

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

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Organization:

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Comments: HC5396

U.S. Forest Service Alaska Roadless Rule Committee:

When the word "Export log" refers to the largest trees in the forest, one for reaping and sending off to foreign country for a quick buck, it is time to look ourselves in the mirror and ask what it means to be "conservative". As a property owner and tax payer of Alaska, and one who cherishes the fisheries and natural majesty of the state, I implore you to reconsider the opening of Roadless areas. My great uncle was a independent logger in the State of Washington in the Olympic Old growth forests. As a young man he professed there was no away they would ever come to the end of the vast old growth wilderness that was the Olympic Rainforest. Yet in his lifetime, and he watched it fade to a land of clear cuts and faded native salmon runs, and men arguing over the scraps of both. His warning to my father and my siblings was to never misuse God's natural bounty, and live not to consume but to conserve. Now my son worries about his future and whether there will be any resources left by the time he is a father. Judging by the state of our favorite places in Alaska, Montana, and Washington he is right to be concerned. Now instead of going to his familiar places, he talks of escaping to Mongolia or even Russia, to find fish of a lifetime. Do the honorable thing, and uphold the longer view of maintaining the natural God-given wealth that still remains. Protect that wealth and pass it on to future generations, instead of spending it irreparably on short term gains for a few. If cared for the value of such lands will only make us richer as States and as a nation.

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 protections for habitat that our irreplaceable fish and wildlife populations need to survive.

Sincerely,

Donald Jensen

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