

TRANSCRIPT OF ROADLESS RULE
ANILCA SUBSISTENCE PUBLIC HEARING

KETCHIKAN, ALASKA
11/5/2019

1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 (Ketchikan, Alaska - 11/5/2019)

3 (On record)

4 MR. VANORMER: All right. Good evening,
5 everybody. It's now 7:00 o'clock and we're going to go
6 ahead and open the subsistence hearing for the Alaska
7 Roadless Rule. If you want to provide testimony, I
8 need to have one of these sign-in sheets here. Frank
9 Sherman or Melinda will be able to collect those and
10 bring them up here.

11 The trick is trying to get how many folks are
12 signed up and how much time we have so we make sure
13 everyone has ample time to provide testimony here.
14 Right now I currently have 12 people signed up and I
15 want to leave a little space in the end.

16 So what I'm going to ask is that we try and
17 keep testimony to around six minutes or so. If you
18 start getting longer than six minutes I may just stand
19 up and stand next to you to kind of gently remind you
20 that we're kind of running a little long. If at the
21 end you will have more to say, you're welcome to come
22 back up and put more on the record.

23 I'm going to start by -- I've got to read kind
24 of the opening here, so bear with me. First of all I
25 want to thank everyone for attending tonight's public

1 meeting. It's an opportunity for you to provide input
2 to the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule and corresponding
3 draft environmental impact statement.

4 Specifically the Forest Service is seeking your
5 comment on a proposed rule on how roadless areas in
6 Alaska and the Tongass National Forest will be managed
7 in the future. On October 18, 2019 the Notice for
8 Proposed Rulemaking was published in the Federal
9 Register and indicated a preferred Alternative 6
10 exemption of the 2001 Roadless Area Conservation Rule
11 applied to the Tongass National Forest.

12 An exemption would remove all regulatory
13 restrictions currently in place by the 2001 Roadless
14 Rule on the Tongass National Forest. The Forest
15 Service will be accepting comments on this proposed
16 rule until December 17, 2019. Tonight will be an
17 opportunity to provide oral and written comments on the
18 proposed rule or any of the alternatives that I've
19 presented.

20 My name is Chad VanOrmer and I am the Director
21 of Ecosystem Planning and Budget here in the Alaska
22 Region for the USDA Forest Service. Tonight I'm here to
23 serve as the meeting facilitator, so my job is to make
24 sure that everyone here would like to make oral or
25 written comments on the proposed rule is able to do so.

1 The meeting has been scheduled to last until
2 9:00 o'clock tonight in order to receive your comments.
3 We'll be using digital voice recorders located on the
4 table in front near the speaker to record your
5 comments. Your voice recording will then be
6 transcribed by a professional court reporter and
7 included in the project record for the Alaska Roadless
8 Rulemaking Project.

9 During this comment portion of the meeting we
10 will not be answering any questions, allowing us time
11 to listen and hear your comments. In addition to
12 tonight's meeting we'll be hosting additional public
13 information in communities around Southeast Alaska,
14 Anchorage and Washington, DC.

15 In conjunction with those meetings we will
16 collect subsistence testimony at communities in
17 Southeast Alaska to include Ketchikan, Craig, Hydaburg,
18 Kasaan, Yakutat, Tenakee Springs, Wrangell, Gustavus,
19 Petersburg, Kake, Sitka, Angoon, Thorne Bay and
20 Skagway. The current schedule of the meetings can be
21 found on the Alaska Roadless Rule website.

22 All right. So at this time I have a pile of
23 testimony here and I'll call the individual down. What
24 I'll ask them to do is to come on up and again we have
25 the voice recordings going here and when you start your

1 testimony I'd like you to state your name and -- I'm
2 sorry. When I call your name, please step forward to
3 the microphone. Please begin your presentation by
4 stating your full name and please assist the recorder
5 by spelling your name. That would be very helpful. If
6 you are affiliated with an organization or a group,
7 please say so. So that your comments are actually
8 captured please speak clearly and into the microphone.
9 There is no microphone. We're using digital voice
10 recorders. I think it will work well if you just sit
11 right here. If you're called to speak and choose not
12 to speak or provide short remarks, you may not cede
13 your time to another speaker. The time is now 7:04 and
14 I'd like to open the public hearing section of this
15 meeting.

16 The first speaker is Mrs. Susan E. Walsh. To
17 be followed by Mrs. Walsh it looks like Joe Jacob will
18 be the next speaker after that. Ms. Walsh.

19 MS. WALSH: You know, I would -- I would like
20 to defer to your Native speakers first. They have more
21 (indiscernible).

22 MR. VANORMER: Okay. Well, I don't have an
23 indication on here whether someone is Native or not.

24 (Laughter)

25 MR. VANORMER: That wasn't a box to check.

1 MS. WALSH: (Indiscernible).

2 MR. VANORMER: If there is, yes. I understand.
3 Melinda will help me out here and she'll sort us out to
4 make sure we get tribal representation up here first,
5 especially in respect to the community. We are going
6 to start with President Lee Wallace with the Ketchikan
7 Indian Community.

8 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Saxman.

9 MR. VANORMER: Saxman. Oh, my gosh, I totally
10 apologize. My bad. I did two mistakes.

11 MR. WALLACE: Bad luck of the draw, huh.

12 MR. VANORMER: Yeah. I apologize.

13 MR. WALLACE: No apology needed. Good evening.
14 Lee Wallace, president of the Organized Village of
15 Saxman. L-E-E W-A-L-L-A-C-E. I'm pleased to have this
16 opportunity to give some public testimony on the
17 Roadless Rule this subsistence hearing November 5th,
18 2019.

19 The Organized Village of Saxman, Saxman IRA
20 Council stands on our Resolution No. 2018 10-223. The
21 resolution by the Organized Village of Saxman, Saxman
22 IRA Council, to authorize tribal support for
23 application of National Roadless Rule on the Tongass
24 National Forest and to authorize strong support for
25 lasting protection of the Roadless Rule. Signed and

1 dated November 11, 2018.

2 The Organized Village of Saxman, Saxman IRA
3 Council, OVS, is fully against preferred alternative
4 full exemption option. OVS and other Federally
5 recognized tribes view this an attack on our way of
6 life. We're talking about our subsistence.

7 We, the people of the Tongass, the Haida, the
8 Tlingit, the Tsimshian, have been here for 10,000 years
9 and more. We want our forest intact and healthy. The
10 existence of our way of life depends on it. The
11 Federal government calls it subsistence. I personally
12 don't like using the word. I use our way of life.

13 We need a healthy forest to practice our
14 cultural identity. Hunting, fishing, harvesting off the
15 land and the water is vital to us. We have this
16 special relationship with the U.S. Federal government.
17 A unique and special relationship being Federally
18 recognized tribes. That's an important thing to
19 exercise.

20 Coming along with that trust responsibility is
21 a fiduciary responsibility. In exercising your
22 fiduciary responsibility you're acting in the best
23 interest of the tribe that you're working with. In
24 this case you're working with many tribes in the
25 Southeast area in the Tongass. On Saturday you were

1 able to hear from eight of us. All pretty much united
2 that were here to protect our forest for generations to
3 come.

4 I'm meeting with Under Secretary Hubbard on
5 Saturday. He had told the Federally recognized tribes
6 that Secretary Perdue would have the voices of tribal
7 government in a high way as far as listening to them
8 and having weight as far as opinions.

