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Comments:

Dear Forest Service Planners and Decision-Makers:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the POWLLA Project. I am a former resident of southeast Alaska who devoted ten years to researching and participating in Tongass National Forest planning on behalf of a variety of community groups whose members depend upon the integrity and sustainability of the forests, rivers, and marine ecosystems in this very special region. Since that time, I have had a career of over three decades as a college and university professor of geography and environmental studies. My views are grounded in both my intimate familiarity with the Tongass and its communities and in my professional knowledge of environmental laws, policies, and sustainable practices.

I am quite concerned about your current process because it seems to violate the basic principles of the National Environmental Policy Act. As I understand it, your plan, to date, has not detailed specific timber harvesting and road building locations and impacts, as NEPA requires and as the Forest Service is accustomed to doing.

I am also concerned because I know that Prince of Wales Island has long been the most heavily logged portion of the Tongass and, as such, it should be prioritized as an area that merits less -- not more -- logging, along with restoration of watersheds that have been harmed by unsustainable practices in the past.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Sincerely,

Edward (Ted) Whitesell