Data Submitted (UTC 11): 12/17/2019 9:00:00 AM
First name: Joel
Last name: Vanetta
Organization:
Title:
Comments: HC5075

U.S. Forest Service Alaska Roadless Rule Committee:

A crucial part of our national environment is being threatened. One of the largest intact forests in North America, the Tongass National Forest, is one of the last, best places we have where the impacts of man are limited and the wonders of a virtually intact ecosystem remain. These are the places that we must do our best, our very best, to preserve and protect, not only for their beauty, but also for their capacity to heal the damage we have done tour environment by creating changes in our climate that will, in the not too distant future, make life on much of our planet difficult - and in many cases, impossible.

The crucial Roadless Rule in effect in the Tongass is playing a vital role in conserving and protecting this iconic forest. It is supporting fish and wildlife-based industries providing decades of social and economic benefits.

I respectfully request that the U.S. Forest Service 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.

Do not damage this forest by allowing roads to carve it up. It is steadily providing ongoing sustainable, ecologically sound and economically viable jobs and will continue to do so long into the future without the destruction of unneeded roads and damaging logging. I've worked for the Forest Service and have personally seen the destruction that roads and logging have done to national forests. Do not let this happen to the Tongass. We need its trees now more than ever.

Sincerely,

Joel Vanetta

Bellingham, WA 98229

[Position]