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Comments:

The stated purpose of the POW LLA project is to improve forest ecosystem health, help support community resilience, as well as provide economic development to the area. What the project does instead is allow for the sale of 235 million board feet of old-growth forest on Prince of Wales to timber operators over the next fifteen years. This complex of islands has already experienced six decades of high-volume old-growth clearcutting. It is estimated that 94% of the contiguous high-volume forests were clear-cut for timber between 1954 and 2004. Prince of Wales and its surrounding islands host numerous endemic plants and animals, found nowhere else on earth, which rely on large-tree old-growth habitat for sheltering, foraging, and breeding. Clearcutting neither improves the health of this ecosystem nor provides sustainable economic development.

It is disappointing to see the agency entrenched in a clearcutting mindset even as it struggles to appreciate the economic opportunities that come from conserving, rather than chopping down, old-growth forest.