

Spencer Severson
P.O.B 6224
Sitka, Alaska 99835

Undersecretary of Natural Resources Harris Sherman
U.S. Dept. of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave. S.W.
Washington, D.C.

Dear undersecretary Sherman,

My name is Spencer Severson. I am a commercial salmon troller in S.E. Alaska. My boat is the Dryas, she is a 42 ft. overall sailing troller that burns 1/2 gallon per hr. and can sail to the fishing grounds. I am proud of my operation and trying to be consistent in my efforts to make a living sustainably in challenging times. Ocean acidification issues threaten and climate change is effecting our weather and our future. I realize that from what you shared with us on your visit to Sitka you share my values.

I am writing you to say thank you and encourage you in your advocacy for watershed restoration in the Tongass. Our salmon and our forest are essentially one and the same. Many of the old clearcuts are reaching a dangerous point. The old stumps that hold the stream-banks are rotting out and logging road culverts are disintegrating. Over 7000 jobs in S.E. are salmon related while less than 200 are timber related yet we continue to see a forestry service budget still skewed toward timber and road construction. I would like to ask you if you think shifting some of the \$25 million dedicated to timber/road-building to the \$1.5 million assigned to fisheries, watersheds, and salmon restoration is possible and encourage you to advocate for that shift.

President Obama asked us to keep up the pressure on him to do the right thing. I respectfully submit to you my effort to do just that.

Sincerely,

Spencer Severson