

# **Prince of Wales Landscape Level Analysis Project**

## **Final Environmental Impact Statement**

### **Appendices C and D**



Forest Service  
Alaska Region

Tongass National Forest  
Thorne Bay Ranger District and  
Craig Ranger District

R10-MB-833h

October 2018

Cover Photo: Prince of Wales Island alpine meadow. Credit: Molly Simonson

# **Prince of Wales Landscape Level Analysis Project Final Environmental Impact Statement**

## **Appendices C and D**

**Appendix C – Present and Reasonably Foreseeable Future Activities  
in the POW LLA Project Area**

**Appendix D – Response to Comments on the Draft EIS**



## Appendix C

### Present and Reasonably Foreseeable Future Activities in the POW LLA Project Area

Present and reasonably foreseeable future projects are cataloged in the *Catalog of Present and Reasonably Foreseeable Future Activities* table (Appendix C).

The following types of activities or projects are either present actions or are reasonably foreseeable future activities and are combined with past projects (represented by the existing condition for each resource) to be considered in the cumulative effects analysis. Activities include timber harvest, thinning, road construction, restoration activities, recreation improvements, and others. Reasonably foreseeable future projects are those with a developed proposed action, or a geographic information system (GIS) layer, or a map displaying a location. There are four future actions that have a timeframe of “unscheduled” or “unknown.” The “unscheduled” timeframes are associated with introduced legislation. These were referred committees and subcommittees for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned. The “unknown” timeframes are associated with the following two mining projects: Niblack and Bokan Dotson-Ridge. These mining projects were included in Appendix C because the owners have recently invested funds into the development of these mines. Jobs estimates have been disclosed in press releases (July 2017 and January 2018) that could be used in the cumulative effects analysis for the socioeconomics resource. Neither of these mining projects have submitted a “plan of operations” for which ground disturbance analysis could be conducted.

Present Activities	Location	Timeframe	Description
Timber Harvest –Tongass National Forest	Throughout the project area – current National Forest System (NFS) lands	2014 - 2018	121 million board feet (MMBF) of both old-growth and young-growth timber is under contract through various timber sales (Big Thorne Stewardship, Good Neighbor Authority (GNA) Kosciusko Young Growth, and various small sales and microsales), and they are expected to be completed before 2024.  2018 updated information: 58 MMBF of both old-growth and young-growth timber is under contract. Approximately 71 MMBF is under contract across the Tongass.
Road Construction for Timber Harvest	Throughout the project area	2014 - 2018	About three miles of NFS roads and 26 miles of temporary roads are under contract through various timber sales (Big Thorne Stewardship, GNA Kosciusko Young Growth, and various small sales).

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Present Activities	Location	Timeframe	Description
Precommercial Thinning (PCT): Timber, Wildlife, and Riparian Emphasis	Young-growth stands Big Thorne Wildlife Improvement, Exchange Cove PCT, Old Franks Creek PCT, Cable Creek PCT, Sarkar Creek PCT	2016 - 2018	<p>There are just over 2,400 acres of PCT currently under contract. Up to an additional 1,000 to 1,500 acres are expected by the end of the fiscal year, including 248 additional wildlife acres funded under the Joint Chief's Initiative and up to 207 acres of riparian and wildlife habitat enhancement funded by retained receipts.</p> <p>2018 updated information: There are about 5,400 acres of PCT currently under contract. Approximately 3,000 acres were awarded this fiscal year, including over 500 additional riparian and wildlife habitat enhancement acres funded under the Joint Chief's Initiative and Retained Receipts.</p>
Timber Harvest – State Lands (non-NFS)	North Hollis Area and North Thorne Bay Area	2018	About 530 acres of old-growth timber with about 10.8 MMBF on State of Alaska, Division of Forestry lands is or will be under contract through various timber sales. About seven miles of road will be constructed in association with these timber sales (February 2018 State of Alaska, Division of Forestry, Five-Year Schedule).
Naukati Bay Road	Naukati – Prince of Wales Island	2017	Upgraded and paved Naukati West Access Road to a two-lane road between the North Prince of Wales (POW) Road and the Naukati Seaplane Float.
Marine Access Facilities	Throughout the project area	2017 - 2018	There are about 49 existing marine access facilities within the project area. Those facilities that have a boat launch, mooring buoy, or dock are used regularly by the public and Forest Service throughout the year – with some sites receiving more use than others, especially during the summer months. Facilities that have a log transfer facility (LTF): there are currently three that are being utilized for decking logs for transport or as a staging area for equipment. Additionally, the State of Alaska is currently operating an LTF on Kosciusko Island and another group of log transfer facilities exists on private lands.

