

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 12/17/2019 9:00:00 AM

First name: Jennifer

Last name: Christopherson

Organization: Defenders of Wildlife

Title:

Comments: Tongass Public Comments

Dear U.S. Forest Service,

Please see attached comments on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule and draft EIS submitted by 14,306 members and supporters of Defenders of Wildlife.

Jen Christopherson

Alaska Program Coordinator

Field Conservation

DEFENDERS OF WILDLIFE

The following text was copy/pasted from an attached letter. The system cannot display the formatting, graphics, or tables from the attached original.

Stop the Forest Service from selling out the Tongass

RE: The Tongass and its wildlife are too valuable to destroy!

Dear U.S. Forest Service:

As a Defender of Wildlife, I oppose any attempt to weaken protections for the Tongass National Forest in Alaska. The Tongass is our largest national forest with the most intact remaining old-growth stands in North America. It provides incomparable fish and wildlife habitat that in turn supports the thriving fishing, recreation and tourism industries that power the region. The forest is far more valuable providing these renewable resources than as a source of destructive, taxpayer-subsidized clearcuts that make no environmental or economic sense.

The Forest Service's recent proposal to open millions of acres of old-growth forest to the impacts of roadbuilding, logging and habitat fragmentation will have devastating effects on wildlife in the Tongass, including Sitka black tailed deer, salmon, brown and black bears, northern goshawks, wolves and more.

Known as "America's Rainforest," the Tongass is one of the most significant remaining temperate rainforests on

Earth. Rendering this irreplaceable old-growth forest habitat to the chainsaw is irresponsible and will have profound impacts for generations to come.

I urge you to reverse course on rolling back protections on the Tongass National Forest, on behalf of the wildlife who depend on this habitat and for the future generations who deserve a world as biologically rich as the one we inherited.

Sincerely,

[Attachment contains 14,306 signatures of members and supporters of Defenders of Wildlife.]

[Position]