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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Please do not damage watershed in the North Fork of the Nooksack River.

When Reagan was president logging limitations and guidelines were removed and the US logged out. The damage to the ecosystem and rivers was horrible. Most of the wood went as raw lumber to Asia. American mills lost work due to the wood leaving the US.

In the following years, American workers had fewer logging jobs and mill work was reduced to almost nothing. Many US mills went out of business.

In today's situation, we have heavier rains and crazy weather. This is dangerous for hillsides after the logging is done.

I grew up in a logging family in another state. I was trimming timber with a chainsaw at about age 14. I drove a log truck. My family had a decent size piece of land that we logged. We practiced sustainable practices. We planned when and where to cut, and which trees to cut. It does not take much more. We also worked for other outfits cutting or transporting their wood on a contract basis. I am familiar with forests and what I consider to be proper forest practices.

As an insider, and history student, I can honestly say that the push to clear cut is not so much an economic idea, but a ideological one. As a former tree farmer, I know that maintaining a forest to produce a steady amount of timber over a period of years is not difficult or expensive. In fact, our income was higher than most because we planned to maintain the forest in a most natural way.

I am not against harvesting timber. In fact, I want some of that wood! What I stand firmly against is the clearcutting of forests, and practices that harm the quality of the environment, rivers, salmon and other living things.

On a side note, many of our Whatcom County businesses are based on skiers, hikers, fishermen, and boaters coming here to enjoy our rivers and forests. Giving too many clear cuts in one area harms that. It harms the economy of the small businesses who depend on travelers and sportsmen and women who pay lots of money to come here to enjoy what we have.

Please do not destroy that.

Thanks,

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