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Organization:

Title:

Comments: HC5109

U.S. Forest Service Alaska Roadless Rule Committee:

I had the great fortune of spending the entire fall in 1994 working in the Tongass. It was an experience I will never forget, primarily because of the magnificent forests and fish-bearing rivers. I have been back several times to fish and have also had the opportunity to fish in New Zealand, Canada, Chile and Argentina. I can say without hesitation that the Tongass ecosystem takes the cake.

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,

Robert Masonis

Seattle, WA 98117

[Position]