

TRANSCRIPT OF ROADLESS RULE
ANILCA SUBSISTENCE PUBLIC HEARING

PETERSBURG, ALASKA
11/7/2019

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

2 (Petersburg, Alaska - 11/7/2019)

3 (On record)

4 MR. HEITHECKER: Good evening. This is a
5 public meeting for Alaska National Interest Lands
6 Conservation Act, ANILCA 810 hearing for the Alaska
7 Roadless Rule. My name is Troy Heithecker and I've
8 been delegated by the United States Forest Service as
9 the hearing officer for this proceeding.

10 I'd like to welcome everyone who came tonight
11 and hopefully the Southeast RAC member that will be
12 joining us called in. I appreciate your interest in
13 the Alaska Roadless Rule and your effort to attend this
14 subsistence hearing.

15 For the record today is November 7, 2019 and
16 the time is 7:05 p.m. This hearing is being held in
17 Petersburg, Alaska. The purpose of this hearing is to
18 receive your views on the alternatives proposed for the
19 project and how they may affect your subsistence use of
20 the project area. The hearing hours this evening are
21 scheduled from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. unless we get through
22 everyone and we're finished a little bit early here

23 If you have not done so, please sign in on the
24 sign-in sheet. Clearly print your name, address and if
25 you're representing anyone and indicate if you would

1 like to give oral testimony tonight. That was at the
2 sign-in sheet at the front. You can still sign up or as
3 you come up. Written testimony will also be accepted
4 tonight. There are pens and paper available or we can
5 make them available at the sign-in table.

6 When giving testimony please begin by stating
7 your full name. Testimony will initially be limited to
8 five minutes per attestant. After all attestants have
9 been heard, an additional five minutes may be granted
10 if time allows.

11 During the hearing no questions can be answered
12 other than those concerning the hearing procedures.
13 Are there any questions related to the hearing at this
14 time?

15 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Is it going to be
16 recorded?

17 MR. HEITHECKER: Yes, ma'am. The recorder is
18 on.

19 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: And transcribed?

20 MR. HEITHECKER: Yes.

21 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: How many people did you
22 count?

23 MR. HEITHECKER: I have one, two, three, four,
24 five, six, seven signed up as yes and then another five
25 as maybes. I think that probably is about

1 representative of 12 or so that raised their hands.

2 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: We have until 9:00
3 o'clock?

4 MR. HEITHECKER: Yeah. Okay. Any other
5 questions?

6 (No comments)

7 MR. HEITHECKER: Okay. With that, we'll go
8 ahead and get started. I'll just go through the list
9 of the people that signed up and then I'll go through
10 the maybes and then we can see if there was anyone else
11 we didn't get to for this first round. First name on
12 the list is Joe Sebastian.

13 MR. SEBASTIAN: Hi. My name is Joe Sebastian.
14 I've been following forest issues since about, oh, 1983
15 and a little earlier than that, but it just took me
16 that long to get the Forest Service office and talk to
17 Charlie Gass in Ketchikan.

18 This plan is just the latest plan in a long
19 line of disasters. It just keeps getting worse and
20 worse. The Central Tongass Plan, the Big Thorne,
21 Prince of Wales Plan. I mean that's what I was trying
22 to say. It's just one thing after another. Every six
23 months, every year.

24 You say the Governor wants this. Well, of
25 course. They're trying to gin up economic activity and

1 damn the torpedoes. But the people that actually use
2 and utilize these areas, the economic opportunity
3 doesn't even begin to compensate for what's being lost.

4 The other day I recited all the clearcuts in
5 the Tongass from Mental Health to pulp mills to
6 University to all the different Native corporations and
7 it's a list about this long. We've got clearcuts and
8 roads coming out our ears and having lived on Prince of
9 Wales I got pretty up close to it.

10 And just being a greenhorn the first thing I
11 noticed is these guys don't respect this place. To
12 them it's a buck. Get the buck out. I've visited
13 numerous clearcuts and seen all the garbage and trash
14 left laying there and the huge mess. It's impassable.
15 Clearcuts are impassable for at least 30 years and
16 maybe even up to 50.

17 Then nowadays, because of tightness of money, I
18 guess I can only say the half-ass management. Like on
19 Kosciusko Island. Well, you guys take care of it, best
20 management practices, let us know how it turns out. I
21 can just about guess how that kind of stuff turns out.
22 When nobody is looking, things always go another way.

23 I know story after story after story of
24 clearcuts moved across the other side of the valley and
25 everything else, logs stolen, log rafts disappearing.

1 It's been a long haul and to have this is just like the
2 final indignity. It's like no thank you.

3 The no action alternative is the only sensible
4 alternative because the whole purpose of roadless was
5 man can't help himself. He's just got to keep going and
6 going. Look, we've only been -- in 1806 Lewis and
7 Clark crossed the -- the whole thing since 1806. We've
8 run through the whole works and now we're down to the
9 last little scraps at the bottom of the barrel.

10 Two hundred years, give or take a decade and
11 counting. Two hundred years from a virgin wilderness,
12 screaming wilderness filled with Native tribes. Hardly
13 no cities west of the Mississippi save Santa Fe,
14 perhaps, Taos, Native cities. Look where we're at now,
15 trying to whittle down the last of the last.

16 That's what we're talking about here and it's
17 extremely offensive. I lose a lot of sleep over it.
18 This fellow wants to say we can equvalate the climate
19 change is the same. Well, not according to the
20 scientists. Even the Pope said that major
21 deforestation is a global threat. I believe it is.

22 Just the day before yesterday I was up on the
23 mountainside. The trees hold up the mountains around
24 here, not the other way around. Six, maybe eight-foot
25 trees. I don't know how old they were. Six hundred,

1 eight hundred years old. And there's my little mite,
2 two-thirds or three-quarter run through my time on
3 earth and there's these giants.

4 We're arguing about trees that were standing
5 there before your parents were born. Before your
6 grandparents were born those trees were standing there.
7 You don't even know who your -- most people don't, who
8 their grandparents were before that time.

9 MR. HEITHECKER: You have 30 seconds.

10 MR. SEBASTIAN: It's extremely offensive and I
11 don't care how you sell it. The Alaskan public is
12 going to fight this tooth and nail. It's going to be
13 in court for years. As soon as politicians -- as soon
14 as we kind of drain the swamp, we're going to have
15 another whack at this and this next time around we'll
16 try to get it done right to stop this from happening.

17 MR. HEITHECKER: Thank you, Joe. David Beebe.

18 MR. BEEBE: Hi. My name is David Beebe. I
19 would like to -- is that all I have to say?

20 MR. HEITHECKER: Uh-huh (affirmative).

21 MR. BEEBE: I'd like to remind the agency that
22 began cutting Mitkof Island in the '60s and in the
23 course of two winters in a row completely decimated a
24 prior deer factory into a state of irreparable harm. A
25 17-year deer hunting closure occurred. Ever since that

1 time, ever since it has reopened, it has resulted in
2 Mitkof Island being the lowest, most restricted deer
3 hunting in the entire region.

