

Southeast Alaska Conservation Council ROADLESS RULE TOOLKIT

Summer, 2019

How You Can Help Keep The Tongass Roadless & Wild!



The State of Alaska is trying to exempt the Tongass National Forest from the 2001 National Roadless Rule with an Alaska-Specific Roadless Rule. Such a rule would mean more logging roads and old-growth clearcut logging on the Tongass. Together, let's urge USDA Secretary Sonny Perdue to select NO ACTION and keep the 2001 National Roadless Rule on the Tongass!

Quick Facts

143,900

public scoping comments
submitted to the USFS in
2018, the majority of
which opposed changing
the Rule

\$24 million

annual taxpayer subsidy
for Alaska's timber
industry

48

projects approved in
roadless areas since
2009 for hydro-
development, mining
exploration, and
community access

10-12%

of the country's stored
carbon in National
Forests is stored in the
Tongass

\$160k-500k

roughly the cost per
mile of new road
construction on the
Tongass

5,000

miles of existing logging
roads on the Tongass

\$68 million

is the current maintenance
backlog on existing
Tongass logging roads

THE ROADLESS RULE

WHY WE SHOULD PROTECT THE TONGASS

THE STATE OF ALASKA IS TRYING TO EXEMPT
THE TONGASS NATIONAL FOREST FROM THE
2001 NATIONAL ROADLESS RULE WITH AN
ALASKA-SPECIFIC RULE. THIS PUTS THE
TONGASS AT RISK OF MORE LOGGING ROADS
AND OLD-GROWTH CLEARCUT LOGGING.

What To Know About The Tongass National Forest

The Tongass National Forest is almost 17 million acres, with roughly 9.2 million acres protected under the National Roadless Rule.



The tourism and fishing industries provide 25% of jobs in Southeast Alaska, while logging provides less than 1%. Logging compromises the long-term economic and environmental health of Southeast Alaska.



The Tongass produces 79% of the commercial salmon harvested from Southeast Alaska, about 49 million salmon/year. Roads jeopardize salmon spawning habitat.



Only 1/3 of the Tongass contains commercial forest land, but most of it is considered low value and virtually never logged. The prime acres have already been clearcut since 1954.



The Tongass is the largest remaining intact portion of the Pacific temperate rainforest ecoregion of North America.

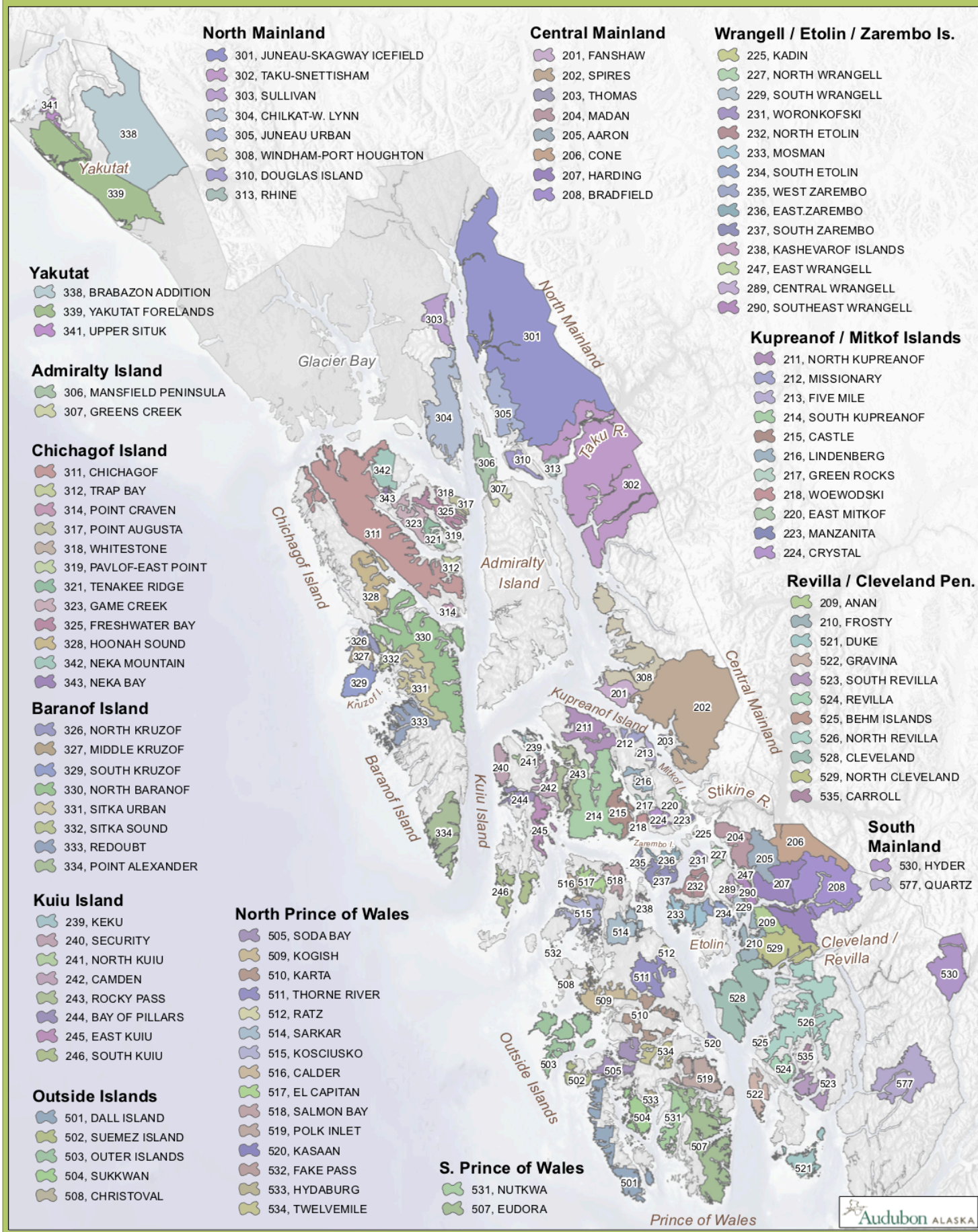
What can you do to help?