9 The eight tribes that spoke and had that tribal
10 consultation with Under Secretary Hubbard we were
11 collectively representing 32,000 tribal citizens. That
12 speaks loudly to the constituents that we're elected by
13 and we speak for.

14 There is cause and effect when roads and
15 logging and mining are done in the forest. The Tongass
16 is our nation's largest forest. Being the largest
17 forest for health of the Tongass is vital, not only for
18 the region but globally. The Tongass is vital to the
19 health of our world.

20 Forests or lack of them play a great part of
21 climate change. Earlier today at the Southeast RAC
22 meeting the RAC members spoke about their regions that
23 they represent. Each region they pretty much talked
24 about the change that we're experiencing, that climate
25 change that's happening that's here in Alaska.

1 A lot of it revolved around fish. A lot of it
2 was salmon. Now salmon require a healthy habitat.
3 Most often what was mentioned today was the lack of
4 salmon, salmon coming late, later than normal than when
5 they normally come and not coming at all. The reasons
6 are a good chance it's probably climate change, warming
7 waters, acidification of our oceans.

8 So climate change take a vital part in our
9 lives. It's kind of interesting that the resident of
10 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue doesn't understand climate
11 change or he fails to really know that really truly
12 exists. That is a big issue for a leader of our nation
13 not to acknowledge and know of climate change. To
14 completely ignore it and think it's something less than
15 that.

16 But us in Alaska we know that climate change is
17 here and it changes our life. Once we begin to logging
18 more old growth trees in our Tongass Forest, then we'll
19 really be harmful to our subsistence way of life, our
20 way of life, harvesting, hunting, fishing, clean water
21 for our communities.

22 So it's important to note that we really
23 thought things had changed in working through this. A
24 lot of time and effort. All of a sudden President
25 Trump met with Governor Dunleavy in July. Right after

1 that meeting the procedures of those cooperating
2 agencies went sideways. It was like the rug was pulled
3 out by them and said, sorry, we made a decision, we're
4 going with full exemption. One conversation with
5 President Trump and Governor Dunleavy.

6 I'm going to go back to a meeting in July.
7 Lisa Murkowski has been here in Ketchikan/Saxman a
8 number of times and I got a communication from her
9 office and they wanted to meet with tribal leaders to
10 discuss any issue they wanted to talk about. One of
11 them was Roadless. At that meeting with Lisa I said,
12 you know, Lisa, there were times when we agree on items
13 and there's times when we don't and that's fine. When
14 we don't agree that's when we need to have that
15 conversation. We do need to have more of that
16 conversation with our delegation in DC.

17 Going back to the Saturday tribal consultation
18 at the very end, not even before the end, I wanted to
19 call on Under Secretary Hubbard to have another tribal
20 consultation. I think it was meaningful and helpful
21 and I extended that invitation to Under Secretary
22 Hubbard to pass it along to Secretary Perdue to say,
23 yes, let's have another tribal consultation where we
24 could have meaningful dialogue and discuss the issue.

25 From the reply I got from Under Secretary he

1 would see if that could actually happen and I think it
2 will be. I think again it will be very meaningful for
3 us to continue this conversation. Back in February when
4 the Organized Village of Kake and Organized Village of
5 Saxman sent a joint letter to Secretary Perdue
6 requesting a face-to-face tribal consultation in
7 Washington, DC. We offered the time to travel there and
8 meet with him. That was pretty much denied. It was
9 unanswered until months down the road. But we had the
10 opportunity with Under Secretary Hubbard and that was
11 beneficial. We'd like more of that.

12 For years the timber sales in the Tongass
13 really questionable. Were they able to really compete
14 in the World Market and the answer is no. For the most
15 part the sales of the Tongass timber sales are highly
16 subsidized. If there's going to be more logging, more
17 roads built, it's taxpayers. All of you will be paying
18 taxes for building of these new roads. Really the
19 timber sales they won't even pencil out in the dark
20 black blue. They'll be red.

21 I just want to close and thank you for this
22 opportunity, but finally before I do Saxman and our
23 region -- years ago Bostwick Inlet was up for a timber
24 sale and for a road to gain access for recreation.
25 Saxman and KIC was against that. We fought and we

1 prevailed, but when you go full exemption we're going
2 to be back at the table again fighting for the same
3 thing. Fighting to keep logging out of our
4 breadbasket, as our elders in Saxman coined Bostwick
5 Inlet.

6 Another area close to Saxman is the South
7 Revillagigedo timber sales that could possibly hurt the
8 subsistence use of the people of Saxman. I want to
9 close with that and thank you for this opportunity and
10 there will be more written testaments I'm sure from our
11 tribe. Thank you.

12 MR. VANORMER: Thank you. All right. Next I'd
13 like to call up Mr. Tony Gallegos. I'm sorry again. I
14 think we're going to do Gloria Burns next. I should
15 just get Melinda up here to do it. I apologize again.

16 MS. BURNS: Good evening. Thank you so much.
17 I'm Gloria Burns, 1042 Woodland Avenue, Ketchikan,
18 Alaska. Born and raised. B-U-R-N-S. I am an elected
19 official of the Ketchikan Indian Community. The
20 president of Ketchikan Indian Community sits in the
21 audience with us, Norman Skan.

22 I am the daughter of a log truck driver and of
23 a weaver. So my mother is probably the ultimate
24 environmentalist and my father is not. So I come with
25 a varied and unique view of the forest and the way it

1 sustains us.

2 I want to say that as a weaver since I was a
3 child the first thing that we do in the spring is we go
4 into the woods and we find a beautiful cedar tree and
5 we connect with the land and we reaffirm our
6 relationship and our responsibility to be good
7 caretakers and stewards.

8 I think growing up in Alaska I know that my
9 neighbors, Native or non-Native, have a real care for
10 the land around us and that we all rely on a healthy
11 ecosystem to be able to take care of our needs when it
12 comes to subsistence.

13 I believe that our area -- although Saxman is a
14 rural status, I think the rules aren't really what
15 fits. I subsist off traditional foods, foods of the
16 land, 90 percent of my food, and I live here in town.
17 So I think it's a real issue.

18 But a big issue really is for Roadless -- first
19 of all I want to say that support the no -- no no
20 Roadless Rule. To keep it.....

21 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: No action.

22 MS. BURNS: No action. I was like I wrote it
23 down, no action and am opposed to the alternative,
24 which is a complete exemption for a variety of reasons.

25

1 For myself personally one of those reasons is
2 long conversations with my father about the
3 unsustainability of using the forest in the manner that
4 it is with timber sales, them not making any money.
5 You know, conversations I had with him where he would
6 say he would go in and they weren't supposed to log
7 next to a creek, but the creek was always logged. He'd
8 say, Gloria, nobody goes in to check that, you know.
9 It's a terrible situation when nobody goes in to check
10 it. That's just the reality of the experience that he
11 had as a driver in the industry for all that amount of
12 time.

13 When I think about as a weaver I need for those
14 trees to be healthy. My family needs that for our
15 livelihood, for our cultural and spiritual beliefs. It
16 really feels awful that I have to support no -- that
17 for me the most logical choice is to have no change
18 because when good people go and they come up with a
19 myriad of thoughts and ideas and it goes up to the top
20 and all these wonderful people come up with that, you
21 get back a full exemption.

22 You know that doesn't give me any faith. I
23 feel as though Washington DC is looking down at me and
24 saying, hey, it's just going to be this way. I just
25 can't ever get behind that and that is truly what this

1 process feels like now based upon all the
2 recommendations that were made by the tribes that
3 offered cooperating agency comments and then were
4 ignored.

