

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

First name: Bradford

Last name: Haskell

Organization:

Title:

Comments: HC5296

U.S. Forest Service Alaska Roadless Rule Committee:

As a fishery biologist that taught college biology to young learners for over 15 years, I must speak out about against the repeal of the Roadless Rule. Maintaining Essential Fisheries Habitat (EFH) is critical if salmon is to continue to reproduce. The salmon are anadromous species that must have a particular type of habitat composed of rock cobble to create a place for eggs to be laid and fertilized. The name of the structure that fertilization takes place is called a redd. This is a stretch of stream that can be 800 feet long just for one female. Please keep the ecological safeguards in place for the salmon species and sustainable natural resource jobs.

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,

Bradford Haskell

Bar Harbor, ME 04609

[Position]

[Position]