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First name: Diane

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: August 13, 2013

Attn: District Ranger Bob Dalrymple

Wrangell Ranger District

Wrangell, AK 99929

Re: Wrangell Island Timber Sale

Thank you for issuing a corrected NOI.

It is difficult to provide specific comments from the information that is provided to date regarding the large scale timber sale being planned for Wrangell Island. The "information" provided is a map of Wrangell Island that includes planned units with methods of logging and proposed new roads.

To the casual eye it is difficult to recognize the existing managed stands, as they are a mere pale ivory in color, one shade above the white background. The proposed units stand out and are mainly between existing managed stands, but most folks would not realize that. In subsequent maps, please make the existing units apparent by utilizing a darker color to show what truly you are proposing for the harvest areas.

The size of some of the proposed cuts are extensive – much bigger, it appears (since I did not find any unit information) that they would exceed the Forest Plan. I have heard that you are planning to make amendments to the Forest Plan in order to be able to take as much volume as possible, including changing some Land Use Designations and view shed designations. This is not business as usual for the Forest Service. There is a Forest Plan that has been tried and true and to void that direction, and go beyond the direction that has been established is not acceptable.

Wrangell Island is the back yard for Wrangellites. It is where we picnic, hike, fish, camp, gather subsistence harvests. It is critical to why we enjoy living here. The Forest Service has a program "Kids In The Woods". As a scout leader, that is what I enjoy doing. If this plan is completed there will be far less accessible forest to bring them to.

A large portion of our population does not have boats to get off the island, so they drive out the road, to their forest to relax in many ways, to be renewed in nature. Driving through clear cut after clear cut does not provide that experience. Many people live here because of the road system, because of the access to the forest.

This is not the place to make a "mark" with a large scale timber sale. It doesn't make sense. We do not have a high quality of timber. More timber of a higher quality could come off of other neighboring islands on less acres. The days of large clear cuts and multi-year timber sales are gone and for good reason. Wrangell Island should be about conserving what we have with small timber sales that meet local market demand. There is not a range of alternatives that speak to the issues at hand: deer winter range, watershed protection and recreation. It is disappointing to see this proposal for a very important area to our local population.

Be open to informing the public and listen to all constituents.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input.

Sincerely,

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