

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 10/27/2019 8:00:00 AM

First name: Wallace

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Alaska Roadless Rulemaking #54511

Roadless Rulemaking,

RE: Alaska Roadless DEIS Comment

Dear Secretary Perdue:

If there is one national forest that deserves full application of the Roadless Rule, it is the Tongass National Forest. I have been there and seen its magnificence and understand its value to the local economy in its natural condition.

Therefore, I write to express my support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and fully intact for the Tongass National Forest.

The Tongass contains some of the largest intact old-growth temperate rainforest in the world, and its value in providing clean water for fish and wildlife habitat is essential to the economic and ecological health of Southeast Alaska. The forest itself and the wildlife it supports right now also underlie an expanding tourism economy.

I urge you to keep the federal Roadless Rule intact and to maintain current protections for national forests in Alaska.

Furthermore, I vigorously object to your proposal to reduce and remove protections from our national forest roadless areas. The Roadless Rule is one of the smartest and most popular land management policies the federal government has ever adopted. Not only does it protect some of America's best fish and wildlife habitat, but it also saves millions of taxpayer dollars by preventing subsidies for money-losing timber sales.

The value of the Roadless Rule in preventing environmentally destructive and economically wasteful road-building and logging is particularly relevant on the Tongass, where logging costs vastly exceed timber revenues and require unconscionable taxpayer subsidies.

Please adopt the No Action Alternative.

Wallace Elton

[Position]