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First name: John

Last name: Merrifield

Organization:

Title:

Comments: HC3437

U.S. Forest Service Alaska Roadless Rule Committee:

There was and today still is a reason why the Tongass was/is under the protection of the Roadless Rule. Please keep politics out of this.

I am writing in support of the 'no action' alternative to leave the Roadless Rule unchanged in Alaska. I am 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. To grow these sectors of our economy, we need intact habitat. Please leave the Alaska Roadless Rule in place.

Sincerely,

John Merrifield

Muncy, PA 17756

[Position]