5 Then we're in a situation where no bad idea
6 ever goes to die in government, which means that I know
7 in my heart that the moment there's a full exemption
8 somebody is planning to log Bostwick. I think of the
9 graves that I know are in the area and I think of the
10 people who still go out there and subsist.

11 You know, yeah, I would like potentially a road
12 to be able to drive and make it easier for me to
13 subsist but not at the expense of a place like that
14 being developed and potentially changing the entire
15 landscape. I remember being a child, I remember
16 driving by and it would be my own Native corporations
17 and they would clear cut an area and I remember being
18 so ashamed. I don't want my nieces and nephews to see
19 that.

20 I believe that we have a responsibility to
21 Alaska and to the world to go ahead and leave a
22 landscape that will support seven generations from now.
23 White, green, blue, black or yellow, you know, I don't
24 believe it's good for me as a tribal citizen, but I
25 don't believe truly if you look at the impacts of

1 allowing those mining companies to have access --
2 because that's what we are not talking about, is that,
3 you know, you can go in and do whatever you want on
4 Forest Service land as far as prospecting and there is
5 nothing that can be done about it and then now we have
6 access.

7 It just doesn't make any sense. It doesn't
8 make any sense and so for that reason I absolutely
9 support no change in the Roadless Rule because until
10 people start acknowledging what's going on around us,
11 that our water temperatures in the entire state are
12 five degrees higher, you know. It just doesn't make
13 sense to allow access to log, you know, this beautiful,
14 large, you know, ecosystem that we all rely on.

15 Thank you.

16 MR. VANORMER: Thank you very much. Now we'll
17 do Tony. Come on up.

18 MR. GALLEGOS: Thank you. It's Tony Gallegos,
19 T-O-N-Y G-A-L-L-E-G-O-S. I'm the cultural resource
20 director for the Ketchikan Indian Community. It's been
21 an honor to serve the tribe in that capacity and an
22 honor that our tribal president asked me to go ahead
23 and speak on his behalf and share a few things that the
24 tribe has discussed related to this roadless rulemaking
25 process.

1 I'm going to pretty much just refer to some
2 documents and statements that have been sent to the
3 Forest Service previously on behalf of the tribe. I
4 have a letter that's dated a year ago exactly. Our
5 past tribal president is here and that happens to be a
6 letter that was signed by her a year ago. Let me just
7 start and read a couple things. It was when you first
8 announced and were trying to get feedback on this.

9 The tribe was considering becoming a
10 cooperating agency at the time, but we didn't go pursue
11 that completely. I'm really glad that other tribes
12 here in Southeast Alaska went that route. We are
13 looking at cooperating agency with the Forest Service
14 on some other projects however that are more local
15 nature.

16 A couple things back a year ago was the tribe
17 was definitely concerned about removing the protections
18 that the Roadless Rule designation provided for sacred
19 sites and the old-growth timber from unnecessary
20 development activity. Related to that there was some
21 discussions -- because it's a complicated issue there
22 were discussions about limited access.

23 Ms. Burns talked about we want access to -- the
24 tribe actually wants to make sure they have access to
25 their subsistence resources in the area and that is

1 difficult here in Ketchikan area if you don't have a
2 boat and such. That was part of the original concern
3 of the tribe was where are they going to come out on
4 this thing because there is concern with limited
5 access.

6 The greater concern is our local culture and
7 economy is based on a healthy regional environment and
8 KIC wants to ensure the ecosystem of the Tongass Forest
9 is adequately protected for both the short and
10 long-term benefits of our tribal members. That's
11 pretty much what won out in our discussions.

12 A letter dated this summer basically I'll read
13 a couple excerpts from that. As indigenous leaders of
14 southern Southeast Alaska we see ourselves as
15 caretakers of the land since time immemorial and that
16 we have an ongoing responsibility to protect it. KIC
17 desires to work in tandem to protect our traditional
18 territories from exploitation. The Ketchikan Indian
19 Community therefore supports the no action alternative
20 in the Alaska roadless rulemaking process. Likewise,
21 the tribe has a responsibility to manage and protect
22 our traditional lands sustainably for the benefit of
23 future generations.

24 Associated with that letter was a resolution
25 that accompanied it. I'm just going to read a few

1 excerpts from that fairly extension resolution, which
2 happened to be the fourth resolution that the tribe
3 actually considered when looking at the Roadless Rule.
4 Because of the complexity there was a lot of discussion
5 and Council really considered it carefully. Just like
6 your group has looked at various options, it's not a
7 simple yes/no necessarily.

8 The fourth resolution finally passed and was
9 sent out to the Forest Service this last July. I
10 highlighted a few points here. Maybe I'll just close on
11 -- let me see. The tribe wishes to protect their
12 traditional territory from exploitation. The current
13 Roadless Rule provides adequate protection for our
14 natural resources. Protection of the inherent right to
15 harvest and use traditional and customary foods
16 requires careful cultural stewardship and protection of
17 the environment and natural resources. These lands not
18 only provide Alaskan people with food, they essentially
19 define who we are and where we come from.

20 The only changes to the Roadless Rule that KIC
21 can support really is the no action alternative. The
22 Ketchikan Community also demands a full and
23 comprehensive consultation with the Forest Service
24 staff and leadership about the impacts of the proposed
25 ruling and process. So that's still ongoing.

1 I've got a few pages of draft prepared comments
2 that I'll be working with the tribe to submit before
3 the December deadline. So we'll continue to be
4 discussing this with the tribal council and tribal
5 leadership trying to come up with some comments
6 specific to what you've been sharing the most recent
7 draft EIS, which of course we weren't privy to until
8 just the last couple weeks.

9 Thank you.

10 MR. VANORMER: Thank you. All right. On to
11 the bigger pile here. We'll go next to Ms. Jill Jacob
12 and after that we'll do Mike Sallee it looks like. So,
13 Jill. If you could start by stating your name and
14 spelling it out and we can go from there.

15 MS. JACOB: Okay. My name is Jill Jacob,
16 J-A-C-O-B. I live at 95 Virginia Lane, Ketchikan. It
17 will be 20 years ago next July that I first stood here
18 defending the Tongass from more development. I want to
19 thank the 16 Southeast sovereign tribal entities that
20 endorsed the no action alternative.

21 If I could have everybody in the room stand
22 that endorses the no action alternative. Wow.
23 Everybody up. Thank you.

24 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Not everybody is up.

25 MS. JACOB: Everybody that's going to get up is

1 up. By the way, I'm one of those 1,700 that did have
2 not form comments. Not just this last fall, but 2003,
3 2007, on and on. In 60 years I've never seen a tree as
4 big as the stumps on any Forest Service land near any
5 road system, anywhere on the entire west coast.

6 That's why we don't need any more roads into
7 any kind of wilderness. There are more than a million
8 reasons to keep what's left of the Tongass wild.
9 There's only one reason to destroy more of it. That
10 would be short-sighted greed.

11 We know that in the rest of the world there are
12 hundreds of people defending their homes and their
13 environments that are dying. Three a week are murdered
14 in the Philippines, in Brazil, in Columbia, for
15 defending the environment that supports their fish and
16 their wildlife and their way of life.

17 Now here we are. We get to talk about it, but
18 people are dying to save our earth and here we are with
19 the largest forest in North America, the largest carbon
20 sink and who in their right mind would even think of
21 cutting any more of the old growth here down. It makes
22 no sense.

23 Also you do not destroy large swatches of your
24 environment with resource extraction without any
25 repercussions on the human psyche and the human spirit.

