Data Submitted (UTC 11): 2/15/2013 12:00:00 AM
First name: Sharon
Last name: Dillon
Organization: Skagit County Board of Commissioners
Title: Chair, Commissioners
Comments:

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February 15, 2013

Jennifer Eberlien
Forest Supervisor, Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest
293o WetmoreAve., Suite 3A
Everett, WA 98201

Re: Finny Project

Dear Ms. Eberlien:
Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the environmental analysis (EA) for the Finny Adaptive Management Area (AMA) Project. We are pleased to see this action in the Finny AMA come forward as part of the NW Forest Plan. We understand that this should be an opportunity to test thinning techniques in the late successional reserve (LSR) to help promote habitat forboth the Northern Spotted Owl and the marbled murrelet as well as accelerate the timeframe for creating older growth patterns. It was unfortunate that new stands have not been created within the Federal lands for quite some time now, which as we all know provides ecological diversþ and value to the whole forest ecosystem as well as meets other stated goals. We look forward to seeing if the projected outcomes for this proposed project will prevail. We are also pleased to finally see a harvest that will hopefuþ be substantive enough to produce economic returns, something that has been lacking for a far too long period of time.
We are supporting the Preferred Alternative (Proposed Action z) and believe a thorough environmental analysis has been completed to support this action. To pursue Alternative r and do nothing simply does not meet the goals, objectives or needs of the project area. Even with Alternative z we believe there may be an error of caution with the limited amount of thinning that has been proposed. We believe more goals could be met, including promoting better forest health, treatments for forest fire protection, as well as expanding the already stated goals if additional thinning were to take place. However, we know this is a step in the right direction and applaud the Mt. Baker Snoqualmie National Forest stafffor moving a project forward in the Finny AMA. As our largest land owner in Skagit County, we hope to work together in promoting the multiple goals that the USFS strides to obtain.
Thank you for your consideration of our comments and we wish you success with this project.
Respectfully submitted,

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