

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/15/2018 6:26:55 PM

First name: Chuck

Last name: Caldwell

Organization:

Title:

Official Representative/Member Indicator:

Address1: 8507 Nugget Place

Address2:

City: Juneau

State: AK

Province/Region:

Zip/Postal Code: 99803

Country: United States

Email: ceis@gci.net

Phone: 9077890341

Comments:

This comment regards the Tongass Roadless Rule. I oppose removing, or significantly modifying, the roadless rule within the Tongass National Forest. The long-term impact of increasing road building in Southeast Alaska could actually reduce overall employment in the region.

\* Historically, most of the road building in Southeast Alaska was to provide access for logging. An information request to the Alaska Department of Labor indicated that annual average employment for Southeast Alaska in 2017 was only 133 for the logging industry. Wood products manufacturing employment was only about half as high as logging employment at 69. In contrast, the US employment in wood products manufacturing was eight times as high as logging employment in the same year.

This indicates that there was little employment per tree harvested in Southeast Alaska, compared to other areas in the nation.

\* Building roads in areas that are currently roadless adversely affects fish and wildlife habitats. Health of fish habitats is critical to maintain salmon harvest. Maintaining the habitat for salmon benefits employment associated with:

- ? commercial fishing
- ? fish processing
- ? sport fishing and those businesses that depend upon it, such as
  - ? guides
  - ? stores that sell boats and fishing tackle
  - ? hotels
  - ? transportation

\* Employment related to tourism has grown in Southeast Alaska for decades. It accelerated even more after the Panama Canal was widened. Now panamax tour ships carry far more passengers. The number of tour ship passengers arriving in Juneau has increased about six-fold in the past 40 years, and it expected to double again in the next decade.

Many tourists come to Alaska to enjoy seeing wildlife and the beauty of undeveloped scenery. That attraction would be diminished by development of roadless areas.