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First name: Ryan

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: To Whom It May Concern,

I grew up in Washington State and spent 5 years living in Bellingham, less than an hour's drive from the proposed timber harvest site. I spent countless hours volunteering my time and energy to restore the riparian tree cover along the Nooksack River. For this reason, I am understandably upset to see all that work undone in a single project proposal. I am writing to specifically address the component of the project involving "Stand Regeneration", more commonly known as clear cutting. This process is not only antiquated, but also antithetical to the contemporary understanding of forest health. I would therefore like to see an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) which adequately considers all available alternatives to this component of the project. Reduction in sequestered carbon, habitat connectivity, integrity of legacy forest stands, and soil and water shading, as well as increases in erosion and invasive species dispersal will almost certainly outweigh any incidental benefits to pollinators on clear cut sites.

I urge the United States Forest Service to fully weigh the importance of these forest stands in sequestering carbon, providing habitat for threatened and endangered species, maintaining water and air quality, preserving healthy soil, controlling erosion, and providing native competition against invasive plants.

Sincerely,

Ryan Lefler