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Organization:

Title:

Comments: HC3628

U.S. Forest Service Alaska Roadless Rule Committee:

I have lived in Alaska for over 35 years and in Southeast for 10 years. During that time, several of my coworkers loved to hunt deer each fall in a remote part of the Tongass. They raved about the old growth and how many deer they saw. Then one year they started discussing a proposal for logging the area where they hunted. They expressed fears that the logging would impact the small lake where they flew in, the stream drainage they hunted around and their overall experience. They were told not to worry, the logging would leave a protected strip of trees which would protect the animals in the area and the ecology.

After the logging was completed, a thin strip of trees remained. The hunting was non-existent, the thin strip of trees turned into an area of tangled blow downs as we know it takes a forest to protect a tree.

If logging of old growth trees is needed and critical to America, then the Forest Service needs to come up with a better way to selectively harvest trees. Save clear cutting for farmed trees while giving environmental protection higher priority.

The Roadless Rule has been instrumental in conserving the Chugach and Tongass National Forest and in supporting their associated 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, by selecting the 'no action' alternative. 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,

gerry guay

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