4 I would like to remind the agency also that a
5 survey of Southeast communities occurred by the Alaska
6 Department of Fish and Game in 1961 and prior to this
7 cutting Petersburg had the highest hunter success rate
8 and demonstrated the highest dependence on deer.

9 The consequences of limiting our ability to get
10 off the island or basically forcing us to get off the
11 island during the worst time of the year results in
12 hazard, threat, risk. This couldn't be any more
13 clearly represented than the three crosses that are on
14 the beach on Kupreanof Island where Kake residents were
15 forced to go to Admiralty at the wrong time of the year
16 and they are no longer with us because of this and this
17 happens a lot.

18 So the credibility of the agency to actually
19 rise to the occasion of Section 810 -- boy, you've got
20 one heck of a track record that really needs to be
21 understood as a crisis of confidence. The same thing
22 goes in terms of crisis of confidence with the
23 consequences of the Washington office activity review.
24 It's demonstrated systemic contempt for the National
25 Environmental Policy Act.

1 It's a hard sell for us who have immersed
2 ourselves in the Freedom of Information Acts and other
3 means of trying to make sense of what we read and come
4 to any other conclusion other than we have a systemic
5 problem that's based upon Alaska rules and we've got
6 big problems because of that.

7 It is astonishing that the agency three years
8 after the fact has done nothing more than allow the
9 perpetrators to either retire with their benefits
10 intact or get promoted.

11 So I would like to point out that there is only
12 one feasible alternative here and that is no action
13 based on what we, as the public, understand what
14 pressures -- this is not to indict any person in this
15 agency. I know the agency. I have many friends in the
16 agency. This is really about a systemic problem. A
17 top-down directive that will decide whether or not you
18 get promoted. Let's face it, we deserve better.

19 MR. HEITHECKER: Thirty seconds.

20 MR. BEEBE: So please consider the fact that
21 there are people who depend upon the resources of the
22 Tongass. Based on that, please do nothing but no
23 alternative. No action alternative.

24 MR. HEITHECKER: Thanks, Mr. Beebe. Next on
25 the list I have Joanne Kautzer. I hope I got your name

1 right.

2 MS. KAUTZER: Yeah, close. My name is Joan
3 Kautzer.....

4 MR. HEITHECKER: Joan. Sorry.

5 MS. KAUTZER:and I'm speaking for myself.
6 I guess I would like to say my analogy for roadless is
7 that it's kind of like a child-proof cap on medicine.
8 It doesn't keep the people that are supposed to be in
9 there out, but it does keep people that are children or
10 whatever from getting into the bottle.

11 I lived on Prince of Wales for over 20 years
12 and 3,500 miles of logging roads did not bring
13 prosperity to that island, so here's my testimony.

14 On a sunny day in September 2018 I attended a
15 scoping meeting in Point Baker wherein the Forest
16 Service and State tried to convince the locals that the
17 new Alaskan version of the Roadless Rule needed to be
18 crafted. Further, that the process would be responsive
19 to the public and reflect what Alaskans wanted.

20 Unanimously, everybody in attendance stated
21 that they wanted the Roadless Rule to be left alone.
22 We were informed that what we said at the meeting
23 didn't count. Write formal comments and submit them.
24 Fast forward. The U.S. Forest Service received 144,000
25 formal comments. Well over 90 percent supported taking

1 no action to change the Roadless Rule.

2 So tonight I know that once again what I say
3 doesn't count. I'm testifying when there's already a
4 pre-determined outcome. I'm participating in a public
5 process that disregards the public. It's a process
6 that's public in name only.

7 For 40 years I've been procuring and eating
8 subsistence foods; fish, shellfish, venison, sea
9 vegetables, beach greens, berries, fiddleheads and
10 mushrooms. And I've gathered medicinals as well,
11 usnea, sundews, devil's clubs, yew berries and golden
12 thread. Subsistence nourishes the body and the spirit.
13 The food is clean, healthy and meaningful. Meaningful
14 because it solidifies our bond to the rainforest and
15 maritime ecosystem.

16 Subsistence is harvesting from the fat of the
17 land. It's akin to living off the interest of a trust
18 fund. As long as the trust fund is in place we can
19 continue to reap the benefits. Repealing Roadless will
20 bankrupt this region.

21 If the Forest Service was trying to come up
22 with a plan to eliminate subsistence, I'd say, yep,
23 this ought to do it. During the last 70 years of
24 intensive logging, great swaths of fish and wildlife
25 habitat have been destroyed. With over 5,000 miles of

1 logging roads, there are accompanying 5,000 miles of
2 clearcuts.

3 Watersheds have been cleaned. Damaging fish
4 streams leaving a backlog of plugged culverts and
5 restoration projects that will never be funded. Closed
6 canopy second growth stands do not provide forage for
7 deer. Our fish and wildlife species are old-growth
8 dependent.

9 It will be hundreds of years before new growth
10 begins to mimic the carrying capacity conditions of
11 old-growth habitat and that's provided the soil and
12 climatic conditions allow it to survive. Basically
13 there is no mitigating for wildlife once the old-growth
14 is cut. It's imperative to leave the last roadless
15 tracks alone.

16 When something is wrong on one level, it's
17 generally wrong on a lot of levels. Today's timber
18 industry employs very few people. By their own
19 reckoning Alcan employs about 50 people and the Viking
20 mill employs about 40 people, yet the timber industry
21 gets an annual \$24 million taxpayer subsidy and wants
22 to lay claim to the remaining public forest lands.

23 The same forest lands that drive the true
24 economic engines of the region, commercial fishing and
25 tourism. Something is very wrong with this picture

1 when multinationals with log ships take precedent over
2 the interests of the region's real economy.
3 Forty-eight projects have been approved in roadless
4 areas since 2009, including community access, hydro
5 development and mining exploration. The rule is not
6 impeding community progress.

7 In the face of climatic change these roadless
8 areas are more important than ever, especially since
9 the Tongass, the world's largest carbon sink, is the
10 world's largest carbon sink. The most intact
11 ecosystems have the best chance of surviving the future
12 climate events.

13 MR. HEITHECKER: Thirty seconds.

14 MS. KAUTZER: We owe it to the next generations
15 to leave what's left of the Tongass as standing old
16 growth.

17 Lastly, I find it reprehensible that funding
18 rural schools is held hostage to clearcutting and round
19 log exporting the Tongass. That's like saying I'll buy
20 you new gym shoes and a laptop, but I'm squandering
21 your college savings fund. These public lands are
22 their rightful legacy and maintaining the Roadless Rule
23 is the only assurance that they'll inherit anything
24 worth having including the subsistence lifestyle.