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Present Activities	Location	Timeframe	Description
Cruise Ships	Thorne Bay, Kasaan, and Klawock	2017 - 2018	Small cruise ships that stop in small communities. An average of about 20 visits during the summer months. Average cruise ship size (capacity) is about 40 passengers.
Outfitters and Guides	Throughout the project area	2016 - 2017	The Forest Service has 30 active special use permits, with 6,875 service days issued. There are also 103 black bear hunts authorized to seven guides, and 41 deer hunts authorized to four guides. These special use permits manage the number and distribution of outfitters and guides within the project area.
Dispersed Recreation and Subsistence Gathering	Throughout the project area	2017 - 2018	Dispersed recreation continues to occur in the project area, along with the growth of the tourism industry, the growth of communities, and the development of roads. Gathering of subsistence resources also continues.
Recreation Site Development and Closure	Throughout the project area	2017 - 2018	About 4,000 feet of the Sunnahae Trail will be completed with boardwalk and aggregate replaced. Through the Big Thorne Stewardship, there will be approximately 4,000 lineal feet of boardwalk installed and replaced on the Balls Lake Trail.
Restoration Projects	Throughout the project area	2018	Approximately one mile of stream restoration is planned in the Staney Creek watershed, and another mile is anticipated on Kosciusko Island in the Survey Creek and Trout Creek watersheds.
State of Alaska Hunting and Trapping (includes state subsistence and personal use) and Federal Wildlife Subsistence Regulations	Throughout the project area	2017 - 2018	<p>State regulations manage hunting and trapping activities, set season and bag limits, and may limit hunting and trapping. In addition, a Federal Subsistence Board establishes subsistence regulations for NFS lands within the project area.</p> <p>Federal and State regulations allow the harvest of up to two black bears, up to four bucks (deer), up to one doe (deer), and up to five wolves during the established harvest seasons. Restrictions are based on resident/non-resident and subsistence/non-subsistence hunters.</p>

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<b>Present Activities</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>	<b>Description</b>
State Fishing (includes state subsistence and personal use) and Federal Fishing Subsistence Regulations	Throughout the project area	2017 - 2018	State regulations control fishing and shellfish collecting, set season and bag limits, and may limit the methods that can be used to pursue the resources. In addition, a Federal Subsistence Board establishes subsistence regulations for NFS lands within the project area. State and federal regulations allow the harvest of salmon, char, grayling, and trout within the project area. For daily takes and possession limits, see regulations.
Alaska Mental Health Trust Land Exchange	Various sections in the project area	2018 - 2019	The Alaska Mental Health Land Exchange Act of 2017 expedites and facilitates an equal value exchange of lands of approximately 18,000 non-federal acres for approximately 21,000 federal acres (of which approximately 12,350 are within the project area). The non-federal acres to be exchanged are outside of the project area.

<b>Reasonably Foreseeable Future Activities</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>	<b>Description</b>
Big Thorne Project Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)	From Steelhead Creek North to Control Lake, East over to Thorne Bay, North to Luck Lake	2019 - 2032	872 acres of clearcut harvest and 420 acres of uneven-aged (helicopter) harvest remain available and are not yet committed under contract.  2018 updated information: 863 acres of clearcut harvest and 78 acres of uneven-aged (helicopter) harvest remain available and are not yet committed under contract.
Small Timber Sales (2018 Tongass National Forest Five-Year Schedule)	Throughout the project area	2018 - 2022	Current five-year sale schedule indicated that 17.8 MMBF would be made available under other NEPA decisions. Approximately 100 acres per year average.  2018 updated information: About 8.4 MMBF has been offered with 9.4 remaining.



