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Title:
Comments: Roadless Rule Comments

Please see attached.

Linda Millard, AIA

Principal Architect

Ketchikan, Alaska 99901

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

To: Alaska Roadless Rule

USDA Forest Service Alaska Region

Ecosystem Planning and Budget Staff

PO Box 21628

Juneau, Alaska 99802-1628

December 16, 2019

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to request that the Tongass National Forest not be exempted from the Roadless Rule as proposed. As a business owner and 30 year resident of Ketchikan, I have witnessed the effects of large scale logging and road building in the region, and do not believe this is the highest and best use for our forest.

As a resident of Ketchikan, I understand that the long-term economic viability of my community and others throughout Southeast Alaska is intrinsically linked to how the Tongass National Forest and its resources are managed. It is essential that the Tongass be managed in a responsible manner that balances the needs of the community in a sustainable way, so that the region can enjoy the benefits of a diversified economy which has changed dramatically over these past 30 years. This has grown particularly important in recent years due to the State of Alaska's financial limitations brought about by lower levels of oil revenue.

Southeast Alaska is host to very diverse and sometimes diverging interests. The 17 million acre Tongass National Forest is large enough to satisfy many interests, including key conservation objectives. There are a

great many needs and opportunities that would be adversely affected by road building such as fishing and tourism (the two largest industries in our community) as well as degrading a way of life for those of us who live here.

The jobs generated from road building and logging are minimal and temporary compared to those generated from fishing and tourism which are sustainable. Exception to the roadless rule could be made for energy development projects that are critical to the region. Almost every private enterprise in the community benefits from businesses that rely on the natural beauty of the Tongass Forest and the wildlife it shelters. The Tongass Forest is why we live here and how we retain our young people who are attracted to this way of life.

For these reasons, I hope the USFS will retain the Roadless Rule within the Tongass National Forest. Signed,

Linda G. Millard, AIA

Millard + Associates Architects LLC

Ketchikan, AK 99901

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