

**From:** Jim Mantooth <[ennisarbor@olypen.com](mailto:ennisarbor@olypen.com)>  
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**To:** Abbett, Marian L. (ECY) <[MABB461@ECY.WA.GOV](mailto:MABB461@ECY.WA.GOV)>  
**Cc:** Sixkiller, Casey (ECY) <[csix461@ECY.WA.GOV](mailto:csix461@ECY.WA.GOV)>  
**Subject:** Comments for Rayonier mill property cleanup

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There are many reasons I am favoring a Level 5 cleanup, but starting with the most important:

1. Level 5 is the only one that offers a complete cleanup, not leaving any toxic soils on site. That is most important because only that level of cleanup would allow a restoration of the complex ecosystem of Ennis Creek, which had evolved during thousands of years before it was destroyed by industrialization, lastly by Rayonier. I am referring to a snow-fed meandering stream, with a large estuary of brackish water, sheltering large trees sustaining and renewing a very large salmon population. A Klallam village was at the mouth of Ennis Creek, living in harmony with the fish and other wildlife, until the Tribal people were removed by colonization and industrialization. The last disturbance, the Rayonier mill, was built squarely on top of Ennis Creek and its estuary, along with fill dirt extending across the beach and onto a pier of thousands of creosote pilings (creosote is toxic to fish). The stream was armored and moved to the east side of its estuary, which was then paved with asphalt to provide a parking lot for the hundreds of Rayonier employees. Since the mill was built on top of the entirety of the Ennis Creek ecosystem, very little would be left over to develop after a complete cleanup and restoration. A complete cleanup and restoration should include removing the asphalt parking lot plus removing the fill covering the historic beach and estuary. My point is that a complete cleanup is necessary before a complete restoration can start. Meanwhile, after waiting more than 25 years for a complete cleanup, the salmon and steelhead on Ennis Creek are in danger of becoming extinct. On our Conservation Easement of Ennis Creek, located about a mile upstream from the mouth, we have recently stopped seeing the small salmon preparing to move downstream. They need to acclimatize and grow in brackish water before entering the salt water. There is no decent estuary for this to happen. Spawning can happen on our land and farther upstream. A huge amount of time and money is being spent now on removing partial blockages at Highway 101 and north to the Rayonier property. But that will be wasted without a complete cleanup and restoration of the estuary and the

surrounding ecosystem. I think this restoration should be done by the Lower Elwha Clallam Tribe Fisheries, mostly because of their sensitive gravesites under the parking lot, but also because of the sensitive expertise shown when they restored the stream on our property. A generous — and good PR — move by Rayonier would be to transfer ownership of the property to the tribe after the complete cleanup.

2. The remaining reasons for a complete cleanup are well known and covered already by many respondents: Our community does not want a toxic waste site left on our waterfront. Our community wants to be able to safely be on the property and safely consume fish from our harbor. Our community wants to be proud of the restored ecosystem, similar to our pride in the post dam removal Elwha River. It just seems to be the right thing to do. Then Rayonier could share the pride in a job well done.

Jim Mantooth

2238 E. Lindberg Rd.

Port Angeles, WA 98362

Co-founder, Friends of Ennis Creek