

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 6/26/2020 12:52:58 AM

First name: Garrett

Last name: Shively

Organization:

Title:

Comments: To whom it may concern,

I am an avid recreationalist and citizen of Whatcom County and the proposed logging in the Nooksack watershed is harmful to both of those parts of my life.

The forest as it stands provides a call to an innumerable amount of people just like me who flock to Bellingham to utilize this area for recreation. The amount of trails, and natural scenery sustain many small businesses along the highway and in Bellingham. A scarred, barren landscape does not have this appeal. Bellingham has a massive outdoor industry for a town of its size and the reason for that is that people use Bellingham to access the Mt. Baker Wilderness. For example, businesses such as Backcountry Essentials, Transition Bikes, American Alpine Institute, Evil Bikes, Vital Gym, Kona Bikes, Fantaik Bike Shop, and many more rely on the Mt. Baker wilderness and the beauty it contains to keep customers coming. To eliminate this resource would be to harm them directly.

Furthermore, the elimination of these trees means a massive amount of habitat that is no longer producing oxygen, cleaning our water, or sequestering Carbon Dioxide. The long term effects of this mean a less healthy Whatcom county for short term benefits that would mostly be for people outside of our community. A healthy watershed is crucial for a healthy river, and clear cutting the watershed of the Nooksack would severely damage a watershed that is crucial for businesses, people, and animals. One example is salmon habitat; salmon need water that is clear, clean, and cool. If a watershed is clear cut this increases soil runoff, the use of machinery on such a large scale would introduce harmful particulates for the salmon and for humans, and the reduced shade would mean warmer water.

Salmon are not only a crucial species in the ecosystem of Bellingham and the Pacific Ocean in general, but are an important cultural symbol to Washingtonians. To allow this clear cut would be to deface and ignore the culture of the people that occupy this place.

The North Fork Nooksack Vegetation Management Project #58218 is a project that does not have the best interests of the people of Whatcom County in mind. This project is guaranteed to damage the livelihoods, the health, and the culture of the people that inhabit the surrounding area and as such this project should not be allowed to proceed.