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Organization:

Title:

Comments: HC5417

U.S. Forest Service Alaska Roadless Rule Committee:

I took a cruise recently that took me through this spectacular area, and really valued the protections that are currently in place. I highly value the conservation of contiguous areas for the benefits they provide to fish and wildlife. With the problems that salmon are having here in Washington State, any conservation efforts to preserve salmon are very important!

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.

Sincerely,

Ethan Schmidt

Friday Harbor, WA 98250

[Position]