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Comments:

The Tongass National Forest is the heart and soul of Southeast Alaska.

I first moved to Juneau nearly two decades ago to take students on experiential educational trips - by kayak from Hoonah to Tenakee Springs, from Eagle River to Berner's Bay. I've fished recreationally from the Situk River all the way down to various streams on Prince of Wales Island. I've hunted on Baranof Island, Chichagof Island, Admiralty Island, Shelter Island, etc. The ways in which the Tongass has allowed me to maintain a relatively subsistence lifestyle, understand the true meaning of conservation and land management, and learn about traditional lifestyles that are rooted in the land and waters of the Tongass are of the most valuable lessons I've learned in my life.

Why wouldn't the State of Alaska and the federal agencies support the Tongass Land Management Plan that involved a rigorous public steering process in order to establish management that will ensure the largest national forest in our country remains in-tact? What will happen to our state's economy when Alaska doesn't mean anything anymore?

I strongly support the Roadless Rule & I strongly encourage those who are in D.C. trying to make policy decisions for a place they have never been - to come here - and experience the magic of the Tongass National Forest.