title:

Comments: HC3631

U.S. Forest Service Alaska Roadless Rule Committee:

Alaska is home to the northernmost rainforest in all of the U.S.

Proposing to exempt Tongass National Forest from long-standing protections from logging and development is devastating news.

More than half of Tongass National Forest will be harvested. This is the largest national forest in the U.S. and it is also the LAST remaining temperature rainforest in the entire world.

This is a critical piece of nature.

We are talking about drastically changing the landscape of over 9 million acres.

One tribal government is even considering filing a lawsuit against the Forest Service saying "[hellip]we have to continue to fight our own government to protect our forests and streams[hellip]" and this alone should be saddening enough to change the coldest of hearts.

Our fish are already fighting an uphill battle from global warming. These fish provide food, jobs and tourism for so many people.

If we let this rule go, the next step will be saying goodbye to our precious state parks. I do not want to set this precedent.

We have to continue to protect our Last Frontier, the pristine wilderness for the future of our planet and for our children.

I could not oppose this more.

The Roadless Rule has been instrumental in conserving the Chugach and Tongass National Forest and in supporting their associated fish and wildlife-based industries for almost 20 years. Please uphold the Rule's protections for important fish and wildlife areas, including the Tongass 77, by selecting the 'no action' alternative. Roadless areas are an important source of food, jobs, and income through commercial, subsistence, and recreational fishing. Salmon are part of Alaska's culture and we must protect them and their spawning streams. Please do not roll back roadless area protections for habitat that our irreplaceable fish and wildlife populations need to survive.

Sincerely,

Cassondra Odden

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