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First name: Lena

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am writing to oppose a total exemption of the Tongass from the Roadless Rule. I support the Roadless Rule. I was born and raised in the Tongass and I plan to make my home here as long as I am able. The Tongass is the largest coastal temperate rainforest in the world, and it is absolutely crucial that we continue to protect it. Not only is it vital to the people who have lived here for thousands of years, but protecting our old growth forests is vital to the fight against climate change. The Tongass is home to a wide variety of wild animals, and Alaskan salmon spawn in the rivers and streams of the Tongass. Salmon are not only ecologically crucial, but they are an incredibly important economic resource in Southeast Alaska. Alaskans have seen salmon in decline across our state in recent years and we can't afford to reduce protections on their habitat. We need to protect our wild places while we still can.

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