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Do Not Remove Roadless Protections From Tongass Roadless Areas (Oppose Alaska Roadless Rulemaking #53511)

Oct 15, 2018

Secretary Perdue

Dear Perdue,

I strongly object to your plans to reduce and remove protections from roadless areas on the Tongass National Forest. The Tongass contains some of the last remaining old-growth temperate rainforest in the world, and its value in providing clean water and fish and wildlife habitat is essential to the economic and ecological health of Southeast Alaska. I urge you to keep the federal Roadless Rule intact and current protections in place for national forests in Alaska.

The Roadless Rule is one of the smartest and most popular land management policies the Federal Government has ever adopted. Not only does it preserve some of America's best fish and wildlife habitat, but it also saves untold millions of taxpayer dollars from subsidizing money-losing timber sales and road construction. The value of the Roadless Rule in preventing environmentally damaging and economically wasteful road-building and logging is particularly relevant in the Tongass, where logging and road building threaten some of the last, best habitat for treasured species such as salmon, grizzly bear and moose, and logging costs vastly exceed timber revenues and require unconscionable taxpayer subsidies.

Further, this proposal to eliminate protections for Alaska's roadless areas is just the beginning. By carving out an exception for the Tongass you will open the floodgates to enable similar attacks on roadless areas, rivers, fish and wildlife throughout the U.S.

Sincerely,

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