

Rust, Stephani D -FS

From: Grewe, Nicole R -FS
Sent: Friday, February 1, 2019 4:47 PM
To: Pence, Sitka - FS
Cc: Dale, Robin -FS; Hernandez Burke, Melinda - FS
Subject: AKRR - Central Council Tlingit Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska (CCTHITA), 1.31.19 Meeting

Importance: High

Date: February 1, 2019

Time: 2:00 PM to 3:30 PM ASD

Location: Central Council Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska, Native Lands and Resources, Edward K. K Thomas Building, 9097 Glacier Highway, Juneau, AK

Attendees: Raymond Paddock (Environmental Coordinator, CCTHITA), Lyndsey Pierce (Environmental Coordinator Assistant, CCTHITA), Nicole Grewe (R10 Regional Economist), Robin Dale (R10 Administrative Review Coordinator), Melinda Hernandez-Burke (R10 Tribal Liaison)

Agenda: Alaska Roadless Rule General Discussion

Context:

AKRR will soon be conducting cooperating agency meetings (February 14 and 15) to present and discuss the draft environmental impact statement with cooperating agencies – Kake, Hoonah, Angoon, CCTHITA, and State of Alaska. The cooperating agencies will have approximately two weeks to review and submit DEIS comments. Due the short timeline, current criticisms regarding timeline from tribal entities, and complex nature of DEIS, the Alaska Region outreached to tribal cooperating agencies in preparation for upcoming cooperating agency meetings in Juneau, Alaska.

Discussion:

The in-person meeting occurred at CCTHITA offices in Juneau, Alaska and covered the following topics: 1) CCTHITA representation of Tlingit and Haida tribes; 2) current Alaska Roadless Rulemaking status and next steps; 3) overview of DEIS alternatives; and 4) next steps.

Representation of Tlingit and Haida Tribes

CCTHITA is a tribal government representing over 30,000 Tlingit and Haida individuals. It is a federally-recognized tribe that advocates and supports other Southeast Alaska tribes. CCTHITA reinforced its role as regional voice for tribes, but that tribes are independent, sovereign, and represent themselves. As it applies to Alaska Roadless Rulemaking, CCTHITA (as a cooperating agency) welcomes input from other tribes, but will come to its own position regarding the project. Furthermore, each of the other tribes is empowered to speak on their own behalf – and may or may not agree with CCTHITA.

Alaska Roadless Rulemaking

The Forest Service is generally on timeline for Alaska Roadless Rulemaking with only slight furlough-related delays. DEIS analysis is underway, the scoping report will soon be available, and also provided intel from scoping meetings regarding the current position of those tribes actively following Alaska Roadless Rulemaking. Discussion regarding the short timeline and project timing occurred – with focus on the hardship it presents to tribes. There was also significant discussion regarding methods of tribal decision-making – that staff inform elders, but elders make the decision. And, that these tribal practices take more time that the Alaska Roadless Rulemaking project can provide, which is a hardship that is further compounded by the timing of summer DEIS meetings.

AKRR team members noted the incorporation of timber harvesting for Alaska Native culture uses added to the list of exceptions in the draft Alaska Roadless Rule. CCTHITA also inquired about the treatment of special forest products in the proposed rule and a preference to maintain access for Alaska Natives regardless of alternative or final decision.

DEIS Alternatives

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 “roadless roadless” (~ 90,000 acres), additional increases include logical extensions of 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.

CCTHITA had prior access to DEIS alternatives via cooperating agency meetings. There was long discussion regarding the complex nature of the alternatives and related analysis. Draft alternative maps were reviewed with substantive differences between alternatives highlighted. Rule language was not shared nor exceptions language. No hardcopy materials were left behind at CCTHITA.

Next Steps

There was significant conversation regarding methods of improved outreach to the tribal governments. While CCTHITA can act as an intermediary and recommend venues, they may not necessarily work to solicit comprehensive input from all tribes to inform their position as a cooperating agency. CCTHITA recommended two venues for improved outreach to tribes regarding Alaska Roadless Rulemaking: Alaska Forum on the Environment and a tribal leaders forum occurring in Juneau during March (date TBD). AKRR team members agreed to utilize both venues in terms of improving outreach to tribes. Also, it was agreed that AKRR team members are available for further consult and with short notice to CCTHITA or any of the Southeast tribes.

There were also a variety of other minor next steps to be undertaken:

1. Tribal Input – USFS forwarded all scoping and cooperating agency input, submitted by tribes, to CCTHITA (NRG v).
2. Maps – Section 4407 Easements and Southeast Alaska Land Ownership Maps delivered (NRG/MHB v).
3. Special Forest Products – Inquire with AKRR IDT regarding the relevancy of explicitly allowing Alaska Native access to special forest products via roadless rulemaking (RD).
4. Alaska Forum on the Environment – Ongoing (MHB).
5. Tribal Leaders Workshop – Ongoing. CCTHITA would appreciate support to extend the workshop to accommodate USFS outreach needs (MHB).



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