

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 7/2/2020 2:36:29 AM

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am writing to object to the plans to destroy the forest / watershed North Nooksack area. This area was thoughtfully designated and has been maintained for many years in a way to protect the natural resources and habitat of the area. Do not destroy this area for the sake of corporate greed. Do not let ignorance of the benefits of forested land, nor contempt for the values of natural area preservation undermine or override the long held intent and purpose of maintaining this section of the National Forest.

I strongly oppose the proposal for nearly 1900-acre clear cut in the Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest. This proposal is a significant and dramatic departure from the abiding management of this area. The project is not only out of scale as compared to previous projects, it is contrary to the mission of the US Forest Service (The mission of the Forest Service is to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations.) and is in stark contrast to the community values.

Our forests serve a vital function, providing habitat as well as mitigating the effects of climate change. Rather than chopping down trees for the sake of a short-sighted, selfish administration, consider the value of the land in terms of its ecologic and aesthetic contributions. Erosion control, oxygen production, carbon sink, hydrologic filtration are valuable functions of this natural space. These considerations directly relate to SUSTAINING the health, diversity and productivity of the forest. Since the area was first designated as National Forest, the methodologies for evaluating and monetizing the benefits of forested land have evolved. Such tools should be applied in order to provide a comprehensive accounting of all benefits.

I also urge the Forest Service to remove unneeded decaying roads. These roads fragment habitats and contribute to destruction of the area.

I urge the Forest Service to dedicate itself to preserving and improving the health of the forest in the North Fork Nooksack watershed area. An old-growth forest is irreplaceable. The habitat this area provides for native and migrating birds, the remnant Nooksack Elk herd, mountain goats, deer and other wildlife. North Fork Nooksack tributary, known for floods and landslides, is home to Endangered Species Act-listed Chinook salmon and steelhead as well as bull trout.

The US Forest Service has an opportunity to manifest its mission commensurate with the vision and goals of our community and state. The efforts of the Nooksack Integrated Restoration and Enhancement Project, should be the priority actions for Canyon Creek and elsewhere in the Nooksack, not a massive clearcut.

As a Washington native, I strongly oppose selling out the Evergreen State. Please protect this precious area. Please Care for the Land and Serve the People.