

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 5/13/2019 4:12:30 PM

First name: Jim

Last name: Beard

Organization:

Title:

Official Representative/Member Indicator:

Address1: PO Box 18021

Address2:

City: Coffman Cove

State: AK

Province/Region: Alaska

Zip/Postal Code: 99918

Country: United States

Email: honeybeard@aol.com

Phone: 9073292079

Comments:

Earl Stewart - Supervisor

Tongass National Forest

I have reviewed the analysis and proposal for the Prince of Wales Landscape Level Analysis Project and offer the following comments:

The proposed action (mostly alternative 2 with modifications) appears to accelerate liquidation of the remaining old growth stands in all areas close to existing roads with the rationale this would eventually finance the transition to sustainable "young growth" harvest and management. This "long term gamble" would occur with no guarantee from the timber industry or the existing mill owners of any investment to adapt or build facilities to process small diameter timber. I think it is not likely the existing timber interests on POW will be able or willing to finance such a transition based on personal observation of the failure of similar interests to adapt to diminished access to old growth in other areas of the country. The proposed action will likely result in continued decline in deer populations, further degradation of fish habitat, a general decline in scenic quality, and a reduction in the more primitive recreation opportunities that people come here to find.

The timber industry on POW will have an opportunity to make a good profit in the short term but will inevitably decline if the large investments needed to convert to small diameter timber processing are not or can not be made. The biggest losers in this equation are the communities on POW that will be increasingly dependent on the timber industry and therefore will not be as invested in diversifying sources of income during the rush to liquidate old growth.

The proposed recreation facilities seem to be very optimistic given the diminished ability of the Forest Service to fund existing facilities anywhere. Cabins and boardwalk trails are the traditional facilities provided in southeast Alaska so it is good to see more gravel and more primitive 3 sided shelters proposed. Since POW will likely be the main focus of logging activity and impacts for the foreseeable future, it seems justifiable that it would receive a larger portion of recreation funding that might come from logging revenues.

I would like to see more trails serving areas near small communities like Coffman Cove or Naukati. Trails to and through some of the alpine areas near these communities would be desirable as would trails that originate at marine access points and continue into higher elevations such as many trails near Sitka, Petersburg, and Ketchikan do. I would like to see Forest Service planners do their own trails analysis for communities and the tourist industry to consider since I think some of them could bring considerable experience and insight to the effort.

Whatever the short or long term economic effect of logging will be for POW, I am most concerned with having large old growth trees in abundance to enjoy and for my grand-children to enjoy long after I am gone. This plan will eventually result in the absence of such an opportunity for large areas of the most accessible parts of the island. I don't want to have to travel to some "old growth reserve" somewhere to see old trees.

Jim Beard

Coffman Cove AK

May 13, 2019

