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Organization:

Title:

Comments: HC4027

U.S. Forest Service Alaska Roadless Rule Committee:

The Roadless Rule should not be repealed.

It is the product of years of collaboration. It is not meant to prohibit logging, mining or other consumptive uses in the forests. Mining is still allowed, as are new mining claims. New roads for transportation, energy development, wildfire and forest health projects are allowed. Since the Roadless Rule became official, the Forest Service has approved every one of the 58 requests for projects in roadless areas in Alaska.

Fiscally, building new roads for timber in a forest like the Tongass often doesn't make sense. In May 2018, the Forest Service spent just over \$3 million building timber roads on the Kuiu Islands after prior offerings received no bids. The minimum required bid was less than \$200,000, by the time the sale closed, it still had received no bids. More than \$3 million was wasted.

Economically, the Roadless Rule has supported food, jobs, and income through commercial, subsistence, and recreational fishing. It has supported fish and wildlife-based industries for more than 20 years.

Please uphold the Rule's protections for important fish and wildlife areas, including the Tongass 77. Please do not repeal roadless area protections for habitat necessary for our fish and wildlife populations to survive.

Sincerely,

BP Casbara

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