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U.S. Forest Service Alaska Roadless Rule Committee:

The Tongass is a unique ecological area - an old growth forest which supports great salmonid spawning runs. The cold water ecology that supports these salmonid runs is directly related to the fact that the Tongass is an old growth forest. These salmon runs bring nutrients back to this ecosystem that supports many other wildlife species. This is a unique - truly wild - ecosystem that should be preserved for posterity. It is a prime example of the few that remain.

The Roadless Rule has been instrumental in conserving the Tongass National Forest and in supporting its fish and wildlife-based industries for almost 20 years. Please uphold the Rule's protections for important fish and wildlife areas, including the Tongass 77. Roadless areas are an important source of food, jobs, and income through commercial, subsistence, and recreational fishing. Salmon are part of Alaska's culture and we must protect them and their spawning streams.

Sincerely,

Donald W. Henderson

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[Position]