

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 6/28/2020 7:00:00 AM

First name: Mallory

Last name: Clarke

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Comments on North Fork Nooksack Project #58218.

Dear Mt. Baker District Ranger Uloth,

I'm writing to comment on the North Fork Nooksack Vegetation Management Project #58218.

I support the previously planned comprehensive restoration actions to improve forest health and ecological resilience in the North Fork Nooksack River watershed, particularly improving conditions for fish and wildlife.

This watershed is a public treasure and logging it would do a disservice to the restoration of the salmon fishing industry.

I strongly oppose the massive 1,900-acre clearcut around Canyon Creek that was recently proposed. 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 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,

Mallory Clarke