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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Thank you for taking comments on this EA. First of all I would like to state that the scope of this project is well beyond and EA and I would like the Forest Service to have a full EIS conducted on this project. I have lived in this area for 10 years and I am very familiar with the National Forest in the North Cascades. There is so much that has not been looked at in the EA, such as mapping areas, mapping size, roadless areas, decommissioning roads and the list goes on. The Sierra Club comment has fully expounded on these and I am requesting that you conduct a full EIS on this project.

I would like to object strongly as to your use of keeping a screen of trees to hide the effects of the tree cutting activities. People, like me, who hike in these area find it quite disturbing to see this false front to a forest only to peek behind and see forest devastation. You appear to be fully unaware of what forests need to sustain themselves and to be healthy. The newest research expounds upon the need for diversity and contiguous tree interaction to keep individual trees healthy as well as maintaining a healthy environment for the plants and animals that flourish in a natural forest.

You state that we need more open space for bushes and flowers to flourish and bees to regain their numbers. I find this totally questionable. In hiking these areas we have beautiful mountain meadows where the wild flowers and shrubs flourish. We need our trees to sustain our planet and sequester our carbon. Every environmental organization is talking about planting more trees and yet you want to take down what the earth needs most; large trees, old growth and a natural forest.

You stated that this will help sustain business in the area but you have no information on this. Reading between the lines you are probably talking about the logging industry. I recently went to a meeting in Acme where logging families spoke. This industry has shrunk for sure but it is also due to the use of new machinery and improvements made in their ability to take more trees with less people. They are shrinking the work force and fewer people are able to make a living by logging. Then, have you estimated the dollars to be lost in the tourist industry and people that depend on all the hikers, bikers, fishing etc. that love this area? What is the economic value in the area of tourist dollars vs. logging? Will the logging bring economic viability to this area or will it be contracted out to those that don't live and work in the area?

Lastly to speak of what is dearest to me is that animal habitats that will be destroyed. The animals depend on their homes especially the spotted owl and the marbled murrelet. The forests and especially the old growth are their essential habitat. Destroy these and we lose these animals forever. We are trying to reintroduce other species like the mountain goats and protect our salmon. What is the environmental value to protecting their habitats?

Lastly, we need to speak of Native rights and cultural value of these forest lands. How will the destruction of forests effect the native ways and cultural significance of these lands?

I am requesting that a full EIS be conducted and full disclosure of this project in its entire ramifications to be clearly stated.

