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Comments:

I urge you to keep the Roadless Rule intact and protections in place for the Tongass National Forest in Alaska. The Roadless Rule protects irreplaceable fish and wildlife habitat and saves millions of taxpayer dollars that might otherwise be spent to subsidize money-losing timber sales. Taxpayer subsidized logging roads should not be allowed on public lands. The fish and wildlife and tourism/subsistence values far exceed any short term gains to a timber industry that contributes less than two percent of Southeast Alaska employment. If an environmental analysis is done for the removal of the Roadless Rule all the economics of timber harvest including cost of roadbuilding and loss to taxpayers must be disclosed. The Roadless Rule should remain in place in Alaska and all current roadless areas in the state should remain protected. I am a retired fishery biologist with over twenty years experience working with salmonid habitat in Southeast Alaska. I have seen much destruction of salmon and wildlife habitat on USFS lands from logging. Please retain the Roadless Rule in Alaska. Thank You.