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First name: Davey

Last name: Lubin

Organization: Sitka Wildlife Adventures

Title:

Comments: Tongass Support

My name is Davey Lubin and I strongly oppose any attempt to repeal the Roadless Rule on the Tongass.

I am the owner and operator of Sitka Wildlife Adventures, here in my year-round home of Sitka, Alaska. I am a USCG licensed 100-ton master with nearly forty (40) years of experience hunting, fishing, gathering, guiding, researching, and recreating on the waters, beaches, and forests, of Southeast AK. I am writing this letter as a knowledgeable graduate of forest sciences (Bachelor of Science Degree in Forestry from U of Idaho, 1983), a credentialed biology teacher (continuous Alaska credentials since graduating from U of Alaska, Juneau in 1988), a 20-year owner and operator of a successful wildlife and wilderness charter business. In May 2020 I'll graduate from Prescott College with a master's degree in mental health counseling. Here, I place special emphasis on the vital role pristine wild places have in the prevention of, and recovery from mental despair. Previously, I fished commercially for 10 years, worked as a fisheries biologist in the Gulf of Alaska and the Bering Sea, and as a US Forest Service botanist on Prince of Wales and Chichagof Islands.

I run my current charter business, offering shore-based excursions through a Special Use Permit from the US Forest Service; I pay fees to the USFS for this. In the course of my business, I regularly engage my clients to the public lands around Kruzof Island, Baranof Island, West Chichagof Isl., Hoonah Sound, Kelp Bay, and Peril Straits to name a few. I am writing my comments as both a highly invested visitor-industry business owner and a deeply concerned long-time resident of Southeast Alaska.

Southeast Alaska is a unique, amazing place that my family and I have long chosen to call home. My business and my personal passions are all intimately tied to a healthy and intact forest, to wild and untamed landscapes, and to healthy populations of fish and wildlife. The current Roadless Rule on the Tongass protects the forest and provides for a robust eco-tourism sector and for healthy fish and wildlife populations throughout the lands and coastlines of the Tongass National Forest. An intact Tongass is truly the goose that lays the golden eggs! Please DON'T exempt the Tongass!

The Roadless Rule is working and I, in concert with the official voice of the City and Borough of Sitka, support a NO ACTION alternative that maintains the current protections.

Thank you,

Davey Lubin - Sitka, Alaska

Sitka Wildlife Adventures..... for all your ocean wilderness needs!

www.sitkawildlifeadventures.com

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