

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

First name: Kjersten

Last name: Gmeiner

Organization: National Organization of Women and Washington State Medical Association

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.

Kjersten Gmeiner, National Organization of Women and Washington State Medical Association

12051 14th Ave NE

Seattle, WA 98125

Hi, my name is Kjersten Gmeiner and I'm a family physician and a PCT hiker and I just wanted to go on record asking for a no action vote from the powers at be. I also wanted to thank everybody here. It's breathtaking, the decades of work that people in this room have put in. I'm just a member of all organizations you all run and I'm an ardent tree advocate. I'm in North Seattle and I'm part of neighborhood tree keepers where the developers are clear cutting one lot at a time. So everybody pay attention when you see them getting ready to clear cut. There is a Seattle ordinance that protects the trees. Not a good one yet but there is, so please be active in your neighborhoods as well as in the Tongass. There've been many more eloquent people than I today about the Tongass. The one thing I wanted to share is that as a family doc, I really do see our forests as the lungs of the earth. And I don't think it's a trope. I think it's absolutely accurate ecosystem wise and it just doesn't make sense to make a bunch of tiny cuts in any tissue. It just doesn't

make any sense. And if you think about our forest as the lungs, then the periphery might okay to put a few roads into for recreation access. But if you're talking about the real heart of the lungs, those cuts are much higher costs than the ones at the periphery. And so I think the Tongass is one of our last stands in terms of the climate. I'm with Greta Thunberg, I mean if you know that your behavior is dooming the younger generations, you just have to stop. So, thank you. Thank you. Thank you to everyone here. And unfortunately I think he would be really sad that this is just as pertinent now as it was when it was written. But unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing's going to get better. So thank you.

Hillary Sanders, Member and Engagement Manager

She/Her

WASHINGTON WILD

206.633.1992 | wawild.org

[Position]

[Position]