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First name: Linda

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear Mt. Baker District Ranger Uloth,

I'm writing to provide scoping comments for the North Fork Nooksack Vegetation Management Project #58218.

I support comprehensive restoration actions to improve forest health and ecological resilience in the North Fork Nooksack River designated Key 1 watershed. This watershed contains vast old-growth forests critical habitat for wildlife and endangered fish species.

I vehemently oppose the massive 1,900-acre clearcut around Canyon Creek which is an important North Fork Nooksack tributary. Nearly the entire area proposed for clear-cutting is classified by scientists as high risk for landslides and erosion, and is designated as a Riparian Reserve where timber harvest is prohibited.

Due to the huge scale of proposed logging in this proposal, its radical departure from previous Forest Service management direction, its controversial nature, and negative impacts on local communities, an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) must first be completed.

Given the extensively degraded conditions in Canyon Creek, there is an opportunity here to reduce road densities that drive sediment delivery and flooding, improve large tree and old-growth habitat in riparian and lower elevations, reduce old forest habitat fragmentation, improve wildlife habitat, and increase ecological resilience to climate change (see Canyon Creek watershed analysis). These objectives, which align closely with the Nooksack Integrated Restoration and Enhancement Project, should be the priority actions for Canyon Creek and elsewhere in the Nooksack, not a massive clearcut.

With the ongoing clearcutting operations on private and state timberlands nearby, the Forest Service must prioritize allowing our National Forest to mature naturally for carbon capture, clean water, sensitive wildlife habitat, and compatible recreation.

Consider the importance of this National Forest for reducing the existential dangers of climate change to both our regional ecosystems and human communities. Logging these forests defeats their carbon sequestration potential for decades to come.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit public comments,