1 The places where there are the greatest resource
2 extraction of logging and mining are also the highest
3 domestic violence, rape, murder and drug addiction
4 places. Those studies are proven. So the more you
5 destroy the environment the more you destroy yourself.
6 I think that's pretty evident.

7 So I'll just repeat it one more time. There
8 are more than a million reasons to keep what's left of
9 the Tongass wild. Thank you.

10 MR. VANORMER: Thank you. Up next we have Mike
11 Sallee and then after that it will be, I believe
12 Janalee Gage will be up after Mike. Just remember to
13 state your name and spell it for the record.

14 MR. SALLEE: My name is Mike Sallee, spelled
15 S-A-L-L-E-E. I was born in Ketchikan. Pretty much
16 lived here all my life. I'll state right from the
17 outset that I support the no action alternative. I am
18 extremely upset with our President and our Governor,
19 who have apparently supported this total exemption from
20 the Roadless Rule. That doesn't make sense to me.

21 I grew up in pretty much of a subsistence
22 household. My mother was a hunter. She taught me how
23 to hunt, so I've been hunting since my early teens
24 mainly on Gravina. When I was a teenager we moved over
25 to a piece of property just north end of the airport.

1 There was lots of deer. They'd come right down in our
2 yard and our strawberry patch.

3 I've hiked all over Gravina hand in hand, side
4 to side, probably 90 percent of its coastline. Been
5 hunting on it like I say ever since a teenager. Hiked
6 clear to the top of California Ridge, been to the top
7 of Dall Ridge. A couple times I hiked all the way from
8 the Tongass narrow side all the way over to Grant Cove
9 on the other side. So Gravina is an important place to
10 me.

11 Yet I see besides just the Forest Service we
12 have State land, we have Mental Health land, we have
13 Borough land, private land. They're all wide open.
14 When we look at especially the private land, the way
15 you realize they're not looking for anything for the
16 future, they're looking to get as much as they can now.

17 I was also a part of a group that was called
18 the Cleveland Users Coalition, which was set out to
19 protect the Cleveland Peninsula so that it would not be
20 logged because it was on the chopping block next and I
21 think that was in the early 2000s. We got it stopped
22 over there, but now I see it's back on the chopping
23 block. I see a big orange area there right in the
24 middle of the Cleveland.

25 Not only that but the Native corporations have

1 made big inroads on their lands there and they take it
2 all. Money is the bottom line there for the
3 corporations.

4 The Alexander Archipelago, which used to be
5 almost all Forest Service land at one time. Now it's
6 gotten pretty confusing because it's got Native
7 corporation lands and a whole bunch of other ownerships
8 that is no longer National Forest land, but the whole
9 Archipelago I think the best idea I heart about that
10 was to turn the whole place, what's left of it, into a
11 carbon sink for the rest of the planet.

12 I'm a fisherman. I've also been a fisherman
13 since my early teens. Today I'm a harvest diver.
14 Every fishery in Alaska is now in danger from ocean
15 acidification and warming waters. So we need to
16 address this and get away from this idea that we've got
17 to keep doing things the way we did 50 years ago.

18 I think I've about run out of steam. Again I
19 am for the no action alternative. Leave it the way it
20 is. We went through this in the early 2000s. Ninety
21 percent or more of the people at that time wanted at
22 least the protections of the Roadless Rule if not more
23 protections. Now we're back going around it again,
24 bowing to the political winds that blow.

25 So thanks again. No action alternative. Thank

1 you.

2 MR. VANORMER: Thank you. All right. Next
3 we'll call up Janalee Gage and then next on deck would
4 be Donald Westlund.

5 MS. GAUGE: Spell my name?

6 MR. VANORMER: Yeah, please start out by
7 stating your name and spelling it. Thank you.

8 MS. GAUGE: Janalee Minnich Gage, J-A-N-A-L-E-E
9 M-I-N-N-I-C-H G-A-G-E. I thought when I got married
10 that if I just went with Gage no one would ever spell
11 my last name wrong. Not true. Anyway, I didn't really
12 prepare anything, but I have to go with the way of
13 life.

14 Born and raised from Ketchikan, fifth
15 generation. I grew up in this land to the point where
16 I grew up fishing subsistence. I knew a lot of the
17 people who logged. I knew a lot of fishermen. I was
18 here in the '80s. I graduated in '85 and I ran away to
19 the cement world. I went to Los Angeles for college.
20 I have a bachelor's degree from there. What I learned
21 is that I did not fit into the world of the Lower 48 or
22 a city.

23 One of the things I've heard -- and I've
24 actually lived in multiple places in Alaska. I've
25 lived in Kotzebue for five years. I've lived in Kenai

1 for five years. I also need to also say I am on the
2 city council, but I am speaking for myself. I forgot
3 about that part. I get a little nervous.

4 One thing that always struck me was this idea
5 that somebody could come in and say that your way of
6 life is not at a level of my way of life. When we
7 start telling people that their way of life is not as
8 important as those that live in the city who survive on
9 grocery stores, you're not listening. Our way of life
10 in Southeast Alaska is our way of life. It will be our
11 way of life for the next thousand, ten thousand, five
12 million years.

13 I see this, exempting and allowing this, as a
14 complete attack on the people of Southeast. It's
15 saying that you do not matter and we are going to come
16 in and we're going to do what we want with your land.
17 The Federal government can say it's their land, but
18 it's not. It's the people who live and have lived here
19 for thousands of years. It is the people who continue
20 to stay here no matter what or who or whatever business
21 goes away.

22 I used to think I wanted to go someplace else
23 and do other things. I got to the point where fish was
24 -- I didn't want to eat fish everyday anymore. Now
25 it's like I want to eat fish everyday, but I want to

1 know where it came from. I don't want to buy it in the
2 grocery store. I don't want to get it from a farm. I
3 want to go out and get it for myself.

4 I find it offensive that our Governor and our
5 President think that it's okay to just disregard
6 everything that everyone in this room who worked on
7 this and just dismissed it. I find that offensive and
8 I feel bad. I mean if I could fly to Washington
9 tomorrow, I would. I'd step in that office and give
10 him a piece of my mind, but I can't.

11 I'll stand on this alone and I will go to war
12 with everybody in this room. There's something better
13 than just saying, oh, have fun with this because I see
14 this as a couple mining companies have decided they
15 want our land and they want to take and do whatever,
16 rape, pillage and burn, and that's what I see in this.
17 I know they're out there. I know they're testing. I
18 know what they're doing. None of us hear about it. We
19 don't even hear about it on the city council level. I
20 doubt our borough has heard about it and that bothers
21 me. It's offensive. I think we should be the first
22 ones that are asked. If we're not being asked what we
23 feel is important for our land to be able to work
24 together with different organizations. I mean we have
25 oyster farms that are trying to build environmental

1 food sources. We don't depend on processed foods. We
2 don't have to. So, to me, that's like, okay, everybody
3 just get out, we're going to pillage and burn your
4 land, then you guys get to move to the city. Not all
5 of us are made to live in the city, so we live here.

6 That's all I got. I'm for no exemption,
7 especially with the climate change. It's 50 degrees
8 outside right now. It's November. When I was a kid it
9 would be snowing. We'd be sledding. We have no snow
10 on the mountains. We've had no water for two years.
11 And we've been on diesel. That is unheard of. In 53
12 years that I've been born and raised -- I mean 53 years
13 I've never in my life -- and if my grandmother was
14 alive today she'd be like, no, don't remember that ever
15 happening.

