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First name: Mathias

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear Forest Service Representative:

I object to the proposed increase in logging in Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest. This lush forest is a treasure that we should maintain, not destroy.

The area in the southwest of the national forest is also close to the Heliotrope Trailhead, launching point for many hiking trips and climbing parties of Mount Baker. When you hike through this forest, the one that is supposed to be logged now, you enter a different world. The forest is almost a spiritual gateway that one has to step through in order to make it to the mountain. It would be a true shame if this experience were destroyed.

Looking at the extent of the proposal, it is also clear that it is a radical change from how the Forest Service previously used to manage the forest. As such, the environmental impact needs to be studied first. An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) must be completed before this proposal should even be considered.

Our national forest already provide us with value. They provide recreational escapes, but more importantly, they are one of our big defenses against climate change. It is of critical importance for our future generations that the the national forest is allowed to mature naturally. Only this will maximize its carbon capture, ensure that we have clean water, and protect this sensitive wildlife habitat.

I urge you to reject the proposal of increased logging, and to reject construction of additional roads, regardless of how "temporary" they are deemed. We have enough access to the beautiful national forest already. Leave the rest alone!

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Mathias Ricken, Ph.D