

## Rust, Stephani D -FS

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**From:** Grewe, Nicole R -FS  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 5, 2019 6:46 PM  
**To:** Pence, Sitka - FS  
**Subject:** AKRR - Annual Angoon Community Meeting, 3.30.19 - Project Record Notes  
**Attachments:** AKRR - Angoon Cooperative Association (3.30.19).pdf

**Date:** March 29, 2019

**Time:** 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM, Approximately

**Location:** Angoon High School Gymnasium

**Attendees:** Public Meeting hosted by Angoon Native corporation with board of directors, tribal council members, and city council members seated in leadership position. Meeting attended by approximately 100 Angoon residents, businesses, and organizations. Nicole Grewe (USFS Regional Economist), Basia Trout (USFS District Ranger), and Don MacDonald (USFS Permit Staff) also attended.

### **Context:**

On an annual basis, Angoon organizes a “Community Meeting” that is hosted by either the Native corporation, tribal government, or city government. It is a ½ day meeting that is intended to provide updates from all the agencies and organizations involved with providing services or developing projects in Angoon. It is also meant to provide updates of projects underway and to celebrate successes. The meeting is well attended by the public and the meeting format values speed in presentation with significant room for discussion, questions and answers, and public participation.

### **Information Provided:**

A quick update of the Alaska Roadless Rule Project was requested with a very short PowerPoint presentation. Due to technical difficulties, the PowerPoint presentation was not delivered to the public, but was provided to the Native corporation and is likely in circulation (attached).

1. Introduction and Thank You – Appreciate the opportunity to provide an update of the Alaska Roadless Rulemaking Project. Acknowledgement of successful meeting with tribal council the day prior. Also acknowledged the attendance of District Ranger Basia Trout.
2. Cooperating Agency – Angoon as valued AKRR team member. Forest Service in Angoon by Angoon Community Association request.
3. Overview – January 2018 – August 2018 (22 month project), reallocation of 9.3 M acres, started September 2018, 3 primary rulemaking steps, scoping meetings during fall 2018, PDEIS during February, DEIS during summer 2019, and final rule decided June 2020.
4. Current Status – 7 cooperators, PDEIS to USDA, and awaiting preferred alternative.
5. Range of Alternatives – Differing futures for Southeast Alaska.
6. Challenges – Timeframe, timing, difficult task of reallocation 9.3 M acres.
7. Public Engagement – G2G consult ongoing, speaker opportunities, significant resources applied to carry out engagement with stakeholder groups, and DEIS and subsistence hearings during summer 2019.

### **Next Steps:**

It was also noted a public meeting and subsistence hearing will be conducted in Angoon during summer 2019.



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United States Department of Agriculture

# Alaska Roadless Rulemaking



Forest Service

# 2001 Roadless Rule

- US Department of Agriculture issued a regulation to manage roadless areas nationally – the Roadless Area Conservation Rule (2001 Roadless Rule).
- Prohibits timber harvesting, road construction, and road reconstruction in inventoried roadless areas with limited exceptions.
- Inventoried Roadless Areas (IRAs) were established by the 2001 Roadless Rule.
- 58.5 million acres, nationwide, are inventoried roadless areas.
- Tongass National Forest (16.7 M Acres) comprises 80% of Southeast Alaska.
- Approximately 55% of the Tongass National Forest is inventoried roadless (9.2 M Acres, 110 IRAs)





# 2001 Roadless Rule – Alaska’s Journey

- State of Alaska challenged inclusion of Chugach and Tongass National Forests.
- 2003 – USDA exempted the Tongass National Forest.
- 2011 – Federal District Court vacated Tongass National Forest exemption.
- 2015 – Ninth Circuit decision upheld the Federal District Court ruling to vacate the Tongass National Forest exemption.
- Today – 2001 Roadless Rule in effect across Alaska’s national forests.
- Pending – State of Alaska lawsuit pending in District of Columbia Circuit Court of Appeals challenging the 2001 Roadless Rule’s application in Alaska.





