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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am a resident of Washington State and a conservation activist. I am a strong supporters of the 2001 Roadless Rule and are concerned with maintaining its integrity nationwide. I view the Tongass DEIS as a threat to this integrity and thus a threat to our own Washington State's extensive roadless areas in the North Cascades. Washington has the greatest extent of unprotected National Forest roadless areas in the contiguous 48 States. The Roadless Rule protects these forests.

I have searched for the Purpose and Need in the DEIS. After twelve pages of obfuscation and circumlocution I can only conclude that the implicit Purpose is to cut trees and the Need is to build roads for access to those trees and then to haul the logs away. While the DEIS contains many disingenuous reassurances that there will be little or no impact from logging and road building, it deliberately eliminates from detailed analysis 18 issues that would evaluate those impacts! (For a list of these issues, see page iii of the DEIS.)

Removing 9.2 million acres of the Tongass National Forest from the protection of the national Roadless Rule and depending upon the state of Alaska to safeguard the values inherent in untrammled roadless forest is the equivalent of asking the fox to guard the chicken coop. You can only expect to have feathers, or in this case stumps, left.

I strongly support the No Action Alternative, and maintaining the national Roadless Rule in the Tongass.

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