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Comments: As a person who has recreated in the North Fork Vegetation Project for almost 20 years I am opposed to it for a variety of reasons. First and foremost I don't think it can be done without damaging salmon habitat for critically endangered salmon stocks. That area has all seven salmonoids. Many organizations such as Nooksack Salmon Enhancement and the Whatcom Land Trust have been working for decades to improve the area for salmon reproduction. I believe the salmon alone should make the project fail an environmental assessment.

Second the current forest has more value as a carbon sink than it does as saw logs. The current trees will get old faster if left alone. Especially they will age faster than new trees in a clear-cut (forest regeneration!!)

Third, we may lose marbled murrelets and spotted owls if their habitat is destroyed.

Fourth, recreation is a big economic driver in this area. Temporary income from logging will not supplant that, especially long term. And the logging will impact the area horribly for recreation. This area is needed for recreation, it serves Washingtonians from Seattle north and people from the lower part of B.C. It is over-crowded on summer weekends. Logging here will put even more pressure on the Mt. Baker area and Skyline Divide.

I would not be opposed to very small thinning projects, a few acres a year spaced over years to lessen impact. The scope of this project is just way TOO BIG!!