

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/21/2019 12:00:00 AM

First name: Philip

Last name: Ratcliff

Organization:

Title:

Comments:

For nearly two decades, the Roadless Rule has protected much of our country's last wild national forests from most logging and development. At almost 17 million acres, the Tongass is the largest U.S. national forest - and one of the world's most important temperate rainforests. On the Tongass alone the rule protects 9.3 million acres of breathtaking, undeveloped forests.

This Forest Service attack on the rule also threatens habitat for grizzly and black bears, rare Alexander Archipelago wolves and wild salmon. And it would be a major blow to one of our greatest defenses against climate change: the forest's centuries-old trees that store huge amounts of carbon.

And adding insult to injury, at the last minute, Trump snuck in a poison pill that would open the door to bulldozers and chainsaws on 5.3 million more acres of roadless lands on the neighboring Chugach National Forest - a spectacular landscape of rugged mountains, snow-covered peaks, lakes, rivers and streams.

Let's hope that this latest Trump regime plan to despoil nature by clearcutting the Tongass Forest goes down to defeat in the courts.

[Position]

[Position]