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Organization:

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Comments: Comments to oppose modification to the Roadless Rule

Dear U.S. Forest Service,

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. DO NOT open roadless areas to more logging. That would 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.

Why do 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. This is an incredibly bad bargain for all Americans.

It is time to stop opening more and more acres to the timber industry. Instead we need to 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,

Cherl Wheaton

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