

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

First name: John

Last name: Widman

Organization:

Title:

Comments: HC5207

U.S. Forest Service Alaska Roadless Rule Committee:

I just returned from a trip to the Klamath River in Northern California. Once you have actually visited a wild and scenic river, you immediately appreciate why it is so important to safe guard these places. Once roads are introduced, it will be very difficult to unring the bell. Our environment is at a critical state, please save the areas that we have, the salmon and steelhead are a vital resource and an indicator for the health of many ecosystem.

The Roadless Rule has been instrumental in conserving the Chugach and Tongass National Forest and in supporting its 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. 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 Widman

Arden, NC 28704

[Position]

[Position]