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First name: Edna

Last name: Jackson

Organization:

Title:

Comments: HC3013

December 7, 2019

Dear Staff:

I live in Kake, Alaska where I have lived most of my life except when going to college, and 4-5 years when my parents taught in Michigan. I plan to live in Kake for the rest of my life. This is my lifestyle, living in a small Tlingit village where the ecology of the forest, the ocean and the economy of Kake are intertwined.

I am a retired 'Elder' of 69 years. Prior to retirement, I worked at any job, beginning at age 14 when I babysat for women in our community who worked in the local fish cannery. I worked at the clinic, the police station and for the tribe, the Organized Village of Kake. I have had elected positions on the Kake City School Board, the Kake City Council and the Organized Village of Kake tribal council. With my husband, we raised a daughter, and now our grandchildren to value our special and unique lifestyle. I still do volunteer work and own a gift shop with my husband where we sell jewelry that we make, as well as handmade soaps and salves using traditional medicine plants. Tourism is important for our little business. A healthy forest is important for tourism.

My family lives off the ocean: we harvest salmon to dry, freeze, smoke & jar, we pick and black seaweed to dry in the sun, we harvest shellfish off the beaches. The freshwater streams and the old growth forest of the Tongass provide spawning habitat for the salmon. Our local economy- tourism and fishing - is dependent on healthy salmon returns, as well as healthy forests and oceans. A sustainable economy requires leaving the Roadless areas roadless. I support the No Action Alternative.

My biggest recommendation to our elected officials is to keep the 2001 Roadless Rule in effect on the Tongass. There are already means for building needed roads. I support our OVK Tribal Council in keeping the 2001 Roadless Rule in effect on the Tongass. My own family, as well as others in the community, use the forests to gather berries, plants, materials to use for artwork such as cedar bark, cedar wood, spruce roots, alder wood. Animals such as deer, moose and elk, as well as wolves and bears and smaller creatures use our growth as well as the returning forests for their habitat. We need to take care of the returning forests, in addition to not logging any more Old Growth. One of your staff, Karen Dillman, recently did a mushroom workshop in Kake and our schools. There are many species of mushrooms that depend on Old Growth forests. When we were young kids in the 60s, the US Forest Service told us that there would be a 60 year cycle, not true. These trees take hundreds of years to return and are logged at an unsustainable rate.

Our area has already been heavily logged, not only by the US Forest Service, but also by our village and regional corporations. It was not a feasible activity! When the US Forest Service had to supplement large scale timber harvests 1960's -1990's at taxpayers' expense, it was not good economics! We grew up with this: seeing logging companies come in and log the areas around Kake with the lower paying jobs going to the locals; having to live with the devastation of wholesale logging while the forest recovered. Our forests are still recovering! Please don't go back to that old model, it is outdated and does not fit with the current economy. The forests that have already been logged are recovering. This would be a great time to manage those logged forests for optimal berry growth, and keep the Old Growth forests as they are. Clearcut logging does not enhance salmon production or promote tourism.

Given the hundreds of miles of existing roads on just our Kupreanof Island alone, why is there a need to provide

more roads? Where are the roads leading? Is mining the ultimate resource extraction? We know there are already hundreds of mining claims on Kupreanof Island. I absolutely do not want to see any mining! There is no healthy way to take care of mine tailings. I do not support any sort of mining on Kupreanof Island.

Please focus on activities that enhance and support our village lifestyle of living off the land. It is referred to as a 'subsistence lifestyle' but we prefer to call it 'Customary and Traditional'. Please have a more active presence in the Keex Kwaan Community forest Partnership. Please focus on activities that can enhance and support our economy, i.e., tourism and fishing. The 2001 Roadless Rule protects our customary and traditional uses of the land and it should stay in effect on the Tongass. I support the No Action Alternative.

Thank you for sending staff to listen.

Regard,

[Signature]

Edna Jackson

[Position]