

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

First name: Blake

Last name: LaPerriere

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Alaska Roadless Rule

Hello,

My name is Blake LaPerriere and I am a senior in high school. I was born and raised in Sitka and my family has always relied on subsistence hunting, fishing, and gathering as a major food source. I am proud to say that almost all the meat and fish I have ever eaten has come from within twenty or so miles of my family's home.

My family's subsistence lifestyle is only possible because there is intact wilderness. The deer that my family depends on rely on healthy, old growth forests to live and raise young. The salmon that so many of us Alaskans depend on as a major food source, as well as a livelihood, can only survive if there are healthy, old growth watersheds. Road building, and the industrial scale clearcut logging that follows, both destroy this priceless wilderness. And destroyed wilderness equals unhealthy or diminishing deer populations and less salmon.

The state of Alaska was founded on salmon fishing and subsistence lifestyles-not on logging. We need to think about which is more important to us. Is it more important to give into a dying logging industry or to protect the remaining wilderness that is the backbone of our salmon industry. To me, and the vast majority of my fellow Alaskans, protecting our priceless wilderness is what we are concerned about. Please stand behind your constituents and do what is right. It is your job to listen to the people first-not industry.

Thank you.

[Position]