

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

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: HC5295

U.S. Forest Service Alaska Roadless Rule Committee:

I currently spend a lot of time in the forests of Wyoming where I have a cabin. Over the time I've had my place there the surrounding national forest has gotten more and more effected by human encroachment. Clearcuts are moving over the ridge towards my place. The coyotes I used to hear every night now live further away. And this is in one of the more remote areas in the lower 48.

So I have always been comforted by the thought that there were still places where human encroachment is not as noticeable and pleased especially that there were areas of Alaska that are truly wild. I plan to go up there in the next several years, to fish and to hike. I am thus very concerned that we not allow needless logging that will affect the health of fisheries in the state - one of the last places with healthy fisheries.

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,

Mark van Roojen

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