

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/15/2018 12:00:00 AM

First name: Jon

Last name: Erickson

Organization: City and Borough of Yakutat

Title: City Manager

Official Representative/Member Indicator:

Address1: PO Box 160

Address2:

City: Yalutat

State: AK

Province/Region:

Zip/Postal Code: 99689

Country: United States

Email: manager@yakutatak.us

Phone: 9077843323

Comments:

October 15, 2018

US Forest Service

Attention: Alaska Roadless Rule

P.O. Box 21628

Juneau, Alaska 99802

RE: Comment on the Alaska Roadless Rule

The City and Borough of Yakutat is a community of 550 people, in an area not connected by road to the rest of Alaska, in the upper end of the Tongass National Forest. The community is economically depressed, with limited options for new industry or business. With few roads, and very limited vehicle traffic, the Roadless Rule has an exaggerated impact on the small community.

The only way to get a vehicle into Yakutat is on board either the Alaska Marine Ferry system, or on an Alaska Marine Lines barge. Neither is inexpensive, and both have limited sailings. Few visiting cars transit the area for tourism reasons, and even fewer for business uses. There is not likely to be an immense increase in vehicle traffic into Yakutat in any conceivable future.

Abundant resources exist in the Yakutat area, on and off of the Tongass National Forest. The Roadless Rule prevents access to various areas outside of Wilderness, limiting any uses both consumptive and non-consumptive. Limitations on services that could otherwise contribute to our visitor and tourist services are unreasonably imposed in non-sensitive areas due to this limitation. The community is also cut off from access to traditional subsistence areas due to the limited and non-existent road access. Fewer air taxis and escalating fuel prices have limited air access to lands to the point that many members of the community of Yakutat cannot afford to get to the public lands in which they live.

The area between the Dangerous River and Alsek River is an area that should be easily accessed for local use to get to the Akwe, !tal[deg], and Alsek Rivers for commercial, sport and subsistence fishing, and guiding and lodging operations. Areas outside of Wilderness and fragile river corridors, in the section of Tongass between Yakutat and the Dangerous River, including existing roads, should be accessible for necessary road building as needs arise.

I request an accommodation or an exemption for Yakutat, Alaska from the roadless rule in these areas.
Sincerely,

Jon EricksonECID

City and Borough Manager

PO Box 160, Yakutat, AK 99689, Office (907) 784-3323 x103 Cell (907) 254-3826

[Contents of letter duplicated in attachment]



CITY & BOROUGH of YAKUTAT

P.O. Box 160
Yakutat, Alaska 99689
Phone (907) 784-3323
Fax (907) 784-3281

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P.O. Box 21628
Juneau, Alaska 99802

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