

Members of Congress
United States Senate and House of Representatives
United States Capitol
Washington, D.C.

January 26, 2018

Dear Members of Congress:

As scientists working in diverse natural resource-related disciplines, we write with great concern for provisions in the Senate’s fiscal year 2018 spending bill for the Interior Department that threaten one of our country’s most important conservation laws—the 2001 Roadless Area Conservation Rule—and the federal forests in Alaska that it protects. Section 509 of that bill would outright exempt our two largest national forests, the Tongass and the Chugach, from the Roadless Rule. Section 508 would overturn the Tongass management plan that adds protections for large “inventoried” roadless areas and other ecologically critical lands, and charts a transition away from logging old-growth forests. These riders pose grave threats to fish and wildlife populations (and the residents, visitors, and businesses dependent on them), our national interest in conserving vanishing wildlands, and the urgent task of limiting climate change.

The Roadless Rule, adoption and retention of which millions of Americans supported, was a critical step in preserving the invaluable benefits that intact forests provide to our country. Undisturbed roadless areas reduce flood threats and supply clean sources of drinking water to millions of Americans.ⁱ They maintain the integrity and productivity of aquatic ecosystems throughout the nation. They are sanctuaries for wildlife, helping to prevent or alleviate the need to list imperiled species as threatened or endangered. And, as the realities of global climate change become ever more apparent, their importance in maintaining large forest carbon reserves is increasingly recognized as indispensable in mitigating adverse climate effects.ⁱⁱ

Nowhere are the benefits of protecting roadless areas and similar ecologically important lands greater than on the Tongass. With towering old-growth trees that can live 700-1,000 years, it is our country’s largest expanse of native forest and one of the last remaining intact coastal rainforests in the world.ⁱⁱⁱ Together with the Chugach, it harbors a quarter of all inventoried roadless areas nationwide.^{iv} Its ancient forests support the world’s largest breeding concentration of bald eagles,^v rare endemic taxa like the Alexander Archipelago wolf, and one of the highest densities of brown bears on the globe.^{vi} Retaining the existing roadless areas of the Tongass is a “key element” in sustaining the region’s extraordinary salmon runs^{vii} (and their commercial, subsistence, and recreational fisheries). The Tongass also represents North America’s largest carbon sink,^{viii} some of the richest, most biologically productive forest on Earth, and twenty-nine percent of the world’s unlogged coastal temperate rainforest.^{ix}

We urge you to vote against any bill containing these riders, for the sake of America’s publicly owned natural heritage, the fish, wildlife, biodiversity, and people dependent on its continued well-being, and our country’s leadership on native forest conservation that is vital to containing climate damage. Thank you for considering our views on this matter of national significance.

Respectfully yours,

Dr. Paul Ehrlich
Professor of Population Studies Emeritus
President, Center for Conservation Biology
Stanford University^x

Dr. Thomas Lovejoy Bing
University Professor
George Mason University
Senior Fellow, UN Foundation

Dr. Stanley Temple
Professor Emeritus in Conservation
University of Wisconsin-Madison
Senior Fellow, Aldo Leopold Foundation

Dr. Russell Lande Beers-Bascom
Professor of Biology Emeritus
University of California, San Diego

Dr. Gretchen Daily
Bing Professor in Environmental Science
Director, Center for Conservation Biology
Stanford University

Dr. David Wilcove
Professor of Ecology, Evolutionary
Biology, and Public Affairs
Princeton University

Dr. Norman Christensen
Professor of Ecology Emeritus and Founding Dean
Nicholas School of the Environment
Duke University

Dr. George Woodwell
Director Emeritus
Woods Hole Research Center

Dr. Monica G. Turner
Eugene P. Odum Professor of Ecology
Vilas Research Professor
University of Wisconsin

Dr. Beverly Law
Professor, Global Change Biology &
Terrestrial Systems Science
Oregon State University

Dr. John Robinson
Executive Vice President, Conservation & Science
Wildlife Conservation Society

Dr. Dennis Murphy
Research Professor
University of Nevada, Reno

Dr. Simon Levin
James McDonnell Distinguished University Professor
Director of the Center for BioComplexity
Princeton University

Dr. Clifford Duke
Director, Science Programs
Ecological Society of America

Dr. Barry Noon
Professor, Fish, Wildlife, and Conservation Biology
Colorado State University

Dr. Cara Nelson
Associate Professor of Restoration
Ecology
University of Montana

ⁱ DellaSala, D.A., J.R. Karr, and D.M. Olson. 2011. Roadless areas and clean water. *Journal of Soil and Water Conservation* 66:78A-84A.

