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Organization:

Title:

Comments: HC5138

U.S. Forest Service Alaska Roadless Rule Committee:

I believe the sustainable and growing economic benefit provided through the fishing tourism to the Tongass is reason enough to leave the area protected by the Roadless Rule. Salmon and steelhead are dwindling across all of North America and as an avid fisherman and conservationist I demanded to see this area left alone. It is one of the last strongholds on this continent and to open the area to roads would be to destroy one of our most valuable resources which are the salmon that swim free and provide food and happiness to millions of people like myself.

The short term economic gain through logging will obliterate one of the longest running renewable resources humans have been using for all of time.

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,

Rain Keating

Salt Lake City, UT 84106

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