

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 12/17/2019 9:00:00 AM

First name: John

Last name: Flaherty

Organization:

Title:

Comments: HC793

Dear Secretary Christiansen,

I live and work on the lands and waters of the Tongass National Forest. The health of the Tongass National Forest is critical to sustaining my way of life in this rugged region - from hunting and fishing, to hiking and camping, to our tourism and commercial fishing-based economies, we rely on the intact habitat that the roadless areas of the Tongass contain. That is why it is important to me that the 2001 Roadless Rule remain in place on the Tongass National Forest. A no-action alternative is the best option for Southeast Alaska.

I support the Tongass Transition and I would like the Forest Service to continue phasing out old growth clearcutting. This forest is a salmon forest, and the Forest Service should focus on restoring degraded watersheds and fish streams. Please prioritize conservation of the T77 and TNC conservation priority areas in any new Alaska Roadless Rule. Prioritizing one antiquated industry over other private sectors is bad business, and bad for Southeast Alaska.