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Comments:

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Thank you for taking my comments. My name is Karin McCullough. I live in Petersburg Alaska. I have commercially fished, sport fished, hunted and just went out and visited the areas we are now focusing on. My Comment is that the 2001 Roadless Rule areas in the Tongass should maintain their roadless status. Many groups, many organizations, many of us poured over maps and identified the areas on the Tongass that were designated roadless. Areas used for hunting, for fishing, for gathering, and to bring visitors to see. These areas have provided this in the past and should continue to provide into the future. Areas that in a hot dry summer, with very little winter snow pack, hold moisture and helps the streams stay cooler.

On January 26, 2018 220 Scientists sent a letter to Congress that says in part: "Nowhere are the benefits of protecting roadless areas and similar ecologically important lands greater than on the Tongass"

In light of the importance of Roadless areas ecologically and to our Southeast Economy the following are important to me:

* Any and all Roadless Rules need to protect all present inventoried Roadless Areas on the Tongass National Forest currently under the 2001 Roadless Rule. And this should include roaded roadless areas.

* I do support the addition of more Roadless Areas i.e.: The Tongass 77(TU identified) and THC/Audubon Ecological Priority Areas that are not currently in the inventoried roadless areas.

The estuary at the Mouth of Petersburg Creek should be given a Roadless designation.

* The health and sustainability of our Old Growth Forest, Salmon, Sitka Black Deer, Alexander Archipelago Wolves, Northern Goshawks, along with the health of the local economies and human residents are ALL dependent on an intact ecosystem.

Action Items I request for the USFS regarding proposed changes to the 2001 Roadless Rule:

* Do not change the Roadless Rule

* Before considering any change to the 2001 Roadless Rule on the Tongass do a study on regional revenue and employment for commercial fishing and the visitor industries in SE Alaska compared to the timber industry. And publish the study.

* Do a study on the cost of road building comparing it to the revenues generated by the timber revenues and publish this study.

* Do a study on the importance of the Tongass National Forest as a carbon sink and its effect on climate change.

Karin McCullough