

Rebekah Sawers statement to FSB – S E Regional Advisory Council(SERAC) 3/25/2020

It concerns me that the federal government is not keeping the state of Alaska under compliance. It concerns me because the same goals are not in place. Land management, environment management and subsistence management. These laws that were set in place were obligations to Alaska Natives, where is your accountability? We (the villages) need help, because the state of Alaska is doing everything in its power to take our identity away from the land. Alaska Natives have been tamping down all of the misused power and hurt from industry that the state allows. It concerns me, my way of life, these federal rules affect me.

Regarding the Department of Agriculture: The Forest Service is not following the rules of the Federal Subsistence Board, FACA, NEPA and ANICLA. How can you allow this sort of sneaky underhandedness? Due to the oversights of the Forest Service Tongass DEIS, a delay in the final Roadless Rule should occur until proper processes have been followed. Maybe they will use the Southeast Regional Advisory Council? After all, they are a FACA approved group, and members of the council live, and traditionally hunt and gather from the region. They are looking to conserve the environment in which they are apart of.

I am also advocating that the Roadless Rule needs to be made official into the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR)! The Roadless Rule is being exploited! It helps keep out big companies taking over the land, it keeps small, local mom and pop shops in business, because they follow extensive environmental rules that help ensure fish and wildlife habitat are protected.

Also, keep commercial activities out of ANILCA!

And, we cannot allow the state of Alaska to give away public lands and made into private property.

We need to keep our Tongass National Forest Standing! Think about all of the other forests that have been logged down and burned in Brazil and Australia. We must think about the future generations.

And , no one is thinking about future generations like our mothers and grandmothers. Indigenous women's voices have always been influencing. We need to be listening to our Grandmothers, and focusing on what they have to offer. Times of suffering are about, and our Grandmothers have lived through tough times and sickness before.

It's time to take action and listen to what the people are saying!