Data Submitted (UTC 11): 12/17/2019 9:00:00 AM First name: Robert Last name: Stephens Organization: Title: Comments: HC5354

U.S. Forest Service Alaska Roadless Rule Committee:

The National Forests are a key national treasure that must be protected. Commercial development for clear cutting and road development put more stress on animals and ecosystems that are already under assault by global warming. I urge extreme caution in deciding for further development we must protect these assets for now and the future.

The Roadless Rule has been instrumental in conserving the Chugach and Tongass National Forest and in supporting their associated 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, by selecting the 'no action' alternative. 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,

**Robert Stephens** 

Raleigh, NC 27609

[Position]