

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 10/29/2019 8:00:00 AM

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: My name is Caroline Crenna and I live in Sitka, Alaska. I have lived in Southeast Alaska on and off since 1973. I moved here permanently in 1989. During my commercial fishing career, I depended on the forest to provide spawning habitat for the salmon I harvested. I value the forest for the clean air and water we enjoy in Southeast. I also value it for the subsistence hunting and fishing opportunities it provides, which nourish Southeast communities both physically and culturally. Finally, I value the forest for the spiritual sustenance I feel from its close proximity. 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, peace I find in nature, recreation opportunities, 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. I think the existing rule is working well and that it reasonable balances the conservation of our fish and wildlife habitat with the construction and operation of important development projects.. I depend on roadless areas in the Tongass National Forest for healthy fish habitat, foraging and gathering wild foods, recreating, enjoying nature, carbon sequestration and local climate change mitigation, viewing wildlife, and keeping public lands wild for future generations. A full exemption does not protect these values, nor does it effectively balance the importance of economic development with the values derived from conservation of roadless area characteristics. A full exemption from the Roadless Rule 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 include all of them for the time being. 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 and submit that a full exemption is not appropriate at this time. Before large-scale timber harvest is allowed, the Forest Service needs to further regulate how timber is harvested. I question whether clear cutting should ever be allowed as a harvest method. Prior to opening the Tongass to increased logging, I also deem it necessary for the Forest Service and/or other appropriate agency to promulgate regulations to minimize the export of our raw timber and to foster the construction of large-capacity lumber mills in Southeast Alaska to truly foster local employment.. The State of Alaska says that a full exemption is needed for rural economic development opportunities. However, more needs to be done to derive full benefit from the logs that are taken. As things stand now, a full exemption would instead harm our existing rural economies that are presently based on the visitor industry and commercial fishing industry.

It would diminish 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, transition to second

growth logging, and invest in creating and maintaining recreation infrastructure.

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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