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Comments: The Trump Admin wants to 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. Alaska salmon are also one of the main food sources for the Salish seas whale population which has been starving to death due to low salmon numbers. These forests are a keystone in the delicate and fragile ecosystem of the Pacific Northwest. As you might imagine these forests also store vast amounts of carbon. If you type roadless rule Alaska into Google News you will get many recent articles and analysis on this topic. Do not sacrifice these feats of nature to line the pockets of a few cold-hearted capitalists.

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