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First name: Dan

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: North Fork Nooksack Vegetation Management Project

Dear District Ranger Uloth,

Active forest management promotes sustainable, healthy ecosystems that benefit the community, timber industry and Washington State as a whole. Active management on federal land is a great way to provide working class, blue collar jobs for loggers, truckers, and timber industry workers. Income from active management can be provided back to the community to support schools and other worthy government organizations. Meanwhile, all timber harvesting can be done sustainably (economically and environmentally). As a business manager who has been in the logging industry for 10 years and who regularly works in Whatcom County, it has always been a shame to see acres upon acres of federally mismanaged forest land. By providing operations that will address forest health, such as thinning to control disease, road construction for potential fire suppression, everyone benefits, including wildlife who can now live on a diversified landscape with multiple stand levels. Active management promotes forest health.

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,

Dan Stone