Data Submitted (UTC 11): 12/13/2019 9:00:00 AM
First name: Steve
Last name: Fish
Organization:
Title:
Comments: HC405

Dear Roadless Rule Planning Team,

I live in Southeast Alaska, where my lifestyle, the ecology of the forest, and the economy of our communities are all intricately intertwined. I live in this region for the bountiful salmon runs, the beautiful scenery, the clean air and water, and the endless opportunities to recreate in our expansive outdoors. I am one of the 94% of Southeast Alaskans that eats salmon every year. The freshwater streams where salmon and old growth forest of the Tongass provide spawning habitat for these fish, which in turn feed a matrix of bears, birds, insects, and other wildlife that Alaska is so famous for. The health of our economy, which is heavily dependent on the fishing and tourism industries, also depends on the salmon, wildlife and presence of old growth forests. A sustainable future for Southeast Alaska requires protecting expansive areas of intact habitat - in short, it requires keeping our Roadless areas roadless! I urge the Forest Service and the Secretary to protect important salmon spawning habitat, maintain old growth forests for winter deer habitat, and keep the places I like to recreate free of clearcuts and roadbuilding.

WHO I AM: [text bolded for emphasis]

45 year resident of SE Alaska. 27 years in Sitka. 45 years commerical fisherman, hunter, sport fisher, motorized recreation enthusiast & lived 12 years Petersburg & 16 years Fort Alexander

ALTERNATIVE: [text bolded for emphasis] The alternative I support is: no change; keep roadless protection

Because: many uses already allowed; not all of Tongass is currently protected; we do not need to subsidize logging industry to destroy our Tongass

AREAS: [text bolded for emphasis] The areas I want to see protected from road building and old growth timber harvest are:

T77 and all salmon habitat. Protect intact old growth from industrialized logging - allow small scale logging as it is currently allowed

USE: [text bolded for emphasis] Old-growth logging and road building would negatively impact the productivity of the ecosystem that I depend on for the following activities:

Sport fishing, sport & subsistence fishing & hunting; commercial salmon fishing, motorized & non-motorized use of existing logging roads; eco & independent tourism

SUGGESTION: [text bolded for emphasis] The monofocus on increasing timber production in the Tongass is outdated and out of pace with the current economy and lifestyle in Southeast Alaska. Industrial scale harvesting of old-growth forest does not enhance salmon production, visitor industry values, deer habitat, or my recreation experience. I would like the Forest Service to focus on activities that enhance and support our lifestyle of living off the land and the sustainable sectors of our economy. These activities are:

Small scale, local logging & milling; hunting & fishing; forest & foraging; use of existing f.s. roades for recreation & access to variety of areas

The DEIS does not sufficiently analyze the impacts of possible roadbuilding and timber harvest on subsistence use areas. I want the 'community priority' roadless area to contain protections for the areas I use for subsistence hunting, fishing, and gathering. I advocate for no timber harvest and no roadbuilding *in the following community use areas that I use for subsistence:* [text bolded for emphasis]

All streams, all old growth forest ares. Baranof Island; Chichagof Island

Additional comments for the Forest Service:

Do not subsidize the corporate logging industry so that they can destroy our old growth which belongs to us all. Jobs come and go the money goes with the corporate heads...

Sincerely,

Steve Fish

I want to receive a copy of the Draft Environmental Statement

[Position]