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First name: Dan

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Organization:

Title:

Comments:

HC4036

U.S. Forest Service Alaska Roadless Rule Committee:

The existing Roadless Rule has been instrumental in conserving the Tongass National Forest and in supporting its 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, far outweighing the minimal economic impact of forest harvesting in Southeast Alaska.

Salmon are part of Alaska's culture. Spawning streams must be protected, lest salmon populations (and the economic impact of sport fishing and tourism) in the Tongass region suffer the same fate as has befallen salmon runs in the Lower 48.

Moreover, building new logging roads in roadless areas makes no economic sense. The American taxpayer should not have to subsidize logging road construction. To do so in order to enable destruction of old growth forests is a double insult.

Please do not roll back roadless area protections for habitat that our irreplaceable fish and wildlife populations need to survive. Preserving these protections, and the economic and environmental benefits they foster, is nothing less than a moral imperative.

Sincerely,

Dan Summers

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