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First name: Denis

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Organization: Patagonia

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.

Denis Tuzinovic, Patagonia

Seattle, WA 98121

My name is Dennis and I am the Environmental Coordinator for Patagonia. Thanks to Washington Wild for having us and allowing us to give testimony today. At Patagonia, protection and preservation of the environment isn't what we do after hours. It's the reason we're in business and it's every day's work. We believe that the environmental crisis has reached a critical tipping point without commitments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, defend clean water, and air and divest from extractive industries that harm our public lands and waters humankind as a whole will destroy our planet's ability to repair itself. We aim to reduce, to use the resources we have to do something about it. That's the skewed priorities which elevate industrial concerns or public sentiment and environmental health are not only on display all over the country, but nowhere more than Alaska.

Spread across a 500 mile long coastal archipelago, the Tongass is one of the last intact temperate rainforests in the world. Existing roadless restrictions have been in place for two decades and were celebrated as a bipartisan effort, but we continue to pursue to clear cut trees, catch too many fish, spray too many chemicals and extract and burn too many non-renewable fuels. We diminish the roaming area for wolves and Grizzlies, warm the seas to temperatures hostile to humpback whales, and destroy habitat for songbirds. We put at risk the beauty and diversity of the world and endanger our own lives. Businesses have a critical role to play in protecting the natural systems for which we benefit. This goes hand in hand with creating jobs, building more local communities, and improving health and prosperity for all. Today, we are here to lend our voice and speak loudly for the preservation of the roadless Tongass national forest, which is not only one of the greatest gifts we can leave for future generations, is also a critical step toward tackling the climate crisis head on before it's too late. Thank you.

Hillary Sanders, Member and Engagement Manager

She/Her

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