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Organization:

Title:

Comments: HC5164

U.S. Forest Service Alaska Roadless Rule Committee:

While I was serving in Congress I had a vote on expanding the rules for logging in the Tongass. It would have allowed cutting to occur much closer to streams and tributaries among other things. I voted for it. That was a mistake. The vote came up very fast and I didn't have a chance to research the potential impact of the policy change. I have since learned a great deal about the forest and the fish which inhabit it. It is a very unique place on this planet and we should not allow this habitat to be despoiled. Please do not change the Roadless Rule status.

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,

James Walsh

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[Position]