

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/15/2018 1:37:59 PM

First name: Sarah

Last name: Campen

Organization:

Title:

Official Representative/Member Indicator:

Address1: PO Box 207

Address2:

City: Gustavus

State: AK

Province/Region:

Zip/Postal Code: 99826

Country: United States

Email: sarah.campen@gmail.com

Phone: 907-209-6736

Comments:

Hello,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments. I would like to express my support for the existing Roadless Rule as it currently applies on the Tongass National Forest.

I have worked with USFS Tongass and Region 10 staff for the last decade, and appreciate the dedication and passion these staff bring to their work. I have also spent many hours walking through timber stands and discussing the economics of timber harvest in Southeast Alaska.

Changing the Roadless Rule on the Tongass is neither a helpful nor longtime answer to the question of rural economic vitality. If the Tongass becomes exempt from the Roadless Rule (or some version thereof), a few more sales will pencil out, a few people will make money for a few years, and soon we will be back in this same situation. The Tongass NF already struggles to maintain the existing road system: new road building will not change this problem.

It is time for us to be honest with Murkowski and her staff. It is time to move away from the tie between Tongass staff budget and volume of timber offered for sale. It is time to invest seriously in more diversified approaches to rural Southeast community economic development. It's time to look to the future, not the past. Many people in Southeast Alaska are already taking up this work. Tongass NF staff (and their partners) need to give Murkowski a new vision for the future that she can advocate for, rather than spending time, energy, and resources trying to squeeze every last possible dollar from Tongass timber. This era is gone, and we can move to a more wealthy and vibrant future by leaving the past behind us.

The Tongass Advisory Committee worked hard for many months to chart a path forward for the Tongass NF related to both old growth and young growth timber harvest. Similarly, Tongass staff worked for many months on an amendment to the Tongass Land Management Plan, which also shows a path forward. I support the work of both the TAC and the work done on the TLMP Amendment. These efforts should stand, and not be derailed by changes to the Roadless Rule.

Thank you,

Sarah Campen
PO Box 207
Gustavus, Alaska
99826