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First name: Jessica

Last name: Davila

Organization:

Title:

Comments:

My name is Jessica Davila and I live in Ketchikan, AK. I have lived in Southeast Alaska for over 13 years. I depend on the forest for my employment, my personal wood that built my house and we hunt and fish to source a healthy food for my family. I am writing a comment on the Alaska Roadless Rule DEIS because I am concerned with how the Rule and the proposed full exemption will impact my fishing hunting subsistence harvesting foraging for wild foods the peace and solitude I find in nature recreating the status of the Tongass as a national and global treasure the forest's ability to sequester carbon and mitigate climate change impacts the conservation of resources for future generations .

Out of the alternatives described in the AKRR DEIS I support alternative 3: open up roadless and build logical extensions. It is a workable compromise that allows for economic development and the protection of roadless characteristics. I depend on roadless areas in the Tongass National Forest for economic livelihood healthy fish habitat deer habitat and subsistence hunting foraging and gathering wild foods recreating and enjoying nature carbon sequestration and local climate change mitigation viewing wildlife keeping public lands wild for future generations fiscal responsibility and saving taxpayer dollars . A full exemption does not protect these values, nor does it effectively balance economic development and conservation of roadless area characteristics. A full exemption from the Roadless Rule and increased logging and roadbuilding will negatively impact the Tongass and what I and many others use and depend on the forest to provide for us.

The Roadless areas on the Tongass that are especially important to me are those on or around Revillagiedo Island (near Ketchikan) Prince of Wales Island the southern mainland from Bradfield Canal to Dixon Entrance . I want the roadless areas in these locations to stay in roadless status in any alternative selected by the Forest Service, and be managed to provide for the uses and activities I listed above. It is important to me that the T77 and the TNC conservation priority areas retain their roadless protections.

I do not support the Forest Services preferred alternative of a full exemption. A full exemption is not in the interests of Southeast Alaskans who live in and use the Tongass National Forest, because A full exemption is not in the interests of Southeast Alaskans, it is not in mine or my family. How can we maintain more roads when we aren't maintaining the ones we have. I have concern over blocking fish passage at road crossings, particularly the maintaining the crossing for the lifetime of the road.. The State of Alaska says that a full exemption is needed for rural economic development opportunities. However, a full exemption would not help create more rural economic development opportunities, it would instead harm our existing rural economies that are based on the visitor industry and commercial fishing industry.

It would further harm rural economic opportunities because pursuing the same outdated economic model of old growth clearcut harvesting for export stifles innovation and possibility in other sectors, such as mariculture, sustainable young growth harvest, and rural agriculture. If the Forest Service wants to support rural economic development, they should devote resources to support our fishing and visitor industries.

Recreation and tourism are on the rise as seen in the "Southeast by the Numbers 2019" Because of this please consider maintaining the Tongass as a renewable, intact resource.

I urge the Forest Service to prioritize the voices of Southeast Alaskans over those of our political representation and corporate interests. Choosing a full exemption will not create a long lasting, durable solution for roadless areas on the Tongass. It will only increase the legal challenges, uncertainty for businesses, and conflict on the Tongass going forward.