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To: Rayonier Cleanup Site Stakeholders
From: Robbie Mantooth, chairperson, Friends of Ennis Creek
Subject: Rayonier Upland Remedial Investigation

The Rayonier Upland Remedial Investigation Report is such a highly technical report that I and most other lay people must depend on those with appropriate technical expertise to analyze and critique it. But even scientific data can be interpreted differently, so I hope the DOE will give careful consideration to such comments as those from the Olympic Environmental Council and its consultants as well as from the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe and Rayonier.

The MCTA process has been long and frustrating for everyone, but we all must stay focused on the most important goal: making sure the site does not harm public health, in the long-term as well as the more immediate future. We must not let the rush to get the process behind us keep needed analysis of data and examination of possible “hot spots” from happening, if Olympic Environmental Council’s information is correct.

The Olympic Environmental Council also has questioned Rayonier’s descriptions of the site as being too vague. Regardless of the level of contamination determined, I hope the Department of Ecology will urge all stakeholders to use the most specific possible terms. It is essential for the public to have confidence in the process, and I believe objective terms will add to the needed credibility.

As my previous comments have emphasized, one of the concerns of greatest interest to me is the effect on salmon habitat in Ennis Creek and in the Strait of Juan de Fuca of the millsite land as it now exists and as it will be following cleanup. Rayonier isn’t responsible for all the problems related to the decline of fish populations in Ennis Creek, and its remediation work to date deserves commendation. In the process of determining a cleanup plan, all stakeholders need to continue to make sure salmon habitat receives the emphasis it deserves.

Thank you for considering my comments.