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Organization:

Title:

Comments: HC3419

U.S. Forest Service Alaska Roadless Rule Committee:

As an Alaskan who has worked and fished (both recreationally and commercially) in SE Alaska since 1979, I strongly oppose any action that could reduce or eliminate Roadless Rule protections for the Tongass National Forest. The Tongass is a national treasure and it's wilderness areas and natural resources should be protected at the highest level possible. Trading muskeg and old growth forests for gravel and development should absolutely NEVER be on the table. NEVER. Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback.

The Roadless Rule has been instrumental in conserving the Chugach and 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, by selecting the 'no action' alternative. 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. Please do not roll back roadless area protections for habitat that our irreplaceable fish and wildlife populations need to survive.

Sincerely,

Scott Bowefield

Bellingham, WA 98225

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