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First name: Elly

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Comments to oppose modification to the Roadless Rule

Dear U.S. Forest Service,

It is important to continue to protect the Tongass National Forest from logging and road building. I live in WA state and we have worked to protect some of our forests on the Olympic Peninsula and elsewhere from logging and new roads. It takes years and years for forests to get reestablished and become effective at becoming carbon sinks, as young trees aren't nearly as good at taking in carbon as old trees are. Besides the wildlife concerns, it is concerns for us and our world that should motivate us all to continue to protect the Tongass National Forest. We've already lost huge chunks of the Amazon rain forest just this year as a carbon sink. We can't keep playing this game, while we can use our ingenuity to create lumber products such as cross laminated timber from young wood. We can use fast growing trees and bamboo to take the place of timber from old growth trees and we need to. It does not make sense to take down carbon sinks and prolong our attachment to the old way of doing things just for our convenience. The US Forest Service does many things well in maintaining the balance between our forests, our use of forests for recreation, managing fires in forests, and protecting animals. Please add protecting old growth forests as carbon sinks to that list. No new roads in the Tongass forest.

There are species that depend on the Tongass forest for survival. We are already rolling the dice in so many ways on whether these species will continue to survive by taking away their habitats. Taken singularly perhaps losing a species is just sad but not that big a deal. But when so many are threatened, it is time to sit up and notice, and not think what's one more - regardless of whether we are familiar with the species. There's the domino effect, as we make it impossible for other species to survive, we are whittling away at our own chances to survive. The dominos may fall slowly at first, but the pace will pick up. This is also what we are seeing with the effects of climate change. It is happening faster than we expected. So let us be extra careful.

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,

Elly Claus-McGahan

Tacoma, WA 98407

[Position]