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The Tulalip Tribes are federally recognized successors in interest to the Snohomish, Snoqualmie, Skykomish, and other allied tribes and bands signatory to the Treaty of Point Elliott.

Region 6 Regional Forester
Pacific Northwest Region, USDA Forest Service
ATTN: 1750/1950 Objections
1220 SW 3rd Ave
Portland, OR 97204

RE: North Fork Stillaguamish Landscape Analysis Draft Decision

May 30, 2023

To whom it may concern,

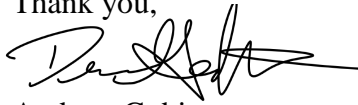
The Tulalip Tribes appreciates the opportunity to object to the *North Fork Stillaguamish Landscape Analysis Draft Decision*. As you know, the Tulalip Tribes of Washington is a federally recognized sovereign Indian government, successor in interest to the Snohomish, Snoqualmie, and Skykomish tribes as well as other allied tribes and bands signatory to the 1855 Treaty of Point Elliott. Pursuant to the treaty, we have reserved rights and authority as co-managers throughout the Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest (MBS), including the Darrington Ranger District and the entirety of the project area. Under Article 5 of the treaty, we reserved our rights to continue to fish in all usual and accustomed places, and to hunt and gather on all open and unclaimed lands, which includes public forest lands. The treaty also created a fiduciary relationship between the United States and the signatory tribes, which established the United States to serve as our trustee, including an obligation to manage the land in a way that protects and sustains the resources and access on which our treaty and cultural rights depend.

We believe the USFS needs to be using the relatively rare designation of “Adaptive Management Areas” on the forest for management flexibility to better meet some of the tribal needs for plant, wildlife and cultural resources and habitat, in support of treaty resources. Since so much of the MBS is in designated wilderness and LSR status where management actions in this EA would be more challenging, where doable, this project should encourage a more resilient, mosaic landscape of complex and diverse stands that support greater biodiversity generally. For example, while forest thinning is outlined, the selected alternative as modified over-emphasizes old growth forests, even though not all of the land within the planning unit is LSR-designated. We would like to see more attention to early seral stages and more and larger connected forest openings to support elk and deer forage and movement, and the future forest-wide elk recovery

plan. That, together with huckleberry enhancement, would better support treaty rights and resources across the landscape.

We have included our previous comments with our objection. If you wish to discuss this letter or any of our comments further, please contact our Tulalip-MBS MOA Administrator Libby Nelson (360) 716-4639, or myself (360) 716-4589.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andrew Gobin', with a stylized, flowing script.

Andrew Gobin
Treaty Rights Policy Analyst
Tulalip Tribes