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First name: Paul

Last name: Maki

Organization: Certified Foresters

Title:

Comments: Alaska Roadless Rule Comments

Hello,

The attachment contains my comments on the Draft EIS regarding management of roadless areas in the Tongass National Forest.

Paul Maki, CF

Fairbanks, Alaska

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

Fairbanks, AK 99706-0570

December 17, 2019

USDA, Forest Service

P.O. Box 21628

Juneau, AK 99802

RE: Alaska Roadless Rulemaking #54511

Dear Ladies or Gentlemen;

Please consider my comments regarding the Draft EIS concerning management of roadless areas in the Tongass National Forest.

The National Forest Management Act of 1976 and the Tongass Land Management Plan are the products of compromise and a planning process that included input from the public. Regarding the plan for the Tongass National Forest, much of that input came from forest managers and other natural resource professionals, as well as various users and interest groups. The Roadless Rule, while intended to preserve the as-is condition of unroaded areas, in my view, was somewhat short-sighted, because the forest, in fact, is ever-changing. Forest managers need to have access to the forest to manage the changing forest stands and to supply the public's changing needs for the goods and services that forestlands provide.

Forest roads are necessary to provide access for managing and sustaining forestlands. Strategies and practices to maintain healthy and productive forests, such as timber harvesting, prescribed burning, wildfire control, recreation access, and habitat and watershed improvement require access on well-constructed and maintained road systems. Access is essential to provide for environmental, economic, and societal needs from forestlands. Widely-developed and accepted Best Management Practices guide forestry professionals in providing these services.

I encourage you to select Alternative 6, the full release of the Tongass National Forest from the 2001 Roadless Rule.

These comments are my own and are not intended to represent the position of any employer, former employer, or organization to which I belong.

Sincerely,

[signature]

Paul W. Maki

Certified Foresters

[Position]