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First name: JoEllen

Last name: Rudolph

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Comments to oppose modification to the Roadless Rule

Dear U.S. Forest Service,

PLEASE SELECT THE "NO ACTION" ALTERNATIVE 1 AND DO NOT GUT THE ROADLESS RULE THAT PROTECTS OLD GROWTH FORESTS FROM LUMBERING. THESE OLD GROWTH FORESTS ARE THE MAIN AND ONLY HABITAT FOR MANY SPECIES OF BIRDS AND ARE A HUGE ASSET IN FIGHTING CLIMATE CHANGE.

I AM OLD ENOUGH TO REMEMBER THE FIGHT TO ENACT THE RARE 2 ROADLESS RULES. WAS IT ONLY 40 OR 45 YEARS AGO?? IT WAS A BIG FIGHT WITH TIMBER COMPANIES AND WE BELIEVED THATTHE ENACTED RULES WOULD PROTECT OLD GROWTH AND SPECIAL WILDERNESS AREAS FOREVER. NOW WITH THE GOP AND CORPORATE ASSAULT ON THE VERY SUCCESSFUL ROADLESS RULES,WE HAVE TO FIGHT AGAIN TO PRESERVE THESE IRREPLACEABLE FORESTS AND THE BIODIVERSITY AND SPECIES THAT DEPEND ON THEIR CONTINUED PROTECTION.

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.

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,

JoEllen Rudolph

Petoskey, MI 49770

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