

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 12/13/2019 9:00:00 AM

First name: Tom

Last name: Vogl

Organization: The Mountaineers

Title:

Comments: Alaska Roadless Rulemaking #54511

Good morning,

The below comment was recorded on November 23, 2019 at the REI Flagship Store in Seattle, WA as part of a community meeting regarding the Alaska Roadless Rule. Washington Wild was given permission by the individual to submit this comment to the United States Forest Service on their behalf. Please add their comment into the record.

Thank you.

Tom Vogl, The Mountaineers

Seattle, WA 98125

Good afternoon everyone. My name is Tom Vogl. I'm the CEO of The Mountaineers. I was thinking about Helen Engle, who as some of you know, passed away earlier this year. She was a Mountaineer and she was one of the best on the most powerful environmentalists in the history of our great state. She passed after 93 years. And I was thinking about what would Helen say if she were here today? And I think it's safe to say, those who even know Helen, she'd be outraged. She'd be absolutely outraged. And one of the things that I've always appreciated about Helen is that she saw the near-term issues, and in this case it's the Tongass. It's an issue that is worth fighting for the recreational value, the, the impact on salmon, the impact on clean waters, the carbon that is sequestered. Those are all really important things for us. But the thing that I always valued about Helen is that she would take a step back and she would see the broader context. And the broader context here is pretty outrageous. The Tongass is 17 million acres, and of that 55% of that is roadless. Now it's about 9 million acres. To put that into perspective, 9 million acres is about the size of all the national forests here in the state of Washington. So could you imagine the outrage that Helen would have and the outrage that we should have over the 9 million acres in the Tongass that have protection now because of the roadless rule being attacked. We've got to fight this. So I really appreciate you being here. Not only to be a voice for the Tongass, but to be a voice for the attack on the climate crisis, the attack on our public lands in general. This is like a drip, drip, drip of toxicity by this administration. So this is not just about the Tongass, it's about stopping these kinds of attacks and ensuring that we're going to have our public lands that are going to be available not only for recreation, but for clean water, for our kids, and for salmon habitat. We've got to stop this. Thanks for being here. Thanks Senator Cantwell for being here and for REI hosting this event.

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Hillary Sanders, Member and Engagement Manager

She/Her

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