

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 12/16/2019 9:00:00 AM

First name: Jorden

Last name: Nigro

Organization: None

Title:

Comments: I have sat down to write this letter numerous times since public comment on the proposed changes to the Roadless Rule opened. Each time I find myself at a loss for words, and so I put my laptop away, hoping clarity will come next time I try. Now, here I am on the eve of the deadline and so you're just going to get what comes. Sometimes that's how it works when our hearts are on the table.

I grew up in the Tongass. A fishing and hunting family, my childhood was spent eating the bounty of the forest. I learned from an early age the natural order of things and how our care for this land matters. I've tried to carry that with me and as a life long Alaskan still living in the Tongass, I ask that you choose the 'no action' alternative and leave the Roadless Rule unchanged in Alaska.

Flying from my hometown of Gustavus in the Cessna 206 bush planes that were the norm back then, I would look down and see the huge clear cuts scarring the mountains down to the sea. The roads made to get to the grounds winding and twisting like tentacles choking the forest. I remember thinking how scary it all looked and wondering if someday there would be no more trees.

Today, our family fills our freezer with sockeye salmon, fed by the Tongass. We camp and hike and play in the Tongass. Over forty years later, it is still my home. When we bought our house a decade ago, I ran into a friend on the street as we were just getting settled. He went to his car to grab something for me, returning with a venison back strap, the gift of a successful hunt in the Tongass. Many of those cuts we flew over when I was a kid have grown back. Sustainable logging practices have been embraced, allowing communities to be in partnership with the forest. We care for it, and in turn it cares for the salmon, the deer, the mushrooms and the berries that we rely on to care for each other.

Repealing the Roadless Rule is a regressive tactic by both a State and Federal administration that fail to see the big picture and are, without a doubt, missing the forest for the trees they so desperately want to cut down. The Tongass is the largest temperate rainforest in the world and is critical habitat for the wilds of this place. You know that of course. So I suppose the question is, do you care? Show us you do and choose the 'no action' alternative.

Thank you,

Jorden Nigro

Juneau

[Position]

[Position]