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First name: Dawn

Last name: Jackson

Organization:

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 17, 2019

Ken Tu, Interdisciplinary Team Leader
Proposed Alaska Roadless Rulemaking
USDA Forest Service, Alaska Region
Ecosystem Planning and Budget Staff
P.O. Box 21628

Juneau, AK 99802-1628

Email: akroadlessrule@fs.fed.us

Dear Mr. Tu,

Kaaxwaan ax Lingit saayi.

Dleit kaa x'einax Dawn Jackson yoo xat duwasaakw

Tsaagweidi naax xat sitee

Xaay Hitdax [aacute]y[aacute] xat

Kaach.adi yadi [aacute]y[aacute] xat

T'akdeintaan [aacute]y[aacute] ax daakanooxiu

My Lingit name is Kaaxwaan, and my English name is Dawn Jackson. I am Tsaagweidi from Xaay Hit (Yellow Cedar House) in Kake, Alaska. I am a child of the Kaach.adi clan, and grandchild of the T'akdeintaan Clan. Kake is in the heart of the Tongass National Forest, 90 air miles south of Juneau, AK. My roots run deep here, thousands of years in fact. I was born and raised here, I'm raising my children here, and I'll be spending all my remaining days here in the Tongass. I am submitting this comment letter in support of Alternative 1, the no-change alternative for the proposed Alaska Roadless Rulemaking.

In addition to living in the heart of the Tongass, my traditional Lingit homelands, I also live in the middle of clear-cuts. Industrial clear-cut logging began in and around Kake and surrounding islands in the 1960's and eventually died about 2000. I strongly oppose changes to the existing Roadless Rule that has successfully provided protections to the areas that remain in my traditional area (Please see attached traditional Kake area map generated by the Tribe I am enrolled in, Organized Village of Kake). To date, since the filing of exemption by the State of Alaska in 2018, The Forest Service has been heavily influenced by not just the State of Alaska (trying to lift the Roadless Rule since 2001), but also private industry and elected officials who have not been speaking for the constituents they represent who live year round in the Tongass National Forest from Yak'w Daat (Yakutat) to Ketchikan and every village/tribe in-between.

There has been an overwhelming support for Alternative 1 across the region, and it is this alternative you, Mr. Secretary, should only consider. All of the taxpayers unanimously support a no-change alternative, in fact, most support MORE PROTECTIONS. Given the current state of climate in this region, a full exemption will be detrimental to food security, carbon sequestration, and wild beauty thousands of people come to Alaska to see. To loosen regulations for the Tongass National Forest will send residents reeling from the affects of natural resource extraction; residents who CHOOSE to live in their homelands and have to live with the damage done by outside private companies whose only

interest is to extract invaluable resources rural residents rely on for food and small sustainable livelihoods.

No projects proposed in the Tongass National Forest since 2001 have been stalled or denied. All have, in fact, been approved. The misinformation being shared nationally is astounding. There are exemptions in the Roadless Rule that allow alternative energy projects, that allow transportation corridors, and allow mining. The mission of the U.S. Forest Service states, "The Department of Agriculture is responsible for managing National Forest System resources to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations". How is a full exemption (Alternative 6) meeting this mission? We are living in a precarious time in this world and we find ourselves in a unique position to protect what we have left and create economy in a sustainable manner for my descendants to enjoy and live and learn their Lingit lifestyle from their families.

My son was born and raised with traditional Lingit values and was taught how to hunt, fish, and prepare local foods traditionally. How is more logging going to sustain that lifestyle that he wishes to pass onto his future children and grandchildren? The devastating impacts and careless mining will not allow this! My son is pursuing his undergraduate degree in Environmental Science, integrating his traditional knowledge he gained from residents of Kake, Sitka, and beyond as he is planting himself firmly in the bigger native community of Southeast Alaska. He was the initial Keex' Kwaan Community Forest Partnership crew lead for Roads and Culverts in 2019 and after learning and researching this whole proposed Alaska Roadless Rulemaking Process, a law degree is a goal now. If there is one thing I can thank the USDA USFS for, is for pushing my son's determination to gain legal education to question USFS policy and procedures on his traditional homelands from Tsaagwaa (south of Angoon), Glacier Bay (father and great grandfathers lands) Sheet'ka (father's lands) Skanax (Clan homelands on Kuiu Island), Kupreanof Island where he was raised, all the way south to Prince of Wales Island, his great grandmothers lands. Atlein Gunalcheesh for planting this seed and placing fire where it needs to be: a Law degree for Environmental Sciences.

Kake has always been at the forefront in trying to manage their own affairs since contact with the western world, and Kake is still pushing to protect what is left; this is a legacy I am proud of and today to be a product of their efforts. This isn't conservation, this isn't environmentalism, this is an instilled and innate need to protect this land and environment as a mother. I have been raised by strong mothers and grandmothers who are the backbone of my community and I will continue to speak for the protection of my homelands. Again, I urge Secretary Perdue to choose Alternative 1, the no-change alternative for the proposed Alaska specific Roadless Rulemaking process. I urge you to partner with communities who live in the Tongass National Forest to invest time and energy into sustainable projects already active in Kake, Hoonah, and other communities; I urge you to partner with Tribes to manage their homelands responsibly and sustainably. Atlein Gunalcheesh for taking the time to accept and read my comments and hope for a favorable decision that reflects the taxpaying constituents who invest and live in the Tongass National Forest: Alternative 1.

[Position]

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