

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 11/7/2019 9:00:00 AM

First name: Kevin

Last name: Elliott

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Please Choose Alternative 1 - Keep the Roadless Rule in Place for the Tongass

I'm writing to urge you to reconsider Alternative 6 which would "exempt the Tongass National Forest from the 2001 Roadless Rule and is fully responsive to the State of Alaska's petition".

It is my understanding that Governor Dunleavy as the current executive of the State of Alaska expressed strong views that Alaskans want to see the Tongass National Forest exempted from the 2001 Roadless Rule. I feel the Governor believes he is acting in the best interest of Alaskans however I want to express my view that many Alaskans, especially those in Southeast Alaska disagree with his position.

The economics of bulk logging operations in the Tongass have long been called into doubt, especially when compared to long-term renewable benefits the Tongass provides Alaskan residents and visitors. Intact watersheds are absolutely critical to thousands of Southeast Alaskans that make their living in the commercial fishing industry. Alaska's visitor industry continues to thrive and grow largely because of the uniqueness of the world's last great temperate old growth rain forest.

In light of this, I want to make my views known regarding the Roadless Rule and strongly urge the USFS to adopt Alternative 1 and leave the Roadless Rule in place.

Thank you.

Kevin Elliott

[Position]