Data Submitted (UTC 11): 7/1/2020 7:45:02 PM First name: Martin Last name: Westerman Organization: Seattle Green Spaces Coalition Title: President Comments: The Seattle Green Spaces Coalition board opposes the logging proposal in Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest. It is out of scale compared to previous logging proposals, doesn't account for the forest's role in mitigating climate change, and creates development incursions that damage habitats.

We urge the U.S. Forest Service instead to expand its criteria for valuing America's forests. This would include the following steps:

. account for monetizable ecosystem service values, including oxygen production, carbon sink, habitats that support recreation, hunting, fishing, agriculture and fisheries, erosion control that protects dams, towns cities and other forest areas, and hydrologic filtration that provides clean water for agriculture and drinking water for surrounding communities,*

. require selective logging to eliminate the clearcutting which has been proven to cause erosion that leads to landslides -- such as the disastrous 2014 mudslide which killed 43 people, and wiped out the town of Oso, Washington

. cease construction of new logging roads -- or require logging companies to pay to build their own roads, and then permanently close unneeded decaying roads. These roads fragment habitats, and act as vectors for invasive weeds and human-caused abuses, ranging from four-wheeler land damage to forest fires.

* refer to State of Washington's report on

- . ecosystem value of state recreation lands, 2016, and
- . ecosystem value of state forest trust lands