

HJR

6

Alaska State Legislature

House of Representatives



Official Business

State Capitol
Juneau, AK. 99801-1182

Representative Peggy Wilson

SPONSOR STATEMENT – HJR 6

Opposing the Clinton Administrations' decision on the Roadless Policy

On January 5, 2001, President Clinton announced the final Record of Decision for the roadless policy including the Tongass and Chugach National Forests.

Alaskans from across this state must join forces to overturn the inclusion of Alaska forests within President Clinton's Roadless Policy.

This Presidential action is an affront to all Alaskans and continues the history of breaking promises to Alaskans regarding land management.

The president's Roadless Policy is a blatant disregard of the process that has been agreed to. Countless hours, over eleven years and 13 million dollars were spent making revisions to the Tongass Land Management Plan. The Chugach Forest Plan revision process has been underway for over three years requiring considerable investment of time money and resources. Now these processes have been completely disregarded.

The Roadless Initiative violates the "no-more" clauses of ANILCA and creates approximately 15 million acres of new defacto wilderness within Alaska.

I, like many Alaskans, am vehemently opposed to the inclusion of the Tongass and Chugach National Forests in the president's Roadless Initiative and ask that we work together and support the overturning of this inclusion by litigation, congressional action or by action of President-elect Bush.

Map 21

The USDA Forest Service uses the most current and complete data available. GIS data and product accuracy may vary. Using GIS products for purposes other than those for which they were intended may yield inaccurate or misleading results. The USDA Forest Service reserves the right to correct, update, modify, or replace GIS products without notification.

September 15, 2000
Data Supplied by Tongass National Forest
Contact: Tongass N.F.
Federal Building
648 Sitkine Street
Sitka, AK 99501
(907) 228 6202

SCALE IN MILES



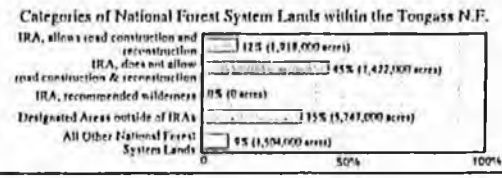
TONGASS NATIONAL FOREST Inventoried Roadless Areas

- Inventoried Roadless Area where road construction or reconstruction is allowed
- Inventoried Roadless Area where road construction or reconstruction is not allowed
- Inventoried Roadless Area where road construction or reconstruction is not allowed, and the forest plan recommends wilderness
- Designated Areas outside of Inventoried Roadless Areas - *These are already roadless*
- National Forest System lands outside of Inventoried Roadless Areas - not all public land is shown on the map

Interstate Highway Other Highways County boundaries

TONGASS NATIONAL FOREST Inventoried Roadless Areas

(Bar chart values apply to the entire Tongass National Forest)



