

## **Rust, Stephani D -FS**

---

**From:** Grewe, Nicole R -FS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 3, 2019 12:30 PM  
**To:** Pence, Sitka - FS  
**Subject:** Angoon PPTX  
**Attachments:** AKRR - Angoon Cooperative Association (3.30.19).pptx; AKRR - Angoon Cooperative Association (3.30.19).pdf



United States Department of Agriculture

# Alaska Roadless Rulemaking



Forest Service

# 2001 Roadless Rule

- US Department of Agriculture issued a regulation to manage roadless areas nationally – the Roadless Area Conservation Rule (2001 Roadless Rule).
- Prohibits timber harvesting, road construction, and road reconstruction in inventoried roadless areas with limited exceptions.
- Inventoried Roadless Areas (IRAs) were established by the 2001 Roadless Rule.
- 58.5 million acres, nationwide, are inventoried roadless areas.
- Tongass National Forest (16.7 M Acres) comprises 80% of Southeast Alaska.
- Approximately 55% of the Tongass National Forest is inventoried roadless (9.2 M Acres, 110 IRAs)





# 2001 Roadless Rule – Alaska’s Journey

- State of Alaska challenged inclusion of Chugach and Tongass National Forests.
- 2003 – USDA exempted the Tongass National Forest.
- 2011 – Federal District Court vacated Tongass National Forest exemption.
- 2015 – Ninth Circuit decision upheld the Federal District Court ruling to vacate the Tongass National Forest exemption.
- Today – 2001 Roadless Rule in effect across Alaska’s national forests.
- Pending – State of Alaska lawsuit pending in District of Columbia Circuit Court of Appeals challenging the 2001 Roadless Rule’s application in Alaska.





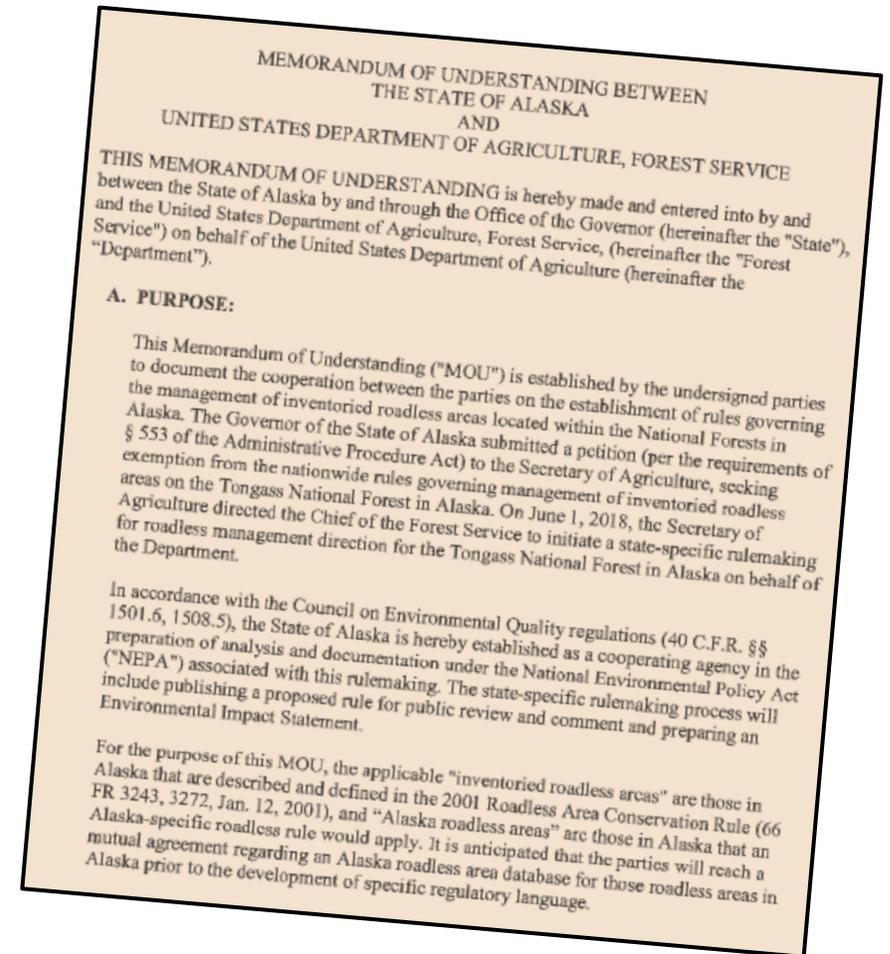
# Roadless Rulemaking

- This rulemaking process is about considering whether a state-specific approach to managing roadless areas is better than a one size fits all.
- A state-specific rule would replace the 2001 Roadless Area Conservation Rule to protect the social and ecological values and characteristics of inventoried roadless areas by prohibiting, with some exceptions, road construction, road reconstruction, and timber harvest on inventoried roadless areas on National Forest System lands nationwide.



# State-Federal Partnership

- Memorandum of Understanding signed establishing the State of Alaska as a cooperating agency (August 2018).
- State of Alaska will provide expertise and specific input regarding state interests.
- Secretary of US Department of Agriculture retains decision-making authority.





## Alaska Roadless Rulemaking, Cooperating Agencies



<b>Tribal Governments</b>
Angoon Community Association
Hoonah Indian Association
Hydaburg Cooperative Association
Organized Village of Kake
Organized Village of Kasaan
Central Council Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska
<b>Petitioner</b>
State of Alaska



# Next Steps

- Final revisions to DEIS currently underway. Next step is USDA clearance.
- Proposed Rule and Draft Environmental Impact Statement by Summer 2019 – Additional **comment period**.
- Final Environmental Impact Statement by Summer 2020.
- Secretary of Agriculture, or his designee, will make a decision on a final rule by Summer 2020.





