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Organization:

Title:

Comments: To whom it may concern,

Please consider leaving the Tongass National Forest under the regulations provided by the current roadless rule. Being that there has not been a proposed project within these lands that has been denied approval, it shows there is no need to exempt the Tongass NF from its current roadless rule "sideboards"

Having lived, worked, hunted, fished and shell-fished in the Olympic national forest and Olympic Peninsula of Washington state, I see what remnants of old growth forest are left there and am still in awe. I had often thought of how many of the logged areas must have looked prior to the logging boom, and the effects that this has all had on Washington's now dwindling salmon and steelhead runs, and it's Roosevelt elk herds. But on the Tongass, where there are still large tracts of Forest Service land that has not had these impacts, we don't have to imagine what it must have been like before, because we still have it in front of us right now.

I fully support conscientious logging in areas where second and third growth timber has grown unnaturally thick and needs thinning, or to mitigate the spread of extreme forest fires, or to benefit wildlife habitat and local economies, BUT I do not believe lifting the roadless rule on the Tongass NF will result in conscientious logging for resource benefit. I believe it would open the door to logging off more of the 34 percent of remaining old growth forest under the US Forest service's care. And what impact will this have on our precious wild salmonids? do we really want to find out? I know I don't.

So please considering keeping the current roadless rules in place on the Tongass NF so I may visit one of my national forests and not have to wonder what it could have been had we kept the protections it once had.

Respectfully,

Jeff Gehring

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