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Title:

Comments: I am an attorney and a founding board member of Whatcom Land Trust and have been an active agent of land conservation in Whatcom County for over 35 years, including substantial forestland and salmon habitat. I am deeply disturbed by you proposed, euphemistically named, North Fork Nooksack Vegetation Management Plan. This massive cutting, clearing and land disturbance project will inevitably significantly degrade salmon habitat in the Nooksack river, Canyon Creek and other tributaries by raising water temperatures, increasing turbidity, and accelerating runoff.

As our understanding of forest ecology has grown, it has become ever more clear how destructive to that ecology a project of this scale and nature would be.

As you may know, the new Whatcom County Executive has proposed the planting of one million trees in Whatcom County as a local effort to enhance our environment and help combat the destructive forces of climate change. A citizen committee has been formed to make this proposal a reality. Your North Fork Nooksack project flies directly in the face of this local initiative.

The national forests are owned by the people for the benefit of the people and the things that they care about. Please reconsider and withdraw this project.

Rand Jack