

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

First name: Richard

Last name: Melvoin

Organization:

Title:

Comments: HC5401

U.S. Forest Service Alaska Roadless Rule Committee:

As someone who has grown up enjoying our nation's extraordinary wilderness, I have also learned that we cannot take that for granted. In this regard, I urge support of maintaining the current Roadless Rule for Alaska. Having just read a new book about the importance of maintaining the habitat (Stronghold, by Tucker Malarkey), and particularly the critical role that forests play, I urge you not to risk the loss of this habitat, for it could unwittingly destroy the salmon population. This is not simply some fisherman's lament about losing places to play; it is far more serious than that, for salmon are critical the entire region. To be specific, 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.

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,

Richard Melvoin

Cambridge, MA 02138

[Position]