Data Submitted (UTC 11): 6/29/2020 3:28:35 PM First name: Alex Last name: Jeffers Organization:

## Title:

Comments: Thank you for the information provided on the North Fork Nooksack Vegetation Project and the opportunity to comment. I appreciate the Forest Service exploring ways to improve forest health and habitat in this vital area for recreation, forestry, and Salmon and Terrestrial wildlife; however, I am concerned about the large scope of proposed activity in this area. Community and governmental organizations in Whatcom County have been very active in restoring and protecting valuable habitat throughout the Nooksack River Watershed. This has included protecting areas with slope and geologic characteristics vulnerable to erosion and landslides. Existing forest rules do not adequately protect this particularly vulnerable areas, and Canyon Creek represents an area of the North Fork Nooksack watershed that has been identified as vulnerable to erosion and landslides. It is imperative that thorough geologic review is completed before harvesting in this area and that clear cut harvesting and road building are minimized to reduce sedimentation and landslides. I am also interested in more information on how habitat type priorities were developed. Again, thank you for the opportunity to comment. Whatcom County is dependent economically and culturally on the recreation, resource, and wildlife provided us through our forest lands. We appreciate you taking this matter seriously.