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Organization:

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Comments: Comments to oppose modification to the Roadless Rule

Dear U.S. Forest Service,

I am writing you about the Roadless Rule, a vital protection of old-growth habitat for invaluable birds like the Prince of Wales Spruce Grouse and Northern Goshawk, as well as for mammals like wolves and deer. Some areas must remain pristine for the sake of sustainability. Opening them to endless logging and roads will fragment the forest and eliminate more of the big old trees that these animals rely on. Furthermore, intact, ancient forests are strongholds of climate resilience, and the Tongass is one of world's largest.

Sadly, 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.

Together we must stop opening unlimited acreage to the timber industry. Let's 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. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Lois Wilcken

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