

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 10/25/2019 8:00:00 AM

First name: Virginia

Last name: Metcalf

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Comments to oppose modification to the Roadless Rule

Dear U.S. Forest Service,

As a concerned American elder citizen, I write asking you to consider all of the bird species that would be effected if the Roadless Rule protection is diminished and more roads are built in the Tongass. Not only would birds have diminished habitat and increased disturbance but other species who live in the ecosystem would be threatened as well.

As you well know, opening intact forests in the ecosystem to more logging and roads will fragment the forest and eliminate more of the big old trees that these animals rely on.

Of utmost importance now is the planet's climate crisis and intact, ancient forests are barriers to climate change. We are blessed to have the Tongass which is one of world's largest ancient forests and a haven for multiple species in addition to being a massive carbon sequestration asset.

Every one of the action alternatives listed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement allow for 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. I do not want my tax money going to these destructive activities. Only the timber companies benefit; the entire ecosystem with all inhabitants and natural sustainability is jeopardized.

It is imperative that opening more and more acres to the timber industry must stop. Greater protections to the old-growth forests and wild areas on the Tongass must be the goal.

I hope you will act responsibly and select the "No Action" Alternative (Alternative 1) and allow the Roadless Rule to remain intact on the Tongass National Forest. It is the right thing to do.

Sincerely,

Virginia Metcalf

Gig Harbor, WA 98335

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