

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 12/17/2019 9:00:00 AM

First name: KJ

Last name: METCALF

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Tongass Roadless Exemption

Forest Service, attached is my response to be considered in the the proposed Roadless Rule exemption for the Tongass NF.

I support the NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE

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

Response to Tongass Roadless Rule Exemption 12/17/2019

I support the No Action Alternative

After years of failed forest management, the Forest Service seemed to begin to transition from the destructive practice of clear-cutting the remaining old-growth forest to a more enlightened balanced approach to the Tongass National Forest.

I worked in a variety of Forest Service positions on the Tongass National Forest from 1962-1982. I was the Team Leader for the first phase of the Tongass Forest Plan.

I witnessed the era when the Forest Service turned a blind eye to massive timber theft, collusion by the pulp mills to ruin the independent loggers, control timber prices and defraud the government. But the greatest crime was the untold damage by massive clearcutting and road building to one of the most productive ecosystems in the world.

Over a million acres (containing half of the most productive timber and fish and wildlife habitat) have been logged (Forest Service and Native Corp. land). That has not been sustainable nor economically responsible and an ecologically disaster.

The roadless rule was one of the tools to move from this destructive past and bring some sense of balance to forest management.

To exempt the Tongass from the roadless rule is to ignore the excesses of the past and invite continued destruction to the remaining old-growth forests.

Asking for public comments to help the current Federal and State administrations make an informed decision is dishonest and cruel. You already have the public's values in past Tongass planning and Roadless decisions.

Government policy is now driving science.

The loss and destruction of an already compromised forest ecosystem is a travesty. It will cost the taxpayer millions of dollars for this loss of subsistence, sports and commercial hunting and fishing, and recreation (personal and business opportunities)

K.J. Metcalf

Juneau, AK 99802

[Position]