25 I support the no action alternative. Thank

1 you.

2 MR. HEITHECKER: Thank you, Joan. Next I have
3 Dan Sullivan.

4 MR. SULLIVAN: Hi, my name is Dan Sullivan.
5 I've lived on the Tongass for close to 40 years. I use
6 the Tongass extensively for many, many subsistence
7 activities and I'm most concerned about loss of deer
8 habitat in the roadless areas that that might occur.

9 I would support Alternative No. 1, the no
10 action alternative, and I oppose Alternative No. 6. I
11 would like to read the following statement.

12 While the Tongass National Forest is the
13 largest intact temperate rain -- excuse me. The
14 Tongass National Forest is the largest intact temperate
15 rainforest on the planet. While its value as a well of
16 resources can be quantified and monetized, its value as
17 an intact and unspoiled ecosystem cannot be calculated.
18 It is priceless.

19 This ecosystem already transforming due to
20 climate change is facing enormous challenges from a
21 more serious threat, politics. President Trump,
22 Senator Sullivan, Murkowski, Congressman Young and
23 Governor Dunleavy have all publicly stated their dogged
24 admission to pursue a determined and aggressive
25 rollback of environmental protections in Alaska.

1 According to the Washington Post, President
2 Trump has instructed Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue
3 to exempt Alaska's Tongass National Forest from logging
4 restrictions after a private discussion with Dunleavy
5 aboard Air Force One.

6 In a letter dated back to April 2015, Sonny
7 Perdue, Secretary of Agriculture, told Andrew Mack,
8 then the Commissioner of the Department of Natural
9 Resources in Alaska, we share your interest in
10 exploring options to help create jobs and prosperity
11 for rural communities in Southeast Alaska. The forest
12 product sector has long been a part of this economy.
13 We want to ensure that we continue to contribute to the
14 health of the rural economy in Alaska by investing in
15 the sustainability, health and productivity of our
16 National Forest.

17 I would challenge that the forest product
18 sector contributed little to the long-term health of
19 our rural economy and instead gave us a short-term boom
20 that busted when costs became too high, markets
21 collapsed, sub-cities ended and the timber industry
22 failed to modernize and innovate.

23 The Forest Service reports that the Tongass
24 produces 25 percent of the West Coast commercial salmon
25 catch. Fishing and tourism bring in more than \$2

1 billion to Alaska annually. Logging accounts for less
2 than 1 percent of the jobs in Southeast Alaska. A
3 couple hundred jobs is an estimate I've heard. Timber
4 sales on the Tongass still lose money. They're heavily
5 subsidized. Much of the wood that is harvested is
6 still exported with very little domestic processing.

7 Some say that the Roadless Rule inhibits
8 necessary infrastructure projects from occurring, but
9 my understanding is that since the Roadless Rule was
10 enacted the Forest Service has approved all 58 project
11 requests it has received for roads in Alaska.

12 I'd like to finish by reading a quote from Mike
13 Dombeck, the former Chief of the Forest Service in an
14 editorial in the Los Angeles Times. Nevertheless,
15 Alaska's congressional delegation and its governor,
16 pushed primarily by logging interests, want an
17 exemption from the roadless rule. But decisions that
18 affect our shared land shouldn't be made at the behest
19 of special interests. They should be made by
20 professional land managers and informed by science, not
21 politics.

22 The roadless rule has served our national
23 forests well. It affirms a basic truth. Most Americans
24 value their public lands for the clean water, healthy
25 habitat and recreational opportunities they provide.

1 Over a century ago, President Theodore Roosevelt's
2 Secretary of Agriculture, James Wilson, wrote that
3 national forests should be managed for "the greatest
4 good for the greatest number for the long run." We
5 urge the President and Secretary Perdue to follow this
6 sage advice and do what is best for the long-term
7 health of the land and future generations of Americans.

8 That was from Mike Dombeck. I would echo that
9 I urge you to leave the Roadless Rule intact and
10 unchanged for the long-term health of the Tongass and
11 for the future generations of Alaskans and every
12 American. Thank you.

13 MR. HEITHECKER: Thank you, Dan. Next on the
14 list I have Toby Cook.

15 MR. COOK: I'm Tobbie Cook and I represent
16 myself. The Roadless Rule has handicapped the economy
17 of our Southeast communities long enough. It has
18 totally decimated an industry that once directly
19 supported our schools and roads and indirectly our
20 doctors, hospitals and local businesses. Logging once
21 supported many of our communities. As jobs were lost,
22 families moved away, taking students with them.

23 Southeast needs to develop its infrastructure.
24 Power, water and transportation needs must be met soon.
25 The recent loss of one of our underwater cables should

1 be a wake-up call to everyone. The power grid is
2 totally lacking in alternatives and leaves us dependant
3 on expensive diesel fuel as a backup.

4 The proposed intertie to Kake, should it be run
5 along the shoreline at Frederick Sound, would open many
6 opportunities for both communities. Should the State
7 hold any more land acquisition rights, they could file
8 a land claim to DNR and auction land out of the
9 1,000-foot buffer strip along the beach. This would not
10 only be a great benefit for our tax base, but also open
11 up desperately needed entry level jobs for our youth as
12 new lodges and outfitters hired baiters, fish cleaners,
13 winter watchmen, et cetera.

14 The Federal funding that took over the timber
15 tax could be on the chopping block at any time. We
16 need to prepare to have alternative options in place
17 before this happens. The ferry service is in jeopardy
18 at this moment. What's next? The essential air
19 service program, what subsidizes flights to our remote
20 Southeast villages or the power cost equalization
21 program, a fuel subsidy?

22 Fuel costs have made recreational travel by
23 boat and charter plane cost prohibitive and road travel
24 is a cheaper alternative for many. As barge and fuel
25 shipping prices increase, it's time to reconsider a

1 road or rail connection through Canada to the Lower 48.

2 As we have limited timeframe here tonight, I
3 have cut this short. I have a few printed flyers in
4 the back that covers many facts about the issues at
5 hand. Please read them and share them amongst friends.
6 A lot of facts have been misrepresented in these issues
7 and I encourage the public to look them up for
8 themselves.

9 Thank you.

10 MR. HEITHECKER: Thanks, Tobbie. Next I have
11 Suzanne Wood.

12 MS. WOOD: My name is Suzanne Wood and I'm a
13 resident of Petersburg. It will be hard to resist
14 changing the Forest Plan and increase the annual timber
15 harvest if the Tongass exemption is approved and
16 another 180,000 acres are open for potential timber
17 harvest. I oppose the Tongass Roadless Rule exemption.

18 I support the U.S. Forest Service turning its
19 assets into carbon sequestration resources as a
20 formidable defense against an ever-increasing global
21 climate catastrophe. I support the no action
22 alternative, Alternative 1.