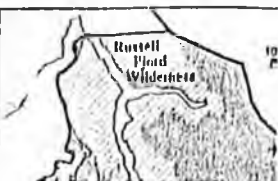
TONGASS NATIONAL FOREST

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Map 21



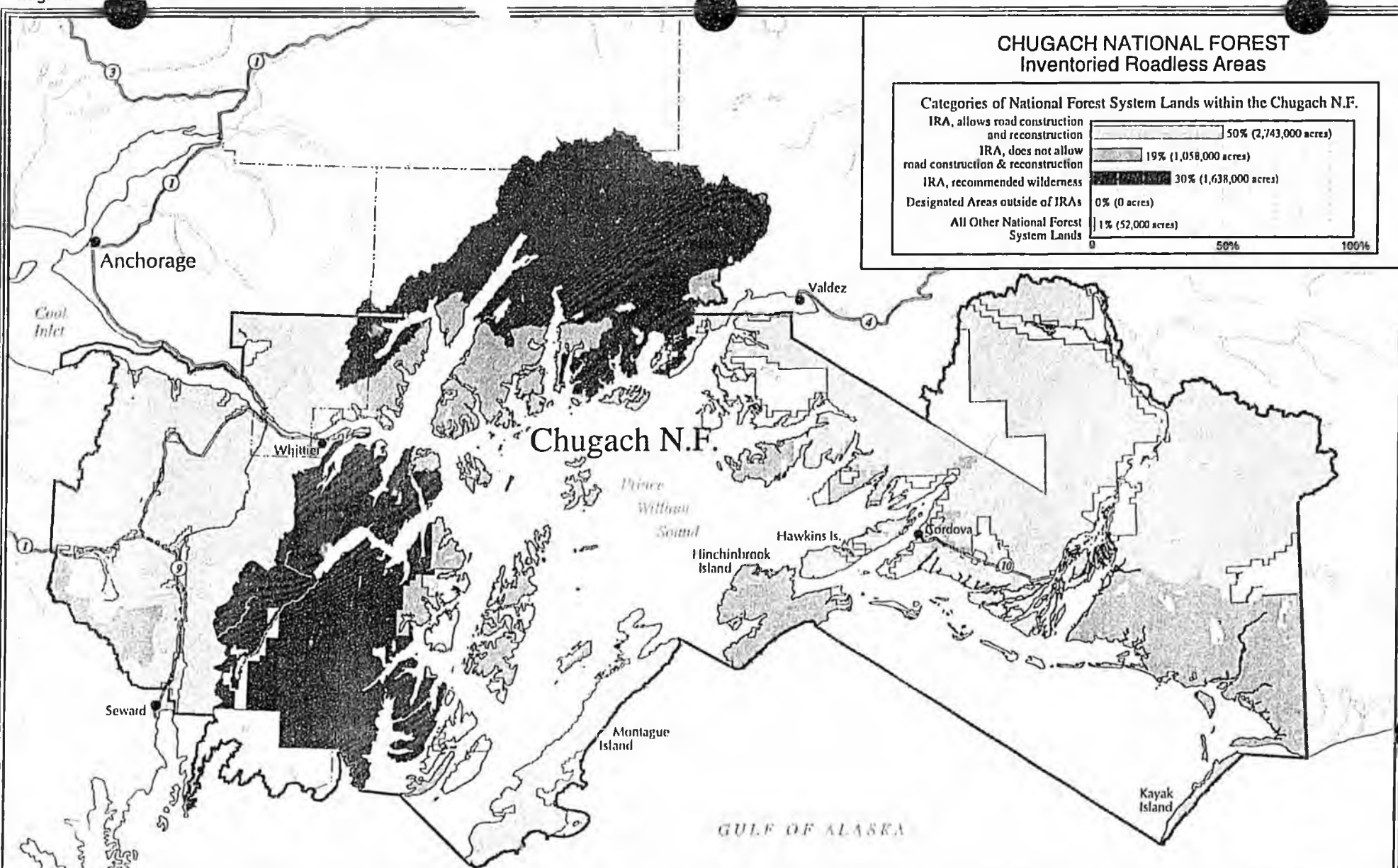
TONGASS NATIONAL FOREST Inventoried Roadless Areas



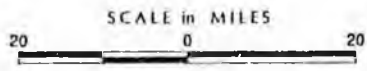
CHUGACH NATIONAL FOREST Inventoried Roadless Areas

Categories of National Forest System Lands within the Chugach N.F.

| | |
|--|-----------------------|
| IRA, allows road construction and reconstruction | 50% (2,743,000 acres) |
| IRA, does not allow road construction & reconstruction | 19% (1,058,000 acres) |
| IRA, recommended wilderness | 30% (1,638,000 acres) |
| Designated Areas outside of IRAs | 0% (0 acres) |
| All Other National Forest System Lands | 1% (52,000 acres) |



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September 15, 2000
 Data Supplied by Chugach National Forest
 Contact: Chugach N.F.
 3301 C Street, Suite 300
 Anchorage, AK 99503-3998
 (907) 271-2500



- Inventoried Roadless Area where road construction or reconstruction is allowed
- Inventoried Roadless Area where road construction or reconstruction is not allowed
- Inventoried Roadless Area where road construction or reconstruction is not allowed, and the forest plan recommends as wilderness
- Designated Areas outside of Inventoried Roadless Areas
- National Forest System lands outside of Inventoried Roadless Areas - not all private land is shown on the map
- Interstate Highway
- Other Highways
- County boundaries



January 12, 2001

Representative Peggy Wilson
State Capitol, Room 409
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

JAN 13 2001

Via Fax (907) 465-3175, Original Via Mail

Re: HJR 6, Federal Roadless Rule

Dear Representative Wilson:

I am writing on behalf of Chugach Alaska Corporation (Chugach) to express our full support of HJR 6. As the largest non-federal landowner within the Chugach National Forest (Chugach owns or has selection rights to 625,000 acres of full fee, subsurface and oil and gas estate within the boundaries of the Chugach National Forest) Chugach has participated fully in the Chugach Forest Plan revision process, investing considerable resources over the past several years. The roadless rule makes a mockery of that process.

We also have a future need to perfect road access across National Forest lands, access that was promised to Chugach as an integral part of its land settlement. It is disingenuous for the Forest Service to characterize those lands within the Chugach Forest that are burdened by Chugach's statutory access rights as forever roadless. The Roadless rule will only make perfecting such promised access more difficult.

We applaud Governor Knowle's resolve to defend our Corporation and all Alaskans who will suffer from this executive fiat. HJR 6 articulates these issues well and will further support the Governor's effort, while providing the needed backing for our President-elect and Congressional delegation in Washington to overturn this rule.

