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Comments: The towns along Highway 542 are entirely dependent on tourism. People come to Maple Falls, Glacier, and the Mt. Baker ski area because of the beautiful landscapes. The proposed scale of logging would seriously compromise the economy of these small towns.

Flooding and erosion are already problems in this area. The Nooksack River is a waterway of significant importance for the State of Washington. Its shorelines fall under special protections whereby landowners often can't cut down their own trees because of the land's protected status. Altering the ecosystem will have dramatic impacts on salmon, air quality, wildfire danger, and other plant and animal species. The town of Paradise, CA saw massive casualties when the only road in was congested with motorists trying to escape a massive wildfire. Don't let this same scenario play out in Glacier or Maple Falls. There is no question that, if allowed to proceed, this logging will increase the risk of wildfires. Our State resources are already cash-strapped. Don't further stress a system that's already at its breaking point.

Due to the huge scale of proposed logging in this proposal, its radical departure from previous Forest Service management direction, its controversial nature, and negative impacts on local communities, an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) must first be completed.

The Forest Service must fully weigh the importance of this National Forest for reducing the existential dangers of climate change to both our regional ecosystems and human communities. Logging these forests defeats their carbon sequestration potential for decades to come.

In the face of extensive and ongoing clearcutting operations on private and state timberlands nearby, the Forest Service must prioritize allowing our National Forest to mature naturally for carbon capture, clean water, sensitive wildlife habitat, and compatible recreation.

The Forest Service must not construct new logging roads, including so-called "temporary" roads, which act as vectors for invasive weeds and human-caused abuses (including fires), while fragmenting habitat. Instead, the Forest Service should permanently close unneeded decaying roads.