

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 12/15/2019 9:00:00 AM

First name: Dick

Last name: Coose

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Alaska Roadless Rule comment

Please find attached my comments concerning the Tongass National Forest and the Alaska Roadless Rule Making as published in the Federal Register on October 17, 2019.

Thank You

Richard L Coose

Ketchikan, Alaska 99901

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

USDA Forest Service December 15, 2019

Attn: Alaska Roadless Rule

Juneau, Alaska 99802

Please consider the following comments concerning the Alaska Roadless Rule DEIS notice in October 17, 2019 in the Federal Register.

I am a retired US Forest Service professional forester/land manager. For the last 20+ years I have served as an elected official on the Ketchikan City Council or Ketchikan Gateway Borough supporting a strong economy for our citizens.

As a forester and elected official, I support sustainable management of forest resources using sound forest land planning to identify resource opportunities and management activities.

The politically imposed 2001 Roadless Rule unnecessarily inhibits the normal planning process and exempting the Tongass N.F. simply allows the normal land planning process and management decisions to resume and return to the local level.

Resource management options for the 9.6 million acres of roadless should be identified following the established multiple use forest land management plan process under NFMA. These areas should be thoroughly inventoried, documented, and disclosed to determine what the resource management opportunities are in each area. All resources must be considered; hydro-power, minerals development, economical timber harvest, wildlife and fish habitat, roaded and unroaded recreational uses, and all the multiple resources of the forest. These areas can then be classified to the appropriate land use designation that provides for the long term health and diversity of the Tongass National Forest and provide for the needs of the people, local economies, and communities of SE Alaska.

I support the selection of the preferred Alternative 6, full release of the Tongass National Forest from the 2001 Roadless Rule.

Thanks to USDA Secretary Perdue and the US Forest Service for undertaking this action so all of the Tongass National Forest can be managed under full multiple use management planning and project execution.

Sincerely,

Richard L Coose

Ketchikan, Alaska 99901

[Position]