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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Roadless Rule to Exempt Tongass

Dear Foresters,

The Tongass National Forest is thriving as a huge unique ecosystem, supporting bears, deer, birds, salmon, fresh water, wildflowers and countless plants, and trees. Old growth trees are awe-inspiring monuments, too special to turn into timber. The trees of these forests have been logged in sickly scars of clear-cuts before, and it takes over 500 year's for forests to regrow. Second growth forests, with skinny trees that are too close together, are not healthy and due to a lack of sunlight to the forest floor, those forests lack biodiversity. Protecting these diverse forests will allow for continued tourism for people looking to have wilderness experiences, harvesting of local resources like fish, and will allow people of Southeast Alaska to maintain their subsistence ways of life and culture.

Please think about the long term effects of removing the protections of the Roadless Rule for the Tongass. The noise of chainsaws and tractors will disrupt birds and wildlife. Old growth trees will be harvested, which is so wasteful when these are not replaceable wonders. Roads will be built to support communication, which means the eyesore of cell phone towers and telephone poles and the hum of electricity. Those are the kinds of things I seek to escape when I hike, fish, boat, and camp in the Tongass.

With these new roads leading to more unsustainable development, animals will die. Salmon streams, precious waterways, and the soils of the forest will be polluted as mining projects are given a green light for roads. We will lose the very trees and ecosystems that support our way of life

In the name of progress, when it is truly an abomination, developers from every industry will come to Southeast Alaska to take the trees, dig the mines, dam the rivers, bottle the water, and destroy this precious place.

Please support no action on exempting the Tongass from the Roadless Rule. Being a born and raised Sitkan, I know that more roads and wanton development will destroy this forest ecosystem, and future generations need clean air, water, and land.

Cerisa Swanberg

[Position]