

Dear District Ranger Uloth,

My name is Caleb Savage, and I am writing in regards to the NorthFork Nooksack clearcutting proposal. As a new resident of Whatcom County, I have already found a deep personal connection to the various watersheds of the surrounding area. After reviewing the North Fork Nooksack Vegetation Management proposal I strongly believe that not only is Alternative 1 an unacceptable choice but it is also an inhumane choice in this current era. I went to school for Parks, Recreation, and Tourism and through my education I also took many forestry management courses learning that there are other viable options to have sustainable forestry when looking at the health of an ecosystem. Your proposal of clearcutting for the North Fork Nooksack Vegetation Management should not happen for the following reasons:

- 1.) *Clearcutting negatively affects biodiversity in any ecosystem:* When you take away any part of a forest, it will adversely change the environment for any species that are calling that place home. Not simply major keystone species, but flora as well that are interconnected in a forest. Even nurse logs, and down logs on the forest floor provide critical habitat for a wide range of species.
- 2.) *Clearcutting significantly degrades water quality which then destroys salmon habitat:* Across our state in the past several decades the salmon population has continued to decline. Clearcutting is another problem that adds to the decline. When clearcut an adjacent river feels the effect through changes in water temperature, pH levels, and loss of nutrients to the river ecosystem. Alternative 1 would result in a negative impact on all salmon species.
- 3.) *Clearcutting negatively impacts ecotourism:* As an avid whitewater enthusiast I intend to take many trips floating down the Nooksack River. Clearcutting this section could result in change of the water flow throughout the year, which would affect whitewater enthusiasts like myself. Also the noise pollution of clearcutting would negatively impact hikers trying to get some solitude out along the Nooksack River.

Before moving on with this project an Environmental Impact Statement needs to happen. This has to happen and be released to the public to show how this project and also future projects will not destroy habitat to protected species like the salmon, and the marbled murrelet which call this place home. Also the original stewards of this land the Lummi Nation requested an EIS, which should provide more than probable cause to release an EIS on this project. The US Forest Service needs to look at indigenous people as they are the protectors of this land and have been for thousands of years.

Thank you kindly for taking the time to read and consider my comments for this project. Please make the right and humane decision that protects the people, trees, rivers, and animals that live in the

Nooksack River watershed. The USFS needs to put an end to clearcutting, conduct an EIS, and do not choose Alternative 1 for this management project.

Best regards,

Caleb Savage