

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/13/2017 2:42:47 PM

First name: john

Last name: hyde

Organization:

Title:

Official Representative/Member Indicator:

Address1: po box 34517

Address2: 3130 Wilma Avenue

City: Juneau

State: AK

Province/Region: USA

Zip/Postal Code: 99801

Country: United States

Email: wildthings@gci.net

Phone: 907.723.9247

Comments:

Overall_ Prince of Wales Island has been logged to the point that it has already resulted in substantial impacts on the ability of the environment to maintain previous wildlife populations.

The road system itself enables easy access for sport hunting, trapping and fishing, which in themselves increase impacts from recreational use in itself.

When flying over the island it is very obvious how extensive past impacts have been.

The destruction of old growth forest habitat is old school forest management and everyone besides those who work in that industry, and even some of those who work for ADF&G and the USFS

_ as well as a number of political interests _ support further destruction in favor of political and economic agendas.

The issue is that no matter how well intentioned further timber harvests will not sustain the economy of these communities for every long, unfortunately. If these communities really want more than a "band aide"_ to develop a sustainable economy for years to come then they need to find new ways to achieve this goal.

The forests in Washington, Oregon have been logged to the point where previous impacts will never recover.

The Tongass is the one forest in the entire US that has not been irreparably damaged. There is much more value in that than temporary economics.

Environmental Impacts_

1. Further harvests of old growth will only be detrimental, there really is no way around that. In order to fulfill the objective of replacing old growth that was previously logged harvests of "young growth" would require thinning only. Thinning would allow these areas to recover sooner than later by opening up these young forests so larger trees can predominate and become seed trees for the future and open yep the forest floor so it can become more productive wildlife habitat, provide more efficient cover from excessive snow loads, and more efficient containment and delivery of fresh water to watercourses. Pre-commercial thinning activities would not relegate those areas to commercial activities once the harvestable board feet objective is attained. It would be primarily used to recover wildlife and fisheries and recreational objectives, not timber harvests.

2. salvage activities would be acceptable as long as they did not include removal of woody debris in spawning and rearing waterways_ virtually any waterway ion the island, no burning of slash, or activities that would promote excessive runoff and siltation.

3. Marine access facilities of the magnitude required would be detrimental causing much habitat destruction.

4. Same for additional road system development.

5. Other considerations for the improvement of recreational opportunities and access are improvements that have the benefit of providing more economic diversity with potentially less destructive environmental impacts.

6. Invasive plant management practices are essential to protecting the environmental integrity of the forest environment, including but not limited to fish and wildlife populations.

7. Further old growth harvests are not acceptable.

8. Peak flow rates can not be managed effectively because precipitation and snowpack can't be predetermined. Each watershed has its own environmental requirements for producing consistent, dependable, and clean supplies of water to waterways and to the watercourses beneath the forest floor that feed the forests themselves. Our old growth forests hold and slowly release precipitation, providing more consistent and dependable flow rates. Without the environmental conditions that old growth forests provide this essential benefit will be lost. Even though buffer strips of forest surrounding watercourses are not nearly as effective in this regard as old growth forests that extend undisturbed to timberline.

9. Stream restoration and fisheries projects, thinning for wildlife habitat restoration, the development of additional recreational projects, etc. are needed and if they are funded adequately could provide additional

employment for residents. Funding for these types of projects will be much more of a challenge than that for building roads for harvest activities and marine facilities for extraction of timber. These "improvements" are often more talk than action_ and never really acquire the funding to effectively initiate them.

10. Archipelago wolf populations are impacted by deer and fish populations as well as hunting and trapping activities. Having any type of development within a mile or more of den sites will result in negative impacts on this threatened wildlife population. It will take much more considerable management and funding to maintain any of the actions intended to help reduce impacts on wolves in this area.

11. The proposed recreational improvements would be acceptable if monitored and would also promote immediate and sustainable economic development. Again, funding for these projects must be acquired for years to come for them to be productive.

12. New telecommunication sites could result in more use of these lands for recreational activities and general safety overall and would have very little environmental impacts.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.