

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

First name: Mike

Last name: Anderson

Organization: The Wilderness Society

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.

Mike Anderson, The Wilderness Society

Edmonds, WA 98020

Hello, my name is Mike Anderson. I'm a Senior Policy Analyst for The Wilderness Society, and our organization has been at the forefront of the effort to create the roadless area conservation rule back in the late 1990s, and in the defense of the roadless rule during the Bush administration. And now under the Trump administration, it's one of our organization's top priorities. We are doing all that we can to activate our membership across the nation to defend the role of this rule. Senator Cantwell has been one of our great champions throughout the defense of the roadless rule, but you should also know that Governor Inslee, was when he was in Congress, the sponsor of the house version of Senator Cantwell's, roadless area conservation act. We have a very strong political support for this rule in this state. Going back some two decades, we have a very strong coalition both nationally and in Southeast Alaska working together for protection of the Tongass. The Tongass has over 9 million acres of roadless areas and these areas are the crown jewel of the nation's national forests. The salmon habitat, the wildlife habitat, the forest carbon is nothing short of supportive, and the Trump Administration's efforts to exempt the Tongass from this rule is nothing short of outrageous. There's no reason to exempt the Tongass. The timber industry is now less than 1% of Southeast Alaska's employment compared to 26% in the tourism and commercial fishing industries. Furthermore, the Forest Service spends more than \$30 million a year subsidizing the logging and road building, road building and logging within the Tongass national forest. It is the most uneconomic national forest in the nation for a timber production. There's no reason for us to be going into the Tongass building more expensive roads. So we are strongly supportive of the no action alternative and I appreciate everybody coming today and let's fight and win this again.

Hillary Sanders, Member and Engagement Manager

She/Her

WASHINGTON WILD

206.633.1992 | wawild.org

[Position]