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Comments: Thank you for having the views and knowledge of the public play an informative aspect in this process. I have lived near and valued the forests surrounding Mt Baker for almost half a decade. I visit, hike, photograph and appreciate being in these forests. Far above that, the much larger influences of these forests on plant, animal and human communities requires that we thoroughly examine what these forests need before taking the actions considered by the Forest Service. A complete and thorough EIS must occur before any other actions.

Washington State and the Federal Government is investing millions of dollars to help support salmon runs in the area. We must not, at the same time, take actions that threaten these runs.

Throughout the world, countries are looking at ways to turn back climate change. This EIS must consider the ways in which these forests provide carbon sequestration now and in the future.

We are fortunate in Whatcom County to have terrific clean water. How these plans might affect the water, silting of rivers as well as the bay needs to be determined.

Roads built to provide the access to these sites need to be closed and brought back, as much as possible, to their pre-road conditions so that wildlife and plant communities are not adversely affected. In Bellingham, volunteers are in no way able to keep up with all the invasive plants that take advantage of disturbed areas.

Thank you for your consideration.