16 But that's all I have. I find it offensive
17 that none of you are heard. I'm sorry about that.

18 MR. VANORMER: Thank you. All right. Next I'd
19 like to call up Donald Westlund. On deck here we have
20 Gabe Canfield. Please remember to state your name and
21 spell it out. Thanks.

22 MR. WESTLUND: My name is Donald Westlund,
23 W-E-S-T-L-U-N-D. I'll start off right at the get go.
24 I support Alternative 6. Alternative 6 puts roads in.
25 Not necessarily is it all logging. There's other

1 resources to be brought. We have a ferry system that
2 is no longer going to be running. We need roads to get
3 from one community.....

4 MS. WALSH: Stop.

5 MR. WESTLUND:to the next. I have the
6 floor, Susan. I'm a Native American. I don't belong
7 to any tribe. The Webster's Dictionary says Native
8 American is somebody who is born to the land. I'm born
9 to the United States. So I don't have subsistence
10 rights because I live in Ketchikan. I should have
11 subsistence rights just as any Federal registered
12 subsistence user. Everybody in the state of Alaska is
13 a descendent of an immigrant. All the Natives traveled
14 across the Land Bridge. They immigrated from Asia.

15 The tribes keep telling you they need a healthy
16 forest to do their subsistence, their cultural. If
17 they don't want roads, then they need to take and no
18 longer log any of their lands. So if they make that
19 promise, I might change my mind if they no longer do
20 any logging or build any roads or Sealaska takes and
21 reconstructs the roads that they just inherited from
22 the Federal government.

23 Private land ownership you have no guidelines
24 on what you can harvest. In the Forest Service you can
25 take and bid on a contract for a log sale. I just --

1 it's really hard being somebody that's been here for
2 40-some years. I've watched the community grow and
3 we've grown to the point where diversification needs to
4 be.

5 We used to be logging. We used to be a major
6 fishing port. Neither one of those happens anymore.
7 We need something. Not putting roads in isn't going to
8 be the answer. So I'm for Alternative 6. I don't know
9 what else to say other than other people in the
10 community also believe that Alternative 6 is the proper
11 way to go.

12 Thank you.

13 MR. VANORMER: All right, thanks. Next I'd
14 like to call up Gabe Canfield. Then on deck we have
15 looks like Margaret Clabby. Just remember to state
16 your name and spell it. Thanks.

17 MS. CANFIELD: Thank you. Hello, everyone.
18 Thank you for having me today. I really appreciate
19 being able to be up here. My name is Gabe Canfield,
20 G-A-B-E C-A-N-F-I-E-L-D. I am a recently graduated
21 student. I graduated a couple years ago from K High.
22 I've lived here my entire life, which is to say
23 probably hasn't been as long as some of you because I'm
24 a little bit young, but I still feel like my voice
25 matters in this situation.

1 I'd actually like to give a special thank you
2 out to -- I believe his name is Donald. I appreciate
3 hearing those kind of views because I am a Native woman
4 in here and I want to stand up for my voice as well. I
5 like to hear that I'm coming across from the Bering
6 Straits, but I've got to say that's not true. I am a
7 Native woman here. So I'm going to lay that out right
8 now.

9 I know what I have to actually say. I'm
10 speaking for myself. I speak as an Alaska Native
11 woman, a descendant of the Inupiat creation and I speak
12 as someone who cares about the Tongass National Forest
13 as sustained bounds and reciprocal resource.

14 Now I ask -- I'm just going to let you guys
15 reflect on something a little bit for a second. If a
16 tree falls in the forest and no one pays attention,
17 does it make any noise? My answer is no. But the more
18 trees that go, the more vibrations it makes and the
19 farther the impact is. If a hundred trees fall, do you
20 feel it? Do a thousand? Do a million? Do you even
21 know how big a million trees are? Can you visualize
22 that in your head, especially in our Tongass National
23 Forest here?

24 Because that's what this Roadless Rule
25 exemption is going to do. It's going to take a lot

1 more than a million because to these people who are
2 going to try and end this exemption, they're going to
3 take as much as they can get and not recognize it isn't
4 just forest.

5 It's down to the moss on the forest floor with
6 the salmonberry bushes running through the ground.
7 It's the deer that follow the blooms. It's the bears
8 that plop down for a meal on the Tongass. It is not
9 just the trees. Do not look at the forest for the
10 trees.

11 Look at the forest for everything that we have
12 here. Our way of life, our subsistence, everything
13 that we have here, everything that we've had for
14 thousands and millennias of years that we have. Native
15 or non-Native alike, we all benefit from what we have
16 here. Because you don't see the trees for the forest,
17 you see the forest fall. I'm asking you to see the
18 forest for more than the trees.

19 Our Tongass is our personal resource for our
20 benefit and breaking into it for an extreme exemption
21 is to drain it without the benefits to ourselves. We
22 are connected communities and fractioning the forest is
23 spreading that down, but it's far away from us and
24 leaving us with the dust. We have connections to it. I
25 support no action because sometimes less is best.

1 Thank you.

2 MR. VANORMER: Thank you very much. Next we'll
3 have Margaret Clabby. On deck from there will be Joel
4 Buchanan. Just make sure you state your name for the
5 record and spell it out. That would be helpful.
6 Thanks.

7 MS. CLABBY: Okay. I'm Margaret Clabby, 7960
8 S. Tongass Highway. I feel very strongly about Lee
9 Wallace and Gloria Burns's statements that I really
10 strongly support them, so I'm not going to add too much
11 more to that.

12 But I do feel like the choice of Alternative 6
13 is disrespectful to our local tribes and the knowledge
14 that they have and that they have tried to share with
15 people. I believe a lot of that is being dismissed.
16 It's obvious that Alternative 6 is specifically
17 designed to grab more old growth for quick and dirty
18 round log export that isn't even economically sensible
19 right now.

20 It takes 165,000 acres of old growth and 20,000
21 acres of second growth and suddenly designates it --
22 oh, it used to be unsuitable timberlands, now it's
23 suitable timberlands overnight. Just the thought that
24 subsistence is not just about the fish and the deer,
25 it's about all the plants in the forest that we all

1 use. It's about the climate. It's about the clean
2 waters that feed the fisheries and keep us all healthy.

3 So given that so much information is being
4 ignored I support Alternative 1. Thank you.

5 MR. VANORMER: Thank you. Next up we'll have
6 Joel Buchanan and then on deck would be Susan Walsh.
7 Here you go.

8 MR. BUCHANAN: Good evening. My name is Joel
9 Buchanan, J-O-E-L B-U-C-H-A-N-A-N. I am Taant'a Kwaan,
10 Gaanax.adi, Yan Wulihashi Hit. I'm from the Sea Lion
11 people, Sea Lion Tribe, Raven moiety, Drifted Ashore
12 House. This building sits on the traditional land of
13 my mother's people. I would say good evening to you.

14 I would like to use the word traditional and
15 customary. My opinion is probably going to be a little
16 bit different from most that I've heard here tonight.
17 But the roads -- having been raised in Ketchikan and I
18 work in Ketchikan and I currently reside -- I have a
19 home in Prince of Wales.

20 Some of the things that I've not heard about
21 tonight or when our boats need repaired and they need
22 to go to Craig, what do we use. We use a road. For
23 most of the families that I know here we can't say that
24 we haven't used those roads to harvest our deer. Many
25 times I'm asked to proxy hunt for elders and I use

1 those roads. Now do I hunt from my truck? No. I'll
2 get out of my truck.

