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Comments: Please do not exclude Alaska from the 2001 roadless rule which doesn't allow any new road building or logging of ancient forests. Not surprisingly, most of the last remnants of old growth forest not in parks or wilderness areas in the US are in Alaska. This carve out is being sought by the timber industry and is opposed by the Alaskan fishing industry and many, if not most, Alaskans. The forests in question are thousands-year-old ecosystems with 900 year old trees the size of buses. Ferns are head high and forest floor moss carpeting can be waist high. Once cut these forests can never be brought back. They are like the Redwoods or the Hoh Rainforest. The Alaskan salmon fishery and tourism depend on these last remaining intact forests. These forests also store vast amounts of carbon.

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