

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

First name: Kathleen

Last name: Mitchell

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Protect the Tongass National Forest Roadless Rule

Dear U.S. Forest Service,

As a commerical fisherman who makes her living in Southeast Alaska, I implore you to keep the Roadless Rule protections in place. The Tongass is a national treasure and an ecologically important temperate rainforest. It's health is critical to many wildlife species including significant salmon runs that our an important part of Alaska's economy and indiginous peoples heritage and sustenance. Salmon, roads and commercial logging do not co-exist! The intact forest is also important to the burgeoning tourist trade in Alaska. It would be ludicrous to open the Tongass back up to logging and development! The Southeast Alaska economy has evolved in the last thirty years, most of the mills have closed and communities have sought other industries. Todays SE Alaska has moved-on from logging....

I further oppose your plan to allow the agency to open any of the 5 million acres of roadless areas on the Chugach National Forest to bulldozing and clearcutting for logging. This is simply a backdoor repeal of the 2001 Roadless Rule, which protects all roadless lands because of the critical role they play in protecting pure water, secure wildlife habitat and remote recreation.

Please, please, please, select the "no action" alternative to maintain "Roadless Rule" protections for the Tongass and Chugach.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Mitchell

Port Townsend, WA 98368

[Position]