

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

First name: Patricia

Last name: Young-Walentine

Organization:

Title:

Comments:

Keep 'Roadless Rule' Protections for the Tongass National Forest

Dear U.S. Forest Service,

We spend half the year in the Pacific Northwest, traveling across the continent. There are so many treeless areas where wind and dust blow without relief from the barrier of trees. By the time we reach the forested areas of the west we breathe a sigh of relief until we see the ravaged areas of clear cut. Yes, we rely on forest timber for products that we use but old growth forests must be protected for the future.

We own land near the magnificent Tongass Forest and it is resplendent with nature. Without the trees, this vibrant environment would be dead. This is why we strongly oppose the Forest Service's plan to eliminate "Roadless Rule" protections for the Tongass National Forest and urge you to select the "no action" alternative instead.

Further, I oppose your plan to allow the agency to open any of the 5 million acres of roadless areas on the Chugach National Forest to bulldozing and clearcutting for logging. This is simply a backdoor repeal of the 2001 Roadless Rule, which protects all roadless lands because of the critical role they play in protecting pure water, secure wildlife habitat.

Sincerely,

Patricia Young-Walentine

Bradenton, FL 34209

[Position]