23 Thank you for this opportunity to comment.

24 MR. HEITHECKER: Thank you, Suzanne. Next on
25 the list I have Austin Carlson.

1 MR. COLSON: Colson (ph).

2 MR. HEITHECKER: What's that?

3 MR. COLSON: It's Colson.

4 MR. HEITHECKER: Oh, Colson. Sorry.

5 MR. COLSON: My handwriting is not very good.

6 MR. HEITHECKER: I think it was our translation
7 of your handwriting.

8 MR. SCHMID: State your name.

9 MR. COLSON: Hello. My name is Austin Colson.
10 I am a recent transplant to Southeastern Alaska. I
11 came from northern Missouri where there are no roadless
12 areas. There are no old growths left standing.
13 Everything has been clearcut. Everything has been
14 converted into fields, farmlands, et cetera.

15 If you want to go deer hunting, you have to
16 find a farmer who's willing to let you hunt on his
17 land. If you want to go fishing, you have to find
18 someone who hasn't already claimed exclusive water
19 rights or find a public alternative, which can be
20 difficult.

21 I am deeply concerned that removing the
22 Roadless Rule or exempting it in Southeastern Alaska
23 could turn Southeastern Alaska into much of what I
24 moved from. I believe I speak for myself, my father,
25 my mother and my little brother who all moved here

1 about six months ago when we say that we would
2 wholeheartedly like to in the future take advantage of
3 Alaska's abundant resources and continue to live here.

4 However, due to my concerns and my -- I would
5 like to say scientifically-minded perspective, I am
6 concerned that removing or exempting Southeastern
7 Alaska, specifically the Tongass, from the Roadless
8 Rule will only increase clearcutting, decrease old
9 growth, as well as decrease biodiversity in the region.

10 I'm concerned that an exemption would destroy
11 natural watersheds as well as endanger many local and
12 endemic species. As it has been stated before tonight,
13 the old growth is one of the largest carbon
14 sequestration sites in North America and potentially
15 the world. However, new growth does not sequester
16 carbon as well as old growth due to the biodiversity;
17 mosses, trees, et cetera.

18 I have also witnessed many clearcut sites in
19 Southeastern Alaska where the land is not managed
20 afterwards. Clearcutting is left a horrible mess. The
21 land can't be used for anything. You just have to sit
22 and wait and hope that one day it returns to normal.

23 I am concerned that an exemption to the
24 Roadless Rule will turn more of Southeastern Alaska
25 into those clearcut areas and I'm concerned that that

1 will endanger both my future and any potential
2 descendants I may have down the line and could cause us
3 to potentially leave Alaska one day if its abundant
4 natural resources become unavailable to the public due
5 to either mismanagement or due to lack of caring.

6 I'm not trying to indict anyone or say that
7 anyone in any agency is responsible, but rather that
8 there are larger interests at play and that I
9 personally support the Alternative 1, no action. Thank
10 you for your time.

11 MR. HEITHECKER: Thank you, Austin. Did we
12 have someone from the Southeast Subsistence RAC join us
13 on the phone?

14 MR. HERNANDEZ: Yes, you did.

15 MR. SCHMID: Who is on the line, please.

16 MR. HERNANDEZ: This is Don Hernandez.

17 MR. SCHMID: Hi, Don. This is Dave Schmid and
18 Troy Heithecker is the hearing officer. We've begun.
19 We're moving through. Don, we've still got a few more
20 folks here, at least on our first round, and then if
21 you could maybe mute your phone if you're listening in.
22 That would help us. We'll call on you as we get
23 through the list. Will that work?

24 MR. HERNANDEZ: I'm just going to listen in.
25 I'm not going to testify at this session.

1 MR. SCHMID: All right. Thanks, Don.

2 MR. HERNANDEZ: Okay. Thanks, Dave.

3 MR. HEITHECKER: Next I have a list of maybes
4 and the first on there is Mike Stainbrook.

5 MR. STAINBROOK: Are you recording?

6 MR. SCHMID: Yes.

7 MR. STAINBROOK: Hello. My name is Mike
8 Stainbrook. Tonight I'm representing myself. I live
9 here in Petersburg and I've lived either here or in the
10 city of Kupreanof since 1992 when Ethel registered me
11 to vote.

12 Anyway, I wish to speak clearly to the notion
13 of the Roadless Rule exemption and subsistence. I do
14 not favor a Roadless rule exemption. Alternative 1,
15 the no action alternative, needs to be chosen.

16 I rely on the Tongass to provide commercial,
17 sport, recreational and subsistence opportunities. I
18 subsistence fish, gather berries, mushrooms, hunt deer
19 and gather firewood. I am thankful for the bounty of
20 this place. The salmon require an intact forest. The
21 Sitka Black-tailed deer need those old growth
22 south-facing slopes.

23 Shipping our habitat overseas diminishes our
24 subsistence possibilities and our future. The U.S.
25 Forest Service mission statement is to sustain the

1 health, diversity and productivity of the nation's
2 forest and grasslands to meet the needs of present and
3 future generations.

4 That's the Forest Service Mission Statement.

5 Let's consider the last part about future generations.

6 To meet the needs of future generations and to provide
7 for subsistence and to actually use the science of
8 climate changes, a no action alternative is required.

9 I do not support a Roadless Rule exemption.

10 Thank you.

11 MR. HEITHECKER: Thank you, Mike. Next I have
12 Kelly O'Connor-Demko.

13 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I don't think she's
14 here.

15 MR. SCHMID: She left.

16 MR. HEITHECKER: Okay. Next is Malena Marvin.

17 MS. MARVIN: Hi.

18 MR. HEITHECKER: Hi.

19 MS. MARVIN: Thanks, you guys. I don't have
20 prepared remarks, but since there's time I'll just say
21 that my husband and I live here. We have land on
22 Kupreanof Island and we use East Kupreanof roadless
23 areas quite a bit for all manner of foraging in the way
24 that most of our community does. Berries, mushrooms,
25 seaweed off the shores, deer. Our chest freezer is

1 full right now with moose and deer from this year.

2 Fish obviously. We also commercial fish.

3 Both of us really clearly oppose what you're
4 trying to do here. As much as truth matters anymore, I
5 think it has to be said that this whole thing is just a
6 sham and 100 percent corrupt. You hear what people
7 actually think and yet you're trying to do something
8 that's coming from somewhere else.

9 It just doesn't square with us on the ground.
10 It just doesn't square and we oppose it. Because it's
11 a subsistence regulatory process I'm telling you that I
12 use the land and I'm concerned about the impacts and I
13 support a no action alternative and would appreciate a
14 locally-driven, bottom-up regulatory process to the
15 extent that we can do it and I think that we can, but
16 people have to make it happen.

