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Comments:

I am in support of maintaining the roadless areas in the Tongass National Forest.

I am a 36 year resident of Juneau, Alaska, have raised two kids here, and am a retired fishery research biologist. My son and I are avid anglers who fish streams and rivers that are in existing roadless areas. We often boat to local streams in roadless areas and hike up - catch and releasing wild dolly varden char, sea run cutthroat trout, and steelhead. We are concerned about the impacts of removing or modifying the Roadless Rule on wild salmonid populations. Building more roads with in the Tongass will result in increased sedimentation and other negative impacts that may influence salmonid populations. The reason we continue to have such excellent fishing opportunities for wild fish populations is largely because much of the old growth forest habitat is intact in the Tongass. If roadbuilding for old growth forest logging is allowed within current roadless areas this will likely have detrimental impacts to salmonid populations.
Sincerely.

Jonathan Heifetz