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Organization:

Title:

Comments: HC5125

U.S. Forest Service Alaska Roadless Rule Committee:

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Fisheries everywhere along the West Coast are in trouble with the populations declining precipitously. Alaska forests provide one of the few remaining habitats that support runs of salmon and steelhead. These forests must remain in-tact if there is any hope for the future of these anadromous fish species. The Tongass forest remains as one of the few remaining regions that can support these fishes. Besides, as I understand it, the number of logging jobs that would be created is small compared to the number of jobs in the fishing and tourist industries. If jobs is the goal of the proposed action, then changing the roadless rule in the Tongass Forest is certainly the wrong approach!

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.

Sincerely,

William Gerdts

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[Position]