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First name: Lauren

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Keep the Roadless Rule in Place for the Tongass National Forest

Dear Interdisciplinary Team Leader, Alaska Roadless Rule Ken Tu,

I am an outdoor recreation enthusiast writing to express my interest in continuing to protect the Tongass National Forest and its backcountry and roadless areas from unnecessary logging and development.

The Tongass has tremendous value for outdoor recreation in the region, and also provides clean water, clean air, and wildlife habitat, all of which are foundational to the economic and ecological health of Southeast Alaska. Road building, logging, and development should continue to be prohibited in the Tongass's roadless areas through upholding the Roadless Rule.

Alaska truly is "the last frontier" of America. That is why myself and countless others travel there to see it's unmatched wilderness and beauty. I have fond memories of seeing miles and miles of untouched forest, of catching a glimpse of a mother moose and her two calves walking among the aspen trees, and of feeling the quiet solitude that comes from being in the middle of nowhere. There are very few places left like the Tongass National Forest and we need to continue to preserve them. They are invaluable and irreplaceable. If Tongass is opened to logging and other activities, we will lose much more than just trees. Getting rid of the Roadless Rule for Tongass will end up hurting southeast Alaska economically. And there will be more negative impacts than can ever be listed or foreseen.

Sincerely,

Lauren Parker

Houston, TX 77042

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