

Hand delivered 6/18/16

June 18, 2016

Wrangell Ranger District
District Ranger Robert Dalrymple
P.O. Box 51
Wrangell, AK 99929

Re: Wrangell Island Timber Sale

Wrangell Island is our home. "Out the road" is literally our back yard. It is where we recreate to escape the life's stresses, to connect with nature and grow land stewards of the next generations. We camp, hike, fish, pick berries, drive, picnic, and more. Many island residents have no boat to get off the island. This IS their only recreation and subsistence opportunity.

To propose a timber sale of the proposed magnitude flies in the face of what we cherish in this land. It was the mistake on someone's part to propose this sale, on this island, so close to one of the few communities of this area! The Forest Service fails to recognize the value of standing timber in the face of daunting climate change, as temperatures rise every year and our rain forest dries out.

There are not many trails and lakes in this island that are accessible. In particular - Long Lake is a jewel of our back yard. It is the one lake, surrounded by a beautiful patch of forest, with a safe trail that is doable for families. Along with the shelter, campfire ring and row boat, it is a day and overnight package unmatched on this island. To go into this pristine area is unthinkable and insensitive. All logging will be seen in one way or another. Your own resource reports state that this will change (= destroy) the recreation value of this and many sites on this, our home island.

Large scale timber sales are a thing of the past. We have no big mills to keep running at the risk of losing wildlife, plant life, and recreation and subsistence opportunities. We cannot turn this into a landscape of clear cuts. Is this what we should teach our children? To cut down our forests, sell the timber overseas, at the risk of never seeing a wolf, a marten, only waste lands?

I could cite your own resource reports which would be redundant. Timber sales do not pay for themselves. Expensive helicopter logging will not pencil out a profit. Keep any cutting to small clear cuts. We have one small mill operator. Take care of the land, stay away from popular recreation sites, we don't have much. Be true stewards of the land and seek opportunities to improve it, not cut it to the ground.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,



Diane O'Brien