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Organization:

Title:

Comments: HC5119

U.S. Forest Service Alaska Roadless Rule Committee:

I am an aquatic scientist with more than 30 years working in the field of forest and watershed management. I have visited the Tongass multiple times and am familiar with the effects of road construction and clear cut logging. I strongly believe the highest value of most of the forest, especially unroaded areas, to be healthy watersheds and fully functioning habitat for salmon and wildlife. We are entering a time when intact ecosystems will play a major role in our long term survival and management of federal lands needs to be an investment for the long term.

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,

David Heller

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[Position]