Text "Roadless" to 555-888

or visit: [SEACC.org/roadless_rule_toolkit](https://seacc.org/roadless_rule_toolkit)



ROADLESS AREAS ON THE TONGASS NATIONAL FOREST



Schedule

[GO Here!](#)

How To Write A Public Comment

What is a public comment?

An official public comment is the opportunity for individuals and organizations to submit a statement on a proposed resource management action, in this case the proposed Alaska-specific Roadless Rule. Each comment helps inform the agency and influence the final decision.

Tips and Tricks:

- Start off by establishing why your input is valuable; this could be because you are a concerned Southeast Alaskan or because you have useful knowledge and experience to share. Make it personal.
- Clearly outline your points at the beginning of your comment and summarize at the end. Don't leave your statement vague, connect your comment to your suggested alternative or solution. (Hint. "I support the **NO ACTION alternative** because it keeps the current National Roadless Rule protections on the Tongass").
- Whenever possible use examples/evidence to back up your claims and include sources. Reference specific Tongass roadless areas that you care about or use; this makes what you have to say more personal. Check out the map on page 3. Find more information on the Rule here: <http://bit.ly/RoadlessFacts>
- Your comment will be stronger if you end with a direct request. Clearly state you want Secretary Perdue to **keep the National Roadless Rule on the Tongass.**
- Remember: the U.S. Forest Service will read your comments and take them into consideration when deciding what happens to the Tongass Forest. Your comment makes a difference.
- To learn more about how to submit your comment to the United States Forest Service and to see an example of what your comment might look like, go here: bit.ly/SEACC_Toolkit

How To Comment at a Public Meeting

How to deliver public comments/testimony in person:

- There will be an opportunity to speak at a public meeting with the U.S. Forest Service. If able, we encourage you to read your public comment (from page 6) out loud at one of these meetings.
- State your name, where you live (include your address), and what your profession is.
- Make it personal. Explain why you care and how the proposal could affect you and your livelihood. Consider describing how you use specific roadless areas instead of broadly stating “the Tongass”.
- Clearly state that you do not support the Alaska-specific Roadless Rule. Make your ask obvious to the listener -- demand that Secretary Perdue selects the **NO ACTION** alternative to keep the National Roadless Rule on the Tongass.
- Bring a copy of your written public comment (see page 6) to help keep you on track when speaking.
- Do not forget to also submit a written comment (see page 6) along with delivering your public comment in person.

P.S. Don't want to speak? Show up anyway to show you care!

How To Give A Public Comment Via Voicemail

Who to call, what to say:

- Call: **(203) 903-4495**. This allows **SEACC** save your comment.
- After you hear the beep, start off your message by giving your full name and where in Alaska you live (including your zip code).
- Ask Secretary Perdue to select the **NO ACTION** alternative.

Say something like, “I am calling to urge Secretary Perdue to select the **NO ACTION** alternative and keep the National Roadless Rule on the Tongass.

This is important to me because I use [*name roadless area*] for [*recreation, hunting, fishing, tourism, lifestyle, etc*].”

- End your voicemail by thanking the U.S. Forest Service for taking the time to listen to your comment. Hang up. That's it!
- SEACC will download your voicemail and submit it to the U.S. Forest Service as an additional public comment.

How To Call Secretary Perdue's Office

How to contact Secretary Perdue's office directly:

- Go to our website to access SEACC's call tool: bit.ly/SEACC_Toolkit
- Click "**Click Here to Make a Call**".
- Enter your information into the necessary boxes and then click "**Make The Call**". Once you click this button you will be taken to a new page with a **statement template** and some **quick facts** about the Roadless Rule.
- Have your phone ready; the system will call you on your phone and will connect you to Secretary Perdue's Office directly. Consider reading the **statement template** (on the new web page) out loud as your comment when the office answers.
- Most likely someone from the office, other than Secretary Perdue, will answer your phone call. They will take note of what you say and pass it along to Secretary Perdue. If they don't answer, leave a message.
- Introduce yourself with your name and where you live (including your zip code), and state that you are calling to object to the proposed Alaska-specific Roadless Rule.
- Say a clear line asking Secretary Perdue to select **NO ACTION** and keep the National Roadless Rule on the Tongass.

