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Comments:

Comments from the Point Baker Community Assoc. on the POWLLA Alternatives

The Point Baker Community Association opposes Alternative 2, the proposed Alternative. We object to the short two week time limit for commenting on the alternatives. This short comment period is indicative of the push to approve a plan which has been pre-conceived. We point out that the main objective of this plan has been from it's beginning to continue to supply old-growth timber to Viking Lumber for as long as possible. The formation and activities of the POWLAT group assured this outcome. Other alternatives with substantial public support were not considered. We believe that given that there will be extensive old-growth harvest by other land owners within the project area, it is not necessary that multiple use public lands be relied on to supply timber to one specific business.

Point Baker residents believe that Alternative 2 proposes too much old-growth harvest over the life of the plan. There is not enough consideration given to the cumulative impacts of past and future harvest on National Forest and non National Forest lands (State, Mental Health Trust, University Trust, and Native Corporations).

The north end of POW, our primary area of concern, is very important to subsistence deer hunters from many communities in Southeast Alaska. With the amount of development on the southern end of POW our area is becoming more heavily used. We believe that given the amount of old-growth harvest in the proposed alternative, and the availability and distribution of old-growth on the island, it is assured that there will be extensive harvest in our area. This will have adverse impacts to subsistence users from through-out the region.

The Point Baker Community Association absolutely opposes the use of herbicides on POW Island.

The residents of Point Baker care about this forest in ways that cannot be expressed in economic terms, or by habitat capability models, or percentages of old-growth reserves, or recreational days. We continue to advocate for a plan that recognizes the value of an intact, fully functioning forest for the well-being of communities.