

PUBLIC TESTIMONY BY CEDAR MALICK  
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

CEDAR MALICK: Thank you for letting me speak today. My name is Cedar Malick. My first name is C-E-D-A-R -- ironic, being named after a tree. Last name, M-A-L-I-C-K. Zip code is 99801.

I was born in Juneau, Alaska here. My family homesteaded, so every day I got to see and live in the forest. I got to enjoy and hike every trail I could reach, partake in the fish and game and the exceptional air and water here.

Now, I have a couple numbers I think people need to consider. One billion acres. That is the extent of the old-growth forest before Columbus got to North America. 25 percent, which is the percentage of old-growth forest left standing today. Despite what someone claimed, these forests are not renewable. Once you cut down a 500- to 1,000-year-old tree, guess how long it's going to take to come back? The Tongass is one of the last tracts of unexploited forest in America and provides vital habitat for salmon, fisheries that are already in dire straits. If that habitat collapses, fish hatcheries would only be able to support the salmon populations for a finite time since it is becoming harder and harder to keep their stocks alive because of climate change.

I should know. I've worked in a fish hatchery before, and I got to see firsthand how difficult it is. In the short six years that I worked there, I saw how many fish we'd lose just in incubation.

Now, there is a movie that some of you may know called Soylent Green. I think it's a movie that every person in high school, every student should watch, because it is very sobering. The future presents as a world in the late stages of complete environmental collapse, where trees exist only in exclusive greenhouses. This is an extreme example, but if you want to avoid even the best-case scenario of that horror, we have to start now. So ask yourself: When is enough enough? How low are we willing to let that old-growth percentage get?

Now, I, for one, would not like our great-great-grandchildren to be spitting on our graves in the future, and neither should you. The Tongass is our temple, more holy than any church. Please support Alternative 1, no action.

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