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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.

Patrick Robbins
Alaskan Resident,
Owner/Operator Alsek Fish,
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Yakutat, AK 99789

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing this letter to share my history of use in the Tongass National Forest and why I support less federal regulations for the Tongass and the removal of the roadless rule. I support Alternative 6 of the current proposed Alaska Roadless Rule.

I was born in Juneau, AK in 1968 and in 1973 my family arrived in Dry Bay for commercial fishing and to build a cabin. Our original cabin was on the beach on the Tongass side of the Alsek River and we used that cabin until our log cabin was built, in the Tongass, near Muddy Creek, in 1982-1983. My dad and I used logs we cleared from the area to build the cabin and a shop next it. We used the cabin for our commercial fishing operation and even spent an entire year/winter in the cabin from 1983-1984. I now run my Alsek Fish business from the fish house below the cabin with my family. We maintain a trail to the beach and trail to muddy creek to run our operations, but keep it small as to keep our impact small. We used to be able to see the cabin from the river, but the new growth in the area has made it so we can only see the cabin from the air. This shows our small operation has had minimal impact on the area.

In 1999, my wife and I, started our Italio River Adventures business for fly fishing and adventure tourism. We've grown it into a family business with the help of my daughter and son-in-law. We love to share our home and love of fishing with those who come to experience our guiding. We've operated our businesses on a small scale being mindful of our impact and understanding how natural resources can be used and conserved at the same time. Our business only operates from end of August to the first week of October yearly keeping with a low impact to the area.

We have expanded our business to Alsek River Adventures to include the summer months and to help the river rafters on the Alsek River reach their flights to leave the area or to expand their trip to include beach views. As it is now, there are only a certain number of people allowed on the river to keep the impact low.

In 2011 my wife and I moved to Yakutat full time and we have seen the decline of the Yakutat community during that time due to lost revenue, loss of subsistence area, loss of access to culturally important sites, and major loss of access to recreation areas as a direct result of the 2001 Roadless Rule. Rural Alaska depends on the resources available to them for their families. With a lack of opportunities citizens are leaving Yakutat. Historical subsistence harvest areas are no longer available due to lost access and it seems to me anyone in favor of the

Roadless Rule doesn't live in an area affected by the Roadless Rule or doesn't have a livelihood that depends on an area affected by the Roadless Rule. Amending the Roadless Rule for Alaska would put the use of Alaskan resources in the hands of Alaskans, who know the area best. All of us are subsistence users of the resources and would ensure our resources continue for future generations.

I am not asking to exploit resources but to allow use of those resources in a way that can help our communities grow and thrive as those in the Lower 48 of the United States have been allowed to do. With Alternative 6 there would still be conservation of the Tongass National Forest, but would allow for our communities to grow.

Thank You,

Patrick Robbins

[Position]