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First name: Curt

Last name: Peterson

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I support 'No Action' alternative: Conserve the Roadless Rule in Alaska

Dear Comment Period Alaska Roadless Rule,

I am writing to encourage the US Forest Service to preserve the Roadless Rule that has been instrumental in conserving the Chugach and Tongass National Forest and in supporting their associated fish and wildlife-based industries for almost 20 years. In other words, I am supporting the No Action Alternative that will continue to protect these important and irreplaceable fish and wildlife areas, including the Tongass 77. Roadless areas in the Tongass provide important sources of food, jobs, and income through commercial, subsistence, and also recreational fishing. Salmon are part of Alaska's culture and we must proactively protect them and their spawning streams. Additional roads in this Chugach and Tongass National Forests will threaten the salmon's way of life and also add considerable expensive and unnecessary road maintenance costs that will destroy important habitats for fish and habitat. Unless it can be demonstrated clearly to United States taxpayers that additional logging will provide local mill jobs to American workers, then I strongly oppose any additional logging in these National Forests. Also important to this country is the preservation of standing timber to counteract the global threat of climate change. As a retired research plant scientist who studied the impact of increasing greenhouse gases for more than a quarter century, we know that preserving standing timber in the Chugach and Tongass National Forests is critical to addressing climate change. For all of the above stated reasons, please do not roll back roadless area protections for habitat that our irreplaceable fish and wildlife populations need to survive. The damage caused by such a roll back will be permanent or at the very least long lasting.

Sincerely,

Curt Peterson

[Position]