

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 6/26/2020 7:00:00 AM

First name: Matthew

Last name: Rourke

Organization:

Title:

Comments: North Fork Nooksack Vegetation Management Project

Dear District Ranger Uloth,

The scientific support for active forest management overwhelms the emotional and politically-charged response to cutting trees. Even intensive silvicultural activities are carried out today with practices that sustain the environmental integrity of public trust resources. The cries of environmental damage and habitat destruction from harvesting timber no longer have credibility in today's environment. Actively manage the forest for multiple uses and protect sensitive sites. Produce timber, maintain roads, develop habitat, and provide access for recreation.

This comment is to support the North Fork Nooksack Vegetation Management Project and the plan to use various forest management tools to ensure a healthier and more resilient forest. In addition to providing timber to support our communities, this project will also make these public lands more accessible to all forest users. Vegetation management will support native plant and animal species who will benefit from the creation of both early-seral habitat and older mixed age and species forests.

Timber harvest and commercial thinning will help achieve the objectives of this project. Commercial activities will provide the funding necessary to fix deteriorating forest roads as well as to support non-commercial restoration work on the national forest. Generating revenue, improving access, and enhancing huckleberry production are positive steps the Mount Baker Snoqualmie National Forest can take in meeting its management goals.

Please move forward with this project, using the various forest management tools that are available to the Forest. This project will benefit all the various uses of our forests, benefit local communities and the various wildlife using the Forest.

Sincerely,

Matthew Rourke