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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Comments to oppose modification to the Roadless Rule

Dear U.S. Forest Service,

I am writing about the draft EIS for the Tongass Forest. I very much prefer to allow the Roadless Rule to remain in effect. I have followed this saga for many years. It's tiring to have to fight these proposals, over and over. We do not need to cut every patch of forest that remains. Most of the forestry activities on the National Forests are done at a financial loss - paid with taxpayer dollars. This time, I want to see those dollars used to leave the trees intact. Let them die, and fall over, where they will continue to provide food and shelter for the ecosystem.

As you are well aware, the Roadless Rule helps protect old-growth habitat for various birds like the Prince of Wales Spruce Grouse and Northern Goshawk, along with numerous mammals. Opening roadless areas to more logging and roads 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 forests, and we need a lot more of these to pull carbon out of the atmosphere.

And yet with all these considerations, all of the action alternatives in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement allow more road-building and logging across the Tongass National Forest. As I alluded above, logging roads and timber operations cost 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.

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,

John Gerwin

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[Position]