Data Submitted (UTC 11): 11/19/2020 2:06:12 AM
First name: Belinda
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Organization:
Title:
Comments: Protect Alexander Archipelago wolves from clear-cut logging in the Tongass

Dear Secretary Bernhardt,

I'm writing to ask you to keep the Roadless Rule protections in place in the Tongass National Forest. The proposed change opens an additional 165,000 acres to logging and strips Roadless Rule protections from all 9.3 million acres of inventoried roadless areas in the Tongass. It does so with little to no justification or documented support. The rule will fragment the forest and harm wildlife that rely on old-growth habitat. For example, the rule will allow new roads and logging that threaten rare wolves, wild salmon, and many other unique wildlife species.

As you know, 96% of public comments on the proposed rule change expressed support for keeping national Roadless Rule protections on the Tongass National Forest. The Tongass contains some of the last remaining intact old-growth temperate rainforests in the world, and its value in providing endless recreation opportunities, clean water, and fish and wildlife habitat is essential to the economic, cultural, and ecological health of Southeast Alaska.

The rule change you are pursuing ignores the public, fails to find balance, threatens wildlife, and will forever alter the crown jewel of the National Forest System. Please reverse course and keep the roadless protections in place.

U.S. Forest Service Director Vicki Christiansen is copied on this message.

Sincerely,
Belinda Collins