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Reasonably Foreseeable Future Activities	Location	Timeframe	Description
Microsales	Throughout the project area	Ongoing	<p>Small roadside salvage sales less than 50 thousand board feet (MBF) are ongoing as they become available under the Roadside Salvage Environmental Assessment (EA).</p> <p>Single-tree selection approximate acreage is greater than ten acres per year.</p>
State of Alaska Division of Forestry Projected Future Harvest	State Lands Division of Forestry within the project area	2019 - 2032	<p>About 6,578 acres of old-growth and young-growth timber with about 88.6 MMBF on State of Alaska, Division of Forestry lands is planned to be under contract through various timber sales in the next five years. About 31.4 miles of road may be constructed in association with these timber sales (February 2018 State of Alaska Five-Year Schedule).</p> <p>Average of 1,181 acres annually at 15 MBF/acre; 17,720 acres projected from years 1-15.</p> <p>2018 updated information: 98.6 MMBF of old-growth and young-growth (April 2018 State of Alaska, Division of Forestry Five-Year Schedule).</p>
Alaska Mental Health Trust Projected Future Harvest	Alaska Mental Health Trust Lands within the project area	2018 - 2032	<p>101 MMBF from July 2017 All Lands Five-Year Schedule.</p> <p>Total projected harvest of exchange lands during years 1-15: 4,695 acres.</p> <p>Total productive old-growth (POG) acreage within project area<sup>1</sup>: 4,695 acres.</p> <p>2018 updated information: The Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority (AMHTA) has published the following on their webpage (<a href="https://alaskamentalhealthtrust.org/trust-land-office/forestry/">https://alaskamentalhealthtrust.org/trust-land-office/forestry/</a>), State of AK public notices and pending contract: “The Trust Land Office is currently preparing a negotiated timber sale for 100-million-board-feet of old growth timber in the Naukati area located on Prince of Wales</p>

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Reasonably Foreseeable Future Activities	Location	Timeframe	Description
			Island. The proposed sale is composed of timber on lands to be acquired through the land exchange with the U.S. Forest Service (USFS). The sale will be to a local operator and assist in providing resources to help maintain a viable timber industry in Southeast Alaska. The 10-year sale is expected to provide about \$15 million to the Trust,” but they listed 85 MMBF of old-growth and young-growth timber in the August 2018 Land Owners group Five-Year Schedule.
University of Alaska Trust Projected Future Harvest	University of Alaska Trust Lands within the project area	2018 - 2032	<p>23.5 MMBF from July 2017 All Lands Five-Year Schedule.</p> <p>Average of 313 acres/year, assuming 15 MBF/acre; 4,695 acres projected from years 1-15.</p> <p>Total POG acreage<sup>1</sup> within the University of Alaska Trust’s ownership within the project area is unknown, due to it not being identified within the GIS data used for this analysis. The Trust may not, in fact, own the acreage stated above; however, it is considered a reasonable assumption for the purpose of analyzing maximum cumulative effects of the project.</p> <p>2018 updated information: 22 MMBF of old-growth and young-growth timber, from August 2018 Land Owners Group.</p>
All Native Corporation Projected Future Harvest	All Native Corporation lands within the project area	2018 - 2032	<p>Average of 4,000 acres/year, assuming 15 MBF/acre; 60,000 acres projected from years 1-15.</p> <p>Total POG acreage within project area<sup>1</sup>: 60,596 acres.</p> <p>2018 updated information: 314 MMBF of old-growth and young-growth timber from the August 2018 Land Owners Group Five-Year schedule.</p>

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<b>Reasonably Foreseeable Future Activities</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>	<b>Description</b>
New Road Construction – Other Ownerships	All non-(NFS) lands within the project area	2018 - 2032	Approximate average of one mile per 179 acres of old-growth harvest; 566 miles of new road constructed on non-FS lands from years 1-15.
Young-Growth Commercial Harvest on Other Ownerships	Young-growth stands approaching commercial age class (60) during project timeline	2018 - 2032	Approximately 2,552 acres/year; total of 38,290 acres from years 1-15.
Precommercial Thinning: Timber, Wildlife, and Riparian Emphasis	Young-growth stands throughout project area <25 years old	2018 - 2032	Approximately 2,500 acres per year of PCT is expected to be treated. This includes acres of precommercial young-growth on Kosciusko, Heceta, and Suemez Islands. The majority of acres treated will be for timber emphasis, but wildlife and riparian emphasis treatments will also occur.
Planting and/or Interplanting	Harvested stands throughout project area	2020 - 2032	Currently 145 acres in the Camel Back Timber Sale are scheduled to be interplanted with approximately 10,225 Alaska yellow-cedar and 2,080 western redcedar plug+1 seedlings in 2020. Up to 200 acres of cedar interplanting may occur every two to three years.
Cone Collection	Areas within the project area	2018 - 2032	Cone collection may occur during good cone crop years to maintain a viable seed cache in order to support any future reforestation needs. Overall, anticipated cone collection would be less than 100 bushels of clean cone per species.
Neck Lake Road Reconstruction: NPOWI Highway to Whale Pass	Neck Lake and Whale Pass	Ongoing – no construction date set	This project is under the jurisdiction of Western Federal Highways and Alaska Department of Transportation. Reconstruct approximately 7.9 miles of Neck Lake Road (South Whale Pass Road) to provide a narrow two lane paved road. Project begins at the junction with NPOWI Highway and ends at the Whale Pass seaplane terminal and boat launch ramp. Project may be split into two segments: NPOWI Highway to Marine Access Facility Junction, and Marine Access Facility Junction to Whale

