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First name: Austin

Last name: Williams

Organization: Trout Unlimited

Title:

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

December 16, 2019

The Honorable Sonny Perdue

Ms. Vicki Christiansen

U.S. Department of Agriculture

U.S. Forest Service

1400 Independence Ave., S.W.

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Washington, D.C. 20250

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Dear Secretary Perdue and Ms. Christiansen,

We are outfitters and guides, tour operators, gear manufacturers and retailers, sportsmen organizations, and conservation groups that value and depend on the Tongass National Forest. We employ hundreds of southeast Alaskans, have tens-of-thousands of Alaskan supporters, and cater to customers that travel to the Tongass for its world-class fish and wildlife, recreation values, subsistence resources, and for the economic opportunities roadless areas provide. The proposed Alaska Roadless Rule and decisions about how to manage the Tongass have a direct and profound impact on us, our customers, and our members.

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The proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, which would fully exempt the Tongass, is a huge leap backward and risks undoing much of the progress gained through hard compromise and collaboration in recent years. It turns its back to the region's economic strengths, fishing, tourism and outdoor recreation, which now account for 26% of regional employment and \$2 billion to the local economy, and short changes the values that make the Tongass so unique and valuable to local residents and visitors alike. Exempting the Tongass from the Roadless Rule unnecessarily courts conflict and empowers the most extreme voices while obstructing more productive and mutually beneficial pathways to the future. The Forest Service should abandon its proposed exemption and, instead, maintain protections for roadless areas within the Tongass.

Many of us work directly with the Forest Service, either through special use permits to operate on the Tongass, as project partners, or as visitors, hunters, anglers, and subsistence users. Our ability to fulfill our missions and meet the needs of our customers, and the Forest Service's ability to meet the needs of the public, are directly tied to one another. Either we succeed as stewards of our public lands together with the Forest Service, or we stand by as turmoil over management decisions grows and forest values are degraded.

Many of the undersigned parties have long supported efforts by the Forest Service to transition the Tongass from unsustainable old-growth logging to management focused on fish and wildlife, tourism and recreation, and a sustainable young-growth forest products industry. We cheered the original transition announcement in 2010, worked tirelessly in support of the 2016 amendment to the Tongass Land Management Plan, and have supported its implementation since. Although compromise can be difficult, the need to move beyond the persistent conflict

that has clouded the Tongass for decades is paramount.

Roadless areas on the Tongass are some of the best and most valuable lands on the forest. Many of the most important salmon streams are in roadless areas. Increasingly scarce winter deer range and prime bear habitat is often found in low elevation roadless areas. Roadless areas offer the right combination of beautiful scenery, wild landscapes, fish and wildlife, and access that our growing tourism and recreation industry demands. The Roadless Rule's protections for these unique values give our businesses and organizations a level of certainty upon which we base our business investments and hiring decisions.

The Tongass is a paradise—not just for Alaskans, but for all Americans. Roadless areas in the Tongass contain much of the region's most productive wildlife habitat, quality salmon habitat and clean water, and recreation opportunity. Any durable and long-lasting solution to the persistent land-management challenges on the Tongass must be based on collaboration and care for the important fish, wildlife, recreation, subsistence and scenic values that make the Tongass unique among our public lands. The proposed Alaska Roadless Rule fails on this measure. We encourage the Forest Service to listen to the overwhelming weight of public comment, the needs of businesses and organizations like ours, and to not exempt the Tongass from the Roadless Rule.

Sincerely,

Above and Beyond Alaska

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Becky Janes, Owner

Andrew Dickinson, General Manager

Juneau, AK

Vista, CA

Lakeview Outfitters

TJ Dawson & Phil Hilbruner, Owners & Guides

Cooper Landing, AK

Lindblad Expeditions

Craig Moylan, Director of Expedition Development, North and South America Seattle, WA

Loon Outdoors

Brett Zundel, Owner / Director of Sales

Boise, ID

Maven Outdoor Equipment Company

Brendon Weaver, Co-owner/Design/Marketing Lander, WY

Mossy's Fly Shop

Mike Brown, Owner

Anchorage, AK

National Deer Alliance

Nick Pinizzotto, President and CEO

Indiana, PA

National Outdoor Leadership School Chris Brauneis, Alaska Branch Director Palmer, AK

