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First name: City

Last name: Clerk

Organization: City of Whale Pass

Title:

Comments: Whale Pass Support alternative 6 Roadless rule

The City of Whale Pass

Box WWP

Ketchikan, AK 99950-0280

December 9, 2019

To whom it may concern;

Our city passed this resolution last week in support of Roadless Rule

alternative 6. Please accept this copy and enter it into your records our

city's position to this important matter!

Thank you,

Randy Toman, Whale Pass City Clerk

CITY OF WHALE PASS, ALASKA

RESOLUTION NO. 19-12-05-01

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF WHALE PASS, ALASKA IN SUPPORT OF PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE 6 OF THE PROPOSED ALASKA ROADLESS RULE, EXEMPTING THE TONGASS NATIONAL FOREST FROM THE 2001 ROADLESS RULE; AND ESTABLISHING AN EFFECTIVE DATE

WHEREAS, in 2001 U.S. Forest Service adopted the Roadless Area Conservation Rule, or "Roadless Rule," to manage and restrict use upon National Forest System lands including the Tongass National Forest of Southeast Alaska; and

WHEREAS, since its promulgation, the Roadless Rule has placed further economic burdens on the isolated communities of Southeast Alaska including Whale Pass by restricting development and access opportunities in an already economically challenged region; and

WHEREAS, many efforts have been made since 2001 to overturn or otherwise create meaningful changes to the Roadless Rule including the State of Alaska's 2018 petition for complete exemption from the Rule through a proposed Alaska-specific Roadless Rule; and

WHEREAS, in 2003 the U.S. Department of Agriculture conducted a review of how the Rule should be applied to the Tongass National Forest and determined that the Tongass Land and Resource Management Plan provides for sufficient protections through already specified roadless areas, and therefore the 2001 Roadless Rule is unwarranted and ineffective as applied to the Tongass National Forest; and

WHEREAS, through the continued efforts of the State of Alaska, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's recently released draft Environmental Impact Statement for exempting the Tongass National Forest lists six potential options for the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, including Alternative 6 specifying a full exemption of the Tongass National Forest from the Rule; and

WHEREAS, exempting the Tongass National Forest from the 2001 Roadless Rule would release approximately 9.2 million acres from Roadless Rule restrictions and would enable cost-effective access for development; and

WHEREAS, the approved 2016 Tongass Forest Land and Resource Management Plan provides for significant opportunities for management and protections for fish and wildlife habitats, recreation, wilderness and other resources; and

WHEREAS, exemption from the Rule may restore countless economic opportunities for the people of Southeast Alaska through varied land use including timber, mining, fish and wildlife, wilderness, recreation, transportation, energy and hydropower; and

WHEREAS, the above stated land uses and associated development opportunities would support living wage employment possibility, an enhanced quality of life for Southeast Alaska residents, and have a multiplier effect for the region by allowing sustainable economic growth in a number of economic sectors.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Whale Pass, Alaska as follows:

Section 1: The Council of the City of Whale Pass, Alaska strongly supports preferred Alternative 6 of the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, exempting the Tongass National Forest from the 2001 Roadless Area Conservation Rule, or "Roadless Rule."

Section 2: The Council of the City of Whale Pass, Alaska supports legislation that provides for a variety of economic development opportunities to strengthen Whale Pass's and the region's economy and to create jobs.

Section 3: The City of Whale Pass shall transmit a copy of this resolution to the USDA Forest Service, Senator Lisa Murkowski, Senator Dan Sullivan and Representative Don Young.

Section 4: This resolution shall become effective immediately upon passage.

PASSED AND APPROVED by a duly constituted quorum of the City Council for the City of Whale Pass on this 5th Day of December, 2019.

Mayor

ATTEST: _____

City Clerk

Randy Toman, City Clerk

City of Whale Pass

Ketchikan, AK 99950-0280

[Attachment is a Word document version of the same comment above.]

[Position]