ⁱⁱ The World Bank. Outcomes from COP21: Forests as Key Climate and Development Solution. 2015.
<http://www.worldbank.org/en/news/feature/2015/12/18/outcomes-from-cop21-forests-as-a-key-climate-and-development-solution>.

ⁱⁱⁱ DellaSala, D.A. 2011. Temperate and boreal rainforests of the world: ecology and conservation. Island Press: Washington DC.

^{iv} Compare <https://www.fs.usda.gov/roadmain/roadless/home> and https://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/roadless/2001roadlessrule/maps/statemaps/?cid=fsm8_037699.

^v Jacobson, M.J., and J.I. Hodges. 1999. Population trend of adult bald eagles in Alaska. *Journal of Raptor Research* 33:295-298.

^{vi} <https://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/tongass/recreation/natureviewing/?cid=stelprdb5401845>

^{vii} Bryant, D.B. and F.H. Everest. 1998. Management and Condition of Watersheds in Southeast Alaska: The Persistence of Anadromous Salmon. *Northwest Science* 72(4):249-267.

^{viii} Leighty, W.W., S.P. Hamburg, and J. Caouette. 2006. Effects of management on carbon sequestration in forest biomass in southeast Alaska. *Ecosphere* 9:1051-1065.

^{ix} Kramer, M., A.J. Hansen, M.L. Taper, and E.J. Kissinger. 2001. Abiotic Controls on Long-Term Windthrow Disturbance and Temperate Rain Forest Dynamics in Southeast Alaska. *Ecology* 82(10):2749-2768.

^x All signatories' institutional information is provided for identification purposes only.

Dr. Peter Alpert
Professor
University of Massachusetts, Amherst

Dr. William Anderson
Professor Emeritus
Grice Marine Biological Laboratory

Dr. Steven Anderson
Professor Emeritus, Biology
University of the Pacific
California Academy of Sciences

Warren Aney
Senior Wildlife Ecologist
Oregon Chapter The Wildlife Society

Dr. W. Scott Armbruster
Senior Research Scientist
Institute of Arctic Biology
University of Alaska, Fairbanks

Cody Aylward
Graduate Student, Rubenstein School of
Environment and Natural Resources
University of Vermont

Dr. Cal Bailey
Associate Professor, Biology
New Mexico State University

Dr. Richard Baker
Professor Emeritus, Earth and
Environmental Science
University of Iowa

Dr. William Baker
Emeritus Professor
University of Wyoming

Dr. Bruce Baldwin
Professor of Integrative Biology
University of California, Berkeley

Dr. Jesse Barber
Associate Professor
Boise State University

Dr. Shannon Barber-Meyer
Wildlife Biologist
Ely, Minnesota

Dr. Paul Bartelt
Professor & Research Ecologist
Waldorf College

Dr. Craig Benkman
Professor of Zoology and Physiology
University of Wyoming

Dr. David Benzing
Retired
Oberlin College

Dr. David J. Berg
Professor of Biology
Miami University

Dr. Elizabeth Bergey
Professor
University of Oklahoma

Scott Black
Executive Director
Xerces Society for Invertebrate
Conservation

Dr. James Blauth
Professor of Biology
University of Redlands

Dr. Brian Bodenbender
Professor of Geology and Environmental
Science
Hope College

Dr. Leo Bodensteiner
Professor of Environmental Science
Western Washington University

Dr. Jim Boone
Senior Scientist
Desert Wildlife Consultants, LLC

Dr. Bobb Carson
Professor- and Dean-Emeritus
Lehigh University

Dr. Kai Chan
Professor
University of British Columbia

Dr. Donald Charles
Senior Scientist
Drexel University
Academy of Natural Sciences

Dr. John Cigliano
Professor of Biology & Director
of Environmental Conservation
Cedar Crest College

Dr. Raymond Clarke
Professor Emeritus
Sarah Lawrence College

Dr. Phyllis Coley
Distinguished Professor of Biology
University of Utah

Dr. Joseph Cook
Professor and Curator of Mammals
Museum of Southwestern Biology
University of New Mexico

Dr. Frank Craighead
Executive Director
Craighead Env't'l Research Institute

Dr. Brittany Davis
Assistant Professor of Env't'l Science
Allegheny College

Dr. Sam Davis
Research Manager
Dogwood Alliance

Dr. Natalie Dawson
Director, Wilderness Institute
Assistant Professor
Dept. of Ecosystem and Conserv'n Sciences
University of Montana