3 I have some feedback for the Forest Service,
4 which is indirectly related to this process tonight.
5 When we water bar the roads, we concentrate everybody
6 hunting in the same area that can't get out of their
7 trucks or choose not to.

8 I would respectfully -- part of this process,
9 my comment would be that if we're going to build a
10 road, that we leave it open. Leave it open so that we
11 can access our game, our cedar bark, our berries,
12 firewood. That's a big one. That's always a big one
13 in my heart because there will be a cut and before the
14 locals can even go in and get the firewood.

15 They'll water bar the road up. The wood is
16 decked from here to that wall and you can't get to it
17 with your truck because you dug the road up. What
18 sense does that make for us to heat our homes with
19 firewood. We can't even get to the wood.

20 The hard part here and hearing the comments
21 tonight is balance. How do we balance the roads with
22 our way of life, traditional and customary use. Well,
23 for 40, 50, 60 years it has become traditional and
24 customary for our people to use these roads to gather
25 deer meat. I'd like that to be considered and be part

1 of the record as well.

2 When you close the roads, it just makes it
3 harder. Everybody is hunting smaller and smaller
4 areas. Some of those laws and rules affect our
5 corporation. They'll water bar the roads as well. So
6 we can't even hunt the corporate lands that we belong
7 to. I'm a Sealaska member. I'm a member of KIC. My
8 mother's people, like I said, are from the Tongass
9 people.

10 So I know this is very emotional for all of us.
11 We all have stake in this. The Tongass is our home.
12 It's our identity. We've chosen to live here. I just
13 hope that we would find balance and would respect each
14 other in finding that balance.

15 Gunalcheesh.

16 MR. VANORMER: Thank you. I'll call up Susan
17 Walsh and on deck we have Heather Evoy. Just remember
18 to state your name and spell it out for us, that would
19 be helpful. Thanks.

20 MS. WALSH: Susan Walsh, W-A-L-S-H, 1252 Upper
21 Millar. I just wrote a couple of comments down here.
22 One is that I hope we would get frequent flyer miles
23 for every roadless hearing that I have attended over
24 the years. That would be very helpful.

25 I would like to state first that I support the

1 no action alternative. Even before Mr. Westlund's
2 testimony I did write down that I am an immigrant to
3 this land and having arrived in 1997. I first became
4 aware of the environmental degradation of our forest in
5 1977 as an emergency room nurse, which is kind of a
6 backdoor way, but back in those days the loggers and
7 the fishermen would frequent the emergency room as they
8 were very adept at inflicting injury on each other.

9 One night I had had it. I had had so many
10 loggers and fishermen before there was a moratorium.
11 They had to keep them out of the town eventually
12 because of the fights. Finally one night I said to the
13 fishermen, I said why -- to both of them. I said why
14 are you getting into these fights. I don't understand.
15 And even in his drunken stupor the fisherman said he's
16 killing my fish. I said I don't understand how he's
17 killing your fish. He explained culture in a backdoor
18 way as far as this is before the 100-foot buffer became
19 enforced. But it was a lightbulb for me that it's all
20 integral.

21 I'm a subsistence, we're enjoying our salmon,
22 we're enjoying venison and I'm a would-be weaver thanks
23 to Gloria's mother's patience in teaching me, and I
24 have harvested the cedar on our land too. I have heard
25 reference in the question part of the presentation

1 tonight as far as who should be allowed to testify.
2 This is a National Forest. Taxpayers pay and subsidize
3 for those roads on our National Forest. Overwhelmingly
4 over the years the roadless exemption for the Tongass
5 has been supported by the nation overwhelmingly.

6 The first time we had our hearing here it was
7 not how it is tonight. I'll tell you that. But times
8 are changing. People are waking up. Climate change is
9 real. This summer Knudson Cove water temperature was
10 55 degrees. I mean that's unheard of. I mean I guess
11 I have a little bit more time to not succumb to the
12 frigid temperatures in the ocean if I should go
13 overboard, but that's not -- that's little solace.
14 We're having ocean acidification, all the stuff that
15 has been referred to before.

16 I'd like to also point out that 1.17 million
17 visitors visited us this last summer. Saw it in the
18 newspaper today. They don't come to see clearcuts.
19 They don't come to look at the mining waste also. I
20 mean as Gloria alluded to and Janalee. There's mining
21 operations being just a little toehold in here that
22 nobody is listening about. We had the Mount Polley
23 accident, we have the Unuk River, mines over in Canada
24 that are going to be affecting us.

25 We need to preserve the Tongass. Like Mr.

1 Buchanan said too, there is a balance. We have to
2 preserve the balance. I think we're tipping those
3 scales with the alternative proposed by the
4 Dunleavy/Trump Administration. Thank you.

5 MR. VANORMER: Thank you. All right. Next
6 I'll call up Heather Evoy. I think I'm saying that
7 right. Then finally our last speaker that's on the
8 docket here is Shania Murphy. It looks like we've got
9 plenty of time, so if there are other speakers that
10 wish to come up and give some testimony, just bring one
11 of these cards up to us here. Here you go. Thank you.

12 MS. EVOY: Well, you're lucky I'm not in elder
13 status yet because then you wouldn't have handed me the
14 mic.

15 (Laughter)

16 MS. EVOY: I'm glad you guys got that. Thank
17 you. (In Inupiaq). Good evening. My name is Heather
18 Evoy. H-E-A-T-H-E-R E-V-O-Y. I would just really like
19 to start out by encouraging our government agencies to
20 maximize their efficiency working with their
21 cooperating agencies and maybe look to some of those
22 agencies that they work with, these tribal governments,
23 and look to their value system and implement
24 regulations that really look towards the next 10,000
25 years and are not these short-sighted regulatory

1 issues.

2 Something that keeps coming up in all of this
3 Roadless Rule talk that I've heard is how the Roadless
4 Rule is a policy that is impeding development, but I
5 believe that there are exceptions for hydropower, for
6 connections between communities, for energy,
7 infrastructure and even mining. Thank you folks who
8 spoke before me who brought up mining because that is a
9 very real threat that I see to our community.

10 I know that you're not answering questions
11 right now. I apologize I didn't get my question in
12 earlier, but I would like to know how many projects
13 that have requested access for road building in
14 roadless areas have been denied. I'm just going to
15 leave that one out there.

16 I'm really concerned about our changing climate
17 conditions. I'm concerned about our changing ocean
18 conditions and I don't see a whole lot that we can do
19 on the local level and with regulation to change what
20 is happening in the ocean. What I think what we can do
21 is we can protect the salmon habitat before the salmon
22 habitat is destroyed and our salmon are gone. Salmon
23 is something that is so vitally important to me and my
24 family.

25 At the RAC Committee meetings earlier there was

1 a lot of talk about making sure that our elders have
2 access to our cultural foods and I kept thinking about
3 that. You know, in absolute no disrespect because that
4 is a huge importance, but I think about my children and
5 I think about how our food is connected to who we are.
6 It's part of our DNA.

7 I think about my kids and how -- you know,
8 already in my lifetime we're not able to safely harvest
9 shellfish, clams and cockles, so that is something
10 that's already being removed from our genetic structure
11 of who we are and I can't stand the thought of thinking
12 about that happening to any of our other food sources.

13 A lot of people have also mentioned carbon
14 sinks, carbon sequestration. You know, these trees are
15 very well that are out there and the amount of carbon
16 they're able to store is huge and it's part of why it's
17 a national interest, the Tongass is, and there's no way
18 that this new growth from that is going to sequester
19 the same amount of carbon that these hundreds of years
20 old trees are capable of storing.

