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Comments:

I reviewed the history of the Roadless Rule. Earthjustice is a wealth of information and I quote liberally from their literature.

The U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia previously dismissed the case for exceeding the six-year statute of limitations. An appeals court overturned that ruling, saying the clock started ticking when a federal court reinstated the rule in 2006, not when the rule was first issued in 2001. Alaska filed its challenge in 2011, seeking to overturn the rule on multiple grounds. Today's lengthy and careful ruling finds that each of those claims lack merit.

Groups intervening in Alaska's case to defend the Roadless Rule included Southeast Alaska Conservation Council, Alaska Center for the Environment, The Boat Company, Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), Sierra Club, The Wilderness Society, Defenders of Wildlife, Tongass Conservation Society, Center for Biological Diversity, and Greenpeace. The groups are represented by attorneys from Earthjustice and NRDC.

AUGUST 2, 2018

The U.S. Department of Agriculture announces that it intends to create an "Alaska state-specific" version of the Roadless Rule, undermining safeguards for the Tongass and the Chugach National Forests, prized expanses of glaciers, fjords and old-growth rainforest spanning more than 22 million acres in Alaska.

OCTOBER 15, 2019

The U.S. Forest Service announces plans to repeal Roadless Rule protections across more than 9 million acres of the Tongass National Forest, enabling logging interests to bulldoze roads and clear-cut trees in areas of the Tongass that have been off-limits for decades.

"The millions of ancient trees across this temperate rainforest serve as the greatest carbon sanctuary in the U.S. national forest system, helping us all as a counterweight against the climate crisis," said Earthjustice Managing Attorney Eric Jorgensen. "Earthjustice will oppose this attack on the safeguards wisely established by the Roadless Rule."

Public lands are taxpayer supported and it is a travesty to sell them off to special interest groups for profit. Once the roads are allowed then come the loggers removing old growth forests and mining absolutely destroying the ecosystem, then hunters killing the wildlife, violating the Endangered Species Act, and then the all-terrain vehicles terrorizing the wildlife and bringing noise into a place where only nature previously existed....and on and on it goes. Wilderness and forests should be left to be pristine wilderness and forests. We need it to be so.

In conclusion, an American proverb states "We do not inherit the earth from our ancestors, we borrow it from our children". It would serve the Forest Service and all Secretaries of Agriculture well if they remembered the proverb. My family, friends and I often visit Alaska and other wilderness and forest areas and also spend a great deal of money in these states. Alaska will shoot the golden goose with any loss of the forest.

I recall watching a video that included Senator Lisa Ann Murkowski and her colleagues exclaiming with awe and amazement to a bear cam catching salmon on waterfalls. The Congressional staff now wishes to violate and destroy the environment, salmon estuary, wildlife habitat and Alaskan Natives that include: Iñupiat, Yupik, Aleut, Eyak, Tlingit, Haida, Tsimshian, and a number of Northern Athabaskan cultures.

It is hypocritical to make a decision violating the basic premise that humans have a responsibility to be good stewards to this planet and all its inhabitants by any breach of the Roadless Rule. It must stay in place and intact. There needs to be an end to the court actions and a basic value and attitude of protecting public lands needs to be respected forever more.