Data Submitted (UTC 11): 12/13/2019 9:00:00 AM
First name: Dan
Last name: Kennedy
Organization: City Coucil of Tenakee Springs
Title:
Comments: HC372

November 21, 2019

Gentlefolk:

I am submitting these comments and accompanying Resolution with the full support of the City Coucil of Tenakee Springs, Alaska.

The City of Tenakee Springs wishes to retain the existing Roadless Rule and supports selection of Alternative 1.

The City of Tenakee Springs has a long history of support for retaining the essential wild character of Tenakee Inlet and has supported the Roadless Rule since its earliest days. At both the local meetings with the Forest Service regarding proposed changes, 25-30 people attened and were 100% in favor of retaining the existing Roadless Rule. This may not sound like many people, but depending on the season, it represents between 30 and 60% of our adult population. It is obvious that we as a community, and across a diverse political spectrum, want to maintain Tenakee Inlet's wild character. This is not merely to protect our subsistence lifestyles. It is also essential to our economy which relies heavily on fishing and guiding.

Again, The City of Tenakee Springs supports Alternative 1, the no action alternative that retains the Roadless Rule as it currently exists for the Tongass National Fores.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Dan Kennedy

Mayor

*City of Tenakee Springs

RESOLUTION 2020-07* [text bolded for emphasis]

In the Council November 21, 2019

Introduced by Council President

*A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF TENAKEE SPRINGS, ALASKA EXPRESSING THE CITY OF TENAKEE SPRINGS' SUPPORT FOR ALTERNATIVE 1 OF THE DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF INTENTORIED ROADLESS AREAS WITHIN THE TONGASS NATIONAL FOREST.

WHEREAS,* [text bolded for emphasis] the community of Tenakee Springs depends on fishing, guiding, and tourism as its main economic drivers, and;

WHEREAS, [text bolded for emphasis] all these activities depend on maintaining the wild character of the lands

surrounding Tenakee Inlet; and

WHEREAS, [text bolded for emphasis] in 2001, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) finalized a management plan for the Tongass National Forest, which includes the National Roadless Area Conservation Rule (Roadless Rule) in response to disappearing wildlands and a road maintenance backlog of $8.4 billion; and

WHEREAS, [text bolded for emphasis] the intent of the Roadless Rule was to protect the social, economic, and ecological values and characteristics of inventoried roadless areas from road construction and reconstruction and certain timber harvest activities; and

WHEREAS, [text bolded for emphasis] at the time of promulgation in 2001, the Roadless Rule had the most extensive public involvement of any rulemakin process in the history of federal rulemaking, generating over 1.6 million comments, the vase majority of which supported the creation of a strong national policy protecting roadless areas; and

WHEREAS, [text bolded for emphasis] inventoried roadless areas provide large, relatively undisturbed blocks of important habitat for a variety of terrestrial and aquatic wildlife and plants; contribute to healthy watersheds and clean drinking water; and provide extensive opportunities for outdoor recreation and tourism; and

WHEREAS, [text bolded for emphasis] the Roadless Rule protects some of the last remaining tracts of old-growth forest habitat in the Tongass that contribute to the absorption of global warming pollution and protect native animal species that rely on them; and

WHEREAS, [text bolded for emphasis] roadless areas support subsistence lifestyles through hunting and fishing, and support outdoor recreation, commercial fisheries, and tourism industries; and

WHEREAS, [text bolded for emphasis] the Roadless Rule contains exceptions that allow roadbuilding for community access, hydropower projects, utility connectors, and other economic development projects when they serve a legitimate public interest; and

WHEREAS, [text bolded for emphasis] protection of these roadless areas in the Tongass National Forest is of local and national importance; and

WHEREAS, [text bolded for emphasis] in 2018, the State of Alaska petitioned the USDA to craft a state-specific roadless rule and requested that a full exemption be pursued from the 2001 Roadless Rule; and

WHEREAS, [text bolded for emphasis] in 2018 the USDA accepted the State of Alaska's petition and initiated a National Environmental Policy Act review, an environmental impact statement (EIS), and public rulemaking process to address the management of inventoried roadless areas within Alaska, and to evaluate the exemption set forth in the petition; and

WHEREAS, [text bolded for emphasis] the great majority of comments received by the USDA following its notice of intent of proposed rulemaking opposed changin the Roadless Rule for Alaska; and

WHEREAS, [text bolded for emphasis] all the citizens of Tenakee Springs who testified publicly at Forest Service hearings express unequivocal support for maintaining the Roadless Rules as they now stand; and

WHEREAS, [text bolded for emphasis] the draft EIS provides an analysis of six alternatives related to roadless management in Alaska, ranging from no action to a full exemption from the Roadless Rule on the Tongass National Forest; and

WHEREAS, [text bolded for emphasis] the USDA has identified Alternative 6, which is a full exemption, as the preferred alternative at this time; and

WHEREAS, [text bolded for emphasis] the City of Tenakee Springs opposes Alternative 6 and feels that Alternative 1, which requests no action and would maintain the 2001 Roadless Rule on the Tongass National Forest, best protects public interests while also protecting the unique ecosystem of the Tongass; and

WHEREAS, [text bolded for emphasis] the USDA is seeking public comment on the draft EIS from October 18, 2019 to December 17, 2019 and will issue its decision regarding and Alaska Roadless Rule in June of 2020;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: [text bolded for emphasis] That the City Council of the City of Tenakee Springs expresses its support for Alternative 1 and its opposition to Alternative 6, of the draft environmental impact statement for the management of inventoried roadless areas within the Tongass National Forest.

ADOPTED [text bolded for emphasis] *6 Ayes, 1 Absent* [text underlined for emphasis] *THIS* [text bolded for emphasis] *21st* [text underlined for emphasis] *DAY OF* [text bolded for emphasis] *November* [text underlined for emphasis] *2019* [text bolded for emphasis]

[Signature]

Dan Kennedy

City Council President

Ex officio MAYOR

ATTEST:

[Signature]

Mary Almy

City Clerk

[Position]