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First name: Jolie

Last name: Jolie

Organization:

Title:

Comments: My name is Jolie Tulley and I live in Sitka, Alaska. Ive lived in Southeast Alaska for three years. The forest is of essential value to the life Ive pursued here. Subsistence, fisheries, and wild adventures have all become an important part of my life here in ways I never imagined before moving to Alaska, both directly and in the greater context of the community that has embraced me. The habitats for fish and other wildlife are vital to life here. Fish stocks worldwide are under threat. At all costs, fish stocks need protection. Fish and wildlife are our most precious resources and the backbone of Southeast Alaska. More than these personal reasons, humanity must act aggressively to protect the entire world from the cataclysmic effects of climate change. That absolutely means conserving the largest North American rainforest. 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, hunting, subsistence harvesting, foraging for wild foods, recreating, the peace and solitude I find in nature, practicing my culture, the forest's ability to sequester carbon and mitigate climate change impacts, the conservation of resources for future generations .

Out of the alternatives described in the AKRR DEIS I support alternative 1: no action. It protects important fish and wildlife habitat from clearcutting and roadbuilding. I depend on roadless areas in the Tongass National Forest for economic livelihood, healthy fish habitat, deer habitat and subsistence hunting, practicing my culture, foraging and gathering wild foods, recreating and enjoying nature, carbon sequestration and local climate change mitigation, viewing wildlife, keeping public lands wild for future generations, fiscal responsibility and saving taxpayer dollars . 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, the northern mainland above Port Snettisham (around Juneau), the central mainland from Hobart Bay to Stikine River, the southern mainland from Bradfield Canal to Dixon Entrance Kupreanof Island, Kuiu Island, Wrangell and Etolin Islands, Prince of Wales Island, Revillagigedo Island (near Ketchikan), Yakutat forelands, 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 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, passive or active watershed restoration of salmon streams and wildlife habitat. 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 It is selling our precious resources and we cannot afford to liquidate our existing carbon sink in an era of uncertain climate change. Harvesting old growth is not economically viable.. 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 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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