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First name: Brad

Last name: Throssell

Organization: WA Council Trout Unlimited

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.

Brad Throssell, WA Council of Trout Unlimited

I want to thank Tom for inviting me to speak here today. My name is Brad Throssell and I'm with Trout Unlimited. Those of you who don't know what Trout Unlimited is, we're a national organization. We have our headquarters in Washington D C we're also a state organization. We do advocacy in Olympia for fish and cold, clean, clear water, and we're also a local organization. We have 15 chapters throughout the state and those folks work on projects in their areas. I was talking to our representative on the ground up in Alaska yesterday and he made it very clear to me. He said, this is not a political issue as far as those folks are concerned there. We're not talking R's and D's. We're talking to people who make their living out of being up there. They guide, they take tourists out, they do all kinds of things and that's the lifestyle they've chosen. And that's the lifestyle they want to keep. And they don't need roads to do that. In fact, they don't want roads. They know that salmon runs are important. They know that wild animals are in charge.

If you backpack, you know, you go into an area like this and you're a visitor there, right? It's only what you can put on your back and then you have to leave. You have to go back out while the animals can stay there forever. And I, like the Senator, have never been to the Tongass, but I found out about two months ago that I'm going to be a grandfather and I would really like for my grandchild to be able to go to the Tongass and hike someplace that I couldn't go. Thank you.

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Hillary Sanders, Member and Engagement Manager

She/Her

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