



ALASKA ROADLESS RULE



Public engagement opportunity in Juneau, Alaska



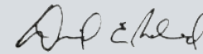
As we move forward with developing an Alaska Roadless Rule, two themes emerge from Alaskans about the Tongass National Forest.

Whether they support or oppose the current rule, I hear that 1) the forest is unique and requires unique regulation, 2) the forest offers an abundance of opportunities.

Imagine that we can do what is best for Alaska in terms of how we influence the ecological and economic health of the forest; are mindful of the demand for restoration and recreation; grow more jobs through timber, tourism, commercial fishing, and mining; and increase access for transportation and utility infrastructure. Now imagine we can do all this while we further protect the environment, fish and wildlife habitats, and subsistence activities.

The roadless rulemaking process provides an opportunity for everyone to be a part of this historic effort. I invite you to look for opportunities on the timeline offered in this bulletin and to participate during comment periods when announced; ask us to present a Roadless Rulemaking Overview for your organization or community; attend public meetings; or simply follow the process through this bulletin and the information resources that are available.

By working together—citizens, tribal governments, state and municipal governments, Alaska Native corporations, and other constituency groups—we can accomplish our combined goal to support the rural communities of Alaska, while conserving lands that are important to all Americans and to visitors from other countries.



David E. Schmid, Regional Forester

MARCH/APRIL 2019

This publication provides information to the public about the current status of the Alaska Roadless Rulemaking process.

Subscribe to the bulletin here:
[Alaska Roadless Rule Bulletin](#)

WHAT'S NEW

Written Public Comment Summary

The [Written Public Comment Summary](#) released in February contains an overview of perspectives received during the open comment period. However, the report does not contain an exhaustive list of all comments submitted. The summary and original letters may be found online at: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=54511>. The overall objective of the summary is to aggregate and summarize public comments themes, identify input for developing the draft environmental impact statement, and identify other public concerns relevant to the Alaska Roadless Rulemaking. Following a public comment period between Aug. 20-Oct. 15, 2018, just over 144,000 were logged. This total quantity includes form letters (32,500), petitions (110,000 signatures), and unique submissions (1,400). Commenters

provided support for and opposition to the three general alternatives for the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule identified in the Notice of Intent. The majority of comments received opposed changing the 2001 Roadless Rule.

Did You Know?

As part of the rulemaking process, the USDA Forest Service Alaska Region is working closely with cooperating agencies, which consists of the State of Alaska and six tribes. Memorandums of understanding were signed with each cooperating agency, establishing coordination and communication in these processes.

Alaska Roadless Rule



Request A Speaker

The Forest Service’s Alaska Region has speakers available to provide an overview on the Alaska Roadless Rulemaking process and answer your questions. Contact Dru Fenster at d Fenster@fs.fed.us, 907-209-2094, or akroadlessrule@fs.fed.us to request a speaker.



Information Resources

○ Websites:

- [Alaska Region Roadless](#)
- [Project Website](#)
- [Roadless Area Conservation](#)
- [Other FAQs](#)

○ Phone #s:

- Request a speaker 907-209-2094
- Project coordinator 907-586-9344

○ Email:

- akroadlessrule@fs.fed.us
- rdale@fs.fed.us (project coordinator)
- nicolergrewe@fs.fed.us (public engagement)
- d Fenster@fs.fed.us (speakers & media)



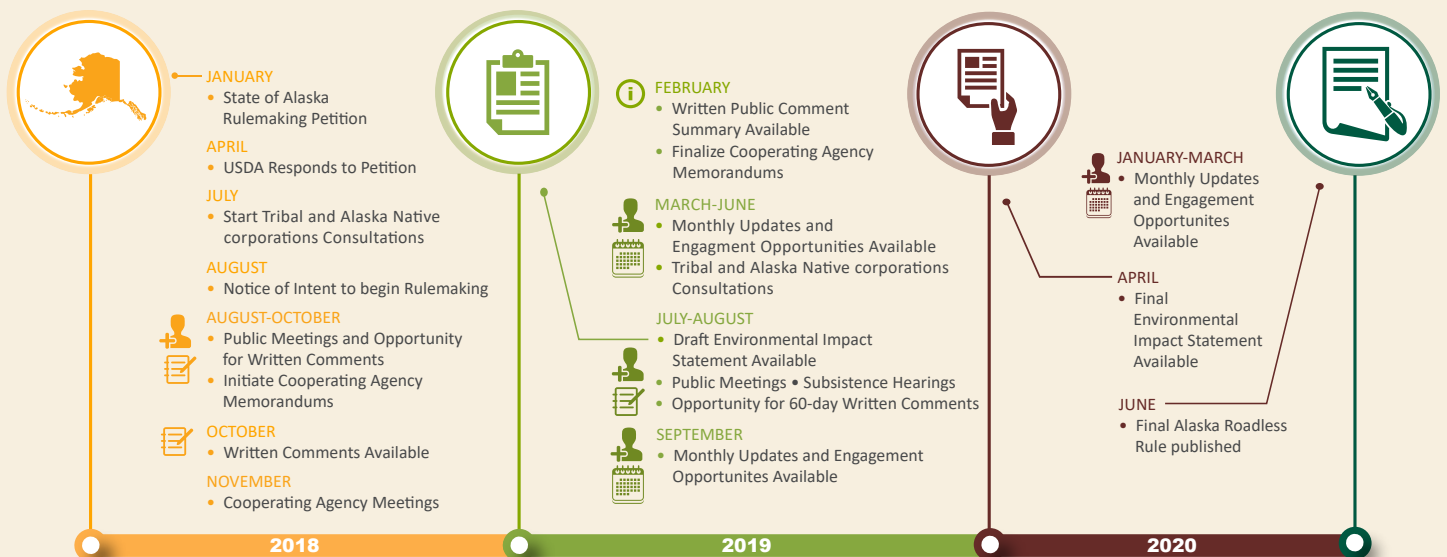
Frequently Asked Questions



Why is the USDA Forest Service initiating a rulemaking process now to establish an Alaska Roadless Rule for the Tongass National Forest? At the direction of USDA Secretary Sonny Perdue, the Forest Service is responding to the State of Alaska’s petition for a full exemption of the Tongass National Forest from the 2001 Roadless Rule, which covers nearly all national forests and grasslands. The decision to pursue a state-specific rule seeks to address concerns raised over roadless area management and access. A state-specific roadless rule would determine which currently designated roadless areas in the Tongass National Forest require a unique management designation that could further Alaska’s economic development or meet other needs while maintaining roadless areas and characteristics for future generations.

Will a new Alaska Roadless rule automatically authorize projects that would affect wildlife, subsistence resources or the building of roads? The Alaska Roadless Rule would not automatically authorize any specific projects. Any projects would still need to comply with the Tongass Land Management Plan and its impacts analyzed through a separate process under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The Alaska Roadless Rule would determine which currently designated roadless areas would have a different management designation that may allow for activity that is currently prohibited under the 2001 National Roadless Rule.

Alaska Roadless Rulemaking Timeline



Current timeline; subject to change