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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Central Tongass Landscape Planning

Q: Do you have an idea for a project on the Central Tongass?

I'm always interested in maintaining/improving existing trails and cabins, and adding more if feasible. With the current budget situation I would be happy just to have trails (like the upper portions of the Cascade Creek and current Raven's Roost trails) put back together.

Ideally, it would be nice to have a series of discrete tent sites along well-traveled waterways (e.g. Frederick Sound, Wrangell Narrows) for kayakers or boat campers who want to camp near the beach.

Q: What forest activities or resources are you interested in?

I love camping in our local USFS cabins and hiking the trails. I enjoy paddling around beaver ponds, sloughs, and fjords and watching wildlife. My husband is a commercial fisherman, so we are also very invested in maintaining a healthy ecosystem for our salmon.

Q: How do the current Forest conditions affect your ability to use and enjoy the Tongass National Forest?

While many Alaskans are undeterred by rustic, use-at-your-own-risk type of trails (like Petersburg Lake, or Cascade Creek above the touristy part), it severely limits the friends and family we can bring along. One of the great things about living in Alaska is showing it off! Better funding and maintenance for trails would allow a greater variety of people to access the Tongass.

Q: Are there specific places you would like to see developed, or remain undeveloped?

I would like to see a focus on improvement of existing infrastructure, rather than impacting previously wild places.

Q: Do you think there's anything the Forest Service can do to improve Forest conditions or public infrastructure in Petersburg or Wrangell Ranger Districts over the next 10 to 15 years? What are your ideas for us? Examples:

- * Convert roads to trails
- * Manage and treat invasive plant
- * Improve or construct new boat launches
- * Provide dispersed campsites
- * Provide commercial/subsistence firewood
- * Provide timber harvest or salvage gathering opportunities
- * Build/improve trails to access known
- * Thin young-growth stands to benefit fishing spots

Converting old logging roads to trails would be great! Thinning young-growth stands sounds nice; those old clear-cuts are high impassable.

Q: What can the Forest Service do to boost the local economy and its businesses?

Focusing on tourism and fishing will benefit the local economy. Small scale logging for local saw mills may contribute some profit, but our major employer is fishing. Harvesting timber at the expense of fish habitat just doesn't make sense. Tourism is a growing business in southeast; improving local trails to make them more accessible will allow more people to appreciate how special the Tongass is. And hopefully they'll tell their friends :)

Q: What else do you want to tell us about your ideas for the Petersburg and Wrangell Ranger Districts?

I'm excited about the new Raven's Roost cabin!

Sent via the Samsung Galaxy S7 active, an AT&T 4G LTE smartphone