

**UNDERSTORY - A Journey Into the Tongass**  
*What's Next*  
*Walking Mountains - Sustainable Film Series 2021*

Below are some quick next steps the creators of UNDERSTORY have [outlined](#).

**1. RESTORE THE ROADLESS RULE**

- a. When the Trump Administration exempted the Tongass from the Roadless Rule in October 2020, millions of acres of the Tongass lost protection. However, the political climate has shifted in Washington DC. Along with our partners, we are sending a petition to the Biden-Harris administration to reinstate roadless protections on 9.4 million acres of the Tongass National Forest. Every voice and signature matters. We are optimistic that the Roadless Rule will be restored to the Tongass.
- b. **TAKE ACTION:** Sign a petition that we are sending to the Biden-Harris administration.

**2. LEGISLATION**

- a. The most important piece of active legislation to protect the Tongass is the Roadless Area Conservation Act.
- b. We believe that we need to take steps to further protect the Tongass. The Roadless Rule should be made law, permanently protecting the Tongass and all other undeveloped national forests from the construction of new logging roads.
- c. There are nearly 60-million acres of “roadless” forests across the United States, and these intact forests offer unparalleled backcountry experiences, hunting, fishing, and carbon sequestration. When the Trump Administration excluded 9-million-acres of the Tongass from the protections of the Roadless Rule, it became clear that roadless areas are vulnerable to political attacks. The Roadless Area Conservation Act will make the protection of these forests a law. Rules can be changed at the whim of politicians, but a law will protect these forests for generations.
- d. **TAKE ACTION:** to support the Roadless Area Conservation Act.

**3. Justice for Tongass Tribes**

- a. A few months ago, nine sovereign tribal governments from the Tongass, sent the United States Department of Agriculture a petition, asking them to create a Homelands Conservation Rule. This rule would help tribes in the Tongass protect the forests they depend on for cultural survival from extractive industries. The Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian people must have a more powerful role in their traditional homelands.

- b. **TAKE ACTION:** Let your political leaders know that you support the request of these 9 tribes!

#### 4. DONATE

- a. The Understory Team is fundraising to get this film out into the world! Your donation will help us create a curriculum for Understory so the film can be shared in classrooms across the nation.
- b. **TAKE ACTION:** Donate to our crowdfunding campaign.

#### 5. ORGANIZATIONS

- a. Our nonprofit partners are Audubon Alaska and The Wilderness Society. Give them a follow to learn more about their work, and if you support their leadership for the Tongass, you can become a member!
  - i. AUDUBON ALASKA - Audubon Alaska's mission is to conserve natural ecosystems, focusing on birds, other wildlife, and their habitats, for the benefit of present and future generations.
  - ii. Audubon AK website // Instagram @audubonalaska

#### 6. PROJECT DRAWDOWN:

- a. Interested in learning more about Drawdown Solutions? Check out Project Drawdown's website: [drawdown.org](http://drawdown.org)