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Organization:

Title:

Comments: HC5173

U.S. Forest Service Alaska Roadless Rule Committee:

I have enjoyed steelhead fishing since I was introduced to it approximately 15 years ago and have even been fortunate to enjoy a modicum of success catching and releasing these magnificent creatures. But I haven't even tried to fish for steelhead in the last several years, as the waters I fish closest to where I live, the Salmon and Clearwater Rivers in Idaho, have had extremely poor returns. This is due to multifactorial reasons, habitat loss being among one of the most important.

I have retired recently and was looking forward to exploring some of the waters further from my home base, in Canada and Alaska, but now I fear that what has occurred in the Columbia River Basin is about to occur in the last remaining strongholds in North America.

I urge you continue to uphold the Roadless Rule in the Tongass National Forest and thereby not allow a weakening in the protection of habitat for wild steelhead.

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,

Scott Greer

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[Position]