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Organization:

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Comments: To whom it may concern,

Project #58218 is not simply a threat to the scenery or wilderness of the North Cascades. It is a complete undoing of the trust of the local population that hinges their lifestyle and identity upon the clean, natural landscape near their homes.

As a student at Western Washington University, I spent many weeks backpacking and camping along the Nooksack. The wholesome and untouched nature was critical to my mental health and wellbeing. Now older, I visit those same spaces with my family and friends. WE COUNT ON THIS LAND REMAINING WHOLE AND HEALTHY.

The proposed clear cutting and thinning of this forest displays a complete disregard for the wildlife and local ecosystem that we hold dear in this part of our country. And it also displays a complete lack of respect for the people who call this beautiful place home.

Along with violating our values and trust. This project ignores legal and moral obligations of the stewardship of such lands. Such as the following:

- 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.

- 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.

I beg you to consider what this proposal really means to our region, and the health and happiness of our home.

Thank you,

Zach Lommen