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Organization:

Title:

Comments: My name is Larry Trani and I live in Sitka, Alaska. This is my 50th year in Southeast Alaska, where I have continually made Sitka my home. I have depended on the Tongass, from my first year here to this very day, for my health and well being. I depend on a healthy intact forest for all my subsistence needs whether it is berry picking, mushroom hunting, salmon fishing, deer hunting or numerous salt water species harvested. The gathering of subsistence resources depends on an ecosystem devoid of the disturbances of road building and logging activities that follow.

I have used ecosystems before road building/logging and seen what the difference is afterwards. Devastation is found everywhere. Without habitat the deer leave the area, with silted streams the salmon don't return, debris and silt get deposited in the saltwater thereby negatively affecting marine species. Even 50 years on I still have not seen the recovery of the forest to anything near what it once was.

Roading and logging have done tremendous damage to the forest that will be felt by generations beyond my time here. Enough is enough. The damage has been done and we will NOT allow anymore to occur. Therefore I am requesting in the most forceful way I know of to keep the Tongass free of any future road building. I fully support the no action alternative 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, 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, the conservation of resources for future generations .

Out of the alternatives described in the AKRR DEIS I support alternative 1: no action. It shows the Forest Service is responding to the needs and voices of Southeast Alaskan communities. I depend on roadless areas in the Tongass National Forest for economic livelihood, healthy fish habitat, deer habitat and subsistence hunting, 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, 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 Note earlier written comments on this document.. 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 transition to second growth logging.

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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