

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

First name: Richard

Last name: Rushton

Organization:

Title:

Comments: HC5394

U.S. Forest Service Alaska Roadless Rule Committee:

The Alaska Roadless Rule must be left in place and not altered to allow for expensive and damaging road building that would be put in place to allow expanded logging of forest lands. Salmon runs provide a valuable source of quality protein and, along with steelhead, support a valuable recreational fishery that provides jobs and income for Alaskans. There are few areas left in the world, let alone our United States, with this critically important habitat. Salmon and steelhead runs are in serious decline in the Lower 48, so the Alaskan habitat increased in importance with each passing day. It is short sighted and wrong headed to consider these changes proposed to the Roadless Rule. Please act accordingly, and leave the Roadless Rule intact. Thank you, Richard Rushton, D.V.M.

Along with millions of other Americans who value clean water, old growth forest habitat and the valuable fisheries resources they support, I am writing in support of the 'no action' alternative to leave the Roadless Rule unchanged in Alaska.

We are alarmed that changes to the rule would obviously 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.

These critically important fisheries and wild forests are critical to the economy of Alaska. To grow these sectors of our economy, we need intact habitat. We strongly urge you to leave the Alaska Roadless Rule in place as is!

Sincerely,

Richard Rushton

Bend, OR 97703

[Position]