

PUBLIC TESTIMONY BY FRED HILTNER  
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

FRED HILTNER: Thank you for the opportunity to speak. Fred Hiltner, H-I-L-T-N-E-R. The zip code is 99801.

So I'm here to testify that I'm for Alternative 1, no action toward road building in the Tongass forest. My first job in Alaska 40 years ago was doing wildlife biology, comparing old-growth timber areas with clearcut, logged area. It was clear that comparing old growth with logged areas displaced many wildlife species, from bears to deer to salmon to mice and so on.

Another point -- as an Alaskan subsistence hunter for almost 40 years, it was clear that deer were less frequent in clearcut areas, and transiting through those areas was much more difficult for deer and for hunters, in fact.

My third point -- building roads is not cost-effective and is a waste of taxpayer money, and it also damages our fragile and unique forest.

As a manager in a large tourism company in Juneau that depends on wildlife viewing on land and water in Southeast Alaska, we know that successful tourism is directionally proportional to maintaining the local forests. Our forests are much more valuable through eternity if left standing, compared to a short-term gain from logging.

Again, I'm for Alternative 1, prohibiting further road building for logging in our nation's most sacred jewel, the Tongass National Forest.

Thank you.

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