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Organization:

Title:

Comments: HC5364

U.S. Forest Service Alaska Roadless Rule Committee:

As a retired FS employee, I was part of the initial Roadless Area Review and RARE II. I came to recognize the importance of the unloaded nature of the lands identified during these analyses and the variety of wildlife, watersheds and vegetative types they, for lack of a better term preserve. That's why it is so important to me to leave the Roadless designations in place on these National Forests in lieu of opening them to development which is for nothing more than the short term financial gain for individuals and companies looking to exploit our natural resources.

The Roadless Rule has been instrumental in conserving the Chugach and Tongass National Forest and in supporting their associated fish and wildlife-based industries for more than 20 years. Please uphold the Rule's protections for important fish and wildlife areas, including the Tongass 77, by selecting the 'no action' alternative. 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,

John Oppenlander

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