



Southeast Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council meeting held on March 19, 2019, in Wrangell, AK.



ALASKA ROADLESS RULE



As Alaska’s Regional Forester, I am listening to the voices of Alaskans through public participation, collaboration, and ensuring the availability of timely

information as we work through the steps of the rulemaking process. With publication of regular project updates in bulletins, speaking engagements across the region with tribes, stakeholder groups, the Southeast Alaska Subsistence Resource Advisory Council, and regular cooperating agency meetings, I continue to engage with the state and the nation’s citizens who value Alaska’s extraordinary national forests. I also recognize the forests provide residents with important resources, jobs, culture, and connection.

To help keep you informed, we are regularly updating the project website with

frequently asked questions, project timeline, and maps, and publishing a bi-monthly Alaska Roadless Rule Bulletin. Dates for the upcoming public comment period and schedule of community meetings following the publication of the proposed rule and the draft environmental impact statement will be posted as soon as they are available. Upon request, we will also provide groups with a presentation about the project and the latest updates. I welcome your participation, questions, and comments. I commit to openness and transparency in our work.

For the latest information, I invite you to sign up to receive regular project updates: https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/USDAFS/subscriber/new?topic_id=NEPA_54511_S.

David E. Schmid, Regional Forester

MAY/JUNE 2019

This bulletin provides information to the public about the current status of the Alaska Roadless Rulemaking project. Subscribe to the bulletin here:

[Alaska Roadless Rule Bulletin](#)

WHAT’S NEW

How do public comments affect the final rule?

The notice-and-comment process enables anyone to submit a comment on any part of the proposed rule. This process is not like a ballot initiative or an up-or-down vote in a legislature. Public comments are most useful when they offer ideas, opportunities or concerns followed by a reason based on experience, facts, or science. Public comments are used to assist the agency in accurately disclosing the cultural and environmental effects of the proposed rule and alternatives.

Public comments received during the upcoming 60-day public comment period will be integrated into the project record and responded to in the final environmental impact statement. Comments received outside of the 60-day public comment period will

be accepted, but will not be formally responded to within the final environmental impact statement.

At the end of the rulemaking process, the agency must base its reasoning and conclusions on the rulemaking record, consisting of the comments, scientific data, expert opinions, and facts accumulated during the pre-rule and proposed rulemaking stages.

Instructions for providing comments during the official comment period can be found here: <https://cara.ecosystem-management.org/Public/CommentInput?Project=54511>

If you are interested in reading comments received during the initial scoping period, you can view them here: <https://cara.ecosystem-management.org/Public/ReadingRoom?Project=54511>

To read a summary of the public comments received during the initial scoping period, visit: https://www.fs.usda.gov/nfs/11558/www/nepa/109834_FSPLT3_4631713.pdf

For a map of existing inventoried roadless areas, visit: https://www.fs.usda.gov/nfs/11558/www/nepa/109834_FSPLT3_4470897.pdf

For more info on rulemaking visit, https://www.federalregister.gov/uploads/2011/01/the_rulemaking_process.pdf



Alaska Roadless Rule



Request A Speaker

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



Chad VanOrmer, Director, Ecosystems Planning and Budget for the Forest Service Alaska Region, speaks with the public at a recent engagement session in Juneau.

Did You Know?

The final decision about the Alaska Roadless Rule will be made by the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture. The Alaska Regional Forester has important input and influence and will ensure the Region is represented throughout the rulemaking process.



Information Resources

○ Websites:

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

○ Contacts:

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

○ Email:

- akroadlessrule@fs.fed.us
- robin.dale@usda.gov (project coordinator)
- nicole.r.grewe@usda.gov (public engagement)
- dru.fenster@usda.gov (speakers & media)



Frequently Asked Questions



When will a summary of proposed alternatives for the Alaska Roadless Rulemaking be made available, and will there be an opportunity to review them and provide comments?

The alternatives will be identified and discussed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS). The DEIS is expected to be published in mid-summer 2019, followed by a 60-day public comment period.

The Forest Service recognizes the importance of subsistence use of fish and wildlife by rural Alaskans. We will hold subsistence hearings during the public comment period in order to gather input on the Roadless Rule’s effect on subsistence resources.

Alaska Roadless Rulemaking Milestones



- State of Alaska Rulemaking Petition
- USDA Responds to Petition
- Start Tribal Consultations
- Notice of Intent to begin Rulemaking
- Public Meetings and Opportunity for Written Comments
- Initiate Cooperating Agency Memorandums
- Alaska’s Citizen Advisory Committee
- Written Comments Available
- Cooperating Agency Meetings



- Monthly Updates and Engagement Opportunities Available
- Written Public Comment Summary Available
- Finalize Cooperating Agency Memorandums
- Tribal and Alaska Native Corporations Consultations
- Draft Environmental Impact Statement Available
- Public Meetings • Subsistence Hearings
- Opportunity for 60-day Written Comments



- Monthly Updates and Engagement Opportunities Available
- Final Environmental Impact Statement Available
- Final Alaska Roadless Rule published



2018

2019

2020