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Organization:

Title:

Comments: HC5179

U.S. Forest Service Alaska Roadless Rule Committee:

I am 70 years old and have witnessed first hand the damage clear cut logging has done to steelhead, salmon and wild trout rivers and streams in virtually every western state, especially northern CA, Oregon, WA and even in British Columbia in my lifetime. While we cannot go back in time and do things over, we can consider the intrinsic value of these roadless areas and pristine forest environments for our children and grandchildren.

Extractive industries like logging are short term boons to local economies, whereas sustainable steelhead, salmon and trout fisheries will sustain local economies in the form of tourism for decades if not forever if the forested and roadless areas remain intact and the fisheries are managed in a sustainable non-hatchery manner.

Once the trees are gone, so is the logging economy and employment opportunities.

Road building in these fragile environments increase sediment loads that are carried to rivers and streams during rain and snowmelt events further adding stress to an already threatened or endangered anadromous fishery in the United States.

I would much rather see selective cutting done anyway versus clear cut so the forests remain sustainable over a longer period of time, should that be a consideration in the Environmental Assessment. Alaska is the last great place for steelhead, salmon, trout, grayling and char. Let's keep Alaska wild and keep the Tongass as a symbol of conservation and not for instant gratification for short term gain.

The Roadless Rule has been instrumental in conserving the Tongass National Forest and in supporting its fish and wildlife-based industries for almost 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,

Tim Wade

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