

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

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: North Fork Nooksack Vegetation Management Project

Dear District Ranger Uloth,

I am a forester who had spent most of her career with the Forest Service and WA Dept. of Natural Resources, as a Forest Engineer, Region Silviculturist, and Natural Areas Manager. Though retired, I continue to work on wildfire Incident Management Teams. I live in Skagit County.

It is very important that the Forest Service continue to have some working, healthy forests. In addition to revitalizing our forests with better management, revenues can be used to maintain roads and support recreational activities. It will also lead to better fire management.

I went into forestry as I strongly believe that the world needs to move away from plastics towards renewable, as well as, biodegradable resources. The USFS must set aside lands to meet habitat and wildlife needs, but it must also set aside areas devoted to wood and fiber production.

Projects such as the North Fork should be allowed to proceed.

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,

Alison Hitchcock