Dr. Dominick DellaSala
President and Chief Scientist
Geos Institute

Dr. Alan Dickman
Professor Emeritus of Env't'l Studies
University of Oregon

Dr. Jim Dole
Professor Emeritus of Biology
California State University, Northridge

Dana Dolsen
Founder & Owner
Natural Resources Planning & Research
Institute for Socio-ecological Management

Craig Downer
Wildlife Ecologist
Andean Tapir Fund

Dr. Bryan Drew
Biologist
Kearney, Nebraska

Dr. Ginny Eckert
Professor of Fisheries
University of Alaska, Fairbanks

Dr. Mary Edwards
Professor
University of Alaska, Fairbanks

Mark Egger
Botanist and Science Educator, retired
University of Washington Herbarium

Steve Erickson
Restoration Ecologist
Frosty Hollow Ecological Restoration

Dr. Suzanne Estes
Associate Professor of Biology
Portland State University

Dr. Jonathan Evans
Professor of Biology
University of the South

Dr. Douglas Eveleigh
Distinguished Professor Emeritus
Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey

Daniel Feller
Western Region Ecologist
Maryland Dept. of Natural Resources

Dr. Shane Feyers
School of Natural Resources and Env't
University of Florida

Dr. Bruce Finney
Professor
Idaho State University

Dr. David Firmage
Clara C. Piper Professor of Env't'l Studies
Colby College

Dr. Doug Fischer
Research Scholar
Ronin Institute

Dr. Johannes Foufopoulos
Associate Professor
School for Environment and Sustainability
University of Michigan

Dr. Janet Franklin
Distinguished Professor, Department of
Botany and Plant Sciences
University of California, Riverside

Dr. Douglas Frederick
Professor of Forestry
Dept. of Forestry and Env't'l Resources
North Carolina State University

Dr. Lee Frelich
Director of the Center for Forest Ecology
University of Minnesota

Evan Frost
Conservation Biologist
Wildwood Consulting

Robert Fuerstenberg
Senior Ecologist, retired
Vashon, Washington

Dr. Stephen W. Fuller
Professor Emeritus
University of Mary Washington

Dr. Christine Perala Gardiner
Watershed Scientist
Deer Creek Association
Siskiyou Field Institute

Dr. Daniel Gavin
Associate Professor
University of Oregon

John Gerwin
Research Curator, Ornithology
N. Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences

Dr. Allen Gibbs
Professor, School of Life Sciences
University of Nevada, Las Vegas

Dr. Scott Goetz
Professor
Northern Arizona University

Rachel Golden Kroner
Ph.D Candidate
George Mason University

Dr. Enrique Gomezdelcampo
Associate Professor
Bowling Green State University

Dr. Jacqualine Grant
Associate Professor
Southern Utah University

Dr. Steven Green
Professor Emeritus
University of Miami

Dr. Gregory Grether
Professor of Ecology & Evolutionary Biology
University of California, Los Angeles

Dr. David Griffith
Assistant Professor of Biology
Ferris State University

Dr. Jon Grinnell
Francis Uhler Chair in Biology
Gustavus Adolphus College

Dr. Ed Grumbine
Land and Conservation Director
Grand Canyon Trust

Dr. Andrew Gunther
Environmental Scientist
Center for Ecosystem Management &
Restoration

Dr. Vincent Gutschick
Professor of Biology, Emeritus
New Mexico State University

Dr. Chad Hanson
Ecologist
Earth Island Institute

Dr. Cheryl Harding
Professor Emeritus
Hunter College

Dr. Alan Heath
Emeritus Professor
Virginia Tech

Dr. Bruce Herbold
Retired
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Dr. Karen Holl
Professor of Environmental Studies
University of California, Santa Cruz

Dr. Andres Holz
Assistant Professor of Biogeography and
Forest Dynamics, Dept. of Geography
Portland State University

Dr. Rodney L. Honeycutt
University Professor
Divisional Dean of Natural Science
Pepperdine University

Dr. Thomas Ihde
Research Assistant Professor
Morgan State University

Dr. Jay Jones
Professor of Biology and Biochemistry
University of La Verne

Dr. Cynthia Jones
Professor
University of Connecticut

Dr. Alan Journet
Professor Emeritus
Jacksonville, Oregon

Dr. Walter Judd
Distinguished Professor Emeritus
Department of Biology
University of Florida

