

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 9/3/2018 9:44:44 AM

First name: Matthew

Last name: Quattlebaum

Organization:

Title:

Official Representative/Member Indicator:

Address1: 521 Livebark Ln

Address2:

City: Lexington

State:

Province/Region: SC

Zip/Postal Code: 29073

Country: United States

Email: matt122483@yahoo.com

Phone: 8035281182

Comments:

This letter is in regards to the USDA attempting to undermine the Roadless Rule currently in place, with an Alaska 'State Specific' rule, essentially aimed at limiting regulations and protections in pristine forest regions for the sake of the Timber Industry. I would like to express my discontent with the adoption of such 'Alaska only' state specific regulation.

First off, most industry in Alaska is centered around tourism of the natural beauty and unspoiled nature of the state, as well as fishing and recreation. Allowing roads to be constructed, and subsequent logging activities would threaten water quality and fish population, as well as tourism in general. Much of this area is old-growth in the Tongass and Chugach forests and houses a plethora of wildlife and natural beauty, far beyond the value of a dollar. Alaska, and the USDA, is better than this. This area deserves protection from industries that can only see short term profits. Not to mention, the establishment of roads will lead to upkeep on these roads and likely higher taxes for citizens. Also, these areas are sacred to Natives and should be left as such, not desecrated by greed. These forests, left intact, allow healthy fish and game populations, as well as the inspiration that leads people to come and visit them. Please consider my thoughts when making your decision on this issue as our natural resources are precious, especially old-growth 'resources'.

Thank you for the time and consideration. I would encourage the person, or persons, reading this comment, along with those in decision-making positions, to truly examine their hearts and conscience before settling on important matters like this one.