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Comments: Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Twin Mountain Timber Sale.

I have read the entire document and I have a number of concerns.

1. While in general I support a timber economy on Prince of Wales Island this sale completely misses the boat. In this document you acknowledge that there was a discussion of small sales only for this timber area and it was discarded. I think this is the BEST alternative for the entire area. If this was only offered for small sales of under 1mmbf per sale then it would keep the small specialty operators on POW in timber for a very long time. In fact it would be possible to give small operators a 10 year contract of 1mmbf per year, or even less that would give them the security of a timber supply and the ability to get a bank loan or other financing to upgrade equipment and diversify!
2. This document acknowledges that the negative impact to deer habitat - which has already been heavily impacted would be even greater. A key factor of life for people on POW is subsistence and ANYTHING that impacts deer population or habitat is a bad thing. If this was offered as small sales only then that impact could be mitigated.
3. There is ZERO discussion of biomass removal from this area in any way - even as firewood cutting. One way to keep the impact to wildlife low is to not leave a timber harvest unit looking like pick-up sticks when it is done. Requiring operators to yard unusable material to the roadside would then allow biomass users to collect that material at a later date.
4. Finally - while old growth timber is certainly the most desired by the local mill operators - both small and large - I think if we are EVER going to transition to a young growth economy the sale area needs to have young growth sales as well. In fact - it should be mandated that all old growth logs need to be 100% processed on POW only.

Finally - I support the NO-ACTION alternative unless this area can be set aside for small sales only and managed in a way as to not damage the deer habitat. I would like to see best practices be put into use for biomass removal and I would like to see the entire area managed as a collaboration between the communities and the FS.