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Comments: This proposal must be stopped. It is a continuation of the ongoing genocide of Native American peoples. The only way this proposal makes sense is by ignoring the needs of most people in the area, native peoples included, and giving undue weight to the profits. Even the projected positive economic impact on jobs will be outweighed by the real loss of habitat and related eco tourism lost over time.

As a Washingtonian, former Alaskan and a sports fisherman, I see here the damage the logging industry and unmitigated development has done to the salmon fishery in this state. Our ecosystems' complexity is now obvious in hindsight as massive public funds are required here in an effort to rebuild the logging damaged habitat. Had the logging industry paid the true cost of logging in Washington, it would have been unprofitable far earlier and would have been forced to create sustainable practices sooner.

Attempting to build up a failing logging industry on the backs of future citizens lacks courage and wisdom, as does continuing to repeat the errors of the past. Giving handouts to industry by destroying ecosystems and removing important carbon stores will provide the wrong incentives and prolong our Nation's legacy of failing to understand the importance of sustainability.

I support modern timber management practices and see Washington finally learning these lessons. Private timber profits should be earned from private property. Any fees for leased timber extraction from public lands should should cover the true costs of that extraction. Until government is ready to acknowledge and fairly price current and future costs of this project, it should be stopped. To do otherwise is fail to learn the sustainability lessons of the past.

[Position]