

**From:**  
**To:** [Tighe, Cathy- FS](#)  
**Subject:** [External Email]Ward Lake Area Planning Comments  
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Catherine,

These are a little late. I hope they can be included.

The Southeast Alaska Watershed Coalition works with a wide variety of partners throughout the region to cultivate watershed stewardship activities that benefit people, fish, wildlife, and numerous other watershed resources.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide public comments during the initial stages of the Ward Lake Area planning process, which are as follows:

Although not in the planning area, the Connell Lake Dam has had, and continues to have, a profound impact on the Ward Creek watershed, both upstream and downstream of the impoundment. The Ketchikan Pulp Company built the dam in the early 1950s. The purpose of the dam, which is privately owned, was to enlarge an existing natural lake (Connell Lake) to supply water to a pulp mill on Ward Cove. Water from the 307-acre impoundment traveled to the mill in a wood penstock that remains intact and functional today.

The 600-foot long by 78-foot tall Connell Lake dam prevents sockeye, coho, and steelhead from accessing several miles of stream, including stream channels flooded by the dam. In addition to blocking upstream fish passage, the impoundment likely impacts downstream reaches of Ward Creek by blocking sediment transport, altering water temperature, and possibly altering the natural hydrograph.

In consideration of these impacts, we encourage the Forest Service to consider the costs and benefits of dam removal on the greater Ward Lake watershed as well as downstream reaches of Ward Creek. Including the dam's owners in the planning process will therefore be important.

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John Hudson  
Restoration Biologist  
Southeast Alaska Watershed Coalition

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