

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 10/21/2019 8:00:00 AM

First name: Debbie

Last name: Schlinger

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Roadless Rule in Alaska and proposed changes.

I confess I always cringe when I hear the words "clear-cutting." There can be no good to come of this practice in any setting. It's a temporary pocket enhancer for a very few at the expense of the many, including the animals in the environment, the water resources, the indigenous people, the tourists, the climate, etc.

Already the roadless rule allows for some exceptions on road construction, road reconstruction, and timber harvest on 58.5 million acres of inventoried roadless areas on National Forest System lands.

There is argument that NOT allowing for the construction of logging roads in the Tongass would hurt economic development. I would again argue that keeping the area pristine is far more valuable for the future of the state of Alaska than the dollars put in a few people's pockets - most of those people who already have much, while the vast majority of Alaskans benefit not at all. Tourism, fishing and recreation are businesses that keeps on giving.

Furthermore, clear cutting can destroy streams. What does that do for the fish in the area?

The Roadless Rule protects ancient forests from self-serving, temporary, and destructive projects such as clear-cutting. Please do not remove this protection.

Man has long asked the question "can we," not "should we." This is a definite time to reflect on all the damage done to our forests in the lower 48. Much of the destruction suffered can not be undone. Meantime, those folks who had a job in the logging industry will still be out of a job, because clear-cutting is not a self-sustaining activity - and it hurts a lot more than it helps.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to comment.

[Position]

[Position]