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Last name: TESSMAN

Organization:

Title:

Comments: HC5278

U.S. Forest Service Alaska Roadless Rule Committee:

I am writing in support of the 'no action' alternative to leave the Roadless Rule unchanged in Alaska. I am concerned that changes to the rule would lead to greatly expand clear-cut logging of old growth timber and costly road building in undeveloped, wild areas of both the Tongass and Chugach Forests. These activities increase sedimentation, hurt water quality, often block salmon migration, and add to an already large backlog of needed road maintenance and restoration.

Our fisheries and wild forests are critical to the economy of Alaska. To grow these sectors of our economy, we need intact habitat. Please leave the Alaska Roadless Rule in place.

Tongass is a globally important carbon sink. The Tongass stores 8% of all the carbon stored in America's forests and, in doing so, helps reduce the impacts of climate change.

The Roadless Rule protects fish and wildlife. The Tongass produces more salmon than all other National Forests, combined. Roadless areas and places like the Tongass 77 contain highly-productive fish habitat that is critical to local fishing and tourism industries, which combine to contribute more than \$2 billion in economic activity and roughly 26% of jobs in the region, annually.

Sincerely,

PATRICK TESSMAN

Highland Heights, OH 44143

[Position]

Customize your comment by listing reasons the Tongass is important to you or why you value Alaska Roadless areas: (ex: specific locations you recreate, activities you do, or why you value fish & wildlife) [Text italicized]