

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 12/13/2019 9:00:00 AM

First name: Craig

Last name: Dahl

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Others have submitted all of the legal and technical aspects of why the roadless rule should not apply to the Tongass National Forest in Southeast Alaska. In simple terms, we live and work "inside" this forest, and in relative terms, the footprint taken up by existing and potential community development for the few communities in the region is simply miniscule relative to the size of the Tongass National Forest. Providing reasonable access to explore and mine mineral deposits, road access to hydro power plants, and the much needed road connections between ferry routes are all critical to the overall economic health of the region. We are all stewards of our forest and we live and work here because we appreciate the environment. We don't just visit from some other location - this is our home. As such, we should have the same rights as any other part of the country to develop road access to allow our communities to grow. There is a long list of other permits that remain in place in order to build roads, develop mines or expand our power resources - but the Roadless Rule prevents us from taking the first step. It should be removed in its entirety.

[Position]

[Position]