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Comments:

Last time I was in Alaska, in 2000, we were warned not to throw so much as a match stick into the pristine waters. 18 short years later, 87% of the world's oceans are no longer pristine. This is one indication of how poorly people are raised to appreciate what gave us life here in the first place. Now I know that fires are important to forest life, that humans can use the knowledge of tree systems to help support them (Peter Wohlleben's *The Hidden Life of Trees*, for example), and that the Western mission has been to dominate nature to the will of our enormous capacity for science, reason, sheltering ourselves, and industry. We have reached a collective endgame regarding the morale-killing success of the latter point. Road managers still want to go into this forest that I have been defending all my adult life. I am supposed to believe they will go in with my issues cherished above those who see the forest as prime development material. My strong point is philosophy, love, meaning, habitats, and a whole new vision of cooperation with nature that will help reverse the damage of the last 50 years. My weak point is in trusting humanity further with the last of our precious natural heritage, our wilderness. But my job as a human is to trust humanity, so I am very much in a bind here as far as encouraging a project I realize a great many people feel is worth doing.