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First name: Kevin

Last name: Roe

Organization:

Title:

Comments: HC5208

U.S. Forest Service Alaska Roadless Rule Committee:

I have been visiting the Tongass National Forest regularly over the last decade and can speak to the unique nature of this region, its breathtaking beauty, and wildness. My name is Keven Roe and I live in Ames, Iowa, a part of the USA that could not be any more different from the Tongass National Forest, and I support keeping the Roadless Rule on the Tongass.

My visits to the Tongass center around fly fishing for salmon. My friends and I usually stay in Yakutat and fish the several streams and rivers there such as the Situk and the List rivers. We also charter 'fly-out' trips to the Italio, Alek, among others.

As a fisherman I understand the importance of maintaining the wild aspect of this area and the valuable salmon fishery. Protecting key wildlife areas and salmon watersheds such as the Tongass is important for the economy and way of life in Southeast 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. 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,

Kevin Roe

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