Data Submitted (UTC 11): 6/29/2020 7:00:00 AM
First name: Sara
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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 hope you are receiving a lot of emails with this same starting sentence, as the public form circulating so generously populates an email for us. I want to place my own words in the body of this email, however, so you hear my direct voice in the hopes you will listen.

The Forest Service has always had a complicated relationship with nature. From its inception, the Forest Service was designed to protest resources only insofaras they persisted to be used and abused by mankind in the future. This is not an innoble task, but it is a far cry from the environmentalism and the ecological understanding of the world that I hope the Forest Service moves towards in modern day.

With that said, I strongly oppose ANY clearcut as unnecessary and harmful. But the research into the negative impacts on this particular watershed is undeniable. To cite the form-wrote email: "Canyon Creek is an important North Fork Nooksack tributary known for floods and landslides, and is home to Endangered Species Act-listed Chinook salmon and steelhead as well as bull trout. Nearly the entire area proposed for clear-cutting is classified by scientists as high risk for landslides and erosion, and is therefore designated as a Riparian Reserve where timber harvest is prohibited. Rain on snow events in the recent past have caused extensive damage, costing millions to repair."

Please don't just rethink this proposed action--cut off the idea entirely. The consequences are deadly for trees, wildlife, stream-dwellers, and, should humankind be of your greatest concern, then please do not fail to recognize the harmful impacts the proposed action would have on humans, as well.

The world is in a bad place in so many ways. The planet we rely on for life is dwindling due the actions of our ancestors. Let us be a step in the right direction towards preserving and protecting this land. Please do NOT take the proposed action in clearcutting lands in the Nooksack River watershed.

Please reduce the forest road density in deer and elk winter range to two miles of road per square mile of area or less to improve habitat security, and look for other opportunities to reduce the road network in the North Fork Nooksack watershed while responsibly and sustainably supporting outdoor recreation accommodations. There are nearly 60 miles of roads that threaten aquatic ecosystem health that should be considered for removal through this project.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit public comments,

Sara Anderson