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Organization:

Title:

Comments: HC5289

U.S. Forest Service Alaska Roadless Rule Committee:

My name is Patricia Hesselgesser and I live in Ellensburg Washington. I visit and fish in Alaska. I believe it is truly the last of the Wild strongholds in America. The Roadless Rule was the greatest Conservation move ever to protect this 58 million acres of fish and wildlife habitat, recreation area, not to mention drinking - water resources, other lakes, rivers and streams across the National Forest system. This in turn protects our salmon and our tourism and recreation economy. The Rule protects more than 9 million acres on the Tongass, preventing the expansion of clear-cut logging of old-growth timber. Our salmon, steelhead, bull trout and Orca whales in Washington are suffering now from the intrusion of humans into their wild habitat. Please learn from our mistakes and keep the Roadless Rule intact.

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,

Patricia Hesselgesser

Ellensburg, WA 98926

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