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First name: Dick

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Organization:

Title:

Comments:

Dear Chief Christensen, Ranger Shuler, Supervisor Stewart and selected IDT members,

"The nation behaves well if it treats the natural resources as assets which it must turn over to the next generation increased, and not impaired, in value."

Theodore Roosevelt

"God has cared for these trees, saved them from drought, disease, avalanches, and a thousand tempests and floods. But He cannot save them from fools."

John Muir

Ever since I retired from the USFS in 2003 I have commented and appealed/ objected to most timber sales that would destroy the proper functioning of the natural resources in and downstream from the sale area. Incredibly there were very few timber sales that didn't fit these criteria. I thought if I presented independent science authored by experts in their fields who had no connection to the USFS they might convince USFS line-officers that the public does not want them to knowingly and consciously inflict even short-term harm to the resources in the national forests. After all, high level WO employees have promised the public USFS projects would be grounded in "best science."

Silly me. I thought the Responsible Officials would modify their proposed timber sales to be consistent with this best science.

For 15 years these so-called "public servants" ignored me. I had almost given up . until Supervisor Stewart and Ranger Shuler took action that will surely help me reach my goal of convincing USFS line-officers to serve the public that pays their salaries rather than serving the natural resource extraction corporations. I thank them for helping me. These guys proposed the Prince of Wales timber sale. Their proposed actions were unprecedented. They planned to

- * construct 164 miles of new road. Most of this is sediment producing, outsloped temporary road. Many are near salmon spawning streams.

- * clearcut 23.7 square miles of old-growth rain forest. Tourists from around the world seek out this splendid example of a temperate rain forest.

Their "Out-year Plan" for which they are accepting comments until December 20, 2019 increases the road mileage and clearcut area. They are probably responding to Trump's latest command.

Chief Christiansen you have stayed in the background and said nothing for 2 years when they initiated scoping. You didn't do the job the 323 million national forest owners pay you to do.

I'm not surprised that Shuler and Stewart would try this. What disappoints me the most are the bungling, unfit timber sale enablers who masquerade as caring, professional resource specialist on the IDT played the "get out the cut" game. They all cast away their natural resource ethics and values.

It's likely that under a Democratic President when the American public finds out about this atrocity the USFS would go the way other unnecessary, unscrupulous government agencies have gone out. They might combine the USFS and BLM into a Department of Natural Resources. Who knows. For sure the USFS' timber agenda and current leadership will be gone.

Supervisor Christiansen and RF Schmid, I find it strange that you have not directed Supervisor Stewart to announce that all work on the Price of Wales timber sale has stopped.

When Schmid rejected the objections of the Alaska Forest Association, Alaska Rainforest Defenders, Audubon, Defenders of Wildlife, Earthjustice, and Trout Unlimited you knew this would be settled in court and you knew the plaintiffs would succeed.

There are 3 members of Congress who sometimes take action to represent their constituents who enjoy their national forests when they find out the USFS will harm the forest as they please their corporate masters.

I suggest the IDT members start practicing their talking points. The plaintiff's attorneys will be thorough. The AP will follow the trial closely

Supervisor Christiansen and RF Schmid, as I said before, when this blows up you should both understand how important it is to take extraordinary measures to represent the best interests of the American public.

If you refuse you won't like how the history books depict your careers.

As I said before, when things heat up more I hope to send this letter to a few Democratic members of Congress who have shown an interest in maintaining the integrity of the national forests for their constituents who enjoy recreating there.

Sincerely,

Dick Artley (retired forest planner, NEPA legal compliance reviewer, forest NEPA coordinator, forest appeals/litigation coordinator and logging systems specialist -- MS in logging engineering from Oregon State University and FEI instructor -1980 --- Nez Perce National Forest, Idaho)
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CC: WO and R-10 RO employees who might be interested