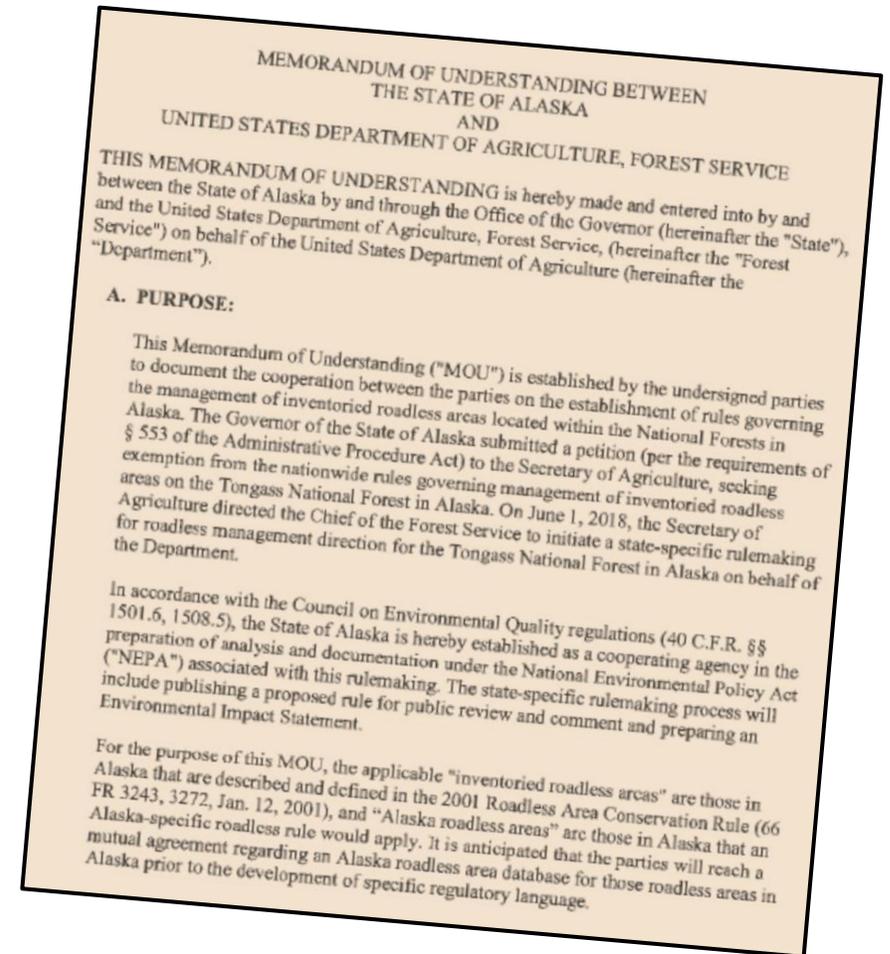
# Roadless Rulemaking

- This rulemaking process is about considering whether a state-specific approach to managing roadless areas is better than a one size fits all.
- A state-specific rule would replace the 2001 Roadless Area Conservation Rule to protect the social and ecological values and characteristics of inventoried roadless areas by prohibiting, with some exceptions, road construction, road reconstruction, and timber harvest on inventoried roadless areas on National Forest System lands nationwide.



# State-Federal Partnership

- Memorandum of Understanding signed establishing the State of Alaska as a cooperating agency (August 2018).
- State of Alaska will provide expertise and specific input regarding state interests.
- Secretary of US Department of Agriculture retains decision-making authority.





## Alaska Roadless Rulemaking, Cooperating Agencies



<b>Tribal Governments</b>
Angoon Community Association
Hoonah Indian Association
Hydaburg Cooperative Association
Organized Village of Kake
Organized Village of Kasaan
Central Council Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska
<b>Petitioner</b>
State of Alaska



# Next Steps

- Final revisions to DEIS currently underway. Next step is USDA clearance.
- Proposed Rule and Draft Environmental Impact Statement by Summer 2019 – Additional **comment period**.
- Final Environmental Impact Statement by Summer 2020.
- Secretary of Agriculture, or his designee, will make a decision on a final rule by Summer 2020.