Enclosed is additional correspondence regarding this matter, should you wish to explore Chugach's position on this issue in greater detail. Feel free to contact me if you would like to discuss this issue further. Thank-you for your support

Sincerely,

Rick Rogers, Vice President
Lands, Resources and Tourism

Enclosures: Letter to Governor Knowles

Letter to Secretary of Agriculture Glickman

360 East 34th Avenue Suite 200 Anchorage, Alaska 99503-4196 Phone 907-563-8866 Fax 907-563-8402

MY TURN

by Robert W. Loescher

President & CEO, Sealaska Corporation

Alaskans from across this great state need to join forces with Governor Tony Knowles and the Alaska Congressional Delegation and keep the Clinton Administration's "roadless policy" out of our Tongass and Chugach National Forests. Here are four reasons why: (1) The roadless policy totally ignores the established forest land planning process. (2) By fiat, the roadless policy locks up so much suitable forest land that we can not sustain jobs and a viable timber industry. (3) The roadless policy violates the clause in Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) that unequivocally said no more public land would be locked up in Alaska. (4) It precludes rural communities from improving their core infrastructure needs including drinking water and utility and transportation corridors.

Governor Tony Knowles staunchly supports the right of the Alaskan public to participate in administrative and legislative actions that affect their lives. He said that the roadless initiative is not a public process. He understands that the roadless policy ensures that Alaska's forests will not sustain a viable and economically important timber industry. This policy will hurt Alaska's urban and rural communities. Alaska and our forest-dependent communities cannot absorb more loss of jobs and restricted access to land for core community needs that this policy will cause.

Alaska has a long history of responsible, public processes to guide the management of our forests and forest ecosystems. They were designed to protect wilderness, jobs and community well-being. ANILCA struck the right balance between the reservation of national conservation system units and those public lands necessary and appropriate for more intensive use and disposition. ANILCA's "no more" clause prohibited any further land withdrawals without the

approval of the US Congress. The "no more" clause made sure that voices of the small, forest-dependent communities were not drowned out by the "postcard diplomacy" of well-financed corporate environmental organizations and foundations.

Congress passed the Tongass Timber Reform Act (TTRA) in 1990 and set aside another 1.2 million acres of national forest land. TTRA was a very public process that fixed obvious oversights in ANILCA by adding small but important ecosystems to conservation units. In this process, the voice of Alaska residents was heard.

Unfortunately, the Clinton administration ignored the open and public processes in ANILCA and TTRA that produced the revisions to the Tongass Land Management Plan (TLMP). The revised TLMP Plan, initiated in 1986, and finally ratified in May 1997 allowed national public participation. Two years later, US Dept. of Interior Undersecretary Lyons disregarded this public process and significantly amended the 1997-revised TLMP. He cut the annual allowable harvest from the Tongass National Forest by over 30% and injured Alaskans' ability to sustain a viable timber industry.

This blatant disregard for the public process and the health of Alaska's forest-dependent communities occurred after Undersecretary Lyons declared his support for the public forest land management planning process. Lyons said to the Southeast Conference that there would be no further significant timber or other land withdrawals on the Tongass National Forest. Undersecretary Lyon's unilateral actions demonstrate clearly why there was a "no more" provision in the ANILCA: to stop Washington D.C. bureaucrats from imposing their own misguided ideology behind closed doors.

The Clinton administration continues to steamroll the Alaskan public. Undersecretary Lyons told us that the new national roadless policy would not apply to the Tongass National Forest because the Tongass land planning

process had just been completed. In an about-face, the US Forest Service EIS now recommends inclusion of the Tongass. This action reduces the annual harvest from Tongass by 82% and destroys our forest industry. All this without any meaningful site-specific considerations that the local planning processes require. The key public official obligated to ensure public participation in forest management decisions ignored the public's rights and became an agent for the corporate national environmental organizations who place ideology and perception above good science and the people's right to live and work in this great land.

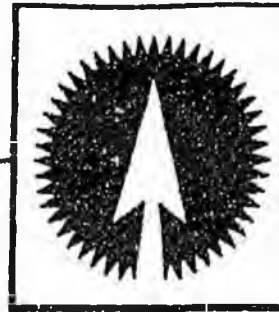
The roadless agenda is clear. The Clinton administration's threat to implement its roadless policies is real. It will harm our communities, who depend on access to the adjacent forests for drinking water, for cheaper electrical power, and for basic safe and reliable transportation corridors.

We, as a State, must pull together and stop the economic strangulation of our communities. I applaud the way Governor Knowles stood up for Alaska and protested the preemption of the TLMP process. Governor Knowles said in a letter to Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman, "I remain firm in my opposition to any action that undermines the Tongass plan through federal fiat."

The Congressional Delegation has been using its authority and prestige in Washington, D.C. to urge Secretary Glickman to adhere to the National Forest Management Land Planning process and not to apply the roadless policy to the Alaska National Forests. The Governor and the Congressional Delegation working together with Alaskans can influence the outcome. However, lukewarm and measured responses to this threat will not prevail. We must adopt an aggressive strategy that may include litigation, congressional action and administrative challenges to prevent application of the roadless policy to either the Tongass or Chugach National Forest.

