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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I advocate for alternative 2 for the Nooksack Vegetation Management Project.

Additionally:

Please do not harvest forest stands that are naturally regenerated. Harvesting naturally- regenerated stands creates unnecessary disturbance in native forest stands that will develop into old growth on their own without human intervention. Trying to speed up the development of old growth characteristics in natural forest is not worth building new spur roads, which further fragment forest habitat and disturb the soil.

Please do not cut trees older than 80 years old in any designation class, including Matrix. These stands, whether natural or planted, will develop into old growth forest in the next few decades without the need to further disturb and fragment the forest landscape with roads. In Matrix stands, please leave large trees. Do not cut old growth legacy trees or stands. These are needed for wildlife habitat and structural complexity and are rare on the landscape after many decades of old growth clearcutting.

If variable retention harvest is used, please limit the practice to old plantation stands so the amount of late successional forest is not sacrificed to create forest openings for huckleberries and animal forage.

Please do not build any new roads into stands that have not been harvested. Also, after logging and restoration operations are complete, please decommission all roads in Late Successional Reserve not needed for travel to trailheads and campgrounds so as not to perpetuate the fragmentation of LSR by roads.

Thank you for your time.