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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Comments to oppose modification to the Roadless Rule

Dear U.S. Forest Service,

The continued existence of rare and wonderful birds like the Prince of Wales Spruce Grouse and Northern Goshawk is threatened by logging and roadbuilding which would be permitted if the Roadless Rule is weakened. This would be a tragedy. Opening roadless areas to more logging and roads will fragment the forest and eliminate more of the big old trees that these birds and wolves and deer rely on. On top of all that, climate change is threatening our very lives and intact, ancient forests are strongholds of climate resilience. The Tongass is one of world's largest.

Yet, 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. In addition, these destructive activities degrade the naturally sustainable wealth of salmon, wildlife watching, and tourism opportunities. They really must be stopped before any more damage is done.

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,

Toni Coffee

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