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First name: Brenda

Last name: Schwartz-Yeager

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Roadless rule comments

Dear Secretary Perdue and Chief Christensen,

My name is Brenda Schwartz-Yeager and I am a fourth generation resident of Wrangell Alaska, in the heart of the Tongass National Forest.

I own and operate 3 businesses in my small community to try carve out a living in an area that is mostly federal land ownership. I run a guiding eco tour and sport fishing charter company in addition to commercial fishing. I hunt fish and gather living a subsistence lifestyle as much as possible. I depend everyday on a wild healthy and intact ecosystem here in the Tongass. I have personally utilized and lived in areas and watersheds that have been hugely impacted by timber harvest in previous years. I would wholeheartedly request that you leave the Tongass National Forest Roadless. We do not want to see any changes in how our Forest's are protected by the Roadless designation. Our small town economy here is dominated by tourism and fishing both of these industries require healthy old growth Forest and pristine untouched view sheds.

Most of the the roads that have been opened up here for logging are not allowable for us to use for our traditional subsistence uses and many are in poor condition and suffering from the USFS backlog of maintenance, including many fish culverts and other important infrastructure that our healthy salmon runs require. Why build more rules and promise fisheries remediation if you can't even maintain the ones that are already in existence? Our Visitor industry and Fishing industry are Sustainable and solid economic drivers and employ most of the residents. We don't want to go backwards, we love and respect the untouched and pristine nature of the Tongass the way it is. We have Timber that is available to cut with the current management plan. Please do not overlook the comments of the people, the USFS has asked for our input and we have spoken loud and clear " leave the Tongass Roadless. The economic benefits of increased timber harvest will be short term and leave a long lasting devastation to one of America's last vast and important ecosystems.

Please select the "no-action" alternative on the Alaska-specific Roadless Rule and protect all inventoried roadless areas on the Tongass National Forest under the 2001 National Roadless Rule Roadless Rule.

Please at anytime be my guest and come see this spectacular place first hand. I may have met you on a short trip you were on this last year in the Tongass and encourage you to spend more time here before making such impactful decisions, I would love to be your host.

Respectfully

Brenda Schwartz-Yeager

Wrangell, AK 99929

Sent from my iPad

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