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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Comments to oppose modification to the Roadless Rule

Dear U.S. Forest Service,

The federal Roadless Rule currently protects more than half of the nearly 17-million-acre Tongass National Forest in Alaska. Part of the largest remaining temperate rainforest on Earth, the Tongass provides habitat for mammals and birds that rely on old-growth forests to survive. Old-growth forests also supports a naturally sustainable salmon population.

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 forest and the wildlife that depend on it.

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.

Over the years, I've watched a number of wildlife species make a comeback. I would hate to think I might now be watching the decline of a number of species. When kids ask why so many species are disappearing, what will I tell them?

Sincerely,

Robert Wernert

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[Position]