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The North Fork Nooksack Vegetation Management Project, which has the potential to open up around 1800 acres of forest in the Nooksack watershed to clearcutting, must not be implemented until an Environmental Impact Statement has been completed, due to the magnitude of environmental impact this project would have on the watershed, salmon, and climate change. The fact that the Lummi Nation has already requested an EIS should be sufficient reason to do so. As the original stewards of this land they must be consulted and included in all decision making regarding land use in the Nooksack River watershed.

Only after an EIS is completed should alternatives be proposed. However, I implore the USFS to reject any alternatives that involve clearcutting and road creation, due to the severe negative environmental impacts that would be felt by the people, trees, rivers, and animals that live in the Nooksack River watershed - increased erosion and landslide hazards, destruction of habitat for salmon and other protected species, disruption of seasonal water flow, loss of tree canopy that is essential for sequestering carbon to name a few. Please take a decisive step to protect what remains of forested lands and discontinue the destructive practice of clearcutting.