

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/18/2019 12:00:00 AM

First name: Lance

Last name: Preston

Organization:

Title:

Comments:

HC220

[Image of box with check] I do not want to receive a copy of the Final Environmental Impact Statement

Dear Roadless Rule Planning Team,

I live in Southeast Alaska, where my lifestyle, the ecology of the forest, and the economy of our communities are all intricately intertwined. I live in this region for the bountiful salmon runs, the beautiful scenery, the clean air and water, and the endless opportunities to recreate in our expansive outdoors. I am one of the 94% of Southeast Alaskans who eat salmon every year. I depend on the Tongass - from the freshwater streams where salmon spawn to the old-growth forests that deer rely on, the Tongass fuels our family and our economy. The health of our economy, which is heavily reliant on the fishing and tourism industries, also depends on the salmon, wildlife, and presence of old-growth forests. A sustainable future for Southeast Alaska requires protecting expansive areas of habitat - in short, it requires keeping inventoried roadless areas roadless! I urge the Forest Service and Secretary Perdue to protect important salmon spawning habitat, maintain old growth forests for winter deer habitat, and keep the places I like to recreate free of clearcuts and roadbuilding. A full exemption from the Roadless Rule will not work for the Tongass.

WHO I AM: *Include your name, where you live, and any relevant biographical information. Do you live or work on the Tongass National Forest? What is your relationship to the Tongass?* [Text italisized]

My name is Lance Preston and I have been owner and captain of a commercial salmon troller for 19 years. My livelihood, the livelihoods of my colleagues, and the economy of my home city of Sitka is directly threatened by the proposed roadless exemption.

ALTERNATIVE: *The Forest Service will choose how to proceed from a number of different alternatives. If you want the Roadless Rule to remain on the Tongass, write "Alternative 1, No Action." Why do you support this alternative?* [Text italisized]

The alternative I support is: Alternative 1, No Action!

Because: The value of intact old growth is infinitely more valuable to the economy of S.E. AK, as salmon habitat, a tourist attraction, for subsistence and cultural importance than it can ever be to the very small minority who stand to gain by clear-cutting.

AREAS: *Are there specific islands, watersheds, or mountains that you care about? It's especially important to specify areas you use for subsistence hunting, fishing, and gathering. Examples include Tenakee Inlet, Nakwasina Sound, Fish Bay, Ushk Bay, Northern Prince of Wales, T77 salmon watershed areas, Audubon/TNC ecological priority areas.* [Text italisized]

The areas I want to see protected from road building and old growth timber harvest are:

Absolutely all salmon producing watersheds. The Tongass Goose already lays golden eggs that support the SE AK economy. The golden eggs are salmon!

USE: *What activities do you do on the Tongass? Hunting, fishing, recreation, subsistence, business, tourism, etc.*[Text italisized] I rely economically on the Tongass to produce salmon. But I also subsist on deer hunting. Also my house was built with selectively harvested timber from the Tongass.

Old growth logging and road building would negatively impact the productivity of the ecosystem that I depend on for the following activities:

Commercial salmon fishing, sport fishing, the guided sport fishing industry and tourism industry broadly that is important economically to my community and municipality of Sitka. Hunting of deer. And Carbon Sink FOR THE PLANET!

SUGGESTION: **How should the Forest Service manage the Tongass National Forest? More sustainable alternatives to timber harvest include salmon watershed restoration, conservation, visitor industry infrastructure, deer habitat enhancement, young growth thinning, and maintenance of recreation infrastructure such as trails and cabins.**[Text italicized]

The monofocus on increasing timber production in the Tongass is outdated and out of pace with the current economy and lifestyle of Southeast Alaska. Industrial scale harvesting of old-growth forest does not enhance salmon production, visitor industry values, deer habitat, or my recreation experience. I would like the Forest Service to focus on activities that enhance and support our lifestyle of living off the land and the sustainable sectors of our economy.

These activities are: Salmon watershed restoration, visitor industry infrastructure and young growth thinning will support the existing economies of the region and preserve a carbon sink that is literally necessary, among others in the world, to preserve a livable ecology on earth. That is no exaggeration. Consider the magnitude of that fact. Do the right thing.

Additional comments for the Forest Service:

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Lance Preston

[Position]