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Organization:

Title:

Comments:

HC5209

U.S. Forest Service Alaska Roadless Rule Committee:

It is clear and well documented that the current form of the Roadless Rule has been critically important to conserving the Tongass National Forest as it currently does, and historically has, supports local fish and wildlife-based industries for more than 20 years.

We, along with millions of other Americans who value forest land for more than timber harvest, strongly urge you to uphold the current form Rule's protections for important fish and wildlife areas, including the Tongass 77.

Roadless areas are an important source of high quality, protein rich food, sustainable jobs, and significant income through commercial, subsistence, and recreational fishing. Salmon and steelhead are an integral part of Alaska's culture. It is your and our duty to do all we can to protect these highly susceptible species and their spawning streams and related habitat.

You owe it to future generations to avoid weakening roadless area protections for habitat that our irreplaceable fish and wildlife populations- and, ultimately, we ourselves - need to survive.

Sincerely,

Richard Rushton

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[Position]