



SITKA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION

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December 17th, 2019

USDA Forest Service
Ecosystem Planning and Budgeting Staff
Attn: Alaska Roadless Rule
P.O. Box 21628
Juneau, AK 99802

Alaska Roadless Rulemaking #54511

Comments from Sitka Economic Development Association supporting a full Tongass National Forest exemption from the 2001 Roadless Area Conservation Rule.

Dear USDA Forest Service Rule Makers,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed exemption of the Tongass National Forest from the 2001 Roadless Area Conservation Rule. Sitka Economic Development Association (SEDA) is a non-profit organization with a mission to foster a business climate that is receptive and conducive to existing and new business, promote the creation of family wage jobs, and enhance the quality of life for Sitkans.

SEDA supports a full Tongass National Forest exemption from the Roadless Rule. SEDA believes having reasonable access within the Tongass National Forest will help strengthen the economy of Sitka and Southeast Alaska.

We believe that by returning decision-making to a local forestry level instead of a widespread ban within the Tongass National Forest our economy and community would benefit. SEDA urges you to support a full exemption of the Tongass from the 2001 Roadless Area Conservation Rule. Thanks for your attention to this issue.

Sincerely,

Garry White, SEDA Executive Director

Sitka Economic Development Assn.
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