

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 6/30/2020 9:29:14 PM

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear planning team,

I would like to offer a few comments on the North Fork Nooksack Vegetation Project. I have worked and recreated in this area for decades and am a property owner adjacent to the National Forest in Glacier.

To the extent possible, the NEPA should address improvements/expansion of trailheads within the project area including Damfino, Heliotrope, Skyline Divide, Church Mountain, Welcome Pass and Yellow Aster Butte. Approve these now, funding can come from other sources.

Include construction of a new trailhead for the west end of the Canyon Ridge Trail.

Have any opportunities to improve the campgrounds or picnic areas in the project area been identified?

Please explain why the project area extends all the way to Twin Lakes when there are no units being proposed within the Swamp Creek drainage.

I am familiar with the overstocking of younger trees in both Canyon and Glacier Creeks that have resulted due to past management activities and I do agree that an effort to thin these forests is reasonable. I am concerned that, even though units will be dropped, that too much activity is being planned in both Canyon and Glacier Creeks drainages. I would like to see the EA reduce the number of units in these drainages.

I oppose any "Stand Regeneration" units that exceed about 2 acres in size. 40 acres is just way too big. That is the type of harvesting, in decades past, which led to public calls for wilderness or National Park designation in the Pacific Northwest.

For both commercial and non-commercial thin, please state the maximum canopy removal sought within the units.

Finally, I am concerned that all this work will be for naught as purchasers will shy away from offered sales due to timing restrictions and environmental mitigation designed to protect soils, plants, wildlife, fisheries. Why buy trees from the Forest Service when other sales are available where a purchaser could actually make some money? The cost to taxpayers to prepare one of these sales will likely be greater than any revenue that would come back to the Forest Service through the sale. I encourage you to minimize mitigation and make requirements as simple as possible to encourage, rather than discourage potential purchasers.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.