

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/17/2019 12:00:00 AM

First name: Howard

Last name: Cole

Organization:

Title:

Comments:

HC3119

U.S. Forest Service Alaska Roadless Rule Committee:

As an avid Steelhead fisherman, I've always wanted to Steelhead fish southeast Alaska. The Roadless Rule has conserved key areas of the Tongass from industrial old-growth logging and supported habitat for salmon, trout and steelhead, provided recreational access for anglers, and advanced southeast Alaska's \$2 billion fishing and tourism industries. The proposed repeal of the Roadless Rule on the Tongass is a direct result of political and special interest decision-making aimed at reviving an outdated clear-cut logging industry that threatens key fish and wildlife resources in southeast Alaska.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, by selecting the 'no action' alternative. Roadless areas are an important 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.

I strongly suggest you take the "No Action" alternative!

Sincerely,

Howard Cole

Jackson, WY 83001

[Position]