

PUBLIC TESTIMONY BY KRISTINE TROTT
PRESENTED AT THE
JUNEAU COMMUNITY ROADLESS RULE PUBLIC MEETING
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KRISTINE TROTT: Kristine Trott, K-R-I-S-T-I-N-E T-R-O-T-T. 99801.

I've been here -- I moved up to Juneau in 1978. I sailed up here with my to-be hubby in a trimaran we built. And as we sailed along, we saw places where they had clearcut forest in the Tongass and the devastation it left, and we'd see mass wasting because there was a lot of logging done on too steep of land.

And then when we got here, we moved out the road where I live, and we have an old cannery site. We would go sailing all around Southeast, and I've seen and been in the marvelous forests that are all throughout Alaska. And they are -- like even on the Shelter Island, you can go on the east side of Shelter Island and up into the woods there, and it's like a cathedral. And I'm going to -- I mean, that's my church in this world.

But I'm going to read some of my outline that I've done. We need to keep the roadless rule in all of Tongass and in all of Alaska. There is no exception. It was put in place for a very strong reason. It's protecting wildlife habitat because the habitat is being lost or degraded at an alarming rate. It's for protecting the species, because we're losing many species, and we know that diversity is critical for a high quality of life. And it's for saving wildlands. It is important for humanity to have wildlands to get back to, because that wild land holds a lot of species that have not even been found yet that can benefit humanity even, besides benefiting themselves.

Diversity is critical to a healthy life. Saving wildlands is also important because of the unique and special places that are hurt by having roads into them. There is too much easy access, and there are many people who haven't got very good values. I have so many times cleaned up garbage that's been dumped, appliances, dirty diapers, things like that left out in the wilderness of all things. I have hiked many of the mountains down in Washington and California, and when there are roads, you find trash.

And in sailing around Southeast, we've gone to Prince of Wales Island and been in logging communities there, and Prince of Wales has lots of roads on it. There are people who live in those communities who think it's their private hunting ground, and they can go out and hunt deer any time of year that they like. And I was there in July and personally saw some fellows from that logging camp come in with two deer in the back of their pickup in July, and my husband had to practically hogtie me, because I was going to go and accost those guys. I was furious. But you have roads in there, and then you get these scofflaws in there who think it's their right to go shoot whenever they want. And, you know, I can't abide that.

The cost of building roads in Alaska is prohibitive. It is economically unjustified because they are giving it away to the logging companies or the mining companies, and it's public money to build these roads for private industries.

The environmental damage that those roads do is incredible, and just driving out our "Road to Nowhere" we see for that mile and a half, I think it is, the incredible footprint this road has put on the land there, how deep the rock base is that they blasted and filled. It's just mind-boggling. And, you know, just think of all the creatures and everything that were put underneath all that rock that were killed.

The land belongs to the public, not to these private industries, and the public doesn't need to subsidize private interests -- logging, mining, oil extraction.

And last but not least, our big forests are a major carbon sink, to help keep the carbon in the ground and in the trees the way it should be, to help fight global warming. My daughter lives down in Texas, and I have seen the damage done when they ravage and pave and everything else, and they flood beyond anything. And she has a pasture where the old plains grass is left and thick. And the cattle and horses in those fields -- they're not flooded because that sponge holds the soil. They have deep roots. That's carbon in the soil. They soak up the water.

You know, the same thing here. We have trees that need to stay upright to help our carbon sequestration so that the global warming and climate change is as mitigated as we can help to do. So I'm basically quite against doing anything but keeping that roadless rule in place, and Alternative 1 is the one I choose. Thank you.

Additional testimony provided after other speakers:

KRISTINE TROTT: In spite of homesteading, we also lived and worked abroad for ten years, returning back every summer. We've worked from Saudi Arabia, New Zealand, China, Russia, and I've been in the eastern United States as well. Every time we came back to our home in Juneau, the air quality was incomparable. That is because of the intact forest and the deep connection with the mycorrhiza -- the connection with our forests and trees, which are all interlaced with their roots holding each other up, and the mycorrhiza can live amongst that and bring the nutrients to the trees, but they also give out healthful aerosols, which is, I think, a very large part of the healthfulness of this forest.

I've been in New Zealand forests. I've been in Thailand forests. I've been in forests in Russia and in Finland, and none of those forests have the same healthy air, clean air. Every time we came back to Juneau it was a breath of fresh air, literally, and there is no alternative for this clean air.

I grew up in Washington state and hiking and climbing in the mountains, and on the Olympic peninsula, and what they have done on the Olympic peninsula is a travesty. It cannot happen here. It's so important to keep these forests. I use the forests for subsistence as well. My kids have all grown up here. And I've seen the damage done in California and in Texas, and I don't want it to happen here. I do support Alternative 1.