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First name: Janet

Last name: Murray

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am a resident of Whatcom County. The areas under consideration are more valuable to me and my community left standing.

Whatcom County has extensive Department of Natural Resources and privately held forest lands that provide sustained economic benefit in the form of forest industry jobs. The short term gain in that economic area would be off-set by the losses in others including farming and fishing. Mature forests hold water that gradually reach streams helping to sustain water flows later into the year, water that can supply farms and an increasing population in the northern part of the county.

Salmon is another important economic driver in the community. Clear cuts and thinning operations create turbidity in streams and rivers that are harmful to the struggling salmon population. Nooksack and Lummi traditional and treaty rights to fish must be considered in this decision.