This is now a matter of survival. Alaskans treasure independence, and take pride in self-reliance. If we fail to act, our communities and the economies of the Tongass and Chugach National Forests will become financially-dependent wards of the State and Federal government.

Robert W. Jacobsen

Alaska Forest Association, Inc.

111 STEDMAN STREET, SUITE 200
KETCHIKAN, ALASKA 99901-0599
Phone 907-225-6114
FAX 907-225-5920
Web Site www.akforest.org

January 12, 2001

Representative Peggy Wilson
State Capitol, Room 409
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

JAN 12 2001

Via Fax (907) 465-3175, Original Via Mail

Re: House Joint Resolution 6, Opposing the Roadless Rule

Dear Representative Wilson:

Thank you for introducing HJR 6, a resolution opposing the inclusion of the Tongass and Chugach National Forests in the President's Roadless Rule. The Alaska Forest Association fully supports HJR 6 because Alaska is disproportionately harmed by the rule.

As HJR 6 clearly spells out, Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) contains provisions which were intended to prohibit the very kinds of actions that are at issue here. Aside from the immediate harm that will accrue to the industry and communities of Alaska's coastal region, the Roadless Rule should be opposed by the State of Alaska because of the promises embodied in ANILCA. Whether the Clinton Administration chose to call these roadless withdrawals "wilderness" or not, it amounts to the same thing. As HJR 6 states, these new areas will be *de facto* wilderness, the designation of which, or *even the study* of which, is prohibited by ANILCA. Additionally, the Roadless Rule violates the National Forest Management Act of 1976 (NFMA) which established a planning process for land management plans in individual forests.

The Tongass Land Management Plan (TLMP) was revised in 1997 after the Forest Service spent 11 years and \$13 million on the revision. In 1999, Under Secretary of Agriculture, Jim Lyons unilaterally amended the plan under the guise of granting appeal points to some radical environmental groups. Whether his action was legal under federal laws and regulations is presently the subject of a complaint filed in federal district court by the AFA, the Metlakatla Indian Community, Coffin Cove, Wrangell, Ketchikan Gateway Borough, the City of Craig, Southeast Conference, Concerned Alaskans for Resources and Environment (C.A.R.E.) and some individuals. The result of Mr. Lyons' decision was a plan that is able to produce a maximum annual offering level of only 153 million board feet of timber, and is likely to produce much less, based on historic Forest Service performance. As a point of reference, existing sawmills in Southeast Alaska (including some that are currently closed) have a normal annual operating capacity of 355.5 million board feet.

Estimates given by the Forest Service, Alaska Region, state that application of the Roadless Rule to the Tongass and the Chugach will further reduce the land available for timber harvest from 576,000 to 311,000 acres in the Tongass, and to 53,000 in the Chugach. The Forest Service estimates it can offer approximately 50-55 million board feet of timber per year under the Roadless Rule and TLMP. If implementation of the Roadless Rule occurs there will certainly be more mill closures and loss of employment in the region. Given the dramatic decline in timber-related economic activity in Southeast Alaska over the past decade, it is time Alaska said "enough is enough" to these unnecessary and unacceptable federal preservation actions.

With respect to the Chugach National Forest, 98 percent of that forest is presently inventoried roadless. Application of the Roadless Rule would prohibit all new transportation infrastructure in that forest without the benefit of a public planning process specific to the Chugach. The Chugach Land and Resource Management Plan is presently undergoing revision under terms set forth in the National Forest Management Act of 1976. AFA and several other user groups have been very actively involved in the Chugach planning process. That is the proper venue for land use allocation decisions to be made in the Chugach, as it is with all the other national forests in this country. Such decisions should not be made through a national super-EIS initiated for the purposes of establishing an "environmental legacy" for the President and furthering his political aims.

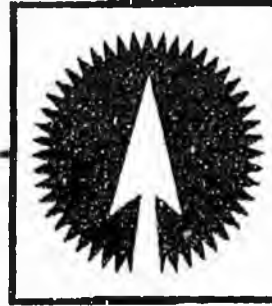
Again, thank you for introducing this important resolution. It is our hope that the Alaska State Legislature will act swiftly in strong support of HJR 6. If you have any questions regarding the Roadless Rule, please call me.

Sincerely,



Jack E. Phelps
Executive Director

cc: The Honorable Tony Knowles, Governor of Alaska
Senator John Torgerson

Alaska Forest Association, Inc.

111 STEDMAN STREET, SUITE 200
KETCHIKAN, ALASKA 99901-0599
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Again, thank you for introducing this important resolution. It is our hope that the Alaska State Legislature will act swiftly in strong support of HJR 6. If you have any questions regarding the Roadless Rule, please call me.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Jack E. Phelps in cursive script.

