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Don't Pave Over Tongass

Dear U.S. Forest Service Interim Chief Vicki Christiansen,

I am writing to urge the U.S. Forest Service not to exempt any portion of the Tongass National Forest from the Roadless Rule.

Since 2001, the Roadless Area Conservation Rule has kept loggers and other destructive developers from cutting down and paving over forests around the country. The Tongass deserves this protection in its entirety.

The Tongass National Forest is a 17 million-acre diverse ecosystem -- filled with thriving salmon populations, tens of thousands of grizzly bears and the world's largest grouping of bald eagles. The Tongass is a truly precious wild place -- and we don't have many of these untouched places left on the planet. We shouldn't make it vulnerable to destructive development.

Sincerely,

Patricia Thielman
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