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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear USFS,

I was just notified about your proposed North Fork Nooksack Vegetation Management Project #58218. This proposal is extremely concerning to me. For the last 20 years I have spent countless days exploring the beauty of the Mt. Baker National Forest area. It is a truly unique ecosystem; beautiful rivers, high peaks, lush growth. As surely you are aware, the Bellingham/Seattle area is a focal spot for outdoor enthusiasts; even more so today than ever. Any trail head visited in the summer is flooded with hikers. This is what people in this region do; they explore the mountains and as they do this they contribute greatly to the economies of rural mountain communities. All of these things contribute to the health and happiness of the people of the Northwest.

To ignore this makes no sense. Moving forward with the above project will be counterproductive to the long term health of the local ecosystem, people, and economy. This fact within similar scenarios has been documented time and time again. This is called a long term investment vs your proposed short term investment.

There is also the issue of climate change. Deforestation decreases carbon sequestration and exacerbates climate change; also well documented fact. Our forests must mature naturally and without human intervention to maximize their carbon capture potential.

In addition, new logging roads, which would presumably be created for this project, create habitat fragmentation and permanent scars on the land.

I urge you to question your objectives for this project. Instead of perceiving this area as a resource for materials why not take pride in promoting its wildness? This would be a long term investment in the health of the ecosystem, people, and the economy.

Thank you,

Jesse Stein