



*Keeping the WILD in  
Washington since 1979!*

305 N. 83<sup>rd</sup> Street  
Seattle, WA 98103  
206-633-1992  
[www.wawild.org](http://www.wawild.org)  
[info@wawild.org](mailto:info@wawild.org)

September 9, 2016

Forest Supervisor Jamie Kingsbury  
Objection Reviewing Officer  
Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest  
Attn. 1570 Appeals and Objections  
2930 Wetmore Ave.  
Everett, 98201

Sent via electronic email to: [objections-pnw-mtbaker-snoqualmie@fs.fed.us](mailto:objections-pnw-mtbaker-snoqualmie@fs.fed.us)

**Re: OBJECTION - Nooksack River Access and Travel Management Project**

To Forest Supervisor Jamie Kingsbury:

Washington Wild received notice of the U.S. Forest Service's decision to select Modified Alternative B, a combination of the alternatives analyzed in the North Fork Nooksack Access and Travel Management Project Environmental Assessment (EA). We are registering our objection to that decision. The lead objector's name, address, and telephone number:

Tom Uniack  
Washington Wild  
305 North 83<sup>rd</sup> Street  
Seattle, WA 98103  
(206) 633-992  
[tom@wawild.org](mailto:tom@wawild.org)

Washington Wild is a statewide 501(c)3 nonprofit organization focused on protecting wild lands and waters in Washington State through advocacy, education and civic engagement. Throughout Washington State we draw from a membership core of more than 1,500 and an advocacy base of more than 7,000 supporters. Founded in 1979 Washington Wild has played an invaluable role in permanently protecting nearly three million acres of Wilderness throughout Washington State while also preserving and enhancing recreational access. Our success comes from our flexible, pragmatic approach, and ability to form coalitions with diverse allies. We value and seek out a broad array of perspectives, frequently partnering with non-traditional stakeholders and bipartisan voices. Coalition building is a major part of our success. By working alongside local businesses, religious leaders, recreation enthusiasts, sportsmen, local elected officials, other conservation organizations, among others, we are able to create a grassroots mobilization of environmentally informed and proactive citizens.

Washington Wild submitted a joint scoping comment letter signed by 14 conservation and recreation organizations on September 17, 2015, attended a stakeholder meeting organized by the Forest Service in Everett on January 26, 2016 and submitted a joint comment letter signed by 18 conservation and recreation organizations on the Draft Environmental Assessment for the Nooksack ATM project on March 6, 2016. Washington Wild has a strong interest in both prioritizing the maintenance of key recreational access routes

while also identifying old, decaying logging roads that no longer provide access and pose aquatic risks to the watershed for decommissioning.

While we commend the agency's decision to maximize road decommissioning in the modified Alternative B selected in the decision notice, we are concerned with the decision to temporarily or permanently close a handful of roads accessing important recreational infrastructure (i.e., trails, campgrounds, etc.). In Table 1 of pg. 1 of the decision notice it lists a number of roads for closure that provide access to recreational opportunities including;

- **FS 3100** (Canyon Creek Road) which provides access to Damfino Lakes Trailhead including access to Boundary Way and Canyon Ridge Trails – hiking, equestrian, mountain biking, paddling
- **FS 3200** (Hannegan Road) which provides access to road end including Hannegan Pass and Goat Mountain Trails – hiking, alpine climbing, nordic skiing, equestrian
- **FS 3300** (Wells Creek Road) which provides access to Cougar Divide Trail – hiking
- **FS 3400** (Nooksack Cirque Road) which provides access to the Nooksack Cirque Trailhead – hiking, alpine climbing

These roads were listed in Section 4 of our comments on the Draft EA as providing access to important recreational infrastructure. As such we asked that they be prioritized for maintenance as part of the ATM. The proposed closures of these roads in the final decision are a concern.

Thanks you for the opportunity to register this objection and please contact me to discuss any remedies with respect to preserving the recreational access to these highlighted trails.

Sincerely,

Tom Uniack  
Executive Director