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Comments: I am opposed to the U.S. Forest Service's proposed logging and timber harvest along the North Fork Nooksack River and its tributaries adjacent to the Mount Baker Scenic Byway.

A thorough Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) must first be completed. Due to the wide-ranging scale of logging described in this proposal, it represents a radical departure from previous Forest Service management direction. Because of its controversial nature, it has the potential for many unforeseen negative impacts on local communities of all kinds. Our National Forest should be allowed to mature naturally for carbon capture and source of critical clean water. The area contains sensitive wildlife habitat and should not be disturbed in such a way as to threaten the stability of this at-risk populations.

In the face of extensive current clearcutting operations on private and state timberlands nearby, the Forest Service must consider the appropriate scale and prioritize the proper level of natural resource extraction for this kind of area.

Beyond just the more localized impacts, logging these forests has the possibility to defeat critical carbon sequestration potential for many decades to come. The Forest Service must fully weigh the critical importance of this National Forest for reducing the existential dangers of climate change to both our regional ecosystems, as well as regional human communities.

Sincerely,