

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

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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 forests which exist in so few places today. Opening roadless areas to more logging and roads will fragment the forest and eliminate more of the big old trees that are at their peak for carbon sequestration and oxygen production. Additionally we would be destroying an ecosystem there could potentially contain compounds we could use for human benefit in the future. Intact, ancient forests are strongholds of climate resilience, and the Tongass is one of world's largest.

Preserving existing forests -especially old growth forests - is absolutely essential. Scientists are realizing that when decades or centuries-old forests are removed they cannot be replaced simply by planting more trees. People worldwide are trying desperately to replant forests for so many important reasons - to prevent flooding, curb erosion, slow expanding deserts, carbon sequestration AND to keep oxygen flowing. But in fact, only nature can create a healthy forest, because a forest is a hierarchy of life that evolves at a specific location.

Yet, all of the action alternatives in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement allow more roadbuilding and logging across the Tongass National Forest.

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,

Merrilee Levesque

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[Position]