

PUBLIC TESTIMONY BY CARL REESE
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

CARL REESE: I'm Carl Reese, C-A-R-L R-E-E-S-E, 99801.

So I moved to Juneau in 2004, and so I've been here for -- I guess that would be 15 years. And I've done a lot of mountain climbing, fishing, kayaking, just the stuff that is around to enjoy. This place is an amazing place to be.

But I'm going to kind of rewind to about 2001, when I was in a conversation with some people. I was in graduate school, just getting out of it. I'm a fisheries biologist. I had just finished a master's degree, and I was talking to some people. And I had just also got a job running a salmon weir in Northern California on the Trinity River. And one of the people that had lived there a long time came up to me and said, "You know, you're just documenting the extinction of these things; right?"

And I thought, "Well, no." It was like, "No, look. Those coho salmon, the silver salmon, they're threatened now. We can't kill them. We can't eat them. We can't do anything other than watch them blink out," which will happen because you could actually go around and look at different tributaries. And the tributaries, some of them had coho in them, but a fair number of them didn't, like 90 percent.

And you could also track that around into the road network and find that the ones that -- and this is actually documented across the northwest, so this is not some new thing, that water quality, fish habitat tend to track pretty strongly with land use. Heavily logged-off areas have -- the mud comes down. Usually it's okay; right? I mean, it's not okay right at first, but it seems like it's going to be. And then the stumps start to fall off the hillsides. A bunch of things like that, just sort of -- and then there's a big storm and things just -- and the whole hill goes out. The next thing you know, you're not seeing any coho in that drainage, and you may not see any of the other species that were there either. You know, in this case, we're talking about king salmon and steelhead.

So, yeah. So I got this e-mail in late 2003 saying "You could apply to be a researcher at UAF, University of Alaska Fairbanks in Juneau." I didn't know. So I thought, "I'm doing this." Because you know what? There are fish up here, like we're not documenting the demise of fisheries; we're documenting healthy stuff, and that's how it's supposed to be.

And we're supposed to be -- is his name Perdue? He's supposed to be managing healthy forests, managing a cultural benefit that we can all enjoy forever, and it's extremely shortsighted to just kind of log this stuff off. We don't really think, most of us, how rare what we have is, worldwide.

People have mentioned climate change over and over and over again. Well, that's true. I don't want to revisit it that much, but a carbon model -- it's already done. But the number of places that have this

kind of intact forest you can count on two hands in the world, and we're going to sell that out so that we can pay logging companies nickels on dollars to cut it all down. And then if history tells us anything, they're just going to take those logs and ship them to somewhere else. They don't even mill them here most of the time. So it's extremely shortsighted. It's extremely bad planning for reasons that I hadn't even thought about until I got here.

Of course building a road network is going to introduce invasive species. I'm not an invasive species specialist, but you don't have to be to know that, and there are papers out there showing this. So if you have a science degree in botany, you probably can follow all those plants moving around.

So, anyway, I advocate for the No-Action Alternative, and that would be Alternative 1.

Thanks.

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