



ARIZONA WILDLIFE FEDERATION

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Arizona Wildlife Federation Position Statement on Tongass National Forest Logging Subsidies

The Arizona Wildlife Federation supports Senator John McCain in his efforts to lead the Senate fight to eliminate wasteful government subsidies in the Tongass National Forest.

Subsidized logging in the Tongass National Forest has cost American taxpayers millions. In 2002 alone, the Forest Service spent \$36 million on the Tongass logging program and received only \$1 million in revenue. Over the past two decades, losses have reached over \$750 million.

On June 16, 2004, in a stunning bipartisan effort, the U.S. House of Representatives voted to limit money to build logging roads in the Tongass National Forest. The appropriations bill, sponsored by Reps. Steve Chabot (R-OH) and Robert Andrews (D-NJ), won by a vote of 222 to 205. The amendment is supported by a broad coalition of taxpayer and budget watchdog groups, sportsmen and conservationists.

Since the U.S. House of Representatives voted by a strong bi-partisan majority to end taxpayer subsidized logging in the Tongass National Forest, the Forest Service has finalized 2 roadless area logging projects -Gravina Island and Three Mile.

Based on Forest Service data of the estimated 5-year average loss on timber sales in the Tongass the taxpayer can expect to lose nearly \$11 million on these 2 sales alone. Additionally, they have scheduled more than 40 additional roadless area sales for the next 10 years.

Senator John McCain (R-AZ) has agreed to lead the efforts on the Senate side to eliminate the wasteful Tongass subsidy. The Arizona Wildlife Federation fully supports his efforts to lead the Senate fight to eliminate wasteful government logging subsidies in the Tongass National Forest.