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First name: Carol

Last name: Steinhart

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 wildlife, including endangered and threatened species. Opening roadless areas to more logging and roads will fragment the forest and eliminate more of the large trees that these animals rely on and disrupting the ecosystem. In addition, ancient forests are strongholds of climate resilience, and the Tongass is one of world's largest.

Therefore it is wrong that all the action alternatives in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement allow more roadbuilding and logging across the Tongass National Forest. These operations cost tens of millions of taxpayer dollars every year, with zero return on investment. Meanwhile, they degrade the naturally sustainable wealth of the salmon fishery (which sustains both wildlife and Native communities), and of wildlife watching and tourism opportunities.

It is time to stop giving free rein to the timber industry and instead ramp up protections for the old-growth forests and wild areas on the Tongass. Please select the "No Action" Alternative (Alternative 1) and allow the Roadless Rule to remain intact on the Tongass National Forest.

Sincerely,

Carol Steinhart

Madison, WI 53705

[Position]