The statement template is:

"Hi, my name is _____, I live in _____, and I am calling today about the Alaska-specific Roadless Rule. I am concerned because the Tongass Forest is very important to me [for recreation, hunting, fishing, tourism, etc.; insert any personal reasons for wanting to protect the Tongass]. The Tongass National Forest is a special place because [insert one of the quick facts on the call tool web page or page 2 of this toolkit]."

- Thank the person who answered for taking the time to listen and to pass your thoughts along to Secretary Perdue. Hang up.
- Don't want to use our call tool? Call the office directly at: **202-720-3631**

How To Write A Letter to the Editor

Why write a letter to the editor?

- You feel strongly about a recently published article related to the Tongass National Forest and/or the Roadless Rule and want to contribute your unique perspective/voice.
- You have expertise or insider information that others need to know about, or you want to share information mainstream media has missed. Find more information on the Rule here:
<http://bit.ly/RoadlessFacts>
- To demand specific action on an issue (select **NO ACTION** and keep the National Roadless Rule on the Tongass!) or encourage others to get involved in the process (more public comments!).
- To show widespread support for the National Roadless Rule.

How to write one:

- Keep your letter short and to the point. Check to see if the newspaper you are submitting to has a word limit, as most require LTEs to be less than 200 words.
- Submit letters to weekly community newspapers in addition to larger, more well known newspapers (we will submit it for you if you go here: bit.ly/SEACC_Toolkit)
- Be sure to include your contact information for verification purposes.
- Clearly state a call to action in the conclusion (urge others to submit public comments demanding Secretary Perdue select **NO ACTION** and keep the National Roadless Rule on the Tongass!).
- Check out the example LTE on page 9 to get a sense of the flow. Draft your letter as if speaking directly to the “editor”, so that your writing is easy to read and personable.
- Want SEACC to submit your LTE for you? Use SEACC’s simple digital LTE writing tool here: bit.ly/SEACC_Toolkit
- OR Go to this link to find a list of Alaskan Newspapers to submit your LTE yourself: <http://bit.ly/SubmitYourLTE>

LTE Example

Editor's Name

Newspaper Name

Newspaper's Address

Date

Dear Editor,

As many of you reading this may relate to, the Tongass National Forest has always been my home. It is an essential part of growing up in Southeast Alaska, as it not only provides stunning aesthetics and comfort, but it is the beating heart of the Southeast.

The Tongass is considered a significant carbon storage reserve and has an impact on global climate change. Also, the Tongass is home to all five species of Pacific salmon and has the largest concentration of grizzly bears and eagles in the U.S. By allowing more old-growth clearcut logging on the Tongass we are jeopardizing the environment of Southeast Alaska and the well being of the planet. The long term impacts of more roads and old-growth clearcut logging on the Tongass would be devastating. I am deeply motivated by the dedication Southeast Alaskans feel towards protecting the Tongass, and we owe it to the climate, our Southeast wilderness, and the wildlife that also call the Tongass home to do all that we can to keep the Tongass roadless.

For these reasons and many more, I urge Secretary Perdue to select the NO ACTION alternative keeping the 2001 National Roadless Rule on the Tongass.

Sincerely,

Deanna Hobbs

2207 Jordan Ave, Juneau, Alaska 99801

Southeast Alaska Conservation Council, Juneau Resident

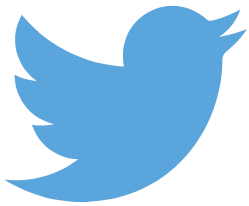
Deanna@seacc.org

907-586-6942

THANK YOU!

You are a crucial part of protecting the Tongass Forest. Together by calling, commenting, and speaking up we will show that Alaskans stand together in support of the 2001 National Roadless Rule on the Tongass!

Please help us spread the word by posting on social media, contacting your friends and family, and encouraging others to stand up for the Tongass Forest.



Sample Tweet:

The Tongass is under attack! I am standing up to protect it, are you? Click here for more information: (Toolkit Link)
#SaveRoadless

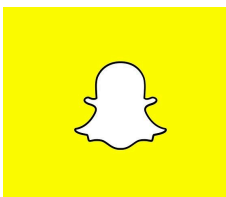


Sample Post:

Have you heard about the danger our Tongass Forest is in? If we don't speak out immediately, we risk the continuation of logging roads being built and clearcut logging on the Tongass. Please, stand up for our Tongass! Click here for more information
bit.ly/SEACC_Toolkit



Go to this link to **download graphics** for Instagram posts and Snapchat stories: http://bit.ly/Post_A_Picture



Want to be a **Roadless Rule Social Media Ambassador?**

You get a **free SEACC sticker** when you sign up!

Click here to learn more: http://bit.ly/Roadless_Ambassador