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First name: Thomas

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: HC5382

U.S. Forest Service Alaska Roadless Rule Committee:

Hello, my name is Thomas Rowland. I live in Pennsylvania. I enjoy fly fishing the small creeks and rivers in southeastern and central Pa. I have fished in Colorado and Montana. My dream has always been to visit Alaska. To fish and enjoy the pristine forest, rivers, and overall scenery that Alaska is famous for. It is disappointing to learn that the US Forest Service is going against its principals by considering the repeal of the Roadless Rule for the Tongass National Forest due to pressure from special interest groups keen on taking advantage of the natural resources in that area. Please reconsider your decision to favor maintaining the roadless rule. My understanding is it maintains a fine balance between industry and nature as it now stands and there is no need for the public good to open but these lands further. Alaska is a special place. Please keep it that so people like me can someday fulfill their dream of experience if the beauty of Alaska.

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,

Thomas Rowland

Lancaster, PA 17603

[Position]