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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Hello,

I feel compelled to write to you as I just found out that the US Forest Service is proposing logging along the North Fork Nooksack River and its tributaries just off the Mt Baker Scenic Byway. I just found out that the proposed logging would be done at a scale not seen since last century.

I would like to let the US Forest Service know what a mistake that would be. It is appalling to me that it is even being considered.

I have lived in Glacier, a very small community directly adjacent to the National Forest for the past four years. Glacier is a wonderful place to live. It is secluded, peaceful and amazingly beautiful. It is one of the last places I know where it is possible to walk outside our door and witness Nature completely untouched.

This proposal sounds like it is a radical departure from how the Forest Service had managed the forest in the past. Why change direction? Why now? People come from all over the United States to drive the Scenic Byway and enjoy this uniquely wild and beautiful area and its majestic views. The local community depends on tourism and major logging would impact this negatively.

An Environmental Impact Statement must first be completed.

Also, climate change is a real threat, and deforestation will only add to the problem. The carbon sequestration potential of these forests would be lost for decades to come. Not only that, but clear cutting brings devastation to wildlife. We must allow our forest to reach maturity to preserve carbon capture, clean water and wildlife habitat.

My husband and I spend most of our free time hiking and skiing in this pristine area, as so many other people from Bellingham and Seattle do. This treasured land needs to stay intact so the next generations can enjoy it too. I want my grandson to be able to hike the same trails, experience the same wildlife and I want his children and grandchildren to be able to do the same.

And lastly, clear cutting means logging roads will be built all over the mountains. Roads will then allow people to drive more deeply into the wilderness, potentially starting wildfires.

I am respectfully asking you to reconsider logging these beautiful, old growth forests. It would be a un-repairable mistake. For the sake of the generations to come, please leave the forests alone.

Marie Rothlisberger