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Comments:

I was born in Juneau Alaska and went to college in Juneau. I have explored the Tongas from Petersburg to Yakutat. I am opposed to any changes to the roadless rule that is currently in place for a variety of reasons.

First and foremost the Tongas has a lot of roads and the places without roads are few and far in between. Unfortunately in the heyday of logging, logging practices have lead to huge swaths of extraordinarily low value habitat. By allowing additional road building the door is opened to destroying the remaining high value habitat for flora and fauna critical to the Alaskan way of life. Clearcuts are now virtual deserts.

Growing up in Alaska I have seen how incredible the productivity of intact wilderness can be. Our fisheries are the last stronghold of pacific salmon. It is absolutely imperative that we as a nation do everything we can to protect the food supply for millions of people. One very simple way to do this is to prevent additional road building in our intact wilderness.

I worry that any new road building will lead to very costly maintenance and subsidizing a logging industry that is costly to the forest service and U.S. government and unbelievably destructive. As a taxpayer I do not want my money to go to destructive industry that is non competitive.