17 That's all I got.

18 MR. HEITHECKER: Thank you.

19 MR. SCHMID: Thank you.

20 MR. HEITHECKER: Rebecca Knight.

21 MS. KNIGHT: Hello. My name is Rebecca Knight.
22 I'm a 44-year resident of Petersburg and the Kupreanof
23 Island area.

24 First, most people view this proposed full
25 Tongass exemption of the rule to be the direct result

1 of a brief visit by Governor Dunleavy with President
2 Trump aboard Air Force One. This resulted in an almost
3 immediate top-down edict from the Secretary of
4 Agriculture to fully exempt the Tongass from the
5 Roadless Rule.

6 This was also heartily embraced by Senator
7 Murkowski, who has been pushing for every single angle
8 to get public timber into the hands of industry via any
9 means possible, including privatization of our public
10 lands. It is a major overreach. So much for ANILCA
11 810 public input and scientific analysis.

12 Locally harvested Sitka Black-tailed deer
13 comprise about 95 percent of the red meat in my
14 family's diet as well as both of my sons and their
15 families for a total of eight individuals. Our other
16 protein needs come from local wild seafood including
17 salmon, halibut and shellfish. By late November every
18 year our goal is to have meat from four to six deer in
19 our freezer to get us to the next season. This year we
20 ran out about a month ago with only about four deer in
21 the freezer from last November.

22 I support the no action alternative for a
23 number of reasons, including the impact to my family's
24 subsistence needs at the expense of a guarantee in
25 profits to Alcan/Transpac Group of Vancouver, B.C. and

1 Viking Lumber of Klawock. These two timber barons and
2 international raw log exporters ship the bulk of our
3 natural wealth to China.

4 Moreover the Forest Service has no business
5 opening up areas which currently do not even meet,
6 naturally or as a result of logging, the TELUM standard
7 and guideline of supplying a habitat capability of 18
8 deer per square mile in exchange for the exclusive
9 benefit of a few Alcan and Viking jobs.

10 Moreover, in cases where habitat capability is
11 below the 18 deer per square mile TELUM threshold, your
12 agency shields itself behind the where possible clause
13 to sanction yet more logging and roading rather than
14 opting for a no further harm philosophy. This is
15 unethical.

16 To that end I'd like to -- perhaps there is a
17 layer in the DEIS, I haven't seen it yet, of all the
18 wildlife analysis areas in relation to the roadless
19 areas and the habitat capability at stem exclusion 45
20 years and beyond.

21 Please keep in mind that simply because habitat
22 capability has been reduced to rock bottom in some
23 areas does not mean it should be exploited further as a
24 sacrifice zone.

25 Speaking of sacrifice zones, I look at the Alt.

1 6 map there and I see that most of the chosen
2 exemptions are concentrated in Central to Southern
3 Southeast Alaska that's already -- has been absolutely
4 moot and you guys know it.

5 The Forest Service must take reasonable steps
6 to ensure not just viable but harvestable levels of
7 wildlife populations in particular for deer and this
8 requires providing for wolves that also prey on deer.

9 Now that much of the Tongass's high-value deer
10 winter range has been clearcut what little habitat
11 remains is vitally important, including all deer
12 habitat; low, mediocre, high and the highest value deer
13 winter range, as well as leave strips that serve as
14 important elevational corridors for wildlife.

15 In reality, these leave strips are seldom left,
16 but rather absorbed into new clearcuts only after a few
17 years, resulting in creeping mega-cuts that are
18 wastelands for wildlife.

19 I believe the demand for deer in Southeast
20 Alaska is much greater than the harvest. For instance,
21 my son, who is an excellent shot, and I have no
22 prejudice there, recently harvested one deer on Mitkof
23 Island on a two-day hunt. He had a designated deer tag
24 in his possession both days.

25 As I understand, there are many more designated

1 tags issued than actually used, which is a statement to
2 the big demand for deer and consequently the need to
3 protect more habitat, not less.

4 My husband just returned from a four-day hunt
5 to Admiralty just last night with two friends where
6 they normally experience good hunting success, however
7 they only harvested three deer. For Admiralty, this is
8 likely a function of mild weather and their desire to
9 not go deep into brown bear country.

10 They hope to return when the snow brings the
11 deer down to lower elevations, but this means another
12 expensive trip across the big waters of Frederick Sound
13 during a time of rough seas. Others who have done the
14 same have lost their lives or nearly so while crossing.
15 My husband and kids have been overdue on several
16 occasions waiting out late fall storms.

17 For those without the means to get to areas
18 with greater abundance, hunters often stop hunting
19 altogether. This fact is substantiated in a study by
20 Sigman and Doerr who explained that many of the
21 Petersburg deer hunters travel to GMU 4, Game
22 Management Unit 4, on Admiralty because hunter success
23 is relatively good.

24 I'm going to have to shorten up what I have
25 here, but I reserve my right to speak longer later.

1 MR. HEITHECKER: Sure.

2 MS. KNIGHT: ANILCA mandates that wildlife
3 resources and customary and traditional use areas, like
4 Petersburg and Kupreanof, are available in close
5 proximity to rural residents proceeding with a major
6 reclassification of Tongass wildlands for the singular
7 benefit to industry blatantly ignores that mandate.
8 With that in mind, I think the DEIS was deficient on
9 any kind of analysis for wildlife.

10 So I have a buddy that worked on the
11 (indiscernible) Committee back in 1997, the
12 Conservation Strategy for Wildlife, and I asked him did
13 that strategy consider roadless areas and of course it
14 didn't because the roadless areas were enacted in 2001.
15 But -- and I'm going to read to you exactly what he
16 said. He said we emphasize that the habitat
17 conservation areas alone were not sufficient to
18 maintain viable well-distributed populations. They
19 would need a reasonable matrix between. A key
20 bottleneck for the Forest Service was (indiscernible)
21 requirement that populations be well distributed.

22 To go on -- how much longer do I have there?

23 CHAIRMAN KRAMER: You're over.

24 MS. KNIGHT: Okay. I'll be back if I can.

25 MR. HEITHECKER: Thank you.

1 MR. SCHMID: Thank you.

2 MR. HEITHECKER: The last name I have on the
3 list is Bill Tremblay. I think he's not here.

4 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: He said he'd try to make
5 it back. He has brief written comments.

6 MR. HEITHECKER: Was there anyone else that
7 wanted to provide comments. Thanks.

8 MR. MARTINSEN: I'm Jim Martinsen representing
9 myself today. I'm a third generation Alaskan, born and
10 raised basically my whole life here. I work
11 commercially fishing and construction, a little bit of
12 logging since the early '80s. Spent a lot of time in
13 Southeast Alaska in the woods, fishing, hunting,
14 probably more than I should have, but spent an awful
15 lot of time out there.

16 I'm not for the roadless act. I would like to
17 see something change in that effect. What I've seen
18 tonight you guys are looking at all alternatives and I
19 think that's a good thing. I think we need to find a
20 common ground that we as a region can survive and not
21 deplete our resources.

