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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Comments on North Fork Nooksack Project #58218.

Dear Mt. Baker District Ranger Uloth,

I'm writing to provide scoping comments for the North Fork Nooksack Vegetation Management Project #58218.

I oppose this "Vegetation Management" project (sounds like weed removal!) as currently proposed.

I have monitored proposed US Forest Service projects in the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie and Olympic forests since 1996 as a member of the Washington Native Plant Society (WNPS). In 2005 and 2006 as a member of the Skokomish Watershed Action Team (SWAT) I led a team of WNPS volunteers that did detailed vegetation measurements of forest road stubs that were being restored to forest, before and after revegetation. That team, led by the Wilderness Society, consists of The Skokomish Nation, Tacoma Power, Taylor Shellfish, Mason Conservation District, Green Diamond Timber Company, The US Forest Service, and the Olympic Forest Coalition. We made detailed plans, based on field surveys, for restoration of the watershed of the South Fork of the Skokomish River, which had been denuded by just the sort of clearcutting that is being proposed on the Nooksack now. That clearcutting had been responsible for so much soil and gravel erosion that the bed of lower reach of the Skokomish had actually been raised to a level above the surrounding farmland, resulting in annual flooding of farm fields. Restoration of the upper watershed, and the return to more normal water flow in the river have begun, thanks to the work of this coalition of members interested in the future of the area.

I suggest that this kind of collaborative work, resulting in restoration rather than destruction of forest land, is needed in the Nooksack watershed.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit public comments,

Michael Marsh