



December 16, 2019

Ken Tu, Interdisciplinary Team Leader
Alaska Roadless Rule
USDA Forest Service, Alaska Region
Ecosystem Planning and Budget Staff
P.O. Box 21628
Juneau, Alaska 99802-1628
Email: akroadlessrule@usda.gov; Kenneth.tu@usda.gov
Via: www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=54511;
<https://www.regulations.gov/comment?D=FS-2019-0023-0001>

Re: Comment on Alaska Roadless Rule

To the Forest Service:

On behalf of the Center for Biological Diversity (the Center), and its 1.4 million members and supporters, thank you for the opportunity to provide these comments on the draft EIS and proposed rulemaking concerning the management of roadless areas in Alaska. The Center is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization based in Tucson, Arizona, with offices across the country. The Center is dedicated to protecting and restoring imperiled species and natural ecosystems. The Center uses science, policy, and law to advocate for the conservation and recovery of species on the brink of extinction and the habitats they need to survive. The Center has and continues to actively advocate for increased protections for species (including grizzly bear, Alexander Archipelago wolf, Queen Charlotte goshawk, and other species native to the Tongass National Forest) and their habitats across North America.

The Center is a signatory to other comments submitted this day on the Alaska Roadless Rule. We write separately here to provide the Forest Service with more than three dozens op-eds, letters to the editor, and editorials that have appeared in the media (many in Southeast Alaska outlets) supporting full protection for all of the inventoried roadless areas on the Tongass National Forest.

We request that the Forest Service consider and respond to each one of these op-eds, letters to the editor, or editorials as separate comments and respond to each substantive point raised in each attachment in any subsequently prepared NEPA document. We also request that the Forest Service consider the weight of these many public statements in choosing among alternatives because the submissions demonstrate the wide and deep opposition to removing Roadless Rule protections for Tongass roadless areas.

Thank you for your attention to this issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'E B Zukoski' with a stylized flourish at the end.

Edward B. Zukoski, Senior Attorney
Center for Biological Diversity
1536 Wynkoop Street, Suite 421
Denver, CO 80202
(cell) (303) 641-3149
tzukoski@biologicaldiversity.org

Encs. Letters to the editor, op-eds, editorials