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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Comments to oppose modification to the Roadless Rule

Dear U.S. Forest Service,

The Roadless Rule helps protect old-growth habitat for birds as well as for mammals like wolves and deer. 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. The Tongass is one of world's largest old growth rain forests with its diversity largely intact.

Unfortunately, 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 are a public subsidy for private commerce costing tens of millions of taxpayer dollars every year and preclude the naturally sustainable wealth of salmon, wildlife watching, and tourism opportunities.

It is time to stop subsidizing 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,

Kenny Pape

Bull Shoals, AR 72619