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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am opposed to the proposed logging in the Glacier Creek and Canyon Creek watershed areas. I am also completely opposed to both clearcutting and thinning of Old Growth because an old growth forest manages and thins itself. Human interference is not needed.

The National Forest is public land, set aside for all to rejuvenate within. A public forest is not a commodity, it is to be kept in sacred trust for future generations. It is completely irresponsible stewardship to even be considering this scale of logging operation in our fragile and vital watershed when our entire environment is now under constant, unrelenting siege on every level. It does not engender trust amongst the public that you promoted this proposal in the first place.

Clear cut logging is not regenerative, it is devastating. When practiced in old growth forests it is criminal. The International Criminal Court is now prosecuting environmental crimes. Our forests are not replaceable and they are not a commodity whereby some quick dollars can be made by a few and the rest of us are left holding the bag. You are talking about destroying elder beings which are irreplaceable to multiple human lifetimes.

I am open to select and closely regulated thinning in those forests which have already been damaged by disease, drought, fire, failed replants, monoculture plantings, etc. Such thinning must include provable efforts to improve the intrinsic health of those damaged places and not simply be an economic shortcut. Every action in the National Forest should be towards supporting natural diversity and longevity of said forests and those actions taken should be made accountable to future generations.

I am enrolled native. I am also an elder. For over forty years I have intensively practiced my native traditions and religion in and around Glacier Creek, Thompson Creek, Canyon Creek and the Nooksack River. I am intimately familiar with the proposed thinning and clearcut areas because I have performed, on the ground, literally thousands of ceremonies and made countless offerings for the protection of these sacred places.. I have immersed myself daily, in all seasons, into these fast running and cleansing waters. I can therefore confidently say that I have an extensive and direct cellular knowledge of this area.

Those of us who recognize the invaluable importance of our local forest watershed to this entire bioregion; have voluntarily invested hundreds of thousands of person hours in protecting the health and well being of this place. How much thankless sweat equity and unpaid effort have the Forest Service and Timber Companies