

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 6/18/2020 11:57:19 PM

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Comments: I have learned to be suspicious when there's a plan for "vegetation management." It can be a euphemism for controversial, destructive projects such as what the UFSF is proposing for the North Fork Nooksack, Mt. Baker Snoqualmie National Forest here in Washington State.

First and foremost, and at the VERY LEAST, a logging project of this scale, which contravenes decades of forest management practices in this and other national forests, must not move one step further without a thorough Environmental Impact Study. That study must include impacts to both the natural and human environments, taking into consideration that the impacted forest is exceptionally valuable INTACT for its capacity to sequester carbon, provide endangered species habitat, and low-impact recreational opportunities.

The project's proposed method of "stand replacement" is a euphemism for clear-cutting and is entirely discretionary. The EIS must also take into consideration the threat to the North Fork Nooksack watershed of so much land clearing and resulting erosion, the impact on local communities and recreational hikers whose viewsapes will be severely degraded, and the impact of new road construction in a largely intact forest owned in common by the people of the United States.

I repeat, this proposal must not move one step further without a thorough Environmental Impact Study.