Data Submitted (UTC 11): 12/13/2019 9:00:00 AM
First name: Ed
Last name: Henderson
Organization: North Cascades Conservation Council
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.

Ed Henderson, North Cascades Conservation Council

Seattle, WA

Good afternoon. I'm Ed Henderson. I'm the Director of the North Cascades Conservation Council and we were founded in 1957 to protect and preserve the scenic, scientific, recreational, educational and wilderness values of the North Cascades. We're strong supporters of the 2001 roadless rule and are concerned with a maintaining its integrity nationwide. We view the Tongass DEIS as a threat to this integrity and thus a threat to our own extensive roadless areas in the North Cascades. Washington has the greatest extent of unprotected national forest roadless areas in the contiguous 48 States. The roadless rule protects these forests. I have personally searched for the purpose and need in the DEIS. After 12 pages of obfuscation, I can only conclude that the implicit purpose is to cut trees and the need is to build roads for access to those trees and then to haul the logs away. While the DEIS contains many disingenuous reassurances there will be little or no impact from logging and road building, it deliberately eliminates from detail analysis 18 issues that would evaluate these impacts. Removing the 9.2 million acres of the Tongass National Forest from the protection of the national roadless rule and depending upon the state of Alaska to safeguard the values inherited an untrammeled roadless forest is equivalent of asking the fox to guard the chicken coop. You can only expect to have feathers, or in this case stumps, left. North Cascades Conservation Council strongly supports a no-action alternative and maintain the national roadless rule in the Tongass. Thank you very much.

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Hillary Sanders, Member and Engagement Manager

She/Her

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