

PUBLIC TESTIMONY BY MARC SCHOLTEN
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

MARC SCHOLTEN: My name is Marc Scholten, M-A-R-C S-C-H-O-L-T-E-N, 99801.

I moved up here in 1980, and I worked as a cartographer for the Forest Service in the regional office. At that time, the Tongass Timber Supply Fund spent \$40 million a year supporting the timber industry, and most of the industry was operating in the southern Tongass -- Prince of Wales Island and Kuiu and Zarembo; a bunch of these islands, anyway. There was a lot of resource damage due to clearcutting.

And I think I want to, first of all, say that I support No. 1, the Alternative No. 1, No-Action Alternative. And the greatest reason to support that is to really take a look at the big picture of the whole earth. We're in actually a climate catastrophe, and I think what we can do best to help protect our planet and our future for everybody is to not log. We should be planting trees and not cutting them down, and that is the best way to carbon-capture the CO2 that's in our atmosphere.

I also, like most everybody here, use the forest for recreation. I used to use it for subsistence, and mostly for a mental -- well, try to retain a mental -- anyway, I'm not a good public speaker.

But it is so refreshing to get out in the woods and just to forget about all the insanity that's going on in our politics and with the climate catastrophe and that. And it grounds you to the planet, to everything that we're related to. And I just want to recommend that they stick with Alternative 1 and retain the mystique and the mysterious and the great old growth that is here in the Tongass National Forest.

Thank you.

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