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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Comments to oppose modification to the Roadless Rule

Dear U.S. Forest Service,

I support the NO ACTION Alternative Tongass N.F Roadless Rule proposal.

As a Tongass N.F. resident in the 1980s I can attest that there is little in this life more heartbreaking than watching an old growth forest being razed for short-term gain. "...forest management, economic development opportunities, and the exercise of valid existing rights or other non-discretionary legal authorities" are poor excuses for the horrible action you propose, and a thin veil for the rapacious motive of short-sighted enrichment. Surely there is enough merchantable timber in the 99% of forests already logged in the United States to satisfy the current United States' market needs. The thought of cutting roads through this American treasure to enrich other countries makes me physically ill.

Our government should be protecting our riches, not finding ways for private parties to take them. These forests are natural capital that belong to all the American people, not just the few who will profit from road access through them.

Weigh government takings on your scale.

As long as that value stands we will realize dividends from it, but there will always be those who will try to enrich themselves by taking our capital as their own.

Understand that logging virgin forests consumes our natural capital, and once it is gone, it is gone forever.

Weigh forever on your scales.

The value of the remaining ancient forests - whole and intact - to countless people now and in the future far exceeds short-term gains in the pockets of a few.

The best and only choice in the proposed alternatives is to TAKE NO ACTION. Only the NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE protects the forest so it will be there to protect again against the next era of heedless profiteers.

Sincerely,

Denise Marion

Oak Harbor, WA 98277

[Position]