

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

First name: Kate

Last name: Kerr

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Comments to oppose modification to the Roadless Rule

Dear U.S. Forest Service,

I have worked abroad in Indonesia and seen firsthand the destruction of old rainforest in Borneo. The consequences are devastating and longterm. I never thought that the U.S would be on the verge of embracing such backward policies, all driven by greed.

I can't imagine that you are unaware that the Roadless Rule helps protect old-growth habitat for birds and mammals. In our age of global warming, its insane to destroy the oxygen-producing, cooling activities of forests. Opening roadless areas to more logging and roads will fragment the forest and eliminate more of the big old trees that people and wildlife rely on. Intact, ancient forests are strongholds of climate resilience, and the Tongass is one of world's largest.

Why do 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 cost tens of millions of taxpayer dollars every year, with ZERO RETURN on investment. Meanwhile, these destructive activities degrade the naturally sustainable wealth of salmon, wildlife watching, and tourism opportunities.

It is time to stop opening more acres to the timber industry. Please maintain and increase 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,

Kate Kerr

[Position]