

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/13/2019 12:00:00 AM

First name: Joel

Last name: Brady-Power

Organization:

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.

Joel Brady-Power & Tele Aadsen, Commercial Fishermen - Alaska

I seek silence, find solace in seclusion, but illusions of isolation can cloud judgment create separation where there is none. And so I can sit on this river. Watch it wriggle and wind its way down from snow-caped peaks, glaciers, through old growth forest and Muskegon. Watch its current spill out into fjords, sweep across bays and dissolve the ocean. I can lose myself in a Ravens song. The winds whisper the waters kiss. I can disappear into this wilderness and I can pretend this moment, this place, this piece is separate, is safe. Is eternal. I can pretend the minds upstream won't keep coming. I can pretend the timber won't keep falling. I can pretend my fishery won't be affected. From my perch I can't see big Buddhists or the hauling trucks. I can't smell the exhaust. I can't hear the primal scream of the chainsaw. I can't taste the bitterness of defeat, but my bones know a storm is brewing.

I can tell myself that people will continue to care, that their attention and passion won't succumb to distraction and dissolution. I can tell myself the world cares about wild spaces. I can tell myself we will learn from the carelessness of our greed. I can stand here on this Rocky shore. Listen to the ripple and roar of salmon surging upstream. As the shadows grow long, I can feel the sunsets warm, caress on my face and embrace the beauty and serenity of this moment. I can ignore the dark clouds on the horizon and I can pretend that just being present is enough. But if I'm not willing to leave my tears in this river and pull myself from this reverie, if I'm not willing to scream my lungs into this pin, set fire to this page and rise from the ashes of apathy to action. If I'm not willing to stand and fight for this river, for the salmon for my own life, then the strength of my conviction triples to complicity. Lost in the sound of my silence.

My name is Tele. My partner Joel Brady-Power and I are both second generation Southeast Alaskan commercial fishermen, salmon shoulders. We are Washington residents and we're co-owners of the fishing vessel NERCA and NERCA sea frozen salmon. We are two of thousands of people who engage in a seasonal Washington to Alaska migration with commercial fisheries, tourism and recreation, supporting the economies of both States. As children, the Tongass was our playground. As adults, it's our livelihood, our source of refuge and inspiration. Its stewardship is our responsibility. Intact, the Tongass is America's salmon forest, irreplaceable habitat for all living creatures, a nature-based counter to climate change. We support the no action amendment and the maintenance of the roadless rule in the Tongass National Forest. And we thank you for joining us in that

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Hillary Sanders, Member and Engagement Manager

She/Her

WASHINGTON WILD

[Position]