

Date submitted (Pacific Standard Time): 1/13/2017 3:12:44 PM

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To Whom It May Concern At United States Forest Service:

Greetings:

I'm writing to give voice to a specific, legally valid and binding reason why electronic warfare testing cannot be allowed in, and over our publicly owned national forests. The reason is as follows: Legally, (as well as ethically) our national forests are to be used for "THE PUBLIC GOOD." This includes the obvious current uses, such as resource extraction which provide needed raw materials and tax revenue, recreation of various kinds, habitat for species with which we co-exist, clean watersheds, etc.

The fundamental question before us is this: Can electronic warfare be construed as a "PUBLIC GOOD"? The answer is NO, and here is why: Over the last 15 plus years, there has been a systematic expansion of our military forces, such as: ever-faster, louder, more destructive aircraft; dramatically expanded electronic surveillance; expanded use of drones/drone surveillance; increasing use of "smart bombs"; and much more.

IF this system-wide expansion were IN FACT making us safer and more secure, we could then justify electronic warfare in national forest land as a "PUBLIC GOOD". However, the evidence is to the contrary.

What has been true throughout human history, is that a violent (military) response to violence brings more violence. One does not have to look deeply into history, or into current events to see that our military response to events, including the events of September 11, 2001, is IN FACT, not bringing the desired effect.

Is the Middle East more peaceful, more stable, less prone to violence since our military intervention there? The same can be asked in regard to any place in the world. I think the answer is obvious.

To continue on our current path of systematic expansion of military and military technology is NOT IN THE PUBLIC GOOD. Electronic warfare is but one example.

Military response to violence is obsolete. A fundamentally different, more enlightened response is clearly called for now.

Both ethically, and LEGALLY, electronic warfare testing CANNOT BE ALLOWED IN OUR PUBLIC FOREST LANDS, including Olympic National Forest.

John A. Rush
Port Townsend, WA.