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Organization: Public Lands Committee, Izaak Walton League
Title:
Comments: November 27, 2019

Alaska Roadless RuleUSDA Forest ServiceP.O. Box 21628,Juneau, Alaska 99802-1628

SUBECT: Alaska Roadless Rule Comments, Docket ID FS-2019-0023

I am writing on behalf of the Izaak Walton League Public Lands Committee and League Alaskan members to express our concerns on the future of unroaded and undeveloped public lands in the Tongass National Forest of Alaska.

The League feels Tongass National Forest is critically important for supporting subsistence and recreational hunting and fishing, as well as the commercial fishing industry in Alaska. The Tongass is also among the world's largest wild salmon-producing regions, contributing nearly 50 million fish to Alaska's multi-billion-dollar commercial salmon industry each year.

The League requests that the Forest Service adopt Alternative 1the no action alternativein the final (best) rule and that the 2001 Roadless Area Conservation Rule be maintained as the management directive for roadless areas within the Tongass National Forest. It is the best action to preserve the Tongass' fishery and outdoor recreational (economic) value.

If the Forest Service chooses to modify the application of the Roadless Rule on the Tongass, that decision must be balanced and durable, and any new development in roadless areas should be offset with increased conservation measures for the highest-value public lands. One way to achieve this would be to adopt Alternative 2 with modifications, such as adding conservation measures for the T77 and TNC/Audubon Conservation Areas outside of roadless area boundaries, as considered in Alternative 3. Any decision to log or develop those areas must be at the expense of industry using best management practices to minimize impact. With that comes the need for industry to pay for 3rd party verification of its practices. Finally all logging must pay a fair market value to the American taxpayer.

The Izaak Walton League is a nationwide organization of over 40,000 members that are conservation minded individuals promoting sustainable use of our resources and investing in outdoor recreation that all Americans can enjoy. We strongly feel America's public lands are an asset and treasure to be passed onto future generations.

We thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Dean FarrPublic Lands CommitteeCrystal Lake,

Rick CerwickChairmanPublic Lands CommitteeDes Moines, IA

Mike PenfoldMontana MemberRetired, BLM State Director in Alaska

CC:Alaskan Department of Natural Resources

"Of all the questions which can come before this nation, short of the actual preservation of its existence in a great

war, there is none which compares in importance with the great central task of leaving this land even a better land for our descendants that it is for us. "

Teddy Roosevelt (1910)

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