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First name: Kim
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Organization:
Title:
Comments: My name is Kim Rivera and I live in Tenakee Springs, Alaska. I have lived in SEAK since 1993 and my husband since 1973. He is a commercial salmon fisherman (power troller) and we depend on the Tongass for sustainable and prime salmon habitat. We also subsist on other fish and crab and hunting Sitka black tailed deer. We dont buy any meat from stores. We get all our meat protein from the Tongass. We live in Tenakee Springs and our town depends on tourism, fishing and recreational uses of the Tongass. Our Tenakee Inlet has one of the largest pink salmon runs in northern SEAK.

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 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, 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), 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 hydroelectric development. 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 when the USFS officials came to Tenakee for a public meeting on this topic, they told us it was a no-brainer that if our community was happy w the existing Roadless Rule, we didnt need to see things change. If we didnt want to have clearcutting in Tenakee Inlet then we could continue w the protections from the Roadless Rule.. 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 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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