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Organization:

Title:

Comments: HC3108

U.S. Forest Service Alaska Roadless Rule Committee:

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 more than 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 protection for habitat that our irreplaceable fish and wildlife populations need to survive

In my long life I have personally experienced the loss of high quality fishing streams from damage by logging-road building (native brook trout stream of my youth); acid mine drainage (river I grew up adjacent to ); sedimentation from poor ditch and culvert maintenance on headwaters dirt road (outstanding wild rainbow trout stream on personally owned riparian land). These streams have not recovered in over 65 years in first two examples and 15 years in 3rd example. Let's pay attention to history and common sense in maintaining roadless areas.

Sincerely,

Jerry Burke

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