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Organization:

Title:

Comments: HC5167

U.S. Forest Service Alaska Roadless Rule Committee:

I support retaining the roadless rule. It has already been through the public U.S. Forest Service Alaska Roadless Rule Committee: back in 2001; we shouldn't have to keep reaffirming our desire to see roadless areas in the Tongass preserved.

I am tired of the Forest Service looking at extremely rare old growth forests as just something to exploit when someone wants more money. The public's forests should not be looked at as nothing more than a resource to be exploited when the whim comes along. The rarity of a forest such as the Tongass needs to be preserved to retain its species diversity and its uniqueness.

It is an important carbon sink in these times of global warming. You already have over 5000 miles of logging roads in the Tongass already. Why can't the roadless area be left alone. It would be nice to see roadless areas remain left wild instead of continually looking at more and more timber harvesting.

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,

Larry Hays

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