



## Skagit County Board of Commissioners

Ron Wesen, First District

Peter Browning, Second District

Lisa Janicki, Third District

May 20, 2022

Gretchen Smith  
Darington District Ranger  
Mt Baker Snoqualmie National Forest USFS

RE: North Fork Stillaguamish Landscape Project Scoping

Dear Ms. Smith,

We would like to thank you for the opportunity to comment on the North Fork Stillaguamish Landscape Project. As per the Good Neighbor Authority with Washington State and the fact that 97% of the project boundary is within Skagit County and therefore, potentially significantly impacting Skagit County, we would like for the USFS to take the following into consideration as you scope the project: active forest management to promote healthy and productive forests for harvests, endangered species including salmon, carbon sequestration and storage, tribal hunting and gathering and other cultural activities, recreation, impacts of wildfires, and the rural communities that depend on the forests for jobs and community economy.

Without sound forest management our concerns for this project cannot be met. It is unfortunate that there have been delays to forest management and some of the goals have fallen behind. We fully support active management to get back on schedule and ask that you take our concerns into consideration.


Without sound forest management a devastating rippling effect will occur affecting the forests and both human and wildlife communities. A wildfire would be at the root of that devastation. With the present high fuel load and increased dryness, a fire is inevitable. It is only a matter of time before a devastating event will hit the Mount Baker Snoqualmie Forests as it has in the past in Western Washington. The fire will destroy the benefits the trees and forest provide as habitat, for recreation, family-wage jobs, and in the carbon cycle (studies show that our forests are far better than any other source for building materials regarding the carbon footprint from a sequestering, storage, and leakage standpoint).

We fully appreciate the Multiple Use Sustained Act and that the forests are to be administrated for a wide range of purposes including the requirement to produce sustained yields of products and services. If forest management operations are incorporated with timelines, these obligations and our concerns can be met.

Thank you again for this opportunity and we look forward to reviewing and commenting on the Draft EIS and subsequent documents as they come forward.

Most Sincerely,

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
SKAGIT COUNTY, WASHINGTON**

  
Peter Browning, Chair

  
Ron Wesen, Commissioner

  
Lisa Janicki, Commissioner