

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 10/25/2019 12:17:01 PM

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Comments: Comments to oppose modification to the Roadless Rule

Dear U.S. Forest Service,

It's a huge mistake and short-sighted thinking to eliminate the Roadless Rule in the Tongass National Forest. The Roadless Rule is vital to 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 fragments the forest and eliminates the large, old growth trees that these animals need to survive. Road building and logging degrade the naturally sustainable wealth of salmon, wildlife watching and tourism opportunities. Ancient forests like the Tongass are economically and strategically critical to combat the effects of climate change.

Logging roads and timber operations cost tens of millions of taxpayer dollars every year, with zero return on investment. We need the timber industry to be a sustainable partner in climate change by re-foresting and environmentally managing those areas that are already open to the industry.

I implore you to select the "No Action" Alternative (Alternative 1) and allow the Roadless Rule to remain intact on the Tongass National Forest.

Sincerely,

Cathleen Crossan

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