22 Tongass is a National Forest, it's not a
23 National Park. It's multi-use and it's your guys's
24 responsibility to treat it that way and give the
25 loggers some trees to cut, give the miners some stuff

1 to do. That's what multi-use is just by the general
2 nature of it.

3 Fishing, timber harvest, mining, recreation.
4 We do two of them really well. We do recreation and we
5 do fishing top notch. We overdo it in some cases. I
6 think we do lack in the timber and the mining and the
7 other parts of the forest that are supposed to be open
8 for economic development.

9 That said, I think we're smart enough now as a
10 society that we're not going to revert back to the
11 timber harvest in the '70s, '80s and '90s. That was a
12 little overextended in that period and I think we've
13 learned from that and we're smarter because of that.

14 So I don't see this as a big impact that if we
15 open this up we're going to scalp the Tongass. It's
16 just not going to happen just with the nature of what
17 we have in place now and the people we have here. I
18 trust that the process is going to take care of itself,
19 so I don't think we need more regulation on top of the
20 stuff you have to deal with already.

21 I think we need to get in and be able to extend
22 the areas that we've logged in already and be able to
23 go back in there and try to get this thing to a cycle
24 where we can continue to go through and eventually it's
25 going to -- these are the logging areas, these are the

1 places that are not touched. We won't be having these
2 kind of discussions anymore because it will be well
3 established.

4 Where we're at now is were in a lull.
5 Producing-wise, now the mills are shut down. I've
6 heard people talk, well, there's only a couple mills
7 left. Well, there used to be a lot more even
8 smaller-scale mills. When you put 10, 15, 20 jobs into
9 a community, that's a big boost. These are small
10 communities. Those things help. Every dollar helps.

11 Timber sales used to pump a lot of money into
12 schools. Timber receipts -- I don't know the exact
13 number, but there was a big chunk of timber receipts,
14 which is basically a timber tax, that went back into
15 the schools. Nowadays we've got raw fish tax, we've
16 got tourist head tax, but guess where all those monies
17 go to. They go to infrastructures that accommodates
18 those industries. They don't go to schools. They
19 don't go to the average people to help us educate our
20 kids. They're very constrictive. They keep the money
21 within the industry. Timber industry is -- I like
22 that. I think we need that.

23 Ferry systems are going to shut down. If we
24 don't have enough economic base, enough people
25 traveling around, we're going to lose everything we've

1 come to want and need. If we don't find a way to turn
2 things around and not rely on tourism and fishing, it's
3 down to one bad fishing season away from people locking
4 stuff up. That's the way I view it.

5 So you couple that up with tourism, which
6 tourism is not a clean source. I mean we've got these
7 big ships coming through. I don't know what their
8 carbon footprint is, but it's bellowing out the top and
9 coming out the bottom. It's been proven.

10 I'd like to talk a little bit about the hunting
11 part of it because I'll probably give you a little
12 different perspective on it. I spent many hours in the
13 woods. I would kind of blame the Forest Service a
14 little bit on the deer habitat, but it's only because
15 you gave us access. That's the biggest thing.

16 If you're hunting old-growth timber on the
17 beach front, people behind you are getting the deer
18 because they're up on the road system. More deer in
19 the clearcuts is there's more forage for them in the
20 clearcuts. I've had more success in clearcuts, around
21 clearcuts and on the roads than I have in the timber.
22 It's adaption. I've figured out if I go to places
23 where it's just old-growth forest, I'm not going to see
24 much.

25 I'll give you another example.

1 MR. HEITHECKER: We're about up.

2 MR. MARTINSEN: Real quick?

3 MR. HEITHECKER: Go for it.

4 MR. MARTINSEN: Okay. Moose population in
5 Southeast, this area here, non-existent before the
6 '50s. Thomas Bay was the first place. It came right
7 after the logging came in. Moose come in afterwards.
8 Moose came from Stikine, Thomas Bay, Mitkof, Kupreanof,
9 all the way out to Kuiu. We rely on it as subsistence
10 now because it's a major protein source. So we've got
11 to find the common ground and continue on.

12 Thanks.

13 MR. HEITHECKER: Thank you.

14 MR. SCHMID: Thanks.

15 MR. HEITHECKER: Was there anyone else who
16 wanted to provide testimony this evening.

17 MS. KNIGHT: I'll go again if no one else wants
18 to.

19 MR. HEITHECKER: Okay.

20 MS. KNIGHT: This is Rebecca Knight again.
21 During the last six to seven decades there's been a
22 significant loss of intact habitat Tongass wide
23 resulting in greatly diminished abundance for species
24 like Sitka Black-tailed deer. This is particularly so
25 in localized areas, for instance in a portion of Game

1 Management Unit 3, where hunters there have experienced
2 most restrictive hunting season in Southeast Alaska,
3 including a 17 -- I think I already said this.

4 As wildlife experts have acknowledged periods
5 of low deer abundance are usually preceded by a series
6 of severe winters and periods of a high deer abundance
7 preceded by mild winters. That's just to put it
8 simple. I consider the public lands habitat that
9 provide not only viable but huntable populations of
10 deer for subsistence use to be among the highest of any
11 asset public land can supply.

12 Therefore I request that there be no further
13 loss of deer winter range, be it high, medium or low,
14 as this will certainly happen under the proposed
15 exemption and that you abandon this gutting of the rule
16 as the only way that goal can be accomplished.

17 I'd also like to see the cumulative economic
18 loss of deer to subsistence hunters over time
19 disclosed. If Forest Service should analyze and
20 disclose accumulative economic losses of deer to
21 subsistence hunters over time as part of the EIS's
22 accumulative effects economic analysis. I think there
23 needs to be an accumulative effects analysis.

24 For instance, during the 1961 season, this is a
25 jaw-dropping figure, 1,922 deer were harvested from

1 Unit 3 where deer habitat at that time was largely
2 intact. This computes to \$961,000 worth of meat in
3 today's dollars and likely a close estimate of today's
4 value had the habitat remained intact. This is a
5 staggering loss of economic value and far more precious
6 than a sea of clearcuts and fragmented landscapes that
7 result from Viking and Alcan's activities.

8 According to the Forest Service, the proposed
9 rule would effectively bring only 185,000 acres, about
10 2 percent, out of 9.2 million designated as inventoried
11 roadless areas on the Tongass into the set of lands
12 that may be considered for logging.

13 You also claimed that this improved flexibility
14 could in turn improve the Forest Services's ability to
15 offer economic timber sales that better meet the needs
16 of timber industry and can contribute to rural
17 economies. You need to look at other economic sectors
18 as well.

19 Regardless, I bet dollars to doughnuts that
20 these acres have been carefully overlaid on timber
21 volume maps with input from industry and comprised of
22 very best of the rest of the high-volume stands of
23 trees remaining on the Tongass, which the industry has
24 yet to access.

