Data Submitted (UTC 11): 11/27/2019 9:00:00 AM
First name: Jon
Last name: Erikson
Organization: City & Borough of Yakutat
Title: City and Borough Manager
Comments: FW: Roadless Rule comment from Yakutat

I just spoke to our city manager, Jon Erickson, and he was not sure if this comment was received. I told him I would try to follow up and make sure.

Sorry if the attached letter is a repeat.

Thanks, Teresa

Teresa Swanson

Supervisory Resource Assistant

Forest Service

Tongass National Forest, Yakutat Ranger District

Yakutat, AK 99689

www.fs.fed.us

Caring for the land and serving people

From: JonE

Sent: Wednesday, November 27, 2019 3:38 PM

To: 'Herndon, Dana (Murkowski)

Cc: Benson, Lee A -FS ; Swanson, Teresa A -FS

Subject: Roadless Rule comment from Yakutat

<<...>>

Jon Erickson EdD

City and Borough Manager

Yakutat, AK 99689

Any reply should be directed to the sender only. Do not Reply All.

The following text was copy/pasted from an attached letter. The system cannot display the formatting, graphics, or tables from the attached original.

Alaska Roadless Rulemaking #54511

RE: Comment/Support of Alaska Roadless Rule Alternative 6 [mdash] Full Exemption

The City and Borough of Yakutat is a community of 550 people on the northern end of the Alaska Panhandle, nestled in the upper end of the Tongass National Forest, an area riot connected by road to the rest of Alaska.

The community leaders have been making efforts to facilitate new opportunities to try and rise-up out of an economic depression. Unfortunately, with limited options for new industry and prohibited access to natural resources, the community's survival currently rests on declining fisheries income, a few years of ANSCA corporation timber harvest, competitive grants from governing agencies (federal and State), and as funds allow for supportive infrastructure, a slow growing Tourism industry.

The Alaska Marine Highway System has been forced to reduce service to rural Alaska communities which will increase the cost of living considerably. How will communities be able to accommodate an increase in expenses and stagnant or declining revenues?

Access to marketable natural resources areas and growing small business within the Tongass National Forest is a crucial factor in the Yakutat's ability to strengthen its economic health.

Abundant resources exist in the Yakutat area of the Tongass National Forest. The Roadless Rule prevents access to various areas outside of Wilderness. limiting any uses both consumptive and non-consumptive. With only one seasonal air taxi, escalating fuel prices, and dangers of ocean travel within Yakutat Bay, makes access to public lands costly, resulting in reduced economic opportunity. Road access is a reasonable solution.

The City & Borough of Yakutat strongly supports the Proposed Alaska Roadless Rule Alternative 6 [shy]Full Exemption. As a minimum for economic opportunity, the City & Borough of Yakutat would accept Proposed Alaska Roadless Rule Alternative 3 [mdash] Community Use Priority, which would allow small scale timber harvest in support of local operators, infrastructure development in support of the community and provide for Alaska Native cultural uses.

Sincerely,

Jon Erickson EdD

City and Borough Manager

Yakutat, AK 99689 [mdash]

[Position]