Jack E. Phelps
Executive Director

cc: The Honorable Tony Knowles, Governor of Alaska
Senator John Torgerson



JAN 15⁶ RECD

750 W. 2nd Ave. #109, Anchorage AK 99501 / Ph. 907-258-6171 / Fax 907-258-6177

P.O. Box 22151, Juneau AK 99802 / Ph. 907-463-3366 / Fax 907-463-3312 / unite@akvoice.org

HJR 6 ~ A Resolution relating to the Inclusion of Alaska's National Forests in the Roadless Policy

TO: House Transportation Committee

DATE: January 16, 2001

Alaska Conservation Alliance and Alaska Conservation Voters are sister nonprofit organizations dedicated to protecting Alaska's environment through public education and advocacy. Our 44 member organizations and businesses represent over 21,000 registered Alaskan voters, most of whom are frequent users of the Tongass and Chugach National Forests for subsistence, recreational, and commercial activities. We support efforts by the U.S. Forest Service to protect roadless areas within our national forests. Discussions surrounding HJR 6 and last session's HJR 54 have included many misconceptions and much misinformation. We would like to address some of those issues here:

- The Roadless Policy does not violate open public process. During an 18-month long public process, over 600 hearings were held around the country. Over 1.6 million comments were received by the Forest Service. Here in Alaska, hearings were held in Anchorage, Girdwood, Seward, Cordova, Sitka, Ketchikan, Juneau, Yakutat, Kake, Tenakee, Hoonah, Petersburg, Thorne Bay, Craig, Angoon, Gustavus and Wrangell. Over 1,000 Alaskans attended these hearings; 62% of those testifying at the hearings supported the roadless proposal.
- The Roadless Policy does not violate the "No More" clause of ANILCA; it is not creating new parks, refuges or wilderness areas, de facto or otherwise. It is, rather, another tool in the Forest Service's tool box of management options for protecting currently roadless areas for multiple uses. For example, protection of roadless areas will help maintain water quality for community water supplies and a viable fishing industry and help preserve wildlife habitat for continued subsistence and sport hunting.
- The Roadless Policy does not affect existing roads. No roads currently in existence will be closed under this rule. In fact, money saved from building new roads into roadless areas will be available for use by the Forest Service to help maintain existing roads and keep them open and safe for use by Alaskans.
- The Roadless Policy will not mean the end of the timber industry in Alaska. In the Tongass, billions of board feet of timber outside of roadless areas would still be available for logging. This timber, that can be accessed by the 4,650 miles of existing road, is enough to support a moderately-sized timber industry. In the Chugach, the current small-scale operations for house logs, firewood, and safety reasons can continue in the existing roaded areas.

We only need to look south to the national forests in Washington state to see the "collateral damage" that comes with extensive road building, including landslides, damage to salmon streams, problems with game poaching and increased risk of human-caused fires. The Roadless Policy will give us the opportunity to do it differently here in Alaska. This policy will allow better management of the Tongass and the Chugach for the benefit of all users – subsistence, recreational and commercial. ACA/ACV urges you not to support HJR 6.

Susan Schrader, Conservation Advocate

Conserve Alaska. It's Only Natural.



Southeast Alaska Conservation Council

SEACC 419 6th Street, Suite 328, Juneau, AK 99801
(907) 586-6942 phone (907) 463-3312 fax
info@seacc.org

**STATEMENT OF
KATYA KIRSCH, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
SOUTHEAST ALASKA CONSERVATION COUNCIL**

HEARING ON HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 6,

**BEFORE THE
ALASKA HOUSE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
JANUARY 16, 2001**

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Transportation Committee:

My name is Katya Kirsch. I am the Executive Director of the Southeast Alaska Conservation Council (SEACC).

SEACC is a coalition of eighteen volunteer conservation groups in fourteen communities across Southeast Alaska, from Yakutat to Ketchikan. SEACC's individual members include Alaska Natives, subsistence users, commercial and sport fishermen, hunters and guides, tourism and recreation business owners, small timber operators and high value-added wood product manufacturers, as well as concerned citizens from all walks of life. SEACC is dedicated to safeguarding the integrity of Southeast Alaska's unsurpassed natural environment while providing for balanced, sustainable use of our region's resources.

I have lived in Southeast—Haines, Juneau, Wrangell, and Ketchikan—for the past 26 years. During this time I have seen many changes—many thousands of acres of clearcuts, and in this last decade, a much more diversified economy, including huge growth in the tourism and recreation industries, as well as new high tech businesses, fishing and much more.

