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Organization:

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Comments: Comments to oppose modification to the Roadless Rule

Dear U.S. Forest Service,

The Roadless Rule helps protect old-growth habitat for birds like the Prince of Wales Spruce Grouse and Northern Goshawk, as well as for mammals like wolves and deer. Opening roadless areas to more logging and roads will fragment the forest and eliminate more of the big old trees that these animals rely on.

Yet, all of the action alternatives in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement allow more roadbuilding and logging across the Tongass National Forest. Logging roads and timber operations cost tens of millions of taxpayer dollars every year, with zero return on investment. Meanwhile, these destructive activities degrade the naturally sustainable wealth of salmon, wildlife watching, and tourism opportunities.

There has been so much alarm over the consequences of the burning in the Amazon rain forest. In America, the burning has been easy to condemn, as we have so few wildlands that have not already been thoroughly exploited. We must not be so careless and hypocritical as to begin, now, to exploit Tongass. The world and our grandchildren are watching.

Sincerely,

Nancy Kelly

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