

Pat Willits

I am writing as a long-time resident of Port Angeles who has been waiting for 28 years for Rayonier to clean up the toxic waste it left behind when it closed its mill on our waterfront. I have also been waiting all this time for the Department of Ecology to make them do it. Today I want to comment on the Draft Interim Action Plan.

SL-5 is the only solution to the problem. I can't think why anybody would believe that piling up all the contaminated soil and marine sediments 5 feet deep over 10 acres of shoreline and then putting ANY kind of a cap on it in that location is a serious solution to the problem. That doesn't take into consideration sea level rise, tsunami, perforation/degradation of the cap, or leaching of toxins into the underlying soil. All contaminants must be removed and carried off-site. This must include removal of some 4000 creosote-treated pilings.

Restoration of the Ennis Creek estuary through removal of the Rayonier mill pavement must be included as part of the cleanup. Without the previously-existing salt marsh where the freshwater of Ennis Creek meets the salt water of Port Angeles Harbor, the historic salmonid populations of the creek have no chance of recovery. It does not appear that the health of Ennis Creek was considered in the cost-benefit analysis that established the various options SL 1-5.

Thank you for listening. Please do the right thing. That is the mandate of the Washington Department of Ecology.