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Comments: This letter is my comments regarding the North Fork Nooksack Vegetation management project. The project looks to me like a way to start up logging and intensive silviculture projects on USDA lands in the Nooksack watershed that haven't happened for several decades. Because it has been so long there are not locals that rely on these forest lands for jobs so I think it's a mistake to assume that as valuable. The area is heavily used and enjoyed for it's wildlife and outdoor experience value and should be left alone. The impacts of road building and other proposed activities will be destructive and counter to the current uses.

I have watched time and time again where large federal and state projects with presumably good intentions burn through our tax dollars at the same they are having huge carbon footprints that seemingly negate any positive results. The project states a need for pre-commercial thinning for the sake of habitat which seems disingenuous. Nature is and will continue to reclaim land that has been damaged by past Forest Service abuse. Of course it is a slow process and that in itself is better for all the flora and fauna as it gives time for everything to slowly adapt, with the added benefit of zero carbon footprint and zero negative impacts on anything.

Any new road work or bridge work is a waste of tax dollars and not how I would like to see resources allotted. As I saw in the decades past with many timber harvesting projects in this area, by the time you consider all costs, the projects become "below cost projects" and money losers for the public who owns the resources and overwhelmingly doesn't want this kind of disruption.

As we as a society now understand and condemn the loss of the Amazon rain forest and how hugely important it is for the health of our planet how can we exempt ourselves from this same behavior?

The summary of my comments is to avoid this whole project and continue allowing this area to naturally heal from past USDA blunders.