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Comments:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for an Alaska-Specific Roadless Area Conservation Rule. I make these comments solely on behalf of myself as a resident of southeast Alaska, an avid outdoorsman, hunter and angler. I strongly support keeping roadless area protections for all of the Tongass National Forest.

The scope of the process should be very narrow. The Forest Service just completed the arduous process of amending the Tongass Land Management Plan. A departure from the transition will undermine public trust in the Forest Service.

Roads do not create good access for my recreation, food gathering or other activities. Hunting is the most personally significant activity I undertake on the Tongass. I view hunting as far more serious and important activity than recreation. It is a primeval, spiritual, humbling activity best undertaken in wild places. It connects me to the place I live. While roads create an abundance of access at first, they quickly become blown-out and the cuts brushed-up and useless for hunting. Not only do they become physically useless, they become mentally useless as well as I find few benefits from trying to shoot animals in old clear-cuts. People from all over the world dream of hunting in Alaska, a wild, undeveloped landscape full of bears and wolves. This is what makes hunting here thrilling, challenging and different from hunting in the lower 48. Please continue to protect the Tongass 77, TNC/Audubon areas as well as roadless areas used for hunting, fishing and recreation.

The protected Wilderness areas offer an important diversity of opportunity to locals and small commercial groups. Roadless areas offer an important place for commercial groups to go instead. The areas that I currently see as essential to personal use include the Mansfield Peninsula of Northern Admiralty, the Mainland north and south of Juneau including Berner's Bay. The Chilkat Peninsula, Chichagof Island including Chicken Creek and the Northern streams, Freshwater Bay and Tenakee Inlet.

I am not opposed to clarifications of what activities are allowed in Roadless Areas, such as powerline transmission, mining access, logging on existing roads or transportation corridors. However, this process should not become an excuse to try to reopen the Tongass to large scale clear cuts. Please stick with the transition plan. As a tour operator, it makes me wonder will the Forest Service go through a similar process when my business model becomes unsustainable? Will the Forest Service guarantee a supply of bears for my customers to look at? I find the argument that the existing timber industry will not return to a forest full of roaded, mature young-growth implausible. When opportunity arrives, savvy Alaskans will make something of it. I am confused by arguments that Roadless Areas are off-limits to development. Conversely, with \$2 billion in combined economic activity from tourism and fishing based on access to undeveloped places and healthy fish and wildlife, I think we could conclude that the Roadless Rule is a productive way of maintaining opportunities for multiple uses and diverse economic activity. I am particularly interested in developing new tourism models for small communities that offer different opportunities than the large ports.