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Comments: Please take public comments on the proposed North Fork Nooksack Vegetation Management Project seriously and do your job as public officials, despite the Trump administration's reputation as putting Big Business profit over everything. The local residents will suffer the consequences, such as landslides and flooding of Glacier Creek. This has been a huge and expensive problem in the past decades due to logging upstream and a lot of our tax dollars were spent on stabilizing the creek while the logging companies dumped that cost onto the community and that is what will happen again.

The scale and scope of this project, which could clear cut up to 1,881 acres of timber in the fish-critical North Fork Nooksack River, will cause disasters from flooding, landslides and more forest fires from piles of dry kindling/ logging debris left behind. We locals don't trust or accept this current proposal to significantly change forest management for the Mt. Baker Snoqualmie National Forest (MBSNF). We weren't given much, if any, public process and input before this proposal was formulated. This is dangerous, offensive to our community and violates our trust.

It would be more sensible and responsible to choose options other than clearcutting (euphemism, "stand regeneration") for matrix lands and we need a thorough Environmental Impact Statement before this project moves forward. Below are some of the issues I see with the project that must be fully evaluated before proceeding:

- Changes to the flood plain of Glacier Creek. Increased flood danger to communities downstream.
- Water quality: What measures will be taken to prevent degradation of water quality as a result of these management activities? This includes but is not limited to increases in temperature, sediment and turbidity, pollution from equipment, and decreases in dissolved oxygen.
- Fish Habitat: The three forks of the Nooksack River are critical for fish, namely Chinook salmon. Millions of dollars have been spent to restore fish habitat by local watershed stakeholders including Lummi Nation and Nooksack Indian Tribe in the North Fork watershed. How will this project prevent or mitigate damage to salmon and other fish habitat?
- Acceleration of climate related disasters overall. The MBSNF is largely a carbon sink when it comes to mitigating the impacts of climate change. How can this project be pursued to ensure there is not a net-loss in carbon capture potential in Whatcom County?
- Slope stability and landslide potential: Forest Road 31 and Church Mountain have a history of unstable slopes and washouts. How can clear-cutting be compatible with these unstable areas? What measures can be taken to prevent landslides?
- Water quantity and instream flow: The North Fork Nooksack and most of the Nooksack Watershed as a whole do not meet state-established minimum instream flow levels in the summer and early fall. Studies have shown that maintaining and allowing forests to mature has improved water quantity and streamflows compared to areas that have been logged (Perry and Jones, "Summer streamflow deficits from regenerating Douglas-fir forest in the Pacific Northwest", 2016.). What mitigation is available to offset the impacts to summer streamflow if these projects move forward?
- Wildlife habitat. Northern Spotted Owl and Marbled Murrelet: How will clearcutting on matrix lands and thinning

in Late Successional Reserve (LSR) impact northern spotted owl and marbled murrelet habitat? The intent behind LSR was to serve as habitat for these endangered species.

- Introduction of invasive species from roads: The USFS should not be in the business of building new roads as they are known vectors of invasive species and can fragment wildlife habitat.

Please carefully review all of the possible environmental impacts of this proposal. This really affects our lives.