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First name: Beth

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear Regional Foresters Jacque Buchanan and Jennifer Eberlien:

Thank you for taking my comments regarding the proposed changes to forest practices. My husband and I have lived in Jefferson county Wa for 25 years. We treasure the natural surroundings of the Olympic Peninsula. We enjoy fishing, hiking, swimming, mushrooming, foraging and camping in this magnificent place we call home.

Our children and grandchildren live nearby and we love sharing the local adventures with them. I hope these comments will convince you to protect the rare treasures that our old forests hold, so that our grandchildren will be able to share these same wonders with their children and grand children. But we must protect our forests and keep the planet livable.

Do not allow the change from 80 to 120 year old trees for logging! This is dangerous to the environment. With less shade from the mature trees, the climate change and heat domes will create more forest fires. The large trees sequester more carbon. Retaining the oldest trees will help protect the planet with fire prevention and carbon sequestering.

The endangered animals on the peninsula need mature forests. The Pacific Marten, Spotted Owl and the Marbled Murrelet all depend on habitat and streams of mature forests for their survival,

Logging and Public use After the heavy logging of the past 5 years, in Jefferson and Clallam counties, I observed the huge swath of logged off land had become a tawny tan color. On hikes I found almost complete coverage of the invasive weed tansy ragwort. It had cropped up in all the logged land up Hwy 101 and Center Road from Mason county to Port Angeles in Clallam county. Viewed on google earth, the entire logged area surrounding the national park was not earth brown, but tansy ragwort tan which is toxic to horses, elk and deer.

My contact at the Jefferson county weed board admitted they had never seen such a huge infestation of tansy ragwort. It was spread by poor logging practices, spreading seed via the machinery from one cut to the next, until the entire slope east of the national park was tan.

In exchange for the profit they make, logging companies must be held accountable for the damage they do. I was told the logging companies would be responsible for the clean up. I have not seen permits for spraying, but I hope that is so.

Tribal Partners The Makah tribe, who are good stewards of the land, conducted manual weed pulls on heavily infested land in Clallam county. I noticed cinnabar moths in Jefferson, which feed on this noxious weed but neither manual nor biological controls with moths could contain such a huge infestation. Working with indigenous tribes for healthier forests makes good sense.

Sincerely,

Beth Stroh-Stern and family