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Organization:

Title:

Comments: My name is Brenda Campen and I live in Sitka, AK. I have lived in Alaska since 1977; in Southeast Alaska since 1979, in Angoon on Admiralty Island and currently in Sitka. I have residences in Angoon and Sitka. My two adult children returned to SE AK after college to live in the Tongass - one is a Sitka commercial fisherman and the other lives on an island in Icy Strait. We all engage in subsistence activities. My son's commercial fishing interests rely on a healthy forest. I help lead Road Scholar programs and those participants ask critical questions about the health of the Tongass. They take their experience to their homes across the U.S. I support small sawmill operations to help the SE AK economy and local communities. I do not support opening the Tongass up for large resource extraction. 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 subsistence harvesting, 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, practicing my culture, fishing, hunting, the conservation of resources for future generations .

Out of the alternatives described in the AKRR DEIS I support alternative 1: no action. It is a workable compromise that allows for economic development and the protection of roadless characteristics. I depend on roadless areas in the Tongass National Forest for healthy fish habitat, deer habitat and subsistence hunting, foraging and gathering wild foods, practicing my culture, recreating and enjoying nature, carbon sequestration and local climate change mitigation, viewing wildlife, keeping public lands wild for future generations, fiscal responsibility and saving taxpayer dollars economic livelihood. 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, 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 We are long past the days of industrial logging. Many in SE AK have seen the benefits to the other areas of the economy - fishing, tourism, recreation. They continue to speak out to preserve the Tongass roadless status. The very clear evidence of climate change requires that we consider the value of the forest for carbon sequestration. Enhanced marine transportation, small scale logging of second growth trees and local sawmill operations would serve the area far better.. 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 transition to second growth logging invest in creating and maintaining recreation infrastructure improve and streamline existing permitting processes for important community projects rather than rehashing old conflicts.

I support the No Action Alternative for the Tongass National Forest.

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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