

ALASKA ROADLESS RULE EIS

WEEKLY STATUS MEETING

Date/Time: March 5, 2019 11:00 a.m. Alaska

Location: Teleconference

Attendees		
Ken Tu, Forest Service	Sitka Pence, Forest Service	Robert Nichols, Forest Service
Dave Cox, Tetra Tech	Randy Fairbanks, Tetra Tech	

Ken provided an update on progress of reviewing USFS and cooperating agency comments on the preliminary DEIS. USFS anticipates delivering partial comments on Wednesday (3/6/19).

Ken and Sitka summarized some changes for the DEIS:

- NEW. A fourth roadless category will be added to the EIS, namely Community Priority Areas. No new spatial analysis. USFS will request comments on the DEIS. Expect to be similar to Roadless priority, with allowances for small timber harvest, infrastructure, and cultural uses for communities that request it.
- Changes to Chapter 2. Adding community areas priority. Adding proposed rule definitions, including Alaska Roadless Characteristics.
- Establishing preferred wording, including roaded roadless. Up front, DEIS needs to be clear that “roaded roadless” also includes unroaded areas that were substantially altered by harvest without roads. Sitka will work with Tetra Tech on the glossary.
- USFS making DEIS organization changes.

Discussed Table 2-8 ratings.

Discussed Outfitter Guide analysis and potential for O/G dislocation. Tetra Tech to look at mapping options to clarify discussion.

Discussed Roadless Area Characteristics.

Discussed Regulatory Impact Analysis.

Discussed habitat conservation area, linkages, and mapping. Tetra Tech to look at mapping options.

Discussed staff travel and availability.

Discussed timing of Endnote availability. Citations must be in Endnote for review draft FEIS and could be useful earlier for response to comments.

Discussed Key Issues, metrics, and scale in Chapter 2 comparison of Alternatives.

Our next call will be Tuesday, March 12 at 11:00 a.m. Alaska.