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First name: Jonathan

Last name: Oppenheimer

Organization: Idaho Conservation League

Title:

Comments: I am troubled by the proposal to radically expand logging in the roadless areas of the Tongass National Forest. As one of the most heavily subsidized national forests in the country, the estimated deficit on the forest is nearly \$600 million since 1999, around the time that road building and logging in roadless areas was curtailed via the 2001 Roadless Rule. As a result, if a state-specific roadless rule is approved for Alaska that number would rise, as the costs associated with development of roadless areas would rise, leading to more significant taxpayer deficits.

The existing roadless rule provides appropriate protections that safeguard wildlife habitat, water quality, natural values, cultural/historical values and taxpayers. The Alaska Rule would threaten each of these values.

Instead, the administration should abandon this effort and maintain protections for roadless forests in the state of Alaska consistent with the 2001 Roadless Rule.

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