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Organization:

Title:

Comments: HC5215

U.S. Forest Service Alaska Roadless Rule Committee:

My name is Dean Schwartz. I live in Washington state, and once again I must comment on the issues around Tongass (77) national forest.

After seeing and experienced the devastation that clear cutting logging and roads have done to streams and land in Washington state more notably on the Olympic peninsula. I don't believe that the Tongass, and its wildlife can survive in abundance as they do now.

In the short term yes there may be jobs, but the long term loss to a 2 billion dollar a year industry plus the loss to a way of life is wrong.

I have been to a small portion of this incredible place, and the loss to its pristine river, and forests would be an environmental disaster as well as a loss not only to Alaska, and it's people, but also to the rest of America whether people have been there or not it is at the heart of American values about our country.

The impact to the most robust salmon populations in the world not only effects industry, but all of the wildlife which rely on salmon to survive must be considered. Look at what same practice (clearcut logging, and, roads) have done to the salmon, and streams in the lower 48. The only solution left is sever restriction, and trying to repair damage from these practices at a very highcoast, and slow recovery. I don't think this is what the people of Alaska and the rest of the United States would won't.

The Roadless Rule has been instrumental in conserving the Tongass National Forest and in supporting its 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. 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,

Dean Schwartz

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