



WRANGELL COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION

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July 14, 2016

Earl Stewart, Forest Supervisor
648 Mission Street
Federal Building
Ketchikan, AK 99901-6591

Mr. Stewart,

This letter is written on behalf of the Wrangell Cooperative Association (WCA) Tribal Council in regards to the Wrangell Island Project.

The Wrangell Island Project was brought to the attention of the Tribal Council by a tribal member, and meetings have been held in the Wrangell Ranger District and WCA Tribal Office with Bob Dalrymple and members of his staff. Mr. Dalrymple has done an admirable job communicating with the WCA on all pertinent USFS issues, including presenting all five alternatives of the Wrangell Island Project. The Tribal Council spoke of no objections to any of the five alternatives. Below are their comments:

- The WCA Transportation program would appreciate the opportunity to not only add any new roads to their inventory, allowing for potential up-keep in the future, but to be approached before closing any roads, as funding may allow WCAT to fund maintenance of these roads, partially or fully, allowing for continued use by tribal members.
- The Tribe wishes to have access to roads after projects are complete and before any potential permanent closures. Byproduct from the Wrangell Island Project sale(s) could go a long ways to supply locals with firewood, traditional foods that were suddenly made more accessible, or materials for Native art, such as cedar bark for weaving.
- The WCA hopes that, when the time comes to advertise the sale, the USFS includes some smaller, truck-accessible sales, which would provide smaller, locally-owned mills an opportunity to bid.
- WCA also requests to be notified when the final comment period is approaching. As a federally recognized Tribe we appreciate a seat at the table, and have a genuine interest in how our traditional lands are being utilized.

The WCA's mission is to support the cultural, ceremonial and subsistence lifestyle for all Alaskans, and to promote the safe use and availability of a healthy environment for present and future generations. The Tribe believes, that if done safely and correctly, the Wrangell Island Project could really benefit the local economy and make areas of the island more accessible to all Wrangellites.

The USFS goes above and beyond to recognize tribal governments. The partnership between WCA and the Wrangell Ranger District is one that the Tribe truly values.

Thank you for your time,

Aaron Angerman, WCA Tribal Administrator