

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

First name: Morris

Last name: Esmiol

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. So despite the huge size of the forest and its resources, I would ask that the Tongass forest remain roadless.

If however the forest service does open up the forest, I would hope the service would judiciously save large swaths of old growth forest and restrict the cutting of trees that would be classified as old growth.

I believe the US has plenty of lumber for its own needs; the Tongass wood most likely would be exported. 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,

Morris Esmiol

Farmington, NM 87401

[Position]