

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 12/17/2019 9:00:00 AM

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Last name: Goad

Organization:

Title:

Comments: HC4024

U.S. Forest Service Alaska Roadless Rule Committee:

I would like you to thoughtfully consider conserving the Tongass roadless rule. Only small special interest groups benefit when you open an area up to needless road building and harvesting of old growth timber.

The first time I visited the Tongass, back in 72, I was very much still a young man and hiked through some of the most enchanting areas that I have ever been. I considered, more than once, that i was maybe standing in a particular spot that no person had ever stood before. That feeling still lives with me today as well as the spectacular fishing. My next visit came a couple of decades later and unfortunately I could see some of the changes that had taken place. Not all o f it bad but definitely the hand of mankind and specifically the timber industry was evident.

I think it's important for us to consider future generations before we act today to allow industry to profit from short term decisions.

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,

John Goad

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[Position]