Dr. Jacob Kann
Aquatic Ecologist
Aquatic Ecosystem Sciences LLC

Dr. Sterling Keeley
Professor of Botany
University of Hawaii, Manoa

Dr. Ruth Ann Kern
Associate Professor
California State University, Fresno

Dr. Ke Chung Kim
Professor Emeritus
Pennsylvania State University

Matthew Kirchhoff
Wildlife Biologist, Retired
Alaska Department of Fish and Game

Dr. Jason Koontz
Associate Professor of Biology, Co-Chair
Augustana College

Dr. Marni Koopman
Climate Change Scientist
Geos Institute

Grace Kostel
Botanist
Spearfish, South Dakota

Dr. Dana Krempels
Senior Lecturer
University of Miami Biology Department

Alex Krevitz
Biologist, Mammalogy
Independent Researcher

Dr. Derek Lee
Principal Scientist
Wild Nature Institute

Dr. Gene Likens
Founding President
Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies

Dr. Jason A. Lillegraven
Professor Emeritus
Department of Geology and Geophysics
University of Wyoming

Dr. Harvey Lillywhite
Professor of Biology
University of Florida

Dr. Brian Linkhart
Professor of Biology
Colorado College

Frank Logiudice
Instructor
University of Central Florida

Dr. Loys Maingon
Researcher
Strathcona Wilderness Institute

Dr. Carl McDaniel
Professor of Biology Emeritus
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
Visiting Professor
Oberlin College

Dr. John McLaughlin
Associate Professor
Western Washington University

Dr. Robert Meese
Staff Research Associate, retired
University of California, Davis

Dr. John Morse
Professor Emeritus of Entomology
Clemson University

Dr. Peter Moyle
Distinguished Professor Emeritus
University of California, Davis

Rob Mrowka
Senior Scientist
Center for Biological Diversity

Dr. John Mull
Professor of Zoology
Weber State University

Dr. Richard Munson
Faculty, Emeritus
Miami University

Dr. Peter Murphy
Professor Emeritus
Michigan State University

Dr. James Murray
Professor of Biology Emeritus
University of Virginia

Dr. K. Greg Murray
T. Elliot Weier Professor of Plant Science
Hope College

Dr. Philip Myers
Professor Emeritus
University of Michigan

Charles R. Neal
Ecologist, retired
U.S. Department of Interior

Dr. Andrew Nelson
Emeritus Professor of Biology
State University of New York, Oswego

Dr. Martin Nie
Director, Bolle Center for People and Forests
Professor, Natural Resource Policy
University of Montana

Dr. Gretchen North
Professor of Biology
Occidental College

Dr. Reed F. Noss
Chief Scientist
Florida Institute for Conservation Science

Dr. Richard Nyhof
Professor of Biology
Calvin College

Dr. Dennis C. Odion
Earth Research Institute
University of California, Santa Barbara

Dr. Gordon Orians
Professor Emeritus of Biology
University of Washington

Dr. Sarah Otto
Professor
University of British Columbia

Christopher Papouchis
Lecturer
Environmental Studies Department
California State University, Sacramento

Dr. Michael Parker
Professor of Biology
Southern Oregon University

Dr. Gustav Paulay
Professor
University of Florida

Dr. Jack Paxton
Professor Emeritus
University of Illinois

Dr. David Perry
Professor Emeritus
Oregon State University

Dr. Anna Pidgeon
Associate Professor
University of Wisconsin, Madison

Dr. Roger A. Powell
Professor, Department of Applied Ecology
North Carolina State University

Dr. Jessica Pratt
Assistant Professor of Teaching
University of California, Irvine

Dr. Robert Pyle
Biologist
Grays River, Washington

Dr. James Quinn
Professor Emeritus
Rutgers University

Dr. John Ratti
Professor and Research Scientist, retired
University of Idaho

Dr. Peter Raven
President Emeritus
Missouri Botanical Garden

Dr. Barbara Reynolds
Professor of Environmental Studies
University of North Carolina, Asheville

Dr. Fred M. Rhoades
Mycologist, retired & Research Associate
Western Washington University

Dr. George Robinson
Professor of Biological Sciences
State University of New York, Albany

Dr. Garry Rogers
President
Agua Fria Open Space Alliance, Inc.

