

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 11/21/2019 9:00:00 AM

First name: GARY

Last name: WHELAN

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Leave the Alaska Roadless Rule in place

Dear Comment Period Alaska Roadless Rule,

I am writing in strong support of the 'no action' alternative to leave the Roadless Rule unchanged in Alaska.

I am extremely concerned that changes to the rule would lead to greatly expand clear-cut logging of old growth timber and costly road building in undeveloped, wild areas of both the Tongass and Chugach Forests. These activities increase sedimentation, hurt water quality, often block salmon migration, and add to an already large backlog of needed road maintenance and restoration.

Our fisheries and wild forests are critical to the economy of Alaska and to our country. These sustainable fisheries are critical to our food safety as a country. To grow these sectors of our economy, we need intact habitat. Please leave the Alaska Roadless Rule in place as it is America's last great place.

Sincerely,

GARY WHELAN

SHAFTSBURG, MI 48882

[Position]