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First name: Loren

Last name: Gard

Organization:

Title:

Comments: HC5405

U.S. Forest Service Alaska Roadless Rule Committee:

For the past 14 years I've made the journey to Ketchikan and/or Prince of Wales to fish, hike, boat and enjoy the beautiful outdoors the region provides. Having seen the remnants of past logging practices in SE Alaska, along with the Pacific NW, I'm alarmed that it's been proposed to open the last remaining 'roadless' areas to logging in one of the last pristine places in the United States. I urge you to reconsider the proposal and to keep the forests intact and remain roadless. Thank you.

I am writing in support of the 'no action' alternative to leave the Roadless Rule unchanged in Alaska. I am concerned that changes to the rule would 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, often block salmon migration, and add to an already large backlog of needed road maintenance and restoration.

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,

Loren Gard

Bend, OR 97703

[Position]