

# CITY OF TENAKEE SPRINGS

**Dan Kennedy**  
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USDA Forest Service  
Attn: Alaska Roadless Rule  
P.O. Box 21628  
Juneau, Alaska 99802

November 21, 2019

Gentlefolk:

I am submitting these comments and accompanying Resolution with the full support of the City Council of Tenakee Springs, Alaska.

The City of Tenakee Springs wishes to retain the existing Roadless Rule and supports selection of Alternative 1.

The City of Tenakee Springs has a long history of support for retaining the essential wild character of Tenakee Inlet and has supported the Roadless Rule since its earliest days. At both the local meetings with the Forest Service regarding proposed changes, 25-30 people attended and were 100% in favor of retaining the existing Roadless Rule. This may not sound like many people, but depending on the season, it represents between 30 and 60% of our adult population. It is obvious that we as a community, and across a diverse political spectrum, want to maintain Tenakee Inlet's wild character. This is not merely to protect our subsistence lifestyles. It is also essential to our economy which relies heavily on fishing and guiding.

Again, The City of Tenakee Springs supports Alternative 1, the no action alternative that retains the Roadless Rule as it currently exists for the Tongass National Forest.

Sincerely,



Dan Kennedy  
Mayor

**City of Tenakee Springs  
RESOLUTION 2020-07**

In the Council  
November 21, 2019

Introduced by  
Council President

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF TENAKEE SPRINGS, ALASKA  
EXPRESSING THE CITY OF TENAKEE SPRINGS' SUPPORT FOR  
ALTERNATIVE 1 OF THE DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT  
FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF INVENTORIED ROADLESS AREAS WITHIN  
THE TONGASS NATIONAL FOREST.**

**WHEREAS**, the community of Tenakee Springs depends on fishing, guiding, and tourism as its main economic drivers; and

**WHEREAS**, all these activities depend on maintaining the wild character of the lands surrounding Tenakee Inlet; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2001, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) finalized a management plan for the Tongass National Forest, which includes the National Roadless Area Conservation Rule (Roadless Rule) in response to disappearing wildlands and a road maintenance backlog of \$8.4 billion; and

**WHEREAS**, the intent of the Roadless Rule was to protect the social, economic, and ecological values and characteristics of inventoried roadless areas from road construction and reconstruction and certain timber harvest activities; and

**WHEREAS**, at the time of promulgation in 2001, the Roadless Rule had the most extensive public involvement of any rulemaking process in the history of federal rulemaking, generating over 1.6 million comments, the vast majority of which supported the creation of a strong national policy protecting roadless areas; and

**WHEREAS**, inventoried roadless areas provide large, relatively undisturbed blocks of important habitat for a variety of terrestrial and aquatic wildlife and plants; contribute to healthy watersheds and clean drinking water; and provide extensive opportunities for outdoor recreation and tourism; and

**WHEREAS**, the Roadless Rule protects some of the last remaining tracts of old-growth forest habitat in the Tongass that contribute to the absorption of global warming pollution and protect native animal species that rely on them; and

**WHEREAS**, roadless areas support subsistence lifestyles through hunting and fishing, and support outdoor recreation, commercial fisheries, and tourism industries; and

**WHEREAS**, the Roadless Rule contains exceptions that allow roadbuilding for community access, hydropower projects, utility connectors, and other economic development projects when they serve a legitimate public interest; and

**WHEREAS**, protection of these roadless areas in the Tongass National Forest is of local and national importance; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2018, the State of Alaska petitioned the USDA to craft a state-specific roadless rule and requested that a full exemption be pursued from the 2001 Roadless Rule; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2018 the USDA accepted the State of Alaska's petition and initiated a National Environmental Policy Act review, an environmental impact statement (EIS), and public rulemaking process to address the management of inventoried roadless areas within Alaska, and to evaluate the exemption set forth in the petition; and

**WHEREAS**, the great majority of comments received by the USDA following its notice of intent of proposed rulemaking opposed changing the Roadless Rule for Alaska; and

**WHEREAS**, all the citizens of Tenakee Springs who testified publicly at Forest Service hearings express unequivocal support for maintaining the Roadless Rules as they now stand; and

**WHEREAS**, the draft EIS provides an analysis of six alternatives related to roadless management in Alaska, ranging from no action to a full exemption from the Roadless Rule on the Tongass National Forest; and

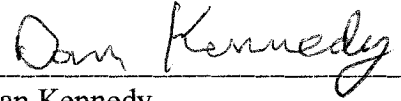
**WHEREAS**, the USDA has identified Alternative 6, which is a full exemption, as the preferred alternative at this time; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Tenakee Springs opposes Alternative 6 and feels that Alternative 1, which requests no action and would maintain the 2001 Roadless Rule on the Tongass National Forest, best protects public interests while also protecting the unique ecosystem of the Tongass; and

**WHEREAS**, the USDA is seeking public comment on the draft EIS from October 18, 2019 to December 17, 2019 and will issue its decision regarding and Alaska Roadless Rule in June of 2020;

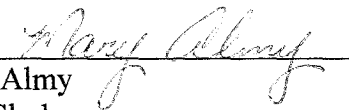
**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:** That the City Council of the City of Tenakee Springs expresses its support for Alternative 1 and its opposition to Alternative 6, of the draft environmental impact statement for the management of inventoried roadless areas within the Tongass National Forest.

**ADOPTED 6 Ayes, 1 Absent THIS 21<sup>st</sup> DAY OF November 2019**



Dan Kennedy  
City Council President  
Ex officio MAYOR

ATTEST:

  
Mary Almy  
City Clerk