

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

First name: Don

Last name: Muller

Organization:

Title:

Comments:

HC3053

December 1, 2019

Re: Comments on Roadless Rule

Dear Supervisor Heithecker:

I am submitting these comments on behalf of the Prince of Wales Flying Squirrel *(Glaucomys sabrinus griseifrons)* *[Text italicized]*, a subspecies of the Northern Flying Squirrel. The Prince of Wales Flying Squirrel is endemic to Prince of Wales Island and a few surrounding islands. This squirrel is considered to be a keystone species, an indicator species, or a sentinel species of the health of island old-growth forests. More industrial old-growth logging- the kind that will take place AGAIN if Alaska is exempt from the Roadless Rule - will threaten the survival of this squirrel. In addition, other species of plants and animals will be threatened, not to mention the many, many other values of an **unlogged** *[Text italicized for emphasis]* Tongass National Forest.

We all know that Governor Dunleavy wants the Tongass to be exempted from the Roadless Rule. We all know that the three members of the Alaska delegation want the Tongass to be exempted. And we all know that Trump has told your boss, Secretary of Agriculture, Sonny Purdue, that he wants an exemption. Do you expect that members of the public who are commenting on these proposed changes, that is, the millions of people who have fought this battle for years, do you expect us to believe that the decision is not already made? Do those of you actually managing the Tongass on the ground, do you even have the AUTHORITY to let the Tongass remain unexempted from the Roadless Rule, and oppose the decisions made by those above you? Even if you wanted to- WOULD you make that decision in spite of all of the authorities and bosses above you telling you to exempt it? Do you see why we members of the public think it's already a done deal? These are not rhetorical questions- I would really like answers!

In summary: Please select the "no-action" alternative on the Alaska -specific Roadless Rule and protect all inventoried roadless areas on the Tongass National Forest under the 2001 National Roadless Rule, that is, do NOT exempt the Tongass National Forest from the Roadless Rule.

I have lived in Sitka since 1974. I am a retired bookseller.

Thank you

[Signature]

Don Muller

[Position]