21 I also keep hearing this economic argument, but
22 as some of the folks who have been fighting this fight
23 my entire lifetime mentioned, you know, the timber
24 industry was heavily subsidized. Just a person who was
25 born and raised in Southeast Alaska I don't know a lot

1 of folks in their 20s or 30s who live here who have the
2 skill set and, quite frankly, who want to work that
3 hard. I'm a little confused as to where the local
4 workforce would come from.

5 Also that there are many Forest Service roads
6 out there that are not able to -- or that are currently
7 not being maintained and I wonder if these new roads
8 are built would we really have access to them or would
9 they just be shut off after the logging is done.

10 I am for a no action alternative if that wasn't
11 obvious. Thank you for your time tonight.

12 MR. VANORMER: Thank you. I'll call up Shania
13 Murphy.

14 MS. MURPHY: Hi. I'm Shania Murphy. I'm 15
15 and I've lived here in Ketchikan my whole life. I
16 haven't even been past Washington, so that says a
17 little bit about me. I attend a school here in
18 Ketchikan run by the Federally recognized tribe KIC.
19 It's called Tribal Scholars. So there we practice a
20 lot of indigenous peoples things that we wouldn't at K
21 High and that already says a lot to me about how the
22 Western government has treated Native people in its
23 history.

24 I would like to see a balance with the Roadless
25 Rule, but right now I don't see it possible with how

1 much they want to take. I mean obviously with anything
2 you need a balance, but it's not going to happen.

3 When this rule was made I was not even born. I
4 was born in 2004, so I've not had any sort of
5 experience with any of this and I'm already having to
6 stand up and fight for something that I was never a
7 part of in the beginning and I had no say in.

8 It was originally going to be exempt from the
9 2001 Roadless Rule, but there was so much public
10 comment about it being included that it was, and now I
11 believe 18 years later we want to say let's exclude it
12 now because suddenly everybody wants in.

13 Alaska is warming two times faster than the
14 rest of the Lower 48 and it's really concerning. I
15 mean everyone who has been up here has attested to
16 that, about how warm the water is getting. My science
17 teacher made the joke to me the other day permafrost is
18 now permamelted. Yeah, that's how it is.

19 I'm only 15 and in comparison to some of the
20 people in this room that is a tiny, tiny fraction of
21 time and all the experiences that I've had is marginal.
22 Even I can see the differences. I remember when I was
23 really young at this time I would be outside playing in
24 the snow when I was really, really young. Now it's 50
25 degrees outside like she said.

1 To me this is not anybody's land to manage. I
2 was not alive at the time when Alaska was not a state,
3 but this still is not anybody's land to manage but the
4 indigenous people and the people who live here and care
5 about our land, even if they're not indigenous.

6 I've met so many people who are not Alaskan
7 Native who care about this land like it's their own
8 son or daughter and that's really important to a lot of
9 people and it's important to the 16 Federally
10 recognized tribes who endorse the no action on the
11 Roadless Rule.

12 Honestly, all this talk about logging makes me
13 think of the Ward Cove dock issue that's been here. Do
14 we want all of Southeast Alaska to end up like Ward
15 Cove is really what we're saying here. That's not a
16 pretty thing. I don't go to Ward Cove specifically to
17 enjoy the scenery. I'll go to the lake, but I won't go
18 to Ward Cove to enjoy the scenery. All the tourists
19 that come here they come here to enjoy or scenery. I
20 believe it's a \$2 billion business is the tourism here
21 in Alaska.

22 We have the largest forest in North America and
23 I don't understand why other people don't see how
24 sacred that is and how important it is to the rest of
25 us because while some of these people were talking I

1 was almost crying is how much it means to me and how
2 much it means to other people. I don't understand why
3 you would want to destroy it because this is not
4 minimal impact on the environment and the biodiversity.

5 This is destroying it because you can't say
6 that there's not going to be any impact. When you log
7 that forest it's going to be like cutting my arm off
8 because this place is a part of me and it's in my DNA
9 living here for hundreds of years. It's just part of
10 me and every Alaska Native here.

11 Some of the people here don't have to deal with
12 it. I do. I'm 15. I have to watch my children deal
13 with it. I have to watch my grandchildren deal with
14 it. If this is passed, it's going to be the majority
15 of my life unless somebody stands up to change it.

16 It's so shortsighted that everyone talks about
17 how teenagers make very poor decisions, they're very
18 shortsighted, they don't really see the consequences of
19 their actions. Even I can see the consequences of our
20 actions here and I feel like it's just not okay.

21 I can't support Alternative 6, so I do endorse
22 no action. I just want to say thank you to everyone
23 who came here to talk even though there was a very big
24 sway in one way and there was a little bit of tension.
25 I just want to appreciate everyone coming here and

1 being able to be quiet because you wouldn't see this in
2 a classroom at K High ever. Ever.

3 (Laughter)

4 MS. MURPHY: And they accomplish it at Tribal
5 Scholars, which is really nice. It's quiet in there.
6 Anyone who has been there it's really quiet. So that's
7 all I have to say.

8 MR. VANORMER: Thank you. Next I would like to
9 -- it looks like I've got a couple more here. I have
10 Norm Skan coming up next and then it looks like Wayne
11 Welling or Welding. I couldn't quite get the last name
12 there. Remember to state your name and spell it out
13 and go from there.

14 MR. SKAN: Okay. Thank you. I am Norman Skan,
15 N-O-R-M-A-N S-K-A-N. I appreciate Tony Gallegos
16 speaking on behalf of the tribe. I'm speaking as a
17 citizen. I'm a little under the weather, so I wasn't
18 going to speak at all, but Gloria Burns gave me the
19 stink eye, so I figured I better get up here.

20 (Laughter)

21 MR. SKAN: My family, we are from the Hinyaa
22 Kwaan people from Klawock and contrary to other
23 people's opinion we've been here since the beginning of
24 time and we will continue to be here and to live a
25 subsistence lifestyle.

1 Myself, personally, I've been in both worlds.
2 I worked for 20 years at the pulp mill, various jobs
3 there. Also 20 years at the shipyard here in town.
4 I've subsisted. I've dipnetted at the Karta River.
5 I've gillnetted at Yes Bay. I've beach seined over in
6 Klawock and also dipnetted up at the falls, Redoubt Bay
7 in Sitka. I get other greens and stuff. I used to get
8 them here, but once the cruise ships started flushing
9 their toilet in our water, our beaches, well I don't do
10 that anymore here, but that's another fight for another
11 day.

12 We really feel strongly about our lifestyle.
13 We don't take it lightly and I certainly don't. I feel
14 like in my non-subsistence lifestyle working at the
15 pulp mill -- this is half disclaimer, half know where
16 my viewpoint is coming from.

17 In the 20 years there you just can't fathom the
18 logs being processed there 24 hours a day, seven days a
19 week. The 20 years I was there that's what happened.
20 Obviously it happened prior to me working there. It's
21 just really hard to fathom, but it's a lot of trees.
22 Just think of the carbon that they held and helped keep
23 us going.

24 Then you think of the roadless aspect of it,
25 okay. They've got to build the roads and they're going

1 to go through the forest and they're going to mightily
2 impact throughout all of the Tongass Forest and it's
3 happened and not only the good things they did by doing
4 culverts as they went through the forest and made the
5 roads.

