

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 12/16/2019 9:00:00 AM

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: My name is Jennifer Wolf and I live in Boise, ID. I have worked in the outdoor industry for most of my career, and Southeast Alaska is the place that gave my career purpose. I depend on the wilderness for my job, as do a growing number of wilderness professionals who bring people to experience uncut wilderness. 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 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 subsistence harvesting, fishing, hunting.

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, recreating and enjoying nature, carbon sequestration and local climate change mitigation, viewing wildlife, keeping public lands wild for future generations. 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), Kuiu Island, 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 the uses and activities I listed above. 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 A full exemption puts an irreplaceable resource in direct harm. Releasing carbon in a time when our planet is in such a precarious time, in light of the Amazonian rainforest fires, is short-sighted. Logging accounts for less than 12 percent of Southeast Alaska's economy, and this is simply not worth all that is lost in clear cutting. Further, these talks have not included the Tlingit and Haida that call these lands home. They have barely been invited to "be at the table", when in fact, these people and their livelihood are "what's on the menu". The plan to lift the roadless rule goes in opposition of many voices who recognize that the Tongass is a Homeland, an important carbon sink, and one of the last great wilderness areas on Earth.. 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.

My job is to bring people into old growth lands in the Tongass. Week after week, one thing remains a constant in that job; the look people get when they thrash through the alders at the water line, and are immersed in the old growth. Usually a hush falls over the group, interrupted only when someone finally says "wow". This is a place of wonder

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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