Dr. Steven Rogstad
Professor Emeritus
University of Cincinnati

Dr. Thomas Rooney
Professor of Biological Sciences
Wright State University

Dr. Dan Rosenberg
Co-Executive Director
Oregon Wildlife Institute
Associate Professor
Oregon State University

Dr. Donald Ross
Research Professor
University of Vermont

Dr. Amy Rossman
Research Leader, retired
United States Department of Agriculture

Dr. John Rotenberry
Professor of Biology Emeritus
University of California, Riverside

Dr. Eric Routman
Professor of Biology
San Francisco State University

Dr. Barbara A. Roy
Professor
University of Oregon

Matthew Rubino
Research Associate
Department of Applied Ecology
North Carolina State University

Dr. Robin Salter
Professor Emeritus
Oberlin College

Dr. Scott Samuels
Professor
University of Montana

Dr. Melissa Savage
Associate Professor Emerita
University of California, Los Angeles

Dr. Paul Schaeffer
Associate Professor
Miami University

Charles Schelz
Ecologist
Ecos Consulting

Dr. Paula Schiffman
Professor of Biology
California State Univ., Northridge

Dr. Joe Schiller
Professor
Austin Peay State University

Dr. David Schindler
Killam Memorial Professor of Ecology
Emeritus
University of Alberta

Dr. William H. Schlesinger
Professor Emeritus
Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies

Dr. Fiona Schmiegelow
Professor
University of Alberta

Dr. John Schoen
Wildlife Ecologist, retired
Anchorage, Alaska

Dr. Tania Schoennagel
Research Scientist
University of Colorado

Dr. Courtney Schultz
Associate Professor of Forest Policy
Colorado State University

Kathy Schwager
Ecologist
Yaphank, New York

Dr. Mark Shapley
Research Paleolimnologist
University of Minnesota

Dr. Steve Sheffield
Professor of Biology
Bowie State University

Dr. Rosemary Sherriff
Professor and Chair, Department of
Geography
Humboldt State University

Dr. Rodney Siegel
Executive Director
The Institute for Bird Populations

Dr. Ellen Siem
Physics and Undergraduate Studies
Southern Oregon University

Dr. Stephen Sillett
Professor and Kenneth L. Fisher Chair of
Redwood Forest Ecology
Humboldt State University

Dr. Thomas D. Sisk
Olajos-Goslow Chair of Env't'l Science & Policy
Director, Landscape Conservation Initiative
Northern Arizona University

Dr. Winston P. Smith
Principal Research Scientist
Institute of Arctic Biology
University of Alaska, Fairbanks

Jack Sobel
Marine Science, Conservation, & Policy
Consultant
ETI Professionals, Inc.

John Sovell
Conservation Biologist
Colorado State University

Dr. Timothy Spira
Emeritus Professor of Biological Sciences
Clemson University

Dr. Trygve Steen
Professor
Environmental Science and Management
Portland State University

Dr. Alan Stemler
Professor Emeritus
University of California, Davis

Dr. Richard Strathmann
Professor Emeritus
University of Washington

Dr. Stephen Stringham
President
WildWatch LLC

Dr. Christina Swanson
Senior Director, Science Center
Natural Resources Defense Council

Dr. Michael Swift
Assistant Professor Emeritus, of Biology
St. Olaf College

Dr. Tamara Ticktin
Professor of Botany
University of Hawai'i, Manoa

Dr. Pepper Trail
Ornithologist
Ashland, Oregon

Dr. Vicki Tripoli
Environmental Scientist, retired
Ashland, Oregon

Dr. Anna Tyler
Research Scientist
The Jackson Laboratory

Dr. James Valentine
Professor of Integrative Biology, Emeritus
University of California, Berkeley

Dr. Thomas Veblen
Distinguished Professor
University of Colorado

Dr. Sara Via
Professor of Biology and Climate Change
University of Maryland

Dr. Greg Walker
Emeritus Professor
University of California, Riverside

Dr. Donald Waller
Professor
University of Wisconsin

Dr. Glenn Walsberg
Professor Emeritus
Arizona State University

Dr. Judith Weis
Professor Emerita
Rutgers University

Dr. Allison Welch
Director, Environmental and Sustainability
Studies
College of Charleston

Dr. Jeffery Werner
Science Lead
Conservation North

Dr. David Whitacre
Instructor, Biology and Statistics
Treasure Valley Math and Science Center

Dr. Sue Wick
Professor
University of Minnesota, Twin Cities

Dr. Jack Williams
Emeritus Senior Scientist
Trout Unlimited

Dr. Susan Willson
Associate Professor of Biology
St. Lawrence University

Dr. Neville Winchester
Instructor
University of Victoria

Dr. Susan Witherup
Professor
Ithaca College

Dr. Bruce Wright
Senior Scientist
Conservation Science Institute

George Wuerthner
ED Public Media
Foundation for Deep Ecology

Dr. Charlotte Zampini
Professor, retired
Framingham State University

Dr. Charlie Zender
Professor of Earth System Science
University of California, Irvine