

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 6/23/2020 4:15:42 PM

First name: Krista

Last name: Dixon

Organization:

Title:

Comments: To Whom It May Concern,

Born and raised in Whatcom County, I have spent many of my formative years in the Mt.Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest. In particular, I have lived in Glacier, WA, spent years of my life up at Mt.Baker Ski Area, and played endlessly in the creeks and tributaries that feed the mighty Nooksack River. It is concerning to me to see a proposed vegetation project that abuts waterways that contribute to our "Wild and Scenic" Nooksack, especially without an Environmental Impact Survey (EIS) to fully weigh the consequences of commercial thinning.

One thing that is particularly worrisome to me is the proximity of logging activity along Canyon and Glacier creeks. If you're in Glacier in the summer or early fall, you'll notice Glacier Creek teeming with salmon, who've made the lengthy journey from the Salish Sea to return to their spawning grounds. What I would like to know is how forestry activity along Glacier Creek will affect this critical salmon habitat. It seems unlikely to know the full impact without a proper EIS.

After doing some research on selective thinning, I can see the benefits of using this technique in young stands of Douglas Fir. It seems, if practiced correctly, that this method would increase the health of the forest and be profitable at the same time. My question/concern here lies with the integrity and oversight of logging operations. When timber companies come in to selectively thin the forest, how can we be sure that their impact on the area is as small as it's meant to be? With commercial thinning zones on both sides of Canyon Creek, how can we be sure that the logging operations aren't affecting the greater ecosystem around the forest? Furthermore, can you tell me that there will be NO CLEAR CUTTING in the entire project area? Again, I believe that an EIS would be needed to fully assess the parameters of selective thinning in this environment.

I agree that forest management is crucial to the health of the forest, I just want to be sure that this project is putting it as a priority over wealth generation from timber sales. After all, I'm not going to see any monetary income from the sale of my National Forest. I think that if managed correctly, a thinning project can reduce our risk of wildfire in the Mt.Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest. Overall, I'm hopeful that our trained forest managers can prove this to be a worthwhile and successful project. I am adamant about seeing an EIS completed before any timber is harvested or felled in the project area.

Thanks for taking the time to read this.

Sincerely,

Krista Dixon