It is time to stop looking backwards to recreate an economy that chews through our landscape for the gain of just one industry sector. Southeast Alaska's largest industries depend on a healthy Tongass National Forest and the renewable forest resources it provides. While employment in the timber industry continues to decline, increases in the construction, trade, health care and other parts of the service sector continue to march forward. *Alaska Economic Trends* (Jan. 2001). We must keep moving ahead. We need you to have the wisdom to look forward, instead of trying to continue the economy of past years.

SEACC strongly supports the decision to immediately include the Tongass National Forest in the Forest Service Roadless Area Conservation plan. This decision is not about closing down any of the nearly 5,000 miles of roads that currently exist on the Tongass National Forest. It is about

managing these valuable wildlands for multiple uses, such as hunting, fishing, subsistence, recreation, and tourism.

Southeast Alaskans depend upon these roadless areas for food, recreation and income. For example, the policy protect Farragut Bay. Petersburg fishermen are concerned about negative impacts to important king salmon trolling areas and crab grounds in this water body from logging development.

The Forest Service and the Administration listened to what the people said. It is time for you to listen also. The fact that the majority of Alaskans, millions of Americans, and the scientific community support full and immediate protection of Tongass roadless areas cannot be overlooked by those who may challenge this decision. The roadless policy is a thoroughly considered administrative rule-making process that afforded the maximum opportunity for public involvement.

The Forest Service held a total of 617 public hearings--including 17 in Alaska--that were attended by over 39,000 Americans. More than 1.6 million comments were received, the vast majority of which supported inclusion of the Tongass and the Chugach in the final rule. Estimates based on eyewitness accounts show that nearly 75 percent of the citizens who testified at public hearings in Southeast Alaska's four (4) largest communities (Juneau, Ketchikan, Sitka, & Petersburg) supported including the Tongass in the Roadless policy. In Ketchikan, an emphatically pro-timber community for the past live decades, more than 40 percent of the citizens who publicly testified supported including the Tongass in the roadless policy. In the 13 hearings held across the region, roughly 60 percent of the Southeast Alaskans who testified supported protecting all Tongass roadless wildlands from commercial logging and roadbuilding. This outpouring of local citizen support for applying the roadless policy on the Tongass illustrates that Southeast Alaskans reject the assumption that the recently revised Tongass plan, by itself, will ensure the long-term ecological integrity of our nation's largest national forest. It also reveals a desire for the Tongass to be treated just like any other national forest.

In fact, the best rationale for including the Tongass in the national roadless policy immediately was the very product of implementing the revised Tongass Land Management Plan (TLMP). As required by TLMP, the Forest Service and other federal and state agencies evaluated the ability of existing forest roads to meet TLMP standards for fish passage. The results of this inter-agency effort are shocking and show the legacy of damage caused by roadbuilding on salmon and trout habitat. According to the Tongass Road Condition Survey Report, released by ADF&G in June 2000, two-thirds of the culverts crossing salmon streams provided inadequate fish passage; eighty-five percent of the culverts crossing trout streams provided inadequate fish passage.

Out of an estimated \$20 million backlog to fix the nearly 1000 culverts that block safe fish passage, the Forest Service has been budgeting only one half million dollars per year to fix these failing roads. At this rate, it would take 40 years to fix current fish passage problems on the Tongass. Instead of this resolution, the Alaska Legislature should call for sufficient federal funding to fix these culverts---providing jobs for Southeast Alaskans and safe passage for wild salmon so important to our commercial and sports fishermen. The Forest Service needs to use its

shrinking budget to maintain its existing road network instead of punching new roads and clearcuts into roadless areas.

We strongly disagree that the Tongass Timber Reform Act of 1990 (TTRA) provides any basis for treating the Tongass differently from other national forests. This excuse is contrary to judicial interpretation of this landmark conservation bill. By deleting in its entirety the mandate for unsustainable logging levels and excessive and permanent taxpayer subsidies, Congress clearly intended to halt the practice of treating the Tongass differently from other national forests. Thus, the Forest Service's first obligation on the Tongass is to manage "all of the various renewable surface resources of the national forests so that they are utilized in the combination that will best meet the needs of the American people." 16 U.S.C. § 531(a) (Multiple Use-Sustained Yield Act). If the combination of renewable resources that best meets the needs of the American people protects the roadless areas on the Tongass from commercial logging and roadbuilding, as a majority of Alaskans agree, then the Forest Service is complying with the TTRA.

The resolution's reliance on ANILCA's "no-more" clause is similarly misplaced because this is not a "withdrawal" of public lands but just the exercise of the Forest Service's management discretion to define appropriate uses for land under its jurisdiction. The policy does not bar location, entry, or leasing of minerals under federal mining laws. Nor, as alleged in the resolution, does the national roadless policy violate the "study" provision contained in Section 1326(b) of ANILCA. This section does not prohibit the Forest Service's review of roadless area management because the review was not conducted for the single purpose of establishing new conservation system units by Congress. The Forest Service review was only a process for the Forest Service to decide how to manage the lands under its jurisdiction pursuant to its existing management authorities and responsibilities.

