

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 10/20/2020 1:11:41 AM

First name: Jill

Last name: Bohr Jacob

Organization:

Title:

Comments: These are comments for the U.S. Forest Service's South Revilla Integrated Resource Project (#53477) on the Ketchikan Misty Fjords Ranger District.

The No Action Alternative - Alternative 1 is the only viable alternative at this time of historic climate change and biodiversity loss.

Less than one third of the world's primary forests are still intact.

Old-growth habitat and healthy fish stocks are at a premium anywhere on the planet. According to the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, temperate rainforests store twice as much carbon per hectare as the most dense tropical rainforests.

We have experienced firsthand the choking smoke from the largest fires in recorded history on the west coast just weeks ago. Few people realize how the hundreds of acres of single age "forests", actually monoculture tree farms, in Washington and Oregon act as kindling and fuel wildfires into unnatural infernos. Real forests, old-growth UNMANAGED forests burn as intended to propagate fire dependent species.

The first point in the Purpose and Need for Action for this destruction is:

"Managing the timber resource for sawtimber production and other wood products."

The timber industry is now less than 1% of Southeast Alaska's regional economy.

Only one half of one percent of the largest oldest Class 7 trees now exist on the Tongass.

There is enough salvage timber on the existing road system for small operators for the next century.

The second point in the Purpose and Need for Action for this devastation is:

"Improving aquatic and terrestrial habitat conditions."

The 2019 UN report finds the natural world being destroyed at a rate tens to hundreds of times higher than the average over the past 10 million years. Up to a million species are facing extinction worldwide.

Under the No Action plan the USFS can and should maintain, reconstruct or remove existing roads, repair and replace culverts as needed, and restore proper stream and floodplain functioning conditions. The USFS should implement fisheries improvements - pool habitat creation and fish pass construction where they historically existed.

The third point in the Purpose and Need for Action for this hellish harvest is:

"Providing a range of recreation opportunities to meet public demand"

Build shelters, cabins and trails for public subsistence and recreation.

These projects could benefit the public who funds these projects - versus revenue losing timber sales and export of our valuable forest at public expense.

Cumulative Effects

Appendix C has a ridiculously low number of acres in the Past Harvests in the South Revilla project area by my estimates.

We are surrounded on this island by the remains of past clear-cuts and future timber sales for the native corporations, the University of Alaska, the Mental Health Trust, the State of Alaska, private ownership and the Federal Forest Service.

By my estimates 18,264 acres have been clear-cut in George Inlet, Carroll Inlet, Talbot, Mahoney, White River, Second Waterfall, Whipple Creek and Leask Lakes, drastically impacting wildlife corridors and habitat on this finite island where the newest assault is proposed. This is probably a severe under count. Approximately 18 billion board feet of timber were taken from the Tongass between 1907 and 2000 at taxpayer expense. A minimum of 12,000 acres have been clear-cut on lands surrounding Revillagigedo Island between 2000 and 2020.

Hundreds of thousands of logged out acres on the Tongass exist for decades of salvage and restoration employment. Old-growth forests are not renewable. They are not coming back after you log them.

Alternative 1