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First name: Ed

Last name: Weisenbach

Organization:

Title:

Official Representative/Member Indicator:

Address1: 1331 Willow Chase Cir.

Address2:

City: Springfield

State: OH

Province/Region:

Zip/Postal Code: 45502

Country: United States

Email: eweisenbach@yahoo.com

Phone: 937-390-6092

Comments:

E: 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.

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 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.

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.

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.

Thank you for considering my comments.