

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

First name: Eve

Last name: Schwartz

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Comments to oppose modification to the Roadless Rule

Dear U.S. Forest Service,

Old growth forests: where size matters.

The Roadless Rule helps protect old-growth habitat for birds and mammals like wolves and deer. Opening roadless areas to more logging and road fragments the forest and eliminates more of the big old trees that these animals rely on. Intact, ancient forests are strongholds of climate resilience, and the Tongass is one of world's largest.

Yet, 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--the only entities making money are private companies. Meanwhile, these destructive activities degrade the naturally sustainable wealth of salmon, wildlife watching, and tourism opportunities.

Stop opening more and more acres to the timber industry. Instead bolster protections to the old-growth forests and wild areas on the Tongass. Select the "No Action" Alternative (Alternative 1) and allow the Roadless Rule to remain intact on the Tongass National Forest.

Sincerely,

Eve Schwartz

Keswick, VA 22947

[Position]