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Organization:

Title:

Comments: HC5437

U.S. Forest Service Alaska Roadless Rule Committee:

As a former Forest Service employee in Washington State, I've seen first-hand the damage that road building and logging can do to forests. In an area on the southern flanks of Mt. Rainier, private land and national forest land is owned in checkerboard sections. Roads cut through these sections of land in seemingly unplanned chaos. The clearcuts on adjoining sections have denuded large areas of trees in what resembles in some areas more of a moonscape than a forest. Logging has ignored stream buffers, leaving streams unshaded and choked with sediment. Misplaced culverts have blocked fish from miles of habitat.

I is unimaginable that the roadless areas of Alaska's Tongass and Chugach National Forests could be opened up to road building and logging, particularly with climate change demands that we preserve as much oxygen generating and carbon sequestering capacity as we can.

I respectfully urge your to adopt and recommend the 'no action' alternative that will leave the Roadless Rule unchanged in Alaska.

Changes to the rule will undoubtedly lead to greatly expand clear-cut logging of old growth timber and costly road building in undeveloped, wild areas of both the Tongass and Chugach Forests. These activities increase sedimentation, hurt water quality and block salmon migration.

Our fisheries and wild forests are critical to the economy of Alaska. To grow these sectors of our economy, we need intact habitat. Please leave the Alaska Roadless Rule in place.

Sincerely,

Joel Vanetta

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