Nautilus Reels

Kristen Mustad, Owner

Miami, FL

Orvis

Simon Perkins, COO

Sunderland, VT

Pioneer Studios

Ben Hamilton, Owner

San Antonio, Texas

Pybus Point Lodge

Scott Jorgenson, Owner
Pybus Bay, AK

Quality Deer Management Association Kip Adams, Director of Conservation Bogart, GA

3

C.F. Burkheimer Fly Rod Company Carl [ldquo]Kerry[rdquo] Burkheimer, President Washougal, WA

Chrome Chasers

Rick Matney, Owner
Wrangell, AK

Chugach Backcountry Fishing Corey Hetrick, Owner

Moose Pass, AK

Coastal Alaska Adventures
Keegan McCarthy, Owner

Douglas, AK

Coastal Alaska Safaris

Chad Poppe, Owner

Wrangell, AK

Custom Alaska Cruises

Keegan McCarthy, Owner

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Chota Outdoor Gear

Mark Brown, General Manager

Knoxville, TN

Cooper Landing Fishing Guide, LLC

David Lisi, Owner & Guide

Cooper Landing, AK

The Drake

Tom Bie, Owner

Denver, CO

DRYFT

Nick Satushek, President

Bellingham, WA

Eva's Wild

Mark Titus, Owner

Seattle, WA

Expedition Broker

Greg Schlacter, Owner

Haines, AK

Raging River Sales

Eric Neufeld, Owner

North Bend, WA

Rajeff Sports / ECHO Flyfishing
James Lemon, Marketing

Vancouver, WA

Redington

Jay Beebe, Community Manager

Bainbridge Island, WA

Red[rsquo]s Fly Shop

Joe Rotter, Partner

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Casey Sheahan, CEO

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El Capitan Lodge

Scott Van Valin, Owner

Craig, AK

Far Bank Enterprises

Tag Kleiner, VP of Marketing

Bainbridge Island, WA

First Lite

Ford Van Fossan, Conservation, Content and

Digital Merchandising Manager

Ketchum, ID

Fishpond, INC

Ben Kurtz, President

John Land Le Coq, Founder and CEO

Denver, CO

Fly Fishers International

Dave Peterson, Chair Conservation Committee

Livingston, MT

The Flyfish Journal

Jeff Galbraith, Publisher

Bellingham, WA

The Fly Fishing Show

Ben Furimsky, President/CEO

Somerset, PA

The Fly Shop

Pat Pendergast, Director of International Travel

Redding, CA

Fly Water Travel

Ken Morrish, Director of Travel Sales

Ashland, OR

Frontiers International Travel

Mike Fitzgerald, President

Wexford, PA

Gastineau Guiding

Sierra Gadaire, Operations Manager

Juneau, AK

Sitka Conservation Society

Andrew Thoms, Executive Director

Sitka, AK

Sitka Fish Outfitters

Jamie Steinson, Owner

Sitka, AK

Sitka Gear

Thaddeus Kaczmarek, Consumer Experience

Leader

Bozeman, MT

SpeyCo Fly Reels

Tim Pantzlaff, Owner
Green Bay, WI

Stanley-PMI

Michelle Flemming, Marketing Manager

Seattle, WA

TFO, LLC

Rick Pope, Chairman

Dallas, TX

Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership Joel Webster, Center for Western Lands Director Missoula, MT

Thomas and Thomas

Joe Goodspeed, Product Development Manager

Greenfield, MA

Treasure Hunter Lodge

Kurt Whitehead and Trina Nation, Owners

Klawock, AK

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Austin Williams, Alaska Director of Law and Policy

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Chris Porter, COO

Las Vegas, NV

Harper Studios

Earl Harper, Owner
Seattle, WA

Hatch Magazine

Chad Shmukler, Editor

Philadelphia, PA

Vortex Optics

Mark Boardman, Director of Marketing

Barneveld, WI

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Yellow Dog Flyfishing Adventures Jim Klug, Director of Operations Bozeman, MT

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