

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/15/2018 12:44:16 PM

First name: Peter

Last name: Melde

Organization:

Title:

Official Representative/Member Indicator:

Address1: 4034 E 84th Ave

Address2:

City: Anchorage

State: AK

Province/Region:

Zip/Postal Code: 99507

Country: United States

Email: petemelde@hotmail.com

Phone:

Comments:

I fully support the continued preservation of the Tongass National Forest Roadless Areas and especially the Tongass 77 watershed areas. Citizens of Alaska and the US have repeatedly voiced their support for the continuation of the Roadless Areas in Alaska's Tongass NF and in National Forest lands throughout the country. Too much of our National Forest lands are already being raped for industrial timber production. These PUBLIC lands are used by Americans and international visitors for recreation for many uses -uses that are not compatible with industrial timber production. We want and need areas of the National Forest which are not subject to industrial timber production because of the expanded opportunities available within National Forests that are not acceptable used in a National Park setting. These intact forests are also responsible in Alaska's Tongass, for the annual production of millions of salmon. The loss of Roadless protection will imperil this valuable resource which provides countless sustainable jobs in recreational and commercial fishing, tourism, and for subsistence activities. These uses can continue uninterrupted as long as these forest areas remain intact. Trading this incredibly valuable area over to private interests to be destroyed by the widespread removal of old-growth forest to subsidize a failing timber industry is not just obscene, but stupid. Leave the Tongass Roadless Rule unchanged, so we can continue to enjoy the benefits this intact ecosystem provides.