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Organization:

Title:

Comments: North Fork Nooksack Vegetation Management Project

Dear District Ranger Uloth,

I recently retired from a career in forestry that spanned over forty years. Sadly within that time I witnessed the deterioration of forest management on the National Forests throughout the entire United States. Not only have all of the policy changes resulted in poor forest management but the economic toll on small timber dependent communities was devastating. It has been nearly thirty years since the Clinton/Gore Forest Act was passed and nearly none of the objectives outside of locking up millions of acres to any use besides very limited access for recreation have been accomplished. Forest management to accomplish the other stated goals of the act need to get under way. I am now primarily a recreation user on the USFS lands and can say that many improvements are needed on the road systems that used to access the forests. It seems like everywhere I go I find overcrowding on trails because of limited access to so many areas and very long and arduous journeys on terribly maintained roads to get to many trail heads. The extreme left has had a stranglehold on policy decisions for way too long. It is time to make the forests better for all of us.

This comment is to support the North Fork Nooksack Vegetation Management Project and the plan to use various forest management tools to ensure a healthier and more resilient forest. In addition to providing timber to support our communities, this project will also make these public lands more accessible to all forest users. Vegetation management will support native plant and animal species who will benefit from the creation of both early-seral habitat and older mixed age and species forests.

Timber harvest and commercial thinning will help achieve the objectives of this project. Commercial activities will provide the funding necessary to fix deteriorating forest roads as well as to support non-commercial restoration work on the national forest. Generating revenue, improving access, and enhancing huckleberry production are positive steps the Mount Baker Snoqualmie National Forest can take in meeting its management goals.

Please move forward with this project, using the various forest management tools that are available to the Forest. This project will benefit all the various uses of our forests, benefit local communities and the various wildlife using the Forest.

Sincerely,

Mark Gallison