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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am a Seattle resident and I visit the North Fork Nooksack area year-round for backcountry skiing, cycling, hiking and camping - about once per month in summer and more often in winter. The primary reason I come back to this area over and over is its wild and scenic character, abundant forests and wildlife. I am also part of a group called Turns All Year with over 5,000 members based in the Pacific Northwest who love wilderness and non-motorized outdoor recreation. North Fork Nooksack Vegetation Management Project #58218 has been discussed by our member base and it has been determined that the project activities are not compatible with our values regarding environmental protection and sustainability. Myself and many other members of Turns All Year will stop visiting the North Fork Nooksack area if this project is allowed to move forward as described. This means less customers for hotels, campgrounds, restaurants and shops in Glacier and Mt Baker Ski Area. The main concerns are as follows:

- 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.
- 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.