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Organization:

Title:

Comments: HC5346

U.S. Forest Service Alaska Roadless Rule Committee:

I understand the desire to utilize resources such as old growth forests for revenue and progress. However, I have traveled to many places around the world and seen the destruction that occurs when protections are withdrawn. There are very few natural river valleys remaining either in the U.S. or around the world. These are not simply valuable for the income they generate year after year through tourism and sport fishing and hunting. They are valuable for what they represent as some of the final stands of old growth forest supporting unique flora and fauna. I heartily encourage the U.S. Forest service to maintain the roadless rule in this area and others like it for the sake of the generations of people yet to come that they too will have the opportunity to experience these places as they have always been.

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,

Dan Kreiss

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