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Comments:

You recently approved the Prince of Wales Landscape Level Analysis which could result in clearcutting of 235 million board feet of old growth forest across approximately 23,000 acres over the next 15 years. And 50 million board feet of this could be up for sale as soon as September 2019. This sale as outlined in the Out-Year Plan is one of many projects listed. Sadly, the ones that are funded and moving forward are those regarding timber sales, and not the ones focused on watershed improvements and restoration projects. This clearly indicates you've set a higher priority on extraction over preservation.

The rich, healthy, portions remaining of the Tongass National Forest are in jeopardy with these timber sales. At what point will Forest Service officials say to one another, "maybe we should have kept some old growth" and when will that dawning occur?

It's all about habitat preservation and multi-leveled forests and clean streams that foster healthy salmon runs and the various wildlife that flourish because of it. And that doesn't even include the recreational advantages of visiting a strong vibrant landscape or the dollars that come into Alaska by people interested in visiting the Tongass because of its intact wilderness value. With these timber sales, you're missing the larger picture.

And it's getting harder and harder to learn about and respond to these threats due to the "condition-based National Environmental Policy Act" that continues to leave the public in the dark by failing to fully inform us about specific locations, timing, amount of logging, roadbuilding, or mitigating measures. THE POWLLA project is exactly the type of non-specific agency decision making Congress intended to halt when it enacted NEPA planning nearly fifty years ago.

Key points:

- * THE POWLLA analysis fails to comply with NEPA due to a lack of disclosed essential site-specific details about where trees will be cut and roads built.

- * Whenever old-growth timber sales occur, it will harm local subsistence hunting fishing, recreation, and tourism. Without the essential information of where logging will occur, the public cannot fully grasp the extent of potential damage or respond to the far reaching impacts of these sales.

- * Prince of Wales Island has lost too much old-growth habitat already. The forest service should drop the old-growth timber sales and focus entirely on restoration, stewardship and recreation projects.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.