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First name: Crystal

Last name: Gartner

Organization: Washington Trails 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.

Crystal Gartner, Washington Trails Association

Hi, my name is Crystal Gardner and I'm the Statewide Engagement Manager for Washington Trails Association. Washington Trails Association has a 50 year legacy of protecting trails. We are supported by more than 15,500 household members and have an online community of more than 100,000 hikers. WTA enhances hiking experiences in Washington state by mobilizing a diverse and growing community of hikers to explore, steward, and protect trails and public lands. As the nation's largest state-based trail maintenance and hiking advocacy nonprofit organization, Washington Trails Association works to ensure that Washington's trails stand the test of time and connect people to the outdoors from everyday adventures to back-country explorations. Many of these back-country adventures take place on public lands protected by the roadless rule. Some of the best places to hike and backpack in the state are in roadless areas, including the dark divide on the Gifford Pinchot national forest, the Tiana way on the Okanogan Wenatchee national forest, and the Kettle Crest on the Colville National Forest. Miles upon miles of the Pacific Crest Trail intersect 20 roadless areas in Washington alone. The roadless rule must be protected and kept in place here in Washington state, up North, Alaska and the Tongass national forest and throughout our country. Washington Trails Association supports the roadless rule and wants to thank everyone here for helping to protect it. Thank you.

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Hillary Sanders, Member and Engagement Manager

She/Her

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