

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 5/5/2019 4:29:57 PM

First name: Victoria

Last name: McDonald

Organization:

Title:

Official Representative/Member Indicator:

Address1: 6526 Rogers Pass Rd

Address2:

City: Ketchikan

State: AK

Province/Region:

Zip/Postal Code: 99901

Country: United States

Email: victoriamdona@d@hotmail.co

Phone: 907 254 0914

Comments:

Once again, the precious Tongass National Forest is facing another large scale old-growth timber sale. But the Forest Service has transmuted from an agency that cut massive amounts of old-growth along with specific unit prescriptions into an agency that hides where it will cut and the resulting effects on wildlife, watersheds and the forest as a whole, but still plans big timber sales. That way the Forest Service can do as it pleases and ignore public comments.

In addition, field projects for this most recent logging enterprise are fully funded, while the other "feel good" projects such as stream restoration and watershed studies are sort of, maybe funded. That's a devious method of ensuring that more old-growth will be cut and the insightful comments of the public are not site specific, and so do not require the Forest Service to alter their plans. To me that indicates how much the Forest Service does not consider public comments and ignores the NEPA process. In the rush to cut old-growth the Forest Service will disregard federal laws and make up its own way of destroying the integrity of Tongass.

In the midst of global climate change, the Alaska division chooses to ignore the fact that old-growth timber holds massive amount of carbon. While other regions and nations plant trees and work to protect their land and water resources, the Alaska region is hell bent on destroying our forest as wildlife diminishes.

The lack of deer is blamed on wolves, wolves that existed in harmony with deer until the advent of humans and the logging industry. The blame for fewer numbers of deer is blamed on wolves, when lack of habitat is the culprit. In the meantime, wolves are hunted and trapped, often illegally, using the roads the Forest Service built in order to access the timber.

The Forest Service considers the Tongass to be its own logging site instead of listening to the public, many of whom struggle to protect it. Since the Forest Service is not providing site specific details, the public is unable to recommend changes. Unfortunately after decades of reading and protesting DEIS' and FEIS', the public recognizes that cutting as many old-growth trees as possible is the goal of the Alaska Division, justifying it on the grounds of providing jobs when much of the timber is exported so few jobs are produced.

I protest this entire Landscape Level Analysis since it is done in such a secretive, underhanded way. The process is an example of how a dictatorship works.

Victoria McDonald  
Tongass Conservation Society  
Ketchikan, Alaska