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First name: Dan

Last name: Sarles

Organization:

Title:

Official Representative/Member Indicator:

Address1: 10 Bowdoin St

Address2: Unit 416

City: Boston

State: MA

Province/Region:

Zip/Postal Code: 02114

Country: United States

Email: dgsarles@hotmail.com

Phone: 6177597511

Comments:

I want the new Alaska Roadless Rule to protect all inventoried roadless areas on the Tongass currently protected under the 2001 Roadless Rule, including roaded roadless areas.

The new Alaska Roadless Rule should include all T77 watersheds and TNC/Audubon ecological priority areas including any areas that are currently not in inventoried roadless areas. These areas should be protected from old growth harvest and roadbuilding.

Instead of supporting more old growth timber harvest, the Forest Service should focus their resources on active watershed restoration activities, workforce development programs, maintaining the current road system, processing more outfitter/guide permits, and transitioning the Tongass to an economy based on sustainable young growth timber harvest.

Opening up the Tongass to old growth logging is a shortsighted decision catering to those who look fondly upon ecologically devastating practices of the past. The benefits to doing so are few, if any, and only serve a small group of people with a narrow political agenda, while the drawbacks are extensive and long-lasting.