

Ann Soule

Thank you for this opportunity to provide public input to the Rayonier Mill cleanup of pollution it caused over decades of operation. I have lived in Sequim since 1991 and remember when the mill closed. The big question was would the corporation be required to clean up the pollution they left behind, or not. Unfortunately, more decades have passed and we're finally asked to provide input and potentially agree to allowing them not to do so.

I am in agreement with the Port Angeles City Council, Friends of Ennis Creek, the local Surfrider chapter, and members like myself of the Clallam Marine Resources Committee: option SL-5 must be chosen.

There is no excuse not to finish the "cleanup" job with actual, permanent cleanup. I have learned that the risk from capping pollutants in the sediment under the marine shoreline is high given the storms and tsunami risk our area faces. Any failure of the cap in the future and the cost rests on taxpayers, especially local: residents and visitors, lost economic opportunity, and negative impacts on our fragile nearshore and anadromous animals, fish, and plants. I am not convinced these potential costs have been fully assessed.

I urge all parties to accept the responsibility of complete cleanup at the Rayonier site by selecting option SL-5. That plan is a good one and should be implemented as soon as possible for the benefit of us all, and to avoid continuing the debate and cost of endless deliberation. Thank you for listening.