

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

First name: Steven

Last name: Hager

Organization:

Title:

Comments: HC5285

U.S. Forest Service Alaska Roadless Rule Committee:

My family including our two grandchildren ages 3 and 5 experienced the grandeur and beauty of the Tongass and Chugach Forests in July, 2019. Our experience was made more memorable when we saw a mother black bear and her two cubs. We are devastated to learn that these magnificent wilderness areas are again threatened by changes to the Roadless Rule.

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,

Steven Hager

Mission Viejo, CA 92692

[Position]