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Reasonably Foreseeable Future Activities	Location	Timeframe	Description
			Pass. Major work items include clearing, grading, drainage, sub-excavation, base, paving, bridge and culvert replacement, high reflectivity signage, installation of safety guardrail systems, revegetation, and slope stabilization. This project is currently in the design phase.
Road Maintenance	Throughout the project area	Ongoing	Maintenance of Level 2 and 3 roads within project area. Maintenance can include bridge repair, cleaning and inspections, bridge replacement, road ditching, culvert cleaning or replacement, road surface repair and blading, brushing right-of-way.
Personal Use Firewood	Throughout the project area	Ongoing	Individuals use the area that does not require a permit for firewood removal. 36 CFR 223.10 limits the amount of personal use available to individuals, in forms other than sawtimber, at 25 cords per year.
Commercial Firewood Permits	Throughout the project area	Ongoing	Permits are required for commercial firewood use. Recently closed timber sales and associated landings are common locations for commercial firewood permits.
Free-Use Timber Harvest on NFS lands	Throughout the project area	Ongoing	Free-use permits and other special forest products permits. Personal use permits for sawtimber are expected to be issued each year in the project area. Each permit is for up to ten MBF and harvest usually occurs on up to two acres per permit.
Mineral Materials	Throughout the project area	Ongoing	New and existing mineral materials sources will be developed. Stone, crushed rock, gravel and other saleable materials will be used for road building, maintenance, and other purposes. Materials may be used by the Forest Service or sold to private parties.
Cruise Ships	Thorne Bay, Kasaan, and Klawock	Ongoing	Small cruise ships that stop in communities may continue visits. It is estimated that the average of about 20 visits during the summer months would continue. Average cruise ship capacity is about 40 passengers.

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Reasonably Foreseeable Future Activities	Location	Timeframe	Description
Dispersed Recreation and Subsistence Gathering	Throughout the project area	Ongoing	Dispersed recreation would continue to occur in the project area along with the growth of the tourism industry, the growth of communities, and the development of roads. Gathering of subsistence resources would also continue.
Schools	Throughout the project area	Ongoing	Some schools, in the smallest communities, will continue an open/close-cycle-based limited enrollments.
Outfitters and Guides	Throughout the project area	Ongoing	Outfitter and guide services may include guided hunts or trapping, camping, fishing, cross country skiing, hiking, or other commercial recreational activities. Outfitter and guide services are generally provided within a half-mile inland of the shoreline but extend further for some activities (e.g. bear hunting, canoeing, freshwater fishing). The Prince of Wales Outfitter and Guide Management Plan allocates 85,194 service days annually for outfitter and guide use on the POW districts, allocates 25% of the recreation visitor capacity (320,979 service days) to guided use across all areas with two exceptions. Outfitter and guide use will be encouraged at Dog Salmon Fishpass and Beaver Falls Trail by providing an allocation of 75% to outfitters and guides in these areas because the sites are hardened and designed for higher use numbers. No more than 40 service days total per area will be allocated to outfitters or guides during the fall hunting season.
Clark Bay Ferry Terminal and Seaplane Float Expanded Parking Project	Hollis – Prince of Wales Island	Summer 2018	Project completed in 2018. This project constructed approximately 50 additional parking spaces near the Clark Bay Ferry Terminal and Seaplane Float to alleviate safety concerns from vehicles parking along the highway due to inadequate existing parking. State of Alaska Project Need ID: 28949