25 While the amount of acreage appears small

1 relative to the overall size of the Tongass, the public
2 lands that the exemption seeks to obtain for logging
3 include probably some of the region's richest and most
4 biologically productive sites.

5 One measure of this is tree size on any given
6 acre, not just board feet, but tree size. These large
7 trees are not only disproportionately valuable
8 economically for wood volume, these same areas provide
9 vitally and increasingly scarce habitat for a variety
10 of Tongass wildlife. Large tree stands on the Tongass
11 identified as Class 6 and 7 comprise just 3 percent of
12 the Tongass of the National Forest land base.

13 How much acreage do they comprise under the
14 above claim? How many of those acres sought by
15 industry for logging will eliminate remaining Class 7
16 biggest tree stands on the Tongass. If this is true,
17 it will create a disproportionate negative impact on
18 wildlife populations that depend on these stands for
19 cover from deep winter snow, like deer, or for security
20 along salmon streams.

21 This is also important -- that's from black and
22 brown bears. It's also important to note that historic
23 timber sales entailed intensive high-grading of the
24 highest habitat old growth. The timber industry has
25 already removed nearly half of the large tree

1 old-growth forest from Kupreanof and Mitkof Islands.
2 This means that past logging has significantly reduced
3 the current winter carrying capacity for deer.

4 This proposal for the exemption continues to --
5 obviously continues to target the most accessible and
6 best remaining deer habitat on the Tongass. For
7 example, along the Green Rocks roadless area and other
8 roadless areas on Mitkof Island, just to name a few.
9 In my written comments too, just to be specific, I will
10 list those roadless areas by roadless area number.

11 The prevalence of disproportionate removals of
12 prime deer winter habitat is extreme throughout the
13 Petersburg/Kupreanof community use area. Kupreanof and
14 Mitkof Island both have experienced greater declines in
15 winter deer habitat than most of the Tongass. Also
16 these areas have the second lowest amount of deer
17 winter habitat protected in conservation reserves.

18 Over the past decade the Forest Service has
19 concentrated its timber sale program in this area and
20 on Prince of Wales Island. Simply put, this
21 concentration of logging is unfair to subsistence users
22 from Petersburg and Kupreanof. It also fails to heed
23 ANILCA's mandate to ensure that wildlife resources and
24 customary and traditional use areas are available in
25 close proximity to rural residents.

1 With the best habitat gone now and with canopy
2 closure occurring 25 to 40 years after logging,
3 depending on location, what is occurring is a continual
4 succession debt on the habitat. Following canopy
5 closure a virtual forage desert predominates. Now, in
6 the later decades, year by year, the debt is being paid
7 at a high price in terms of the amount of deer
8 available to hunters than wolves.

9 Proposed restoration activities such as
10 thinning fail to protect the resource on a meaningful
11 scale, nor will their effects be sustained long term.
12 I'll leave it right there.

13 Thank you.

14 MR. SCHMID: Thank you.

15 MR. HEITHECKER: Thanks.

16 MR. SCHMID: Appreciate it.

17 MR. HEITHECKER: Austin.

18 MR. COLSON: Hello again. This is Austin
19 Colson. I just wanted to add a short bit to my
20 testimony. After witnessing the devastation caused by
21 clearcutting, I am not yet against the export of timber
22 from Southeast Alaska. I believe that the export of
23 timber is a vital and key resource that Southeast
24 Alaska has to offer.

25 However, I believe that due to the poor

1 management it is not sustainable to allow more areas to
2 be opened to clearcutting, which would be possible if
3 the proposed option 6 were to be upheld.

4 I believe that if Southeast Alaska could show
5 that we could manage areas that have been clearcut in
6 the past and help rehabilitate them in a meaningful and
7 useful way instead of just leaving them to rot or
8 leaving them as piles of debris that will take decades
9 to regenerate themselves, I believe that if we could in
10 some way show that we could rehabilitate these lands
11 and put them on a sustainable cycle, then I would not
12 be -- I still support no action, however I believe it
13 would be a viable alternative to opening more areas to
14 clearcut.

15 Thank you.

16 MR. HEITHECKER: Thank you. Is there anyone
17 else in the room that wanted to comment.

18 MR. MARTINSEN: Jim Martinsen, part two. Where
19 I left off on the moose populations, and I watch it
20 really close on Thomas Bay, in the early '90s after the
21 clearcuts became what I would call prime for moose
22 habitat, Thomas Bay had the highest moose population in
23 the state of Alaska at 6.1 moose per square mile.

24 Since then the timber has grown up. It's
25 gotten beyond any height that would sustain the moose

1 population and now it's dropped back down to one of the
2 lowest in the state. It's a cycle for the moose.
3 You're seeing that now. We've got moose all the way
4 out in Kuiu and Rowan Bay. They've followed the
5 migration -- basically followed the clearcuts all the
6 way out there and now it's becoming an important
7 subsistence product for the people in this area. One
8 moose will take care of about 10, 15 deer if you're
9 successful. So it's very important when it comes to
10 subsistence.

11 As far as the deer populations, it's purely
12 predation. The access you've given us through the
13 recreational part has made us better predators. That's
14 the biggest part during the '70s on this island that
15 made the deer populations go down is all of a sudden
16 these guys had access to them and the deer had never
17 seen that before. Humans being humans, they
18 overextended themselves and it's taken 20, 30 years for
19 that to rebound back.

20 I would encourage you guys to, you know, even
21 look at second manufacturing as part of this deal. I
22 don't know what you guys get into, but it would be nice
23 to be able to get the jobs of the timber harvesting but
24 also the millet and maybe even beyond that put out a
25 product, some incentive, something that we can start

1 putting products out or products we could even buy here
2 locally that typically we have to barge in so we can
3 make our carbon imprint even that much smaller so we're
4 not barging everything in from the Lower 48. I think
5 that would be a great benefit. If this helps us get
6 there, I'm all for it. I think it makes sense to have
7 ability to choose where we can get the trees that
8 you're going to manage every year and if it makes more
9 sense to do it in an area where there's existing roads
10 but now you can't go there because of the Roadless Act,
11 then we need to look at that and revamp that a little
12 bit.

13 I guess, lastly, I'd just encourage people not
14 to be hypocritical. I mean if you live in a wood house
15 on wood piling, drive out the road and use the road
16 systems, you read a book or newspaper, you hunt moose,
17 you have a wood boat, you live on a lot that's been cut
18 clear of trees so you could put up your house and you
19 use toilet paper on a regular basis, you can't be
20 against the timber industry. We need to find a
21 sustainable timber industry. We don't want anything to
22 get out of control, but we need to do it in a
23 responsible way.

