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Comments: The proposal to log the woods near the North Nooksack is unconscionable. This area is far more valuable as a home for the voiceless beings of the woods, as a preserve of ecological beauty and sustainability, and as sacred space for peoples of many cultures, than it could ever be as lumber. In fact, there is no equating its value to what humans exchange for paper and coin, for no amount of paper and coin can buy stillness, can buy tranquility, can buy refuge, can buy back habitat once ravaged.

This area in particular is a refuge to many in the north of Washington. It is the area that most tourists visit, that most residents visit, and that those in need of rivertree solace turn to when they seek out northwest wonder. To log this area is to besmirch the very gift of our state, to turn the evergreens of our home into brown and barren bracken so that people living elsewhere can turn a profit. It is utterly reprehensible. It is another slap in the face to the indigenous peoples from whom this land was already stolen, and it is a slap in the face to all future generations who deserve a world that thrives off of the natural bounty, beauty and cooperation of humanity and its fellow beings.

Now, thus far this note has been of a personal nature, but there are several concerns on the scientific and political spectrums that must also be addressed.

I have copied and pasted the following several points from a platform that expresses these matters better than I can.

- 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.

In short, DO NOT DO THIS. Save this land. Love this land. Learn how you can help it, instead of trying to use it to help yourselves.

~NF