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Comments:

I support the no action alternative of creating an Alaska specific roadless rule because I feel what we have is working pretty well and does not need to be changed. I believe there are enough exemptions in the current version (2001 roadless rule) to accommodate energy projects, hydro power, communication lines, transportation corridors, there are even provisions for mining. I prefer maintaining the status quo along with the current Tongass Land Management Plan over creating a whole new one.

If a new Alaska specific roadless rule is created I would like to see that the Tongass 77 and the TNC identified watersheds get the same level of protection or more protections and I would not like to see those areas opened up to development because they are important ecologically as well as key to maintaining healthy fisheries. We rely on Salmon throughout this whole region culturally, as well as economically, and for filling our freezers through subsistence harvesting. Generally I would not like to see new roads built when we haven't proven we can maintain the roads that presently exist. Current roads can or should be maintained to provide access for recreation, subsistence, and personal use harvesting. Also selective harvest logging practices and timber development should be allowed along the existing road system. I would not like to see any form of clear cut logging as I consider that to be deforestation and not good land management practice. Overall impacts to the fisheries in the whole of the region of southeast should be analyzed to consider the greater impact of opening regions of the Tongass to development and how that would impact our Salmon stocks.

I also think there are many unique karst areas throughout southeast that should receive added protections. Many of them are important cultural sites and could be important for archaeological exploration such as El Capitan cave area on Prince of Wales Island, Basket Bay on Chichagof I and other areas around Tenakee Inlet. There is also unique geology around Red Bluff Bay with unique flora due to the cadmium in the soil. That area is an important harvest area for the community of Kake for shrimp, deer, Salmon and Mountain Goat. Kruzof also has many interesting geological sites of note due to the volcanos. I think a cabin should be built at Twin Lakes to provide more recreation access along the new ATV trail.

Ecological impacts to subsistence foods should be a priority in this analysis. I hope that the fast tracked timeline of this project does not negatively impact the ability of the assigned team, quality of the data collected and generation of resulting reports. I hope to see more funding resources put into funding departments and people within the agencies doing the work. It would be good to see our budget plans working to better provide support to do good work rather than wasting it on litigating over opening up more development opportunities to send our resources overseas. We need to clean up the messes that have already been made before we make new ones.