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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Comments to oppose modification to the Roadless Rule

Dear U.S. Forest Service,

I hope to see the Tongass National Forest some day. Old growth habitat like that the Tongass provides is essential for threatened wildlife that the National Forests were originally designed to support. The Roadless Rule helps provide that protection.

Opening roadless areas to more 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. They also help to filter water, a resource that is finite and is increasingly in demand by an ever-growing human population.

All of the action alternatives in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement allow more roadbuilding and logging across the Tongass National Forest. I find this reprehensible! Logging roads and timber operations cost tens of millions of taxpayer dollars every year, with zero return on investment except to those private interests. NATIONAL FORESTS ARE OUR PUBLIC LANDS, AND SHOULD NOT BE EXPLOITED FOR THE PRIVATE PROFIT OF TIMBER INDUSTRIES!!

These public lands serve a growing need for ecotourism and the ecological services that support us. Vaster amounts of land in this country lie in private hands, and are open to exploitation and development. National Forests should not. Future generations will judge us by what happens to our public lands today.

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,

Regina Levoy

Shiro, TX 77876

[Position]