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Comments: North Fork Nooksack Vegetation Management Project

The North Fork Nooksack Vegetation Project is well-conceived and much needed for this area. It will improve forest vigor, wildlife habitat, and resilience to climate change. It will also connect well with objectives of the Northwest Forest Plan and other conservation strategies in northwest Washington.

I encourage some caution with silvicultural activities in forests dominated by mountain hemlock. Harvesting should generally be confined to the lower elevation range of mountain hemlock distribution and in areas where huckleberries are most likely to regenerate and persist. Harvesting could be prioritized where pockets of laminated root rot are prevalent.

I encourage timely implementation of the Project to benefit both ecosystem functionality and human values in the North Fork Nooksack area.

David Peterson