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Organization:

Title:

Comments: North Fork Nooksack Vegetation Management Project

Dear District Ranger Uloth,

I am happy to hear that the USFS is becoming more active in the management of our local federal forest lands. As someone who has spent my entire adult life dedicated to the respectful and sustainable management of Pacific Northwest forests, I have come to understand the necessity for active management. Much of our federal forestland exists in an "unnatural" state due to historic logging methods, fire suppression, unmaintained forest road systems, etc. This places them at a much higher risk for mortality due to root rot and other pathogens, wildfire, wind-throw, and other extreme stand replacing events. The management proposed in this project will increase the overall health and resiliency of the included areas and restore healthy stream drainages by upgrading forest roads.

If we do not allow for timber management here in the NW- a place where we grow trees incredibly well and adhere to some of the most strict forest protection laws in the world- then our wood product demand will be met by importing logs. Not only does this create a significantly larger energy footprint, but these logs come from countries where they don't have the same forest protection laws. So while it is not aesthetically pleasing in the short run to see trees cut from our local hillsides, an environmental conservationist perspective requires looking at the large picture and supporting this project.

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,

Matthew Grund