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Organization:

Title:

Comments: HC5441

U.S. Forest Service Alaska Roadless Rule Committee:

As a nation we need to protect precious resources like these. As an aquatic biologist of 42 years I understand how important this kind of habitat is to fish and wildlife. Once they are gone there is no replacing them. Equally important is the value these areas have to the tourist industry and the billions of dollars that are spend there supporting the local economy now and should be forever in the future. More important income than some short term jobs that would be provided by logging.

Please do the right thing and support the Roadless Rule, for my kids and grandkids, the future of our great nation.

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,

Richard Connelly

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[Position]