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Organization:

Title:

Comments: My name is Zofia Danielson and I live in Sitka, Alaska. I was born and raised in Southeast Alaska. My family commercially fishes for salmon. This species is supported by healthy streams that are free from extra sediments and are surrounded by trees to provide sanctuaries for the juveniles along the riverbanks. I rely on the the health of the Tongass National Forest to support my familys livelihood, I gather berries in the summer, and use it nearly everyday for recreationally running, hiking, and more. I am writing a comment on the Alaska Roadless Rule DEIS because I am concerned with how the Rule and the proposed full exemption will impact my fishing, foraging for wild foods, subsistence harvesting, the peace and solitude I find in nature, recreating, the status of the Tongass as a national and global treasure, the forest's ability to sequester carbon and mitigate climate change impacts, and the conservation of resources for future generations.

Out of the alternatives described in the AKRR DEIS I support alternative 1: no action. The rule is working fine as it is by balancing the conservation of our fish and wildlife habitat with important development projects. I depend on roadless areas in the Tongass National Forest for economic livelihood, healthy fish habitat, foraging and gathering wild foods, carbon sequestration and local climate change mitigation, keeping public lands wild for future generations, recreating and enjoying nature. A full exemption does not protect these values, nor does it effectively balance economic development and conservation of roadless area characteristics. A full exemption from the Roadless Rule and increased logging and roadbuilding will negatively impact the Tongass and what I and many others use and depend on the forest to provide for us.

The Roadless areas on the Tongass that are especially important to me are those on or around Baranof Island, Chichagof Island, Admiralty Island, all of the inventoried roadless areas on the Tongass. I want the roadless areas in these locations to stay in roadless status in any alternative selected by the Forest Service, and be managed to provide for connections from communities passive or active watershed restoration of salmon streams and wildlife habitat, low-impact recreation such as camping, hiking, hunting, and fishing medium-impact recreation development, such as Forest Service cabins, trails, mooring buoys, and 3-sided shelters. It is important to me that the T77 and the TNC conservation priority areas retain their roadless protections.

I do not support the Forest Services preferred alternative of a full exemption. A full exemption is not in the interests of Southeast Alaskans who live in and use the Tongass National Forest, because We as Southeast Alaskans have already spoken in support of a no action alternative to the Roadless Rule. The Tongass National Forest is a place that we all depend upon for the health of our communities and subsistence lifestyles. Exempting the Tongass from the Roadless Rule harms our existing economic drivers as well as the people who depend upon this place for their survival.. The State of Alaska says that a full exemption is needed for rural economic development opportunities. However, a full exemption would not help create more rural economic development opportunities, it would instead harm our existing rural economies that are based on the visitor industry and commercial fishing industry.

It would further harm rural economic opportunities because pursuing the same outdated economic model of old

growth clearcut harvesting for export stifles innovation and possibility in other sectors, such as mariculture, sustainable young growth harvest, and rural agriculture. If the Forest Service wants to support rural economic development, they should devote resources to support our fishing and visitor industries improve and streamline existing permitting processes for important community projects rather than rehashing old conflicts.

I urge the Forest Service to prioritize the voices of Southeast Alaskans over those of our political representation and corporate interests. Choosing a full exemption will not create a long lasting, durable solution for roadless areas on the Tongass. It will only increase the legal challenges, uncertainty for businesses, and conflict on the Tongass going forward.

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