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First name: Debra

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Organization:

Title:

Comments:

Comments to oppose modification to the Roadless Rule

Dear U.S. Forest Service,

We all know that the Roadless Rule helps protect old-growth habitat for birds and as well as for mammals like wolves and deer. It also protects the trees for water and air filtration. We all know that opening roadless areas to more traffic, logging, mining and other energy development will fragment the forest, create pollution, and eliminate more of the big old trees that our wildlife and humans rely on.

We also know that intact, ancient forests are strongholds of climate resilience, and the Tongass is one of world's largest.

Yet, all of the action alternatives in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement allow more roadbuilding, mining, energy development, and logging across the whole of the Tongass National Forest. Logging roads and timber operations cost tens of millions of taxpayer dollars every year, with zero return on investment except for small communities. But at what cost? The destruction and degradation of our forests and the naturally sustainable wealth of salmon, wildlife watching, and tourism opportunities.

While it seems like a good opportunity for the economy for a few. The needs of the few do not outweigh the needs of the many. We must look at the big picture of our earth, and the health and welfare of so much more. Once you allow road it will destroy the ecosystem because of the large footprint that will come. It is time to evolve and stop opening more and more acres to the timber industry, the mining industry, other energy resources, and instead bolster and continue to protect the old-growth forests and wild areas on the Tongass. In doing so we protect so so much more.

Therefore, I am asking you to select the "No Action" Alternative (Alternative 1) and allow the Roadless Rule to remain intact on the Tongass National Forest.

Sincerely,

Debra Hunt

Kalama, WA 98625

[Position]