As a last note, it appears that HJR 6 was hastily written. There are several errors in the "whereas" sections. For example, the resolution claims, "the forest products industry ... contributes significant revenue to local communities through the 25 percent revenue sharing provisions of federal law." However, a new federal law (P.L. 106-393) was passed last year and guarantees stable payments for roads and schools to local forest communities. According to the formula provided under that statute, local governments would get an annual payment equivalent to the average payment of their 3 highest years of timber receipts over the past 15 years. A reduction, if any, in timber receipts on the Tongass from immediately including it in the roadless policy will not reduce the amount of money Southeast Alaska communities will receive for roads and schools.

Please look forward and not backward. Please do not support this resolution. Instead, support fixing the culverts which are impeding safe fish passage now, providing jobs for Alaskans who fix them, and the fishing and recreation industries which will thrive along with wild salmon, wildlife and wild roadless forests.

Thank you.

shrinking budget to maintain its existing road network instead of punching new roads and clearcuts into roadless areas.

We strongly disagree that the Tongass Timber Reform Act of 1990 (TTRA) provides any basis for treating the Tongass differently from other national forests. This excuse is contrary to judicial interpretation of this landmark conservation bill. By deleting in its entirety the mandate for unsustainable logging levels and excessive and permanent taxpayer subsidies, Congress clearly intended to halt the practice of treating the Tongass differently from other national forests. Thus, the Forest Service's first obligation on the Tongass is to manage "all of the various renewable surface resources of the national forests so that they are utilized in the combination that will best meet the needs of the American people." 16 U.S.C. § 531(a) (Multiple Use-Sustained Yield Act). If the combination of renewable resources that best meets the needs of the American people protects the roadless areas on the Tongass from commercial logging and roadbuilding, as a majority of Alaskans agree, then the Forest Service is complying with the TTRA.

The resolution's reliance on ANILCA's "no-more" clause is similarly misplaced because this is not a "withdrawal" of public lands but just the exercise of the Forest Service's management discretion to define appropriate uses for land under its jurisdiction. The policy does not bar location, entry, or leasing of minerals under federal mining laws. Nor, as alleged in the resolution, does the national roadless policy violate the "study" provision contained in Section 1326(b) of ANILCA. This section does not prohibit the Forest Service's review of roadless area management because the review was not conducted for the single purpose of establishing new conservation system units by Congress. The Forest Service review was only a process for the Forest Service to decide how to manage the lands under its jurisdiction pursuant to its existing management authorities and responsibilities.

As a last note, it appears that HJR 6 was hastily written. There are several errors in the "whereas" sections. For example, the resolution claims, "the forest products industry ... contributes significant revenue to local communities through the 25 percent revenue sharing provisions of federal law." However, a new federal law (P.L. 106-393) was passed last year and guarantees stable payments for roads and schools to local forest communities. According to the formula provided under that statute, local governments would get an annual payment equivalent to the average payment of their 3 highest years of timber receipts over the past 15 years. A reduction, if any, in timber receipts on the Tongass from immediately including it in the roadless policy will not reduce the amount of money Southeast Alaska communities will receive for roads and schools.

Please look forward and not backward. Please do not support this resolution. Instead, support fixing the culverts which are impeding safe fish passage now, providing jobs for Alaskans who fix them, and the fishing and recreation industries which will thrive along with wild salmon, wildlife and wild roadless forests.

Thank you.

FAX TRANSMITTAL

FROM: Frank Richards Richards & Sons Inc.
Phone 907-747-3355 Fax 907-747-6535
Jay Kassner K & R Enterprises Inc.
Phone 907-345-6535 Fax 907-345-8244

DATE: January 22, 2001

RE: President Clinton's move to make the Tongass National Forest roadless

This letter is intended to make comments concerning President Clinton's attempt to designate the Tongass National Forest as a roadless area.

We encourage you to sponsor and support legislation or initiatives which will require the State of Alaska to take an active role in overturning the Tongass National Forest Roadless initiative. This initiative is a strictly political ploy and is not based on facts or policies required to be adapted by the U. S. Forest Service under the Multi-use provisions in Federal law.

Prior ANILCA legislation stated that there would be no further change's or restrictions placed on the Tongass National Forest. President Clinton's move to designate the Tongass as a roadless area will further decrease property values and cause the economy of Southeast Alaska to further deteriorate.

During the past forty years, many southeast communities and individual businessmen made decisions to make large investments in infrastructure based on on-going long term timber harvest contracts as well as continued multi-use of the Tongass National Forest. The K & R Office Building in Sitka is a case in point. We built a large state-of-the-art office building for the U. S. Forest Service in Sitka. Attached is an assessed valuation chart showing a drop of over six hundred thousand dollars on our property from 1993 to 1994. This is the period when ALP's long-term timber contract was illegally voided by the Clinton administration.

