Data Submitted (UTC 11): 12/13/2019 9:00:00 AM
First name: Heather
Last name: Bauscher
Organization:
Title:
Comments: HC403

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]

My name is Heather Bauscher, I live, work, and thrive in the Tongass National Forest. My partner is a commercial Gillnet Fisherman and I have working in comm. fish, wildlife management, and as a field biologist.

ALTERNATIVE: [text bolded for emphasis] The alternative I support is: No Action

Because: I feel the 2001 Roadless Rule in its current form already provides adequate provisions for roadbuilding for economic drivers like hydropower, road corridors, and mining.

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

Nakwasina, Salmon Lake, Kruzof Island, Redoubt Lake, Northern Prince of Wales, Tenakee Inlet, Lisianski Inlet, and significant salmon habitat as designated under the T77 as well as all salmon habitat surrounding our king salmon systems in southeast includeing Chilkat, Taku, Unuk, and Stitine Rivers.

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:

I rely on these forests and salmon systems for subsistence harvest and to support my household income through commerical fishing.

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:

There are many areas that need stream restoration and pre commercial thinning. Investing in these actions

would further prepare our second growth of liquidation of our remaining old growth.

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]

Redoubt, Nakwasina, Falls Lake, Kruzof

Additional comments for the Forest Service:

Please keep the 2001 Roadless Rule intact and support the people that live and work here and rely on the important salmon watersheds and important deer habitat, to feed our families, and contribute to the southeast economy.

Sincerely,

Heather Bauscher

I want to receive a copy of the Draft Environmental Statement

[Position]