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First name: Loretta

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: To whom it concerns,

Our national forests are a community asset, held in trust by the Us Forest Service. a taxpayer funded entity. The Mt Baker National Forest contains immeasurable value as a carbon sequestering living system, a vast watershed collecting and cleaning the rain water from the cascade mountains, which in turn feeds the water systems of our communities. It is a region rich in biodiversity and internationally recognized as an exceptional recreation area for hunting, fishing, camping, and hiking.

These resources belong to the people of the United States of America not to the Forest service to be sold off to private industry. The capital represented by a massive logging project is overshadowed ten fold by the many years of lost value to the public through destruction the above stated features. It will also decimate our regional recreational economy.

The scale of this proposed project shows zero regard for accepted forest management practices, and zero regard for the impacts on our local communities. It is short sighted and frankly greedy, putting immediate profit ahead of long term community security.

I will reiterate that these public lands belong to all of us, paid for and maintained by our tax dollars and held in the public trust for all Americans. The loss of this critical habitat on such a vast scale will permanently and irreparably damage our region. As a Whatcom county resident and a lifelong resident of Washington state I understand and support smart, sustainable forestry management and logging practices. This proposal completely ignores decades of Forestry science, destroying a valuable resource that will serve for generations to make a quick buck. It is a violation of the public trust and against the spirit of the national forests.