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Organization:

Title:

Comments: The Tongass is a place of exceptional beauty, resource, and value. I often think of the Tongass - the animals and ecosystems it supports - as the canaries of our natural world. If our forests are doing well, if our salmon are doing well then there remains hope. And it's not just hope for the plants and animals, it is hope for humankind. Alaska has managed to protect so much of its wild places and is truly a world leader when it comes to conservation and land management (and by this I mean a largely hands off - no roads type management). I am afraid after my daughter and I attended local meeting/workshop here in Sitka that this is a cleverly worded, carefully curated land grab. I feel that there are too many possibilities for loop holes in the future which all lead to resource extraction and devastation to our precious forests and watersheds. It is hard to carve out a living in Southeast Alaska, but it's worth it. Part of what makes it worth it is the abundance of largely untouched natural splendor, the ability to practice subsistence, and the community that creates. Please don't rush this through. Please don't ignore our input. Please know that we are on stolen land - let's not repeat history.