

City and Borough of Sitka

100 Lincoln Street • Sitka, Alaska 99835

Coast Guard City, USA

October 15, 2018

Alaska Roadless Rule,
USDA Forest Service, Alaska Region,
Ecosystem Planning and Budget Staff,
P.O. Box 21628
Juneau, AK 99802-1628

Ken Tu, Interdisciplinary Team Leader
Via Electronic Comment Submission

Dear Mr. Tu,

This letter is to provide scoping comments from the City and Borough of Sitka (CBS) on the Alaska Roadless Rule noticed in the Federal Register and to our local municipality on September 5, 2018. CBS intends to provide general “public comment on the nature and scope of the environmental, social, and economic issues related to Alaska-specific rulemaking that should be analyzed in depth in the Draft EIS.”

The CBS expands across Baranof Island and a portion of West Chichagof Island. While our interest lays primarily in the portion of Baranof coastline known as the “Sitka Road system” and islands throughout Sitka Sound, there are significant land interests throughout including Goddard, Baranof Warm Springs, etc.

Multiple Resolutions have been passed by the CBS Assembly in support of the Tongass Forest including Resolution 2010-18 *In support the USDA Transition Framework* and Resolution 2013-10 *A Resolution of the City and Borough of Sitka Supporting Amendments to the U.S. Forest Service 2008 Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan) to Facilitate the Development of Adequate and Reliable Sources of Renewable Energy for Sitka and Southeast Alaska*.

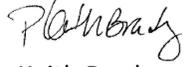
CBS has a specific interest in an exemption for the development of renewable energy, hydroelectric generation. Takatz Lake Hydroelectric Feasibility Project is located approximately 20 miles east of Sitka, on the east side of Baranof Island. Should Sitka or other Southeast Communities have a need for electric power, this project, consisting of a new concrete dam and secondary saddle dam, could provide a solution. This project would occupy federal lands within the Tongass National Forest. The current regulations limit development of this alternative source, as any transmission line would require a high level of risk and expense for our rate payers.

In general, CBS supports a state specific approach to management which allows more opportunity for public involvement and for Sitkans to advocate for their interests. A state specific management approach may also allow for the opportunity to balance economic development with cultural, recreational, and subsistence interests.

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Please let me know if we can answer any questions or provide additional information.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "P. Keith Brady". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

P. Keith Brady
Municipal Administrator