

PUBLIC TESTIMONY BY AUTUMN SIMONS  
PRESENTED AT THE  
JUNEAU COMMUNITY ROADLESS RULE PUBLIC MEETING  
HELD: DECEMBER 16, 2019, JUNEAU, ALASKA

SUBMITTED DECEMBER 17, 2019, AS A UNIQUE LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES FOREST SERVICE

AUTUMN SIMONS: So my name is Autumn Simons, A-U-T-U-M-N S-I-M-O-N-S. My zip code is 99801.

I reside on Douglas Island and have loved spending time in the Tongass recreationally, specifically around Juneau and on Douglas island and in Kake, Alaska. I am fortunate and beyond privileged to call the southeast of Alaska my home. And though I'm not surprised that the U.S. government continues to disregard public outcry regarding climate, racial, indigenous, and environmental justice, I'm here to say that building more roads through the Tongass National Forest will cause irreparable damage to one of the nation's and one of the world's greatest treasures.

The Tongass National Forest not only is an essential ecological hub for wildlife, biodiversity, and carbon sequestration, but also a place that Alaska Natives and indigenous people have lived in for thousands of years. Culturally, the current evaluation fails to acknowledge and consider the impacts on subsistence living, which disrespect and further marginalizes indigenous peoples and tribal governments.

Economically, building more roads only fills the pockets of private industries on the dime of Alaskan residents and at the expense of indigenous people.

Environmentally, we lose far greater than what we can ever recover, as has been scientifically and historically cited over hundreds of years of clearcutting in places both in and out of Alaska.

Listen to the voices of the Tongass, the hundreds of people that have cried out against the atrocity that would be altering the Tongass by building more roads and logging. For these reasons I strongly urge Alternative 1, no action.

Public Testimony recorded and transcribed by Glacier Stenographic Reporters, Inc.