

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM

First name: Ruth

Last name: Underhill

Organization:

Title:

Comments:

HC6293

Dear Alaska Roadless Rule Planning Committee,

I live and work on the lands and waters of Alaska [text underlined for emphasis] [drawing of a heart]. From hunting and fishing, to hiking and camping, to our tourism and commercial fishing-based economies, Alaskans rely on the intact habitat that the roadless areas that the Tongass National Forest and the Chugach NF contain. That is why *I am writing to support the *No-Action* Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule* [text underlined for emphasis] [text circled for emphasis].

The Tongass contains some of the 8largest intact old-growth [drawing of a heart]* temperate *rainforest* *in the world* and its *value* in providing !!! *clean water* for *fish* and *wildlife habitat* is *essential* to the economic and ecological health of Southeast Alaska [text underlined twice for emphasis] [text underlined for emphasis] [text circled for emphasis] [text underlined twice for emphasis] [text underlined twice for emphasis] [text circled twice for emphasis]. I strongly oppose any efforts to weaken protections for Roadless areas in the Tongass National Forest and the Chugach National Forest.

The Forest Service needs to continue phasing out old-growth clearcutting. Please prioritize conservation of the T77 and TNC consecration priority areas in any new Alaska Roadless Rule. The Forest Service should focus on restoring degraded watersheds and fish streams and carbon sequestration.

Please [text underlined twice for emphasis]protect our rainforest ! [Signature]

[Position]