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Comments:

Keep the roadless rule as it is. The changes to the Forest Service's roadless policy in Alaska would severely compromise America's only temperate rainforest--and one of the last examples of this extraordinary ecosystem in the world. The productive temperate rainforests of SE Alaska are part of our country's natural and cultural heritage. Backpacking across Prince of Wales Island last summer, I came to see this place not as an endless expanse of trees in a monolithic shade of green, but as a tapestry of karst topography, beaches, salmon streams, muskegs, and wetlands stitched together by the temperate rainforest. The forest also hides countless anthropological sites--from ancient cedar trees marked by adzes two hundred years ago to the moss covered ruins from a historic cannery.

It is critically important to keep Alaska's National Forests roadless in order to preserve the health of these communities--both human and non-human. The success of the region's salmon fishery, tourism industry, and a subsistence way of life depend on keeping roads out of our National Forest land.