

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 12/17/2019 9:00:00 AM

First name: Jeff

Last name: Chang

Organization:

Title:

Comments: HC5214

U.S. Forest Service Alaska Roadless Rule Committee:

I do not live in AK. In fact, I'm lucky to have visited it once in my lifetime and I'm now 52 yrs old. I reside in AZ where our public land, while plentiful, is criss-crossed with an unending maze of atv roads. There are advantages to this such as allowing access for sportsmen unable to walk or hike well or the retrieval of downed game in difficult environments. Far more important though is the effect it has on the landscape and wildlife habitat: it destroys soil and foliage, creates unnatural and destructive drainage patterns, and completely disrupts animal migration, sanctuary, and breeding environments. What possible benefit to the ecology and current sporting industry would allowing vehicles into the Tongass Nat'l Forest provide? Exempting it from this rule makes absolutely no sense, IF your priorities are in the right order. Destroying our natural resources in an area like this is not worth any amount of money or industry.

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,

Jeff Chang

Queen Creek, AZ 85142

[Position]