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Comments: I am OPPOSED to abandoning the Roadless Rule and logging in the National Forests of Alaska.

I am especially OPPOSED to roads and logging in the Tongass National Forest, one of Alaska's wildest places.

National Forests belong to ALL Americans, not special interests groups that seek to harvest irreplaceable natural resources. National Forest treasures like the Tongass are to be preserved for future generations.

At 17 million acres, the Tongass is the largest U.S. national forest and the world's largest remaining temperate rainforest. Dominated by Sitka spruce and Western hemlock mighty conifers up to 10 feet in diameter and 800 years old the Tongass represents the world's largest remaining temperate rainforest. Many of the great trees wear long beards of lichen and moss, and drip with rain, and echo the calls of ravens and the liquid songs of hermit and Swainson's thrushes.

Opening up over 9.5 million forested acres half the Tongass to development will lead to clear-cuts, dams, lodges, etc. Trees that are more than 1,000 yrs old will be razed. Cutting down the Tongass, one of the best carbon sequestration forests in America, would be a crime. THE TONGASS STORES MORE CARBON REMOVED FROM THE ATMOSPHERE THAN ANY OTHER NATIONAL FOREST IN THE COUNTRY.

About 40 percent of wild salmon that make their way down the West Coast spawn in the Tongass: The Forest Service estimates that the salmon industry generates \$986 million annually. Logging harms water quality. Intact stands of trees keep streams cool and trap sediment.

Experts testified that expensive roadbuilding in this harsh terrain will be subsidized to the tune of millions of dollars by American taxpayers.

Trump knows nothing about forests, timber and ecology. If politicians want to protect the economy of Southeast Alaska, they should focus on fishing and tourism, which bring in \$2 billion annually to the region, while timber accounts for only 1 percent of regional employment and jeopardizes fishing and tourism.

KEEP THE ROADLESS RULE. National Forests belong to, and are to be preserved for, ALL Americans.

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