

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 12/16/2019 9:00:00 AM

First name: Edward

Last name: Zukoski

Organization: Center For Biological Diversity

Title:

Comments: To the Forest Service:

Attached find a cover letter from the Center and numerous attachments submitting comment on the Alaska Roadless Rule. Specifically, the letter and attachment provide to the Forest Service numerous editorials, letters to the editor, and op-eds supporting the 'no action' alternative.

We are submitting these documents in batches. This is the first of three submissions.

We also submitted these documents via the Regulations.gov website.

Sincerely,

Ted Zukoski

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Edward B. (Ted) Zukoski, Senior Attorney

Center for Biological Diversity

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Denver, CO 80202

(he/him/his)

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[See attachment containing the following technical resource: Seattle Times editorial, "Stop the assault on Tongass forest" detailing the opposition to the proposed Roadless Rule]

[See attachment containing the following technical resource: The New York Times editorial, "Trump to Miners, Loggers and Drillers: This Land is Your Land" detailing the history of presidential administrations and environmental legislation.]

[See attachment containing the following technical resource: Akron Beacon Journal editorial, "Beacon Journal/Ohio.com editorial board: Trump, Tongass and Seiberling" detailing the work of Congressman Seiberling's conservation legacy in the Tongass.]

[See attachment containing the following technical resource: Seattle Times article "National forests: Places of healing" detailing the role of the Tongass as a place of healing for the Veterans.]

[See attachment containing the following technical resource: The New York Times article "Protecting Our Wilderness, From the President" detailing the subsidization of the timber industry in the Alaska.]

[See attachment containing the following technical resource: Seattle Times article, "Rainforest protection begins here in our region" detailing the Tongass National Forest value as a temperate rainforest.]

[See attachment containing the following technical resource: The Washington Post article, "The Trump administration doesn't respect America's wilderness" detailing the disregard of public voices by the federal government at a public hearing.]

[See attachment containing the following technical resource: The Seattle Times article, "Tongass forest: Preserve our lands" which urges the Washington Senators to prevent the proposed rule.]

[See attachment containing the following technical resource: The Washington Post article, "Tongass roads would be just another giveaway" details below cost timber in Alaska.]

[Position]

Cover Letter:

The following text was copy/pasted from an attached letter. The system cannot display the formatting, graphics, or tables from the attached original.

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,

[Signature]

Edward B. Zukoski, Senior Attorney Center for Biological Diversity 1536 Wynkoop Street, Suite 421 Denver, CO 80202

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