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Organization:

Title:

Comments: HC4025

U.S. Forest Service Alaska Roadless Rule Committee:

I have fished and sailed in Southeast Alaska many times. The rain forest is priceless. I also am a retired Forest Service biologist and know a number of people who have worked on the Tongass National Forest in both management and science roles. All have noted the expense of road building in the area and that as a result most timber sales need to be subsidized by the public. The roadless rule currently allows road building and resource development in certain situations. To roll back the current, collaboratively developed management of the Tongass to favor subsidized timber extraction of an irreplaceable forest resource and endanger the magnificent and economically important anadromous fish populations is frankly unconscionable.

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,

Ken MacDonald

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