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Organization:

Title:

Comments: My name is Alliyah Nay and I live in Sitka, Alaska. I am from Kotzebue, AK, but I have been living in Southeast for 3 years while attending the boarding school, Mt. Edgecumbe. I plan to go to college at UAS because this place has become home.

Even though I Native to Alaska, I was still amazed at the beauty of this place so different from my home (that shows the diversity of this huge landmass). I find much inspiration walking on and off paths -- it takes me out of my head and puts in perspective the immense, beautiful world *we still have and can build upon* in this time of fear. 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 subsistence harvesting, foraging for wild foods, the peace and solitude I find in nature, recreating, practicing my culture, the status of the Tongass as a national and global treasure, the forest's ability to sequester carbon and mitigate climate change impacts, the conservation of resources for future generations fishing, hunting.

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 viewing wildlife, carbon sequestration and local climate change mitigation, recreating and enjoying nature, healthy fish habitat, keeping public lands wild for future generations, fiscal responsibility and saving taxpayer dollars practicing my culture. 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, Kupreanof Island, the southern mainland from Bradfield Canal to Dixon Entrance Kuiu Island, Wrangell and Etoin 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 the uses and activities I listed above. 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 I think that now more than ever we need to think about the future we are leaving for generations to come. We are not on the right path for saving our environment, but the Tongass relieves the atmosphere from much of the carbon emissions surrounding it and so it is not in our best interest to take still another step back, especially against the wish of its Native peoples and other residents.. 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 invest in creating and maintaining recreation infrastructure improve and streamline existing permitting processes for important community projects rather than rehashing old conflicts devote resources to support our fishing and visitor industries.

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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