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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Comments to oppose modification to the Roadless Rule

Dear U.S. Forest Service,

The Roadless Rule protects old-growth habitat for birds such as the Prince of Wales Spruce Grouse and Northern Goshawk, as well as for mammals like wolves and deer. Opening roadless areas to more logging and roads will completely fragment the forest, eliminating more big old trees that these animals rely on. You ought to know that, intact, ancient forests serve as strongholds of climate resilience. The Tongass is one of world's largest.

Yet all the action alternatives in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement allow more road building and logging across the Tongass National Forest. Logging roads and timber operations cost tens of millions of taxpayer dollars annually, with zero return on investment. These destructive activities only degrade the naturally sustainable wealth of salmon, wildlife watching and tourism.

It is time to quit 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 strongly urge you to select the "No Action" Alternative (Alternative 1) and thereby permit the Roadless Rule to remain for the Tongass National Forest.

Sincerely,

Gail Camhi

Novato, CA 94949