

**CITY OF GUSTAVUS  
RESOLUTION CY18-31**

**A RESOLUTION CITY OF GUSTAVUS COMMENTING ON THE USFS ROADLESS RULE**

**WHEREAS**, The City of Gustavus is a distinctive community that prospers by and through protection of its natural resources; and

**WHEREAS**, the sustainability and resilience of our Gustavus economy and our lifestyles depend upon nurturing and sustaining the natural resources of our forests, rivers, and ocean, locally and regionally in Southeast Alaska; and

**WHEREAS**, many Gustavus residents obtain their livelihood from environmentally dependent tourism and fishing activities; and

**WHEREAS**, the Roadless Rule was first adopted in 2001 to protect over 50 million acres of our nation's most essential and intact roadless areas in National Forests throughout the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, a USFS scoping meeting on the future of the Roadless Rule in Alaska held recently in Gustavus was well attended by Gustavus residents; and

**WHEREAS**, roadless areas on Tongass represent some of the most spectacular and unique roadless areas anywhere in the national forest system and support hunting, fishing, customary and traditional uses, unparalleled outdoor recreation opportunities, and opportunities for businesses; and

**WHEREAS**, the amount of stored carbon in our intact old-growth forest and soils of the Tongass National Forest represents one of the highest carbon stores in the world, and the conservation of intact inventoried roadless areas on the Tongass is essential for maintaining America's resilience and slowing down climate change throughout the world; and

**WHEREAS**, the Tongass provides a wide range of ecosystem services beyond carbon sequestration to residents and visitors alike on a 24/7 basis naturally and at no cost to the taxpayer; and

**WHEREAS**, increased logging of mature forest in the existing roadless areas of the Tongass will seriously impact the ability of the forest to provide these vital ecosystem services; and

**WHEREAS**, the community of Gustavus in the 1980s successfully advocated for wilderness status for Icy Strait islands and for the designation of the Chicken Creek watershed and much of northwest Chichagof Island as roadless wildlands; and

**WHEREAS**, the community of Gustavus has opposed the large-scale roading and logging at Homeshore (Point Couverden); and

**WHEREAS**, according to the State of Alaska's own economic experts, Tongass timber is uncompetitive because of fundamental, permanent changes that have occurred in global timber markets, high labor costs, distance from markets, and less-expensive substitutes; and

**WHEREAS**, timber from Tongass forest lands has always been sold at a significant loss to the US taxpayers; and

**WHEREAS**, 374 timber-related jobs in Southeast Alaska in 2017 represented only 0.78 percent of total Southeast Alaska employment; and

**WHEREAS**, if the USFS and the State of Alaska are interested in increasing employment on the Tongass, there are numerous opportunities to employ forest workers to restore forest ecosystems damaged by past logging activities;

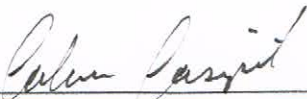
**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that, given the serious and long-lasting impacts of any reduction in current Roadless Rule protections on the Tongass, the City of Gustavus strongly supports lasting protection for all inventoried roadless areas on the Tongass National Forest as provided for in the 2001 Roadless Rule. There should be no exemption from the Roadless Rule for Alaska and there should be no Alaska-specific roadless rule; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the City of Gustavus urges that sustainable timber production opportunities be identified on federal, state, and private forest lands, particularly focusing on second-growth timber, outside the existing roadless areas, in support of a domestic wood products industry suitable in scale to the limited demand for products from this region; and

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that the City of Gustavus urges the USFS to invest in programs and employment opportunities for Southeast residents to restore the health and productivity of Tongass forests and streams, as a means of supporting vital ecosystem services such as carbon sequestration, small-scale timber production, fish and wildlife populations, natural vistas, visitor amenities, subsistence, hydrological resources, and more.

The City of Gustavus submits the attached letter with expanded and specific comments for our local area.

**PASSED** and **APPROVED** by the Gustavus City Council this 19th day of November, 2018.



Calvin Casipit, Mayor



Karen Platt, City Clerk