United States Department of Agriculture

# Alaska Roadless Rulemaking



Forest Service

# 2001 Roadless Rule

- US Department of Agriculture issued a regulation to manage roadless areas nationally – the Roadless Area Conservation Rule (2001 Roadless Rule).
- Prohibits timber harvesting, road construction, and road reconstruction in inventoried roadless areas with limited exceptions.
- Inventoried Roadless Areas (IRAs) were established by the 2001 Roadless Rule.
- 58.5 million acres, nationwide, are inventoried roadless areas.
- Tongass National Forest (16.7 M Acres) comprises 80% of Southeast Alaska.
- Approximately 55% of the Tongass National Forest is inventoried roadless (9.2 M Acres, 110 IRAs)



# 2001 Roadless Rule – Alaska’s Journey

- State of Alaska challenged inclusion of Chugach and Tongass National Forests.
- 2003 – USDA exempted the Tongass National Forest.
- 2011 – Federal District Court vacated Tongass National Forest exemption.
- 2015 – Ninth Circuit decision upheld the Federal District Court ruling to vacate the Tongass National Forest exemption.
- Today – 2001 Roadless Rule in effect across Alaska’s national forests.
- Pending – State of Alaska lawsuit pending in District of Columbia Circuit Court of Appeals challenging the 2001 Roadless Rule’s application in Alaska.



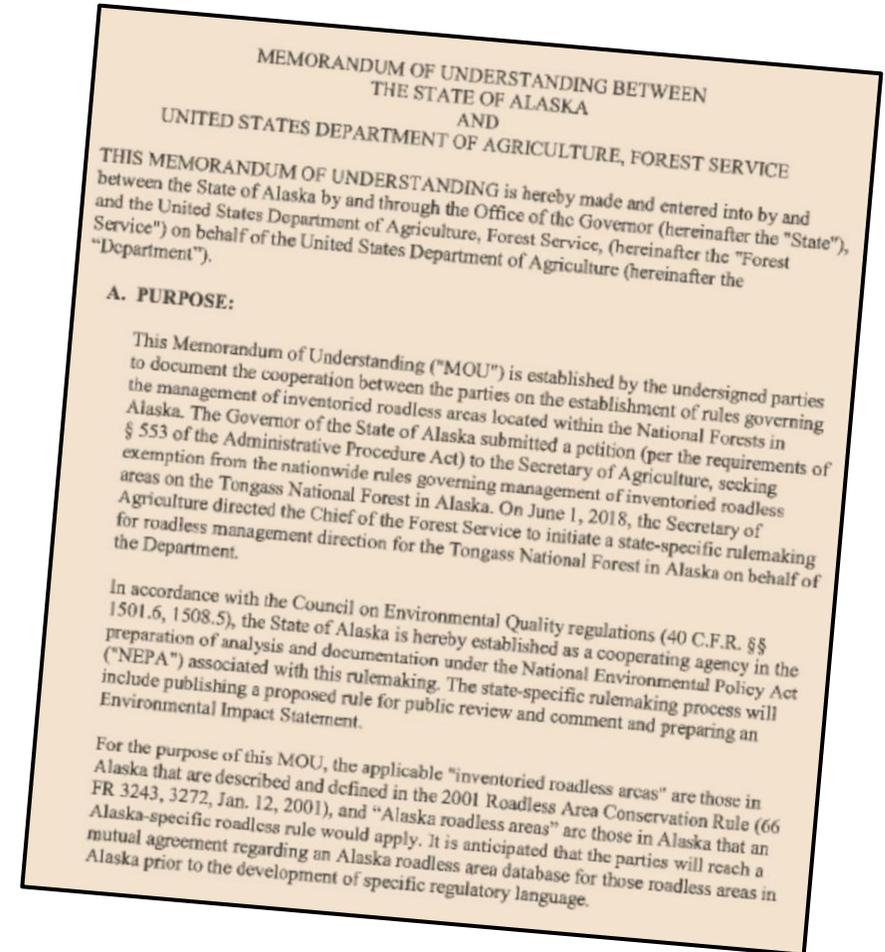
# Roadless Rulemaking

- This rulemaking process is about considering whether a state-specific approach to managing roadless areas is better than a one size fits all.
- A state-specific rule would replace the 2001 Roadless Area Conservation Rule to protect the social and ecological values and characteristics of inventoried roadless areas by prohibiting, with some exceptions, road construction, road reconstruction, and timber harvest on inventoried roadless areas on National Forest System lands nationwide.



# State-Federal Partnership

- Memorandum of Understanding signed establishing the State of Alaska as a cooperating agency (August 2018).
- State of Alaska will provide expertise and specific input regarding state interests.
- Secretary of US Department of Agriculture retains decision-making authority.





## Alaska Roadless Rulemaking, Cooperating Agencies



<b>Tribal Governments</b>
Angoon Community Association
Hoonah Indian Association
Hydaburg Cooperative Association
Organized Village of Kake
Organized Village of Kasaan
Central Council Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska
<b>Petitioner</b>
State of Alaska



# Next Steps

- Final revisions to DEIS currently underway. Next step is USDA clearance.
- Proposed Rule and Draft Environmental Impact Statement by Summer 2019 – Additional **comment period**.
- Final Environmental Impact Statement by Summer 2020.
- Secretary of Agriculture, or his designee, will make a decision on a final rule by Summer 2020.

