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Organization:

Title:

Comments: HC5128

U.S. Forest Service Alaska Roadless Rule Committee:

The Roadless Rule has been instrumental in conserving the Tongass National Forest and in supporting its fish and wildlife-based industries for almost 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.

We have been here before, with disastrous results. Short term thinking that places more importance on the quick turn of a dollar than on the long term health of our eco-culture has produced such tragedies as the extinction of the passenger pigeon and the near extinction of the whooping crane, the bald eagle, the bison, several species of trout. But the stakes here are much larger even the survival of wild trout. The large beneficial effects of America's largest rain forest - as a great carbon 'sink' that also is a large factor in absorbing much of the CO2 that is causing global warming at an alarming rate- is a much greater benefit to the world than the short term jobs and money that clear-cutting the Tongass would furnish. And the Roadless Rule was established to prevent this outrage! For the sake of all of us, DO NOT

Sincerely,

Mel Pontious

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