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Thursday, August 3, 2017

Thorne Bay Ranger District

P.O. Box 19001

Thorne Bay, AK 99919

Subject: End industrial old growth logging in the Tongass rainforest -- Prince of Wales Landscape Level Analysis Project #50337

Dear Tongass Forest Supervisor:

I am writing to strongly object to the immense timber sale currently proposed as part of the Prince of Wales Landscape Level Assessment, the largest and most destructive timber project on the Tongass National Forest in over two decades.

"Our duty to the whole, including to the unborn generations, bids us to restrain an unprincipled present-day minority from wasting the heritage of these unborn generations. The movement for the conservation of wildlife and the larger movement for the conservation of all our natural resources are essentially democratic in spirit, purpose and method."

-- Theodore Roosevelt

It is long past time to end the industrial-scale old growth logging on the Tongass that has greatly damaged this extraordinary public treasure. The U.S. Forest Service's continued pursuit of old growth timber sales--like Big Thorne, Wrangell, and the proposal outlined in the Prince of Wales Landscape Level Assessment--must stop. I urge the U.S. Forest Service to refocus its resources and management of the Tongass toward projects that protect and restore vital watersheds and important fish and wildlife habitat while promoting a diverse and sustainable economy in Southeast Alaska based on fishing, tourism, and recreation.

"It is horrifying that we have to fight our own government to save the environment."

-- Ansel Adams

"Our government is like a rich and foolish spendthrift who has inherited a magnificent estate in perfect order, and then has left his fields and meadows, forests and parks to be sold and plundered and wasted."

-- John Muir

All old-growth logging causes irreparable harm to the Tongass, but the timber sale proposal in the Prince of Wales Landscape Level Assessment project would be remarkably devastating. If realized, it would log a staggering 200-million board feet of old growth forest over a 10-year period. This would compound the damage caused by 2014's massive "Big Thorne" timber sale on the island. It would threaten a key population center for the Alexander Archipelago wolf, which faces critical and increasing threats due to habitat destruction from old growth logging and road-building, decreasing food source from declining deer populations, and legal and illegal hunting and trapping from Tongass logging roads. The U.S. Forest Service needs to do more to protect the wolf and deer and the communities that rely on a healthy Tongass.

"Every man who appreciates the majesty and beauty of the wilderness and of wild life, should strike hands with the farsighted men who wish to preserve our material resources, in the effort to keep our forests and our game beasts, game-birds, and game-fish--indeed, all the living creatures of prairie and woodland and seashore--from wanton destruction. Above all, we should realize that the effort toward this end is essentially a democratic movement."

-- Theodore Roosevelt

I urge you to reject the proposed Prince of Wales timber sale and any old growth sale as unreasonable alternatives for the Prince of Wales Landscape Level Assessment.

"A thing is right when it tends to preserve the integrity, stability, and beauty of the biotic community. It is wrong when it tends otherwise."

-- Aldo Leopold

Thank you for your consideration of my comments. Please do NOT add my name to your mailing list. I will learn about future developments on this issue from other sources.

Sincerely,
Christopher Lish
San Rafael, CA