

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

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: HC5406

U.S. Forest Service Alaska Roadless Rule Committee:

I reside in Northern California but every year I travel to the Tongass NF. In particular, I visit Prince of Wales Island and fish the Harris River, as well as smaller rivers on the island.

Take it from me: don't screw things up as we have done in California. Keep the area roadless. Roads cause long lasting if not permanent damage by way of sedimentation. Many of the rivers and streams in the area are small and not capable of handling increased sediment loads.

This area of the TNF is a magical place and should be kept that way. A temperate rain forest with rivers teeming with salmon during their spawning migrations is not at all common. That it is undeniably unique is a compelling reason to leave it alone.

I admittedly can't tell you anything about the economics of logging but I can tell you that I spend several thousand dollars to visit the area annually.

Sincerely, Joel Baiocchi

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,

Joel Baiocchi

Dutch Flat, CA 95714

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