24 As far as the carbon part of it, trees die.
25 Seven, eight hundred years, the trees are going to die.

1 I don't know how old the Tongass is at this moment, but
2 there's a continual cycle of dead trees out there and
3 dead trees left standing are going to release the
4 carbon back into the atmosphere one way or the other.

5 Eventually when that tree is completely
6 decomposed all that carbon is gone back out. You
7 haven't gain anything. Everything is filtered in and
8 built up. It's lost. By harvesting you actually lock
9 some of it for a short period of time until that wood
10 is used or burned or gets demised.

11 So I would venture to say that if we're in a
12 crisis mode of, hey, we need to get our carbon under
13 control, if we did some carbon locking -- there's
14 places in the country that they're actually burying
15 trees to lock the carbon in.

16 We've got to be aware of that, but we've got to
17 be aware if we let timber just stand, rot and die, we
18 haven't done anything in getting our carbon footprint
19 so to say in balance because it's going right back in
20 there.

21 So I would encourage you guys to manage the
22 forest well, do your job. I trust the people we put in
23 place. You do it full time. You know what you're
24 doing. We always have public input, so I'm not worried
25 we're going to rape and pillage the whole countryside

1 because we repeal a Roadless Act.

2 Thanks.

3 MR. SCHMID: Thank you.

4 MR. HEITHECKER: Thank you. Anyone else.

5 MR. SCHMID: I'm ready for a little break. I
6 thank you all. Don, if you're still on, we've kind of
7 completed, gone through testimony here. A couple
8 people have come back for a second round and we're just
9 really winding down here. Was there anything you
10 wanted to add or share?

11 MR. HERNANDEZ: No, I just wanted to listen in.
12 Thanks.

13 MR. SCHMID: Appreciate it. Sorry I couldn't
14 be with you at the Southeast RAC. We went on our road
15 show here and have been traveling throughout Southeast,
16 but we will connect soon. So thanks for calling in
17 tonight.

18 MR. HERNANDEZ: Yeah. I realize everything got
19 real busy this week all of a sudden. We did miss you
20 here. We had a lot of questions, but we did have Chris
21 French here and Chad VanOrmer, so we made the best of
22 it.

23 MR. SCHMID: And I did clear up, Don, that we
24 will be making an 810 determination here. I know there
25 was a little bit of confusion there. I hadn't briefed

1 Chris as much on that when he got on board, but I know
2 he's sent that back and I have a letter forthcoming
3 that we'll put in writing what our intentions are
4 there.

5 MR. HERNANDEZ: Okay. Good. Yeah, we had the
6 email, I guess, but we were hoping to have something in
7 writing, so I'm glad we can expect that. We've gone
8 back and forth on this several times now, so I kind of
9 want to get it settled. It sounds like this will
10 accomplish that.

11 MR. SCHMID: Sounds good. Thank you again for
12 calling in and I'll turn it back to the hearing
13 officer.

14 MR. HEITHECKER: Thank you, Don. We appreciate
15 it. I think we're going to close out now and we'll be
16 here for a little bit longer in case someone else comes
17 in.

18 MR. HERNANDEZ: Yeah. Sorry I missed the first
19 part of it. I did appreciate having the ability to call
20 in.

21 MR. HEITHECKER: Thanks, Don.

22 MR. HERNANDEZ: I'll sign off. Goodnight to
23 you both.

24 MR. HEITHECKER: Thanks. Goodnight, Don.

25 (Off record)

1 (On record)

2 MR. HEITHECKER: This is Troy Heithecker, the
3 hearing official for the ANILCA 810 subsistence hearing
4 for the Alaska Roadless Rule in Petersburg. We're
5 going to do a continuation on the first recording and
6 hear some testimony.

7 MR. TREMBLAY: This is Bill Tremblay from
8 Petersburg, Alaska. Just some quick comments regarding
9 subsistence and the State of Alaska and the Roadless
10 Rule in general and how it might affect some things.

11 First of all, I guess regarding the process and
12 I guess the tendency to try to lean towards the Alaska
13 State direction for what we want to do regarding this.
14 Keep in mind that the State of Alaska does not
15 recognize subsistence rights. The State of Alaska is
16 an equal access provider as far as the resources go and
17 the protection of the resources is a Federal priority,
18 it's not a State priority.

19 So I have concerns regarding the State's need
20 or want to actually work more into production mode for
21 the Tongass rather than have to pay attention to what
22 the citizens need for subsistence from communities.

23 I think the Roadless Rule I would like to keep
24 as is at this point because I think some of the things
25 that the Forest Service is doing regarding some of

1 their management decisions I think is beginning to
2 affect and could affect some of the subsistence access
3 and some of the impacts of what they do in the woods.

4 Specifically I'm seeing on different planning
5 documents on Prince of Wales and as well as the Central
6 Tongass where they're trying to relax or suspend
7 protections for visual resources or for Karst. I'd
8 like to remind the Forest Service that you can't
9 suspend something that's imbedded in law. We have
10 protections provided for both visual and Karst
11 protections. That's afforded by law.

12 It's not just a standard guideline in the
13 Forest Plan that you can easily suspend. It needs to
14 be following -- if we're going to be suspending that,
15 you might as well be suspending protections for
16 heritage resources, archaeology, fisheries and the
17 whole nine yards. You can't suspend laws.

18 I'd say my support for ongoing protections
19 regarding the Tongass and the roadless has to do with
20 some concern regarding Forest Service policies for
21 protections of other resources and how they're
22 interpreting it at this time.

23 Also there is the issue that did come up
24 regarding the 2016 GAO report and the lack of
25 accountability with the Forest Service regarding the

1 timber sales, the fact that there was actual theft that
2 took place, lack of production because the industry
3 does not cut according to the contract, if that was
4 ever let.

5 It was estimated that almost \$4 million worth
6 of product was left in the woods, which meant the
7 Forest Service did not recover that money for projects
8 that were identified in both the Big Thorne and the
9 Tongass timber sales for projects for fixing pipes, as
10 far as for providing access, and as far as protections
11 for fisheries and stand improvements.

12 So as long as the Forest Service can't seem to
13 get back to the local communities and to the public
14 regarding the resolution of those issues, the
15 continuance of trying to do timber sales on the Forest
16 Service is a great concern because I think it's going
17 to be impacting subsistence on down the road.

18 So I just want to get on record that there are
19 those concerns out there. Thank you.

20 MR. HEITHECKER: Thanks, Bill. Thanks for
21 coming back.

22 MR. SCHMID: Thanks. Appreciate it.

23 (Off record)

24 (END OF RECORDING)

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I, Salena A. Hile, hereby certify that the foregoing pages numbered 02 through 50 are a true, accurate, and complete transcript of ANILCA PUBLIC HEARING, PETERSBURG, ALASKA transcribed under my direction from a copy of an electronic sound recording to the best of our knowledge and ability.

DATE

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