Data Submitted (UTC 11): 10/19/2019 12:45:54 AM
First name: Susan
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Organization:
Title:
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, and endangers one of the few pristine areas that remain on our earth. 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. This is being proposed just as studies find that wild bird populations have declined by almost 30% since 1970. We need to be protecting wild habitat, not destroying it.

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.

It is time to stop opening more and more acres to the timber industry and instead bolster protections to the old-growth forests and wild areas on the Tongass. I urge you to select the "No Action" Alternative (Alternative 1) and allow the Roadless Rule to remain intact on the Tongass National Forest.

Sincerely,
Susan Benner
Ames, IA 50010