As you are no doubt aware, the U. S. Forest Service has dramatically scaled back their mission in Southeast Alaska. We anticipate that we eventually will be left with a building for their specific purposes and no tenant to cover ongoing costs. If our building were located in Seattle or Portland we could most likely find another tenant. However, that is not the case and we will be left "holding the bag" when the U. S. Forest Service departs Sitka.

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We believe it is only equitable that the State of Alaska, local communities and business should be justly compensated for the termination of the timber contracts and the on-going lockup of the Tongass National Forest. We urge you to join in on ALP's suit against the Federal government and to assist local communities, business and individuals to join as damaged parties to any actions taken.

We encourage you to start a public relations campaign to provide people outside Alaska with accurate information regarding the Tongass and ANILCA. This is desperately needed to counteract the massive effort by outside environmental groups set on destroying the economy and livelihood of Southeast Alaskans.

We also encourage you to start an economic development commission to assist Southeast Alaskans during the transition from a resource based economy to an economy based on sight seeing excursions. Low interest or zero interest loans should be provided to assist residents and businesses in Southeast Alaska during the difficult times to come.

ATTACHMENTS: Assessed valuation K & R Building from City
& Borough of Sitka, assessors office
Fact sheet on Tongass National Forest

Tongass Forest Facts

- The Tongass National Forest spans 16,883,000 (17 million) acres.
- There are 5,721,733 (5.7 million) acres within the Tongass National Forest that are Congressionally designated Wilderness Areas and National Monuments. That accounts for 34% of the Tongass. No logging is allowed in these areas.
- For each acre of the Tongass that is managed for timber production, there are 8.5 acres of land designated by Congress as Wilderness. This land can never be logged.
- There are 9,933,000 (9.9 million) forested acres in the Tongass and 6,949,000 (6.9) acres of the Tongass are not forested. That means 58% of the Tongass is covered by trees and 41% is covered by rock, glaciers, water, etc.
- Of the 9.9 million acres of trees on the Tongass there are 4,233,455 (4.2 million) acres that have been deemed by the land manager, the Forest Service, "non productive" timber lands. So 43% of the forested acres on the Tongass are "non-productive" which means they are either lands not capable of growing commercial wood, or land physically unsuitable for reasons such as steep slopes, some land has not yet been evaluated, and some land has been withdrawn from land use designations allowing timber harvest.
- The remaining forested acres comprise the area where timber harvest may be planned. There is 3,700,000 million acres in the "commercial forest" of the Tongass. That accounts for 37% of the forested acres of the Tongass, or 22% of the entire Tongass.
- The Tongass Land Management Plan revised in 1999 plans to harvest timber from 576,000 acres from the commercial forest of the Tongass over a 200 year rotations. That means that less than 10% the forests in the Tongass will be cut in the next 100 years - a mere 3.5% of the entire Tongass is available for timber management, which

- The Tongass is roughly the size of the entire state of West Virginia.
 - The current status of fisheries resources on the Tongass is unequalled anywhere in the world.
 - The combined Southeast Alaska fish habitat and harvest goals set by fisheries biologists in the late 1980's for the year 2000 have already been surpassed by 145 percent.
 - The new Tongass Land Management Plan provides for maintaining deer habitat capability sufficient to sustain wolf populations and current levels of human deer use.
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- The importance of the beach and estuary buffers to a variety of ecological functions is well established. The current TLMP establishes 1,000 foot no harvest zones along beaches and estuaries to protect important habitat for deer, goshawks, marten, brown bear and bald eagles. The 1,000 foot no harvest zone along the coastline is in addition to the millions of acres of forested lands in Wilderness and Habitat Conservation Areas, where no logging is allowed.
 - When President Theodore Roosevelt created the Tongass National Forest in 1907 he did so with the utmost wisdom. Roosevelt was way ahead of his time, recognizing as early as 1903 the importance of multiple use. "...First and foremost," President Roosevelt explained, "you can never afford to forget for a moment what is the object of our forest policy. That is not to preserve the forests because they are beautiful, though that is good in itself, nor because they are refuges for the wild creatures of the wilderness, though that too is good in itself; but the primary object of our forest policy, as the land policy of the United States, is the making of prosperous homes."

- Of the 9.9 million forested acres in the Tongass, 8.3 million will remain closed to timber access and harvest. Under the current TLMP this is correct. However, this number could change and not all areas within that 8.3 million acres are permanently protected from timber harvest activities.
 - It's a tricky thing to talk about how much forest land is "unavailable." It is tricky because its definition varies. That number may or may not include all sorts of different factors.
 - There are 731,000 acres identified in TLMP as suitable for scheduling the expected 576,000 acres of harvest over the next 200 years (rotation). That's less than 1% of the forested acres of the Tongass.
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