

Questions from Representative Haaland

1. During the recent partial Federal Government shutdown, did the U.S. Forest Service continue to work on and prioritize the Alaska Roadless Rulemaking even as funding for tribes and other forest management activities was stopped?

Answer: The Forest Service Alaska Region moved forward with the Alaska Roadless Rulemaking during the government shutdown to meet commitments to stakeholders in a timely manner. Since the furlough occurred during the coldest part of winter when the ability to accomplish outdoor work is limited, the Alaska region was able to reasonably postpone work for hazardous fuels, firefighting, and recreation and campground maintenance.

2. As you know, on May 10, 2019, some of my Natural Resources Committee colleagues and I sent a letter to Secretary Perdue regarding our concerns with the level of tribal cooperation and requested more information related to those requirements. To date, we have not received any information in response to this request. Accordingly, can you please provide us with the following information:
 - a. Any requests for the extension of public comment periods received from tribes or other stakeholders during scoping, and the agency response to those requests.
 - b. A copy of any formal correspondence responsive to tribal concerns, including responses to letters referenced in our May 10th letter.
 - c. Any information regarding government-to-government consultations undertaken in the development of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Alaska Roadless Rulemaking, and any ongoing efforts following the release of the proposed rule
 - d. Any other information about the timeline and data being used to inform this process.

Answer: As he indicated in his July 12, 2019 response to your inquiry of May 10, 2019, Secretary Perdue is committed to providing multiple opportunities for tribal consultation and public involvement throughout the rulemaking process.

On July 30, 2018, the Forest Service sent letters to 32 federally-recognized tribes and 27 Alaska Native corporations within Southeast and Southcentral Alaska initiating government-to-government consultation on the Alaska Roadless Rule. At the request of Alaska Native tribes and corporations, the Forest Service has conducted consultations throughout the process, including ten sessions and a

recent consultation with the Undersecretary of Agriculture on November 2, 2019. In addition, on July 30, 2018, the Forest Service invited 19 Southeast Alaska federally-recognized tribes to participate as cooperating agencies during the rulemaking process. Six federally-recognized tribes agreed to participate as cooperating agencies.

Attached to this response, please find the formal letters USDA sent to tribes. Also attached are letters the Secretary received from members of Congress requesting an extension of the public comment period for scoping. Responses to these letters described public engagement opportunities and expressed appreciation for comments submitted during the 45 day comment period.

Questions from Representative Grijalva

1. Mr. French, can you please provide me with a list of all instances in which the U.S. Forest Service provided State Fire Assistance funding for non-fire related activities?

Answer: Under section 10(b) of the Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act (16 U.S.C. 2106(b)), State Fire Assistance funding is used for the prevention, control, suppression, and prescribed use of fires on non-Federal forest lands and other non-Federal lands; to organize, train, and equip local firefighting forces. We understand that you have requested that USDA OIG investigate this grant. We stand ready to cooperate with the investigation.

2. Can you please provide me with additional documentation of any grants or subgrants provided to or through the State of Alaska related to the Alaska Roadless Rulemaking?

Answer: Attached is a copy of the grant agreement: Modification #2, FY18DG-11100106-810 / State#399170. The Forest Service is not aware of any additional grants or subgrants provided to or through the State of Alaska related to the Alaska Roadless Rulemaking.