

From: [Grewe, Nicole R -FS](#)
To: [Tu, Kenneth K -FS](#)
Cc: [Pence, Sitka - FS](#)
Subject: AKRR - The Nature Conservancy, 1.18.19 Meeting
Date: Friday, January 18, 2019 1:49:07 PM

Ken – Debrief from today’s meeting at The Nature Conservancy.

Sitka – Please add to the project record.

The Nature Conservancy (TNC) requested a meeting with a member of the Roadless Rulemaking IDT. Below are the details of the meeting.

Date: January 18, 2019

Time: 9:00 AM – 10:00 AM

Location: The Nature Conservancy, Juneau Office, 416 Harris Street, Suite 301, Juneau, Alaska

Attendees: Christine Woll (TNC Southeast Alaska Director), Connor Reynolds (TNC Conservation Forester), Nicole Grewe (R10 Economist)

Agenda: Alaska Roadless Rule Status Update

Discussion:

The meeting was informal in nature and simply an opportunity to discuss the current status of the Alaska Roadless Rulemaking project. I reported the Alaska Roadless Rulemaking Project was in furlough status until this week. More specifically, limited Forest Service employees have been called back to duty to carry out focused work to ensure the project moves forward in a timely manner. Ongoing and anticipated next steps include environmental impact analysis, cooperating agency meetings, and government-to-government tribal consultations as requested.

I reported the overall June 2020 decision date remains intact, but I also cautioned the furlough has lasted longer than anticipated and timelines may be further impacted by funding lapses and workforce furlough. I reaffirmed this is a fluid environment, but that the Forest Service intends to keep this priority project moving forward.

The Nature Conservancy is aware there are six alternatives, but unaware of the particulars of the alternatives. We discussed, in a general nature, the role the State of Alaska and their Citizen’s Advisory Committee (CAC) report played in alternative development. We also discussed the role of additional cooperators including Hoonah, Angoon, and Kake tribal governments.

We discussed next steps in the Alaska Roadless Rulemaking project. I reaffirmed we are in the DEIS analysis stage, but that my focus has shifted to public engagement – especially with the cooperating agencies and rural communities to encourage full and meaningful participation in this public process. There was an acknowledgement of the pressure of an expedited timeframe, complex analysis, and key opportunities for public engagement.

The Nature Conservancy expressed numerous concerns. They also indicated they will be outreaching to both the Regional Office (Dave Schmid) and the Washington Office (TBD) regarding their concerns:

1. Expedited timeframe and impacts for public engagement.
2. Potential disregard for the 2016 TNF Forest Plan Amendment.
3. Ensuring Southeast Alaska community voices are heard
4. Reaffirming prior science regarding Tongass National Forest habitat matters.
5. The enduring value of Tongass Advisory Committee recommendations that informed the 2016 Forest Plan Amendment.

On a final note, The Nature Conservancy is available for any assistance the Forest Service may need

in carrying out the Alaska Roadless Rulemaking project in a manner that is supportive of prior forest planning efforts. They provided reminder of the valuable work their conservation foresters and scientists have carried out on behalf of Tongass National Forest.