

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/14/2019 12:00:00 AM

First name: Cheri

Last name: Carleton

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:

I urge you to keep the Roadless Area Conservation Rule intact for the Tongass National Forest.

The Tongass serves as a habitat for hundreds of species of wildlife, including wolves, grizzly bears and so many others. More than 300 species of birds make their homes in its trees, and its streams and waterways provide habitat for spawning salmon and trout.

The Roadless Rule has also protected the Tongass[mdash]and millions more acres of National Forest System land[mdash]from building and logging for 20 years. It would also be devastating to the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian people who rely on the land for cultural and traditional practices like hunting and fishing.

The Tongass[mdash]like all forests[mdash]is an essential carbon sink. It stores more atmospheric carbon than any other U.S. forest. Each tree that is cut down removes a piece of this invaluable resource that helps slow climate change. Just as we need Brasil to protect the Amazonian rainforest to help avert the climate crisis, we need to protect our own rainforest in Alaska for the same reason.

To open this pristine wild space up for destructive development by removing its Roadless Rule protections would be a tragedy. Keep the Roadless Rule -- and the Tongass National Forest -- intact.

Sincerely,

Sincerely,

Cheri Carleton

Grosse Pointe, MI 48236

[Position]