

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 12/14/2019 9:00:00 AM

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: The Tongass is priceless, keep it roadless for wildlife

Please select the "No Action" alternative on the Alaska-specific Roadless Rule instead of the sweeping changes the administration is promoting. The changes allowed by those changes would completely remove the Tongass National Forest from roadless protections and result in irreparable damage there.

I'm sure you're well aware that the Tongass National Forest is one of the last intact temperate rainforests on Earth. There are old growth forests in its roadless lands and the forest is home to a stunningly diverse array of wildlife including salmon, wolves, bear, deer, and birds of prey such as the Northern Goshawk.

The Tongass is America's largest and wildest national forest and it absorbs and stores approximately 8 percent of the total carbon of all the national forests of the lower 48 states combined.

The proposed rule opens an additional 165,000 acres to logging and strips Roadless Rule protections from all 9.2 million acres of inventoried roadless areas in the Tongass. The rule will fragment the forest and harm wildlife that rely on old-growth habitat.

The proposed rule is opposed by an overwhelming majority of public. Their input favored maintaining roadless areas or making only small modifications.

The course chosen by the administration ignores the public, fails to find balance, and threatens the crown jewel of the National Forest System. Please select Alternative 1, the "no-action" alternative.

Thank you,

John Fergus

[Position]