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Title:

Comments: I oppose these proposals.

There are currently 31 timber sales under contract in the Tongass National forest totaling 62 million board feet of timber yet to be harvested. Using 20-year averages, taxpayers stand to lose \$37 million on the remaining timber from these projects.

By exempting the Tongass National Forest from the Roadless Rule the US Forest Service would be paving the way to additional money-losing timber sales, which have already cost federal taxpayers \$600 million over the last 20 years. Opening the Tongass National Forest to additional road building would only add to the US Forest Service's \$3.2 billion maintenance backlog for roads across the National Forest System.

In addition to creating more timber sales in the Tongass National Forest an exemption from the Roadless Rule would harm local industries such as hunting, recreation, and commercial fishing - all essential to individuals living in the region.

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