

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

First name: Keith

Last name: Wadley

Organization:

Title:

Comments: HC5419

U.S. Forest Service Alaska Roadless Rule Committee:

I have lived in Southeast Alaska for the past 22 years having moved here shortly after the pulp mill closed in Ketchikan. Both of my children worked as commercial fisherman during their college years. I am not anti-logging. I believe that the plan to transition to harvesting second growth timber on the existing network of roads makes the most sense. Prince of Wales Island, for example, has an existing 2,000 mile road system and the second growth timber is approaching harvest size. The Forest Service should be working to develop markets for this timber. It seems to me that assisting Viking Lumber with a zero interest loan to re-tool to process second growth would, in the long-run, make the most economic sense for all involved.

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,

Keith Wadley

Ketchikan, AK 99901

[Position]

[Position]