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First name: Mad

Last name: Hesler

Organization:

Title:

Comments: HC4015

U.S. Forest Service Alaska Roadless Rule Committee:

I live and work on Wrangell island in the tongass, for a company called Alaska crossings. We take Alaskan kids out for 60 days at a time paddling and hiking or way through the tongass. The remote and wild lands are a impactful and unforgettable place for these kids to get a fresh start and learn coping skills to take home with them. Without the remoteness and wildness of the tongasss, our program could not exist as it is and hundreds of our children wouldn't have this opportunity for growth and change. The Tongass is some of the last wild lands this country has with KEY salmon runs and marine fishing. Adding more roads and logging operations would be detrimental to the sustainability of this land. I have hiked through fresh clear cuts, I have hiked through 30 year old clear cuts; it's not helping our land. Let's expand our tourism industry instead and leave the roadless act as it should be so that we still have wilderness for the rest of the world to explore and enjoy.

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,

Mad Hesler

Wrangell, AK 99929

[Position]