

Opportunity to Comment on the Prince of Wales Landscape Level Analysis Project Draft Environmental Impact Statement

The Tongass National Forest has prepared a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Prince of Wales Landscape Level Analysis (POW LLA) Project. The purpose of the POW LLA Project is to improve forest ecosystem health on Craig and Thorne Bay Ranger Districts, help support community resiliency, and provide economic development through an integrated approach to meet multiple resource objectives. Management activities included in the three action alternatives being analyzed in the DEIS include: 1) Vegetation management, including old-growth commercial harvest, young-growth commercial harvest, young-growth pre-commercial thinning treatments, timber stand establishment, and wildlife habitat improvement treatments; 2) Watershed improvements and restoration treatments, including fish habitat restoration, aquatic organism passage and fish habitat connectivity, karst systems improvement, and invasive plant management (manual, mechanical, and herbicide); 3) Sustainable recreation management, including maintenance of existing recreation facilities as well as construction of new facilities; and 4) associated infrastructure and non-infrastructure activities to support the proposed activities. The project area for the POW LLA Project encompasses approximately 1.8 million acres on Prince of Wales and surrounding islands in SE Alaska.

Subsistence hearings will be held in the following Prince of Wales Island communities during the 45 day comment period associated with the release of the DEIS as follows:
Whale Pass, AK: May 29, 2018; 4:00 p.m., Whale Pass library
Klawock, AK: May 30, 2018, 6:00 p.m., Klawock VocTec Center
Hydaburg, AK: May 31, 2018, 5:00 p.m., City of Hydaburg Conference Room

The Responsible Official for this project is:

M. Earl Stewart
Forest Supervisor
Tongass National Forest, Federal Building
648 Mission Street,
Ketchikan, Alaska, 99901
estewart@fs.fed.us

The DEIS and other project information is available on-line at:
<http://www.fs.usda.gov/goto/tongass/powlla>. The DEIS and supporting documentation are also available for review at the Thorne Bay Ranger District, 1312 Federal Way, Thorne Bay, Alaska. Additional information regarding this action can be obtained from:

Delilah Brigham
Project Leader
P.O. Box 19001
1312 Federal Way
Thorne Bay, Alaska 99919

Phone # 907-828-3232
dbrigham@fs.fed.us

Specific written comments on the proposed project will be accepted for 45 days following the date of publication of the Notice of Availability (NOA) in the **Federal Register**. The NOA is expected to be published in the **Federal Register** on May 4, 2018. The publication date of the NOA in the **Federal Register** is the exclusive means for calculating the comment period for a proposed action documented in a DEIS. Those wishing to comment should not rely upon dates or timeframe information provided by any other source. If the comment period ends on a Saturday, Sunday, or Federal holiday, comments will be accepted until the end of the next Federal working day (11:59 pm).

The POW LLA Project is an activity implementing a land management plan and is subject to 36 CFR 218, Subparts A and B. Only individuals or entities who submit timely and specific written comments about this proposed project or activity during this or another public comment period established by the Responsible Official will be eligible to file an objection. Other requirements to be eligible to submit an objection are listed at 36 CFR 218.25(a)(3). Individual members of an entity must submit their own comments in order to have eligibility to object as an individual. It is the responsibility of the sender to ensure timely receipt of any comments submitted. Names and contact information submitted with comments will become part of the public record and may be released under the Freedom of Information Act.

Comments must be within the scope of the proposed action, have a direct relationship to the proposed action, and include supporting reasons for the Responsible Official to consider.

Specific written comments for the Responsible Official may be submitted via mail, other delivery service, email, fax, or in person to:

Delilah Brigham
Project Leader
P.O. Box 19001
1312 Federal Way
Thorne Bay, Alaska 99919

<https://cara.ecosystem-management.org/Public/CommentInput?project=50337>

FAX # 907-828-3309

Phone # 907-828-3232

Business hours for hand delivered comments are Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., excluding holidays. Electronic comments shall be in a format that is compatible with the current version of MS Word.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is an equal opportunity provider and employer.