

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 10/24/2019 8:00:00 AM

First name: mary

Last name: rexford

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Comments to oppose modification to the Roadless Rule

Dear U.S. Forest Service,

It is unthinkable to open the Tongass National Forest to roadbuilding and logging. 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. Most important of all, in the time of climate crisis is the fact that intact, ancient forests are strongholds of climate resilience. The Tongass is one of world's largest. This idea makes no sense.

Logging roads and timber operations cost tens of millions of taxpayer dollars every year, with zero return on investment, even as these destructive activities degrade the naturally sustainable wealth of salmon, wildlife watching, and tourism opportunities.

It is time to stop opening more and more acres to the timber industry and 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.

Sincerely,

mary rexford

[Position]