

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/7/2019 12:00:00 AM

First name: Jess

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Organization:

Title:

Comments:

Don't exempt the Tongass from the Roadless Rule

U.S. Forest Service

RE: Don't exempt the Tongass from the Roadless Rule

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Docket Number: FS-2019-0023

Secretary Perdue:

The only acceptable option for the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, is the No-Action Alternative in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement, Alternative #1.

Alaska's Tongass National Forest must be preserved. These lands are home to pacific salmon, iconic bald eagles, southern resident orcas, a 1000-year-old tree, and the traditional homelands of the Tlingit, Haida and Tsimshian Peoples.

Beyond its natural beauty and cultural importance, the Tongass Forest is one of the world's best climate defenses. The old trees store nearly 10-12 percent of all carbon consumed by America's national forests - and it's Alaska's first defense against the worsening climate crisis.

The Roadless Rule protects wildlife & their habitat and preserves the country's largest carbon sink to help mitigate climate change. It is absurd and irresponsible to gut a successful, efficient land management tool so as to open the Tongass to the devastation of clear-cutting.

Sincerely,

Jess Zelniker

North Hollywood, CA 91601

[Position]