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First name: Stuart

Last name: Cataleta

Organization:

Title:

Comments: HC5197

U.S. Forest Service Alaska Roadless Rule Committee:

I have spent every summer for the last 10 years guiding in the Tongass. Keeping it wild is it's only chance for survival. Look around, once you open this land up to development there's no putting Pandora back in her box. You will essentially be signing and supporting a death warrant for one of the world's last abundant temperate rainforests. Please don't let this happen on your watch. Protect this small, in perspective to the state, piece of mother nature last strongholds. I want my son and his son to see the land how it was made not how man made it. I want them to be able to look to the USFS, and other govt entities responsible for managing and PROTECTING our natural resources, and see them a friend rather than for, as a steward rather than a negligent, squandering tyrant. Please don't let your legacy be forever stained by backing the changes and opening up that pristine wilderness to devastating development. They've already started cutting a road through major streams and forests outside of Sitka and I can tell you first hand that we have already seen a huge impact to the ecosystem from just the preliminary operations. You will kill yet another forest you are empowered to protect. Stand up for what's right. If people really love getting out into nature they will find a way. They will also try and get as far away from said roads and development as possible.

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,

Stuart Cataleta

Mesa, AZ 85207

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