Data Submitted (UTC 11): 12/17/2019 9:00:00 AM
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Organization:
Title:
Comments: My name is Michaela Goade and I live in Juneau, AK. I was raised in Juneau, AK, spending my entire childhood and school years in the forests and on the beaches of the Tongass. It's where I graduated from high school, and where I returned after college and a couple years up north for work. Southeast Alaska has always been home.

The Tongass is the heart of my identity. It's the ancestral home of my Tlingit family, it's the inspiration at the foundation of my whole career as an artist and picture book illustrator. It's where I live, where I create, where I connect with the Tlingit culture, where I gather food in the warmer months. It's everything. And I know many, many people feel the same. 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 fishing, subsistence harvesting, foraging for wild foods, the peace and solitude I find in nature, recreating, practicing my culture, 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 hunting.

Out of the alternatives described in the AKRR DEIS I support alternative 1: no action. It shows the Forest Service is responding to the needs and voices of Southeast Alaskan communities. I depend on roadless areas in the Tongass National Forest for economic livelihood, healthy fish habitat, foraging and gathering wild foods, practicing my culture, recreating and enjoying nature, carbon sequestration and local climate change mitigation, 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, the northern mainland above Port Snettisham (around Juneau), Admiralty 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 It's really quite simple to me. As the largest intact rainforest in the world, with the Amazon burning, with the people in power doing almost nothing to stop it (and sometimes blocking important and needed measures), why in the world would you clear the way for more harm to be done to the environment??? It's a precious and sacred resource, a gift to SE AK residents as well as the world. We have to take a STAND and say enough is enough. Listen to the residents of this region.. 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 improve and streamline existing permitting processes for important community projects rather than rehashing old conflicts invest in creating and maintaining recreation infrastructure devote resources to support our fishing and visitor industries.

Please do the right thing and help set an important example. This world needs more people, institutions, governments, countries, etc. to remember that our relationship to the land is of the utmost importance.

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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