6 Like Gloria or somebody else said, mistakes
7 happen too, even the good things, but the silt and
8 stuff would disturb the creeks and the stream and the
9 rivers and quite potentially and probably killed off
10 some of the salmon stocks. I don't know if you're
11 aware of it, but I'm sure everybody here is, the salmon
12 in Southeast Alaska is in distress.

13 You look at Bristol Bay and they're just
14 booming up there and Southeast Alaska isn't and it's
15 really quite alarming to even think that's happening.
16 I'm not saying the road building and the forest cutting
17 caused it, but it's definitely something to worry
18 about. I'm definitely against any action. I feel like
19 the forest is still in a healing mode and it takes time
20 and there hasn't been enough time.

21 I thank Shania for mentioning Ward Cove, you
22 know. You see what happened with the road building and
23 the logging, but then further down the line a lot
24 happened at the pulp mill. Like I said, I worked there
25 for 20 years and I saw a lot of what happened and I'm

1 not really proud of it.

2 Another viewpoint I have is a lot of people
3 don't realize there's actually two facets to the Native
4 logging. There is the corporation, which is
5 profit-driven. Then there's the tribe, you know. Even
6 within ourselves we have a lot of conflict, a lot of
7 arguments and it's not like, okay, all of a sudden
8 everybody just quit logging if you're a Native. There
9 is two different entities there that need to try and do
10 what's best, they feel is best for the citizens.

11 I'm not saying I'm against the corporations.
12 They did a lot of logging and it took some very, very,
13 very poor people and gave them a better lifestyle. You
14 can't even imagine the difference it was from the '70s
15 to now. It's dramatic and I lived through that, you
16 know. We moved to Ketchikan for that very reason. At
17 10 minutes to midnight they'd sound the alarm and you
18 had to shut everything off because they were going to
19 shut off the power for the night.

20 There was no high school. Grade school up to
21 sixth grade and my folks lived with their kids heading
22 off to boarding school for their high school years and
23 my mom finally said enough of that, we are going to
24 Ketchikan.

25 It's been a good life, but in retrospect now as

1 I'm older and I'm sitting in my teepee at night
2 reflecting on my life -- you're supposed to laugh, I
3 don't have a teepee.

4 (Laughter)

5 MR. SKAN: Boy, tough crowd. But it would be
6 cool to have a teepee. Reflecting on it, I would
7 probably be much more vocal on not as much Native
8 logging. You know, maybe more control. A lot of it
9 happened at a very short period of time. At the pulp
10 mill, although it gave me a very good living, now I'm
11 looking at the pros and cons of it and the cons is just
12 the damage that's done to the forest that we count on
13 for not only our subsistence living but our art and on
14 and on.

15 That just makes it stronger for me now as I'm
16 older to be a no on any options. I believe they call
17 it no action. Thank you.

18 MR. VANORMER: Thanks. All right. Next I'm
19 going to call up Wayne Weihing.

20 MR. WEIHING: Wayne Weihing, last name is
21 spelled W-E-I-H-I-N-G, Ketchikan, Alaska. I don't have
22 any prepared notes, but I just want to give you a
23 little bit of my memory of living here on the Tongass.

24

25 When I first got here in the '60s, we would

1 hunt in the north end. I always lived in the north
2 end, so we would hunt by boat from the north end and
3 people who lived in town on the south end they would
4 hunt down in Carroll inlet, George Inlet, Thorne Arm.
5 So I would hunt the north Revilla and it was kind of a
6 shorter run by boat for both parties.

7 So when George Inlet and Carroll Inlet were
8 logged, the people that hunted down there would move to
9 the north end and it got a little crowded. If there
10 was a boat anchored up someplace, you just went
11 someplace else. You didn't bother that person. So
12 then all of a sudden North Revilla got logged, so
13 people started moving over to the Cleveland, some went
14 over to Prince of Wales.

15 The reason people didn't hunt in clearcuts is
16 there were no deer there. The winter kill, the
17 snowpack, and if anybody's tried to walk through a
18 clearcut, let me tell you it's not fun. I don't know
19 why anybody would.

20 So that whole thing changed in the time I've
21 lived here, since the '60s. Now I have grandchildren.
22 The boy is a commercial fisherman and my granddaughter
23 works here. In fact, if I could show you on my cell
24 phone she just hunted last weekend and got a nice buck
25 over in Gravina, but there's no roads over there. They

1 don't need a road to hunt. They go either by boat, so
2 you don't need roads to hunt.

3 So I'd like to see that continue for the next
4 generation. She has two beautiful little grandkids and
5 they enjoy the forest. That can perpetuate itself for
6 generations to come. I don't want it to end. So when
7 you hear the great speakers tonight, your DC people
8 please take that back to DC and talk to Perdue about
9 the impassioned people who spoke tonight about the
10 lifestyle and how we can perpetuate that forever if we
11 don't build roads.

12 So I'm for the no action alternative. If you
13 don't break it, you don't have to fix it. When it's
14 broken, it's not just the deer, the habitat, but the
15 plants, devil's club, everything that people use, my
16 indigenous friends use a lot of the.....

17 (Laughter)

18 MR. WEIHING: I guess the mic still works. I'm
19 not in the spotlight though. So we can make this
20 happen forever along with the fisheries. I'm not a
21 scientist, but like I told Forest Service Supervisor
22 Earl Stewart when I met with him, I don't have a degree
23 in silviculture, but I spent 12 to 14 years in cork
24 boots, so I've got another perspective on the Tongass
25 and how it should be managed. It is a National Forest.

1 That means National belongs to all the American people.

2 We can all enjoy it and let's not screw it up.

3 Thank you. I might be the last speaker, but go
4 ahead. I'm closing. Great, thanks.

5 MR. VANORMER: Thank you very much. I think
6 the lights out indicate that the time is up. I guess
7 they're on a timer, so I apologize for that. It is
8 about 8:30 right now and that was the conclusion of our
9 speakers that we currently have on tap. We will be
10 here until 9:00 p.m. and that's when we'll close out
11 the subsistence hearing. At this time is there anybody
12 else who would like to come up and offer some
13 testimony?

14 (No comments)

15 MR. VANORMER: Seeing none at this time. What
16 I'm going to do is go ahead and pause the hearing and
17 if anybody decides they want to come up before 9:00
18 o'clock we'll be here. We'll put the recorders back on
19 and we will go until 9:00 o'clock. So with that I
20 guess we'll take a pause. Thank you.

21 (Off record)

22 (On record)

23 MR. VANORMER: All right. The time is now 9:00
24 o'clock. For the record I've called all the persons
25 indicated on the sign-in sheet that they've desired to

1 make oral comments. Is there anyone I may have
2 inadvertently missed?

3 (No comments)

4 MR. VANORMER: Hearing none. Is there anyone
5 who didn't indicate a desire to present an oral
6 argument but wishes to do so now?

7 (No comments)

8 MR. VANORMER: Hearing none. No further
9 comments. I will close this meeting. You may submit
10 written comments after this meeting until December
11 17th, 2019. All the addresses and instructions for
12 submitting comments are included in the handouts given
13 to you when you arrived.

14 Thank you and have a good evening.

15 (Off record)

16 (END OF RECORDING)

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TRANSCRIBER'S CERTIFICATE

I, Salena A. Hile, hereby certify that the foregoing pages numbered 02 through 55 are a true, accurate, and complete transcript of ANILCA PUBLIC HEARING, KETCHIKAN, ALASKA transcribed under my direction from a copy of an electronic sound recording to the best of our knowledge and ability.

DATE

SALENA A. HILE, (Transcriber)