



ORGANIZED VILLAGE OF KASAAN

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RESOLUTION OVK-19-10-001

A Resolution of the Organized Village of Kasaan in support of the 'no-action alternative' as the as the preferred alternative in the Tongass National Forest Roadless Rulemaking process.

WHEREAS, the Organized Village of Kasaan is a federally recognized Tribe organized pursuant to the Indian Reorganization Act of June 18, 1934 (48 Stat. 984) and May 1, 1936 (49 Stat. 1250); and

WHEREAS, the Corporate Charter of the Organized Village of Kasaan (Ratified October 15, 1938) states in its Purpose and Existence, "In order to further the economic development of the Indians residing in the neighborhood of Kasaan, Alaska, by conferring upon the Organized Village of Kasaan corporate rights and powers; and to enable this Village and its members to undertake enterprises designed to secure for the members of the corporation an assured economic independence..." and

WHEREAS, the Organized Village of Kasaan (hereinafter "OVK") is governed by a Council of elected representatives composed of a President and six members who act in accordance with the powers granted to it by its Constitution and By-Laws (Ratified on October 15, 1938); and

WHEREAS, the OVK's traditional territory includes lands within and around the Tongass National Forest; and

WHEREAS, protection of the inherent right to harvest and use tribal traditional and customary foods and resources requires careful cultural stewardship and protection of tribal traditional environmental and national resources; and

WHEREAS, indigenous peoples' longstanding care of the ancestral lands now classified as "inventoried roadless areas" (IRA) and within the Tongass National forest has been in place for millennia and these lands not only provide indigenous people with food, they define who we are and where we come from; and

WHEREAS, inventoried roadless areas protect healthy watersheds which provide cold, clean water that has sustained Tribal ways of life since time immemorial and inventoried roadless areas contain many sacred sites integral to Tribal spiritual, religious, and traditional practices; and

WHEREAS, inventoried roadless areas conserve natural diversity and help ensure the continued protection of indigenous fish and wildlife habitat as it relates to our spiritual, social, nutritional, and ecological values; and

WHEREAS, given Southeast Alaska's cool, wet weather, the amount of stored carbon in our intact old-growth forest and soils, the Tongass National Forest represents one of the highest carbon stores in the world and the conservation of intact inventoried roadless areas on the Tongass is essential for slowing down climate change throughout the world; and

WHEREAS, according to the State of Alaska's own economic experts, Tongass timber is uncompetitive because of permanent and fundamental changes in global timber markets, high labor costs, distance from markets, and less expensive substitutes and the Tongass timber industry represents less than one percent of today's jobs and earnings in Southeast Alaska; and

WHEREAS, at hearings held across Southeast Alaska in 2000 on the proposed roadless rule, nearly 60 percent of the Southeast Alaskans who spoke at the hearings supported including the Tongass National Forest in the final roadless rule, and has only grown to upward of 80 percent to date; and


WHEREAS, any rule that weakens or eliminates Roadless Rule protections within Tribal traditional territory of the Tongass National Forest will substantially affect OVK's and the rest of the Southeast Tribes' inherent Tribal rights to traditional and customary uses of the land.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the OVK Tribal Council strongly supports lasting protection for inventoried roadless areas within the Tongass National Forest as provided in the 2001 Roadless Rule; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Organized Village of Kasaan Tribal Council requests that the Secretary of Agriculture to select the 'no-action alternative' as the preferred alternative in the Tongass National Forest, Alaska – Roadless Rulemaking process.

CERTIFICATION

APPROVED, PASSED AND ADOPTED by a duly constituted quorum of the OVK Tribal Council on this 17th day of October 2019; by a Roll Call Vote: Marina Anderson, yes; Michael Chilton, yes; Della Coburn, yes; Glenn Hamar, yes; and Paula Peterson, absent; Dorothy Smith, yes.



Ronald Leighton – President



Paula Peterson – Acting Council Secretary

ATTESTED: