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Comments: HC4035

U.S. Forest Service Alaska Roadless Rule Committee:

Forty years ago I worked on the Tongass National Forest as a seasonal employee, spending most of the summer on two heavily logged islands- Kosciusko and Prince of Wales. It was a sobering experience to see old growth forests completely eliminated from some islands. The logging in those days had one purpose with little regard for the environment. The Roadless Rule makes sense when you consider the tremendous value of wildlife and tourism on the Tongass. Keep the roadless protections as part of a balanced approach to managing the forest.

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. Please do not roll back roadless area protections for habitat that our irreplaceable fish and wildlife populations need to survive.

Sincerely,

Donald Owen

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