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Comments: Comments on logging in Nooksack Watershed

I've spent several hours trying to digest your proposal. All the 1995 information was well thought out and presented. However, I was looking for the timber removal amounts (mmbf) in each area and couldn't find them.

Because of the size of this project and it's impacts on the land, the nearby towns and the potential impacts of climate change, An Environmental Impact Statement is required.

Some specifics that I found in the 1995 info relate to watershed impacts.

Loss of large woody debris due to past timber harvests have degraded benefits to streams and channel integrity. Forest regrowth requires 170 years to restore streams to natural conditions. Climate change reduction thru Co2 storage of tree growth is much more important than the short term benefits of timber harvests.

I was hoping to also comment on the loss of watershed visual qualities but couldn't find my copy of the Whatcom County visual qualities analysis report by Jones & Jones, Landscape Architects done in the 1970's or 80's. All the road improvements needed for such a proposal also eats up funds generated by this logging proposal. The degradation of adjacent private lands from road building and logging must not be repeated on USFS land. Public lands set aside for all of us as US citizens must set the example of restoring past mistakes in forest management.

To sum up, US Forest Service lands are much more valuable for future generations to experience improved water quality, recreational potential, reduced climate change, restored visual landscapes and future old growth forests. Human efforts (timber harvest) can't compete with Mother Nature's (God's) creation.

Thanks for acting on my comments.