

From: [Grewe, Nicole R -FS](#)
To: [Tu, Kenneth K -FS](#)
Cc: [Pence, Sitka - FS](#)
Subject: AKRR - The Pew Charitable Trusts, 1.29.19 Teleconference Meeting
Date: Tuesday, January 29, 2019 12:19:10 PM
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Ken – Let me know if you have any changes.

Sitka – Please post to project record.

Date: January 29, 2019

Time: 7:00 AM to 7:30 AM ASD

Location: Teleconference

Attendees: Marni Salmon (Senior Associate, US Public Lands) and Andrew Menaquale (Senior Associate, Government Relations), Ken Tu (R2 Administrative Review Coordinator), Nicole Grewe (R10 Regional Economist)

Agenda: Alaska Roadless Rule General Discussion

Context:

The Pew Charitable Trusts outreached to Ken Tu, Alaska Roadless Rulemaking IDT Lead, requesting a meeting to discuss the State of Alaska’s petition requesting the US Forest Service to undertake roadless rulemaking for the Tongass National Forest. The Pew Charitable Trusts seeks to preserve US public lands through congressionally-designated wilderness, the establishment of national monuments, administrative protections, and restoring America’s national parks system. To accomplish goals, The Pew Charitable Trusts works closely with conservation groups, recreation organizations, local businesses, local governments, and other stakeholders to develop collaborative proposals for public lands protection.

In the past, The Pew Charitable Trusts generally supported both the Colorado and Idaho roadless rules. They are now turning their attention to Alaska, Utah, and Wyoming and reaching out to the interdisciplinary team to discuss effective means of collaboration and participation. Notably, The Pew Charitable Trusts implemented the Heritage Campaign in the development of the 2001 Roadless Area Conservation Rule (i.e., 2001 Roadless Rule).

Discussion:

The brief meeting occurred via teleconference and covered the following topics: 1) The Pew Charitable Trusts overview and past roadless rulemaking position; 2) Alaska Roadless Rulemaking overview and timeline; and 3) Open Discussion.

The Pew Charitable Trusts

The Pew Charitable Trusts is organized into two substantive components – land management planning and wilderness conservation. During the past, the Pew Charitable Trusts generally supported both the Colorado and Idaho roadless rules. They are now turning their attention to Alaska, Utah, and Wyoming and reaching out to interdisciplinary team members to discuss effective means of collaboration and participation for Alaska Roadless Rulemaking and beyond. Notably, The Pew Charitable Trusts implemented the Heritage Campaign in the development of the 2001 Roadless Area Conservation Rule (i.e., 2001 Roadless Rule). They are cautiously supportive of state-specific approach to roadless rulemaking.

Alaska Roadless Rulemaking

The Forest Service is generally on timeline for Alaska Roadless Rulemaking with only slight furlough-related delays. The IDT is still aiming for mid-summer DEIS publishing with a 60-day comment period following. There are six

alternatives that represent a diverse spectrum ranging from no action (i.e., most protective) to state petition (i.e., full exemption) – representing both end points of the spectrum. In between, there are four alternatives based on a variety of input from the State of Alaska, public input, and additional stakeholder input. The more protective end of the spectrum focuses on “roaded roadless” (~ 90,000 acres), additional increases include logical extensions of roaded roadless areas, and the less protective end of the spectrum incorporates development land use designations as identified by the 2016 Tongass Land and Resource Management plan. The Forest Service believes this a comprehensive range of alternatives that is responsive to the State of Alaska’s petition and represents the diversity of public input heard during scoping period – while also limiting effects in certain geographic areas.

Open Discussion

1. Alaska Roadless Area Inventory – Will there be changes to the roadless area inventory? Alaska Region has revisited roadless area inventory in the past. During 2003, an inventory review was conducted during suitability analysis. There was an additional inventory review during 2008. The manageability of land management polygons has proven challenging over time. What made sense during prior inventory analyses may not make sense today. For instance, extending protection to small islands was largely skipped during prior roadless roadless inventories. The current roadless rulemaking process could potentially add protections to some of these geographic locations.
2. Public Input – How many written comments were submitted during the Notice of Intent scoping period? 17 public meetings were conducted across Southeast Alaska and Washington, DC and Anchorage, AK. In addition, approximately 140,000 written entries were used in summarizing written public input and will be further detailed in the forthcoming scoping report. Of noteworthy importance, the State of Alaska’s Citizen Advisory Committee input is considered “state input” – not “public input”.
3. Regional Forester – What is the regional forester’s role in roadless rulemaking? The regional forester has important input and influence, but the final decision resides with the secretary of the US Department of Agriculture – or a designee. The US Department of Agriculture, either the secretary or designee, will sign the Record of Decision (ROD).
4. Other States – What is the status of other state petitions for roadless rulemaking? The State of Utah has compiled a citizen advisory committee and is actively developing a petition. Only preliminary discussions are occurring with the State of Wyoming regarding roadless rulemaking for the Bighorn National Forest. The Forest Service prefers a statewide approach to roadless rulemaking due to overall investment of time, effort, and resources. Forest-specific roadless rules tend to be large investment of resources with little geographic impact.
5. Public Engagement – Are there any recommendations for groups to more effectively participate in the rulemaking process? The best method of providing public input is using standard Forest Service methods for public engagement including attending public meetings and submitting written comments via standard tools. There is a Forest Service standard process for participating, engaging, and submitting input that facilitates the management of a large projects on timelines. The Forest Service has also launched an Online mapping tool that allows users to submit geographic-based comments. The Forest Service will also be adding draft environmental impact statement public meeting locations in the Lower 48, likely to include Denver, Colorado and Seattle, Washington.

Next Steps

Remain in touch as Alaska and Utah roadless rulemaking processes move forward. There is opportunity for future in-person meetings as interdisciplinary team members transit to and from Washington, DC.

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