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Organization: KLAWOCK FISH & GAME ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Title:

Comments: KlawockF&GAdvisoryCommittee19-01

Resolution 19-01, Klawock Fish & Game Advisory Committee.

Thank you .

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KLAWOCK FISH & GAME ADVISORY COMMITTEE
RESOLUTION 2019-1

A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE 2001 ROADLESS RULE / IN SUPPORT OF ALTERNATIVE 1 IN THE ALASKA ROADLESS RULE-MAKING PROCESS

WHEREAS, the local Advisory Committees were established to promote and protect the common interest of Alaska's fishery and wildlife resources, which is a vital component of Alaska's social, economic and ecological well-being; and

WHEREAS, the Klawock Advisory Committee represents the voices of fish and wildlife users based in Klawock and is made up of representatives from the following stakeholder groups: customary and traditional harvesters and gathers, subsistence ,hunting, commercial seiners, trollers, resident sport fishers, trappers, charter guides, hunting guides; and

WHEREAS, many Klawock residents obtain their livelihoods from primary economic activities including but not limited to; fishing and tourism, which is highly dependent on a pristine and productive natural setting of the land and ocean; and

WHEREAS, salmon and other marine resource populations are facing increased challenges from climate change; ocean warming events in the Pacific Ocean; changing ocean conditions, ocean acidification, rising water temperatures in streams, erosion and low water level event and freshwater habitat development in the contiguous United States; and

WHEREAS, Sitka black-tail deer populations are an important subsistence resource for community members that depend on the intact, old-growth forests and the large canopy they support for winter habitat; and

WHEREAS, old-growth forests support healthy spawning area and wildlife habitat and protect Prince of Wales Island's highly productive streams; and

WHEREAS, Roadless and LUD II areas on the Tongass are essential to Southeast Alaska's way of life and

represent some of the most spectacular and unique Roadless areas anywhere in the National Forest System and support hunting, fishing, customary and traditional uses, unparalleled outdoor recreation opportunities; and

WHEREAS, the amount of carbon stored in the intact Tongass old-growth forests are essential for maintaining local and national climate resilience and slowing down climate change through the world and represent one of the highest carbon stores in the world, and the conservation of intact Roadless areas, for future generations and help prevent stream run off soil erosion into many creeks; and

WHEREAS, increased logging of old-growth forests in the existing Roadless areas of the Tongass would seriously impact the ability of the forest to provide this vital ecosystem with clean water, clean air, stream temperature regulation, and healthy salmon and wildlife habitat; and

Whereas, Klawock and other communities throughout Southeast Alaska spoke out in strong support of the 2001 Roadless Rule, along with over 90% of the official scoping comments received strongly in support of maintaining the 2001 Roadless Rule on the Tongass National Forest after years of collaborative work between a diverse group of stakeholders; and

WHEREAS, the State of Alaska invested time, staff and money to convene a stakeholder-led Citizen Advisory Committee in 2018 that provided recommendations and perspectives from different interest groups in Southeast Alaska on what a workable compromise for an Alaska Roadless Rule could look like; and

WHEREAS, the proposed alternative of the Forest Service for a full exemption from the 2001 Roadless Rule goes contrary to public opinion, the recommendations put forward by the Citizen Advisory Committee, the input from tribal governments and input from local commercial fishermen and guides; and

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the economic livelihoods; customary and traditional harvesting of Klawock residents would be irreparably harmed by the effects of a full exemption from the Roadless Rule on the Tongass, which would lead to increased climate change, increased threats to fish habitat and development occurring in pristine natural areas that contribute to the tourism potential and natural beauty of the Tongass National Forest; and

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Klawock Fish and Game Advisory Committee encourages the USFS to invest in programs, workforce development and employment opportunities for Southeast Alaskan residents to restore the health and productivity of the Tongass National Forest's degraded watersheds and streams, as a means of supporting vital ecosystem services and economic opportunities such as carbon sequestration, small-scale selective timber harvest, fish and wildlife populations, natural vistas, visitor amenities, subsistence, hydrological resources and more; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, the Klawock Fish and Game Advisory Committee asks that the Forest Service and Secretary of Agriculture adopt Alternative 1[mdash]the NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE[mdash]and keep the 2001 Roadless Rule in place on the Tongass National Forest.

CERTIFICATION:

PASSED and APPROVED by the Klawock Fish and Game Advisory Committee this 13th day of December, 2019.

[Position]