Data Submitted (UTC 11): 11/18/2020 7:21:36 PM
First name: Gayle
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Organization:
Title:
Comments: rollback of Roadless Rule

Dear Secretary Perdue:
I am writing to express my disappointment with the U.S. Forest Service's rollback of the Roadless Rule in Alaska. This will open up vast tracts of America's remaining ancient forest to logging and road building, while violating the rights of several Indigenous communities.
The Tongass National Forest in Alaska is the world's largest intact temperate rainforest and has been called "America's Climate Forest" as it is the single most important national forest for carbon sequestration and climate change mitigation in the United States. The forest exists within the traditional territories of the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples. As climate change accelerates at a rapid pace, the deforestation of Tongass-much like the Amazon-will further erode Earth's ability to sustain life.
Further, deforestation of Tongass will pollute rivers and streams-threatening the health of Alaskan salmon-as well as harm cultural and sacred sites of great importance to Indigenous communities, jeopardize local economies based on tourism and fisheries, and cost taxpayers money.
I am calling on the USDA and the Forest Service to reverse the Roadless Rule rollback in Alaska to protect over 9 million acres of forest, defend our global climate, and stand with Indigenous and local communities. Please protect the Tongass National Forest!
Sincerely,
Gayle Havens
Hendersonville, NC