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Reasonably Foreseeable Future Activities	Location	Timeframe	Description
Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) Admiralty Island Land Exchange Finalization Act of 2017 and the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Improvement Act of 2017	Cholmondeley Sound between Lancaster Cove and Kitkun Bay on Prince of Wales Island	Not scheduled	<p>On June 29, 2017, the ANCSA Admiralty Island Land Exchange Finalization Act of 2017 (S. 1484) and the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Improvement Act of 2017 (S. 1481) were introduced in the U.S. Senate. These propose a land exchange between the Sealaska Corporation (Sealaska) and the Forest Service. The Forest Service is acquiring subsurface estate (outside of the project area) in exchange for surface (5,145 acres) and subsurface estate (8,872 acres) from Sealaska Corporation at Kitkun Bay and Lancaster Cove on Prince of Wales Island. The associated map entitled “Sealaska Land Exchange —U.S. Forest Service Lands” (dated March 10, 2016) provides a way to analyze potential effects should this land exchange be authorized through legislation.</p> <p>7,294 acres of productive old-growth are present within the area covered under this exchange. Approximately 41 miles of new road construction would be associated with harvesting these acres.</p> <p>This legislation has not become law.</p>
State National Forest Management Act of 2017	Throughout the project area	Not Scheduled	<p>The State National Forest Management Act of 2017 (H.R. 232) was introduced in January 2017. This bill authorizes states to select and acquire certain NFS lands to be managed and operated by the state for timber production, other purposes under the laws of the state, and for other purposes.</p> <p>State of Alaska officials and interested parties have advocated for the establishment of an additional Alaska State Forest to be managed in order to provide income for state government programs. The Alaska Department of Natural Resources has a preliminary GIS layer depicting preferred areas totaling two million acres throughout Southeast Alaska, which would require a</p>

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Reasonably Foreseeable Future Activities	Location	Timeframe	Description
			<p>transfer of areas of Tongass NFS lands to the State of Alaska.</p> <p>This preliminary GIS layer provides a way to analyze potential effects if this land conveyance is authorized through legislation.</p> <p>This legislation has not become law.</p>
Niblack	Moir Sound – Prince of Wales Island	Unknown	<p>Niblack Project is a potential polymetallic mine. Developers estimate 200 employees. In July 2017 Heatherdale Resources Ltd. issued a news release that stated it completed a private placement for proceeds of \$135,000 that will be used to advance the Niblack Project. There is currently no surface-disturbing activity on NFS lands and no foreseeable anticipated disturbance to NFS lands at this time.</p>
Bokan Dotson-Ridge Rare Earth Project	Kendrick Bay – Prince of Wales Island	Unknown	<p>Ucore Rare Metals, Inc. announced on January 30, 2018, that Ketchikan, Alaska would be the premier location for its first U.S.-based Strategic Metals Complex. Engineering and product specification criteria are being initiated to target rare earth by-products and primary concentrates from non-Chinese sourced projects world-wide. The intent is also to maintain the processing flexibility and capacity to accommodate ore concentrate from the Bokan-Dotson Ridge project, if that project has been developed. The Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority (AIDEA) received legislative authority (in 2014) for a \$145 million financing package for the future development of the Bokan-Dotson Ridge mine and related processing facilities. There is currently no surface-disturbing activity on NFS lands and no foreseeable anticipated disturbance to NFS lands at this time.</p>

1 – Total POG (productive old-growth) within other ownerships has been used by some resources to calculate the maximum effect of timber harvest on non-NFS lands within the project area

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The information used to create this table is from the sources listed below:

- Prince of Wales Outfitter and Guide Management Plan – dated August 2012
- Federal Subsistence Management Regulations for the Harvest of Fish and Shellfish on Federal Public Lands and Waters in Alaska Effective: April 1, 2017 - March 31, 2019
- Federal Subsistence Management Regulations for the Harvest of Wildlife on Federal Public Lands and Waters in Alaska Effective: June 1, 2016 - June 30, 2018
- State of Alaska Department of Natural Resources, Division of Forestry, Southeast Area Office: Five-Year Schedule of Timber Sales – dated February 13, 2018
- All Lands Meeting Five-Year Schedule Spreadsheet Summary of Proposed Timber Volume by Land Owners – dated July 13, 2017
- Tongass National Forest Five-Year Schedule – dated January 31, 2018
- Congress.gov - ANCSA Admiralty Island Land Exchange Finalization Act of 2017 (S. 1484)
- Congress.gov - Alaska Native Claims Settlement Improvement Act of 2017 (S. 1481)
- Congress.gov - State National Forest Management Act of 2017 (H.R. 232)
- Press Release: Ucore Rare Metals, Inc. – dated January 30, 2018
- Press Release: Heatherdale Resources Ltd. – dated July 2017
- Existing Tongass National Forest GIS Layers

2018 Updated Information was created from the sources listed below:

- State of Alaska Department of Natural Resources, Division of Forestry, Southeast Area Office: Five-Year Schedule of Timber Sales – dated April 17, 2018
- Land Owners Group Five-Year Schedule Spreadsheet Summary of Proposed Timber Volume by Land Owners – dated August 7, 2018
- Big Thorne Remaining Volume – dated October 10, 2018 – Reynolds, USFS internal document
- FY 18 Timber Forest Service Inventory – dated September 21, 2018
- Tongass National Forest Five-Year Schedule FY2018-2023 – dated January 31, 2018