

When will the Forest Service do its own research?

The Forest Service rubber-stamped the Navy's slipshod, self-serving [2014 Environmental Assessment](#) (EA) without bothering to check whether it is true or accurate. For example, the EA dismisses potential impacts on amphibians and reptiles with the following sentence: "The proposed activities do not occur on marshes or in meadows; therefore, it is highly unlikely that amphibians or reptiles would occur in the project area." (part. 3.2-6) A similar statement dismisses the possibility of amphibians or reptiles occurring on "disturbed areas" such as roadside pull-outs where mobile transmitters would operate.

As any third-grader can attest and as the Forest Service presumably is aware, the National Forests at issue are all designated as temperate rain forest, which means forests that are damp and wet during most of the year, and are prime habitat for amphibians such as frogs, newts, and salamanders, throughout the forest and far from "marshes and meadows." Furthermore, both amphibians and reptiles (e.g., snakes and lizards) often frequent cleared or "disturbed" areas. Dismissing amphibians and reptiles from consideration is misleading and unlawful, because amphibians are especially sensitive to electromagnetic radiation, particularly in their larval stages. Such warping of facts renders the entire Environmental Assessment suspect. It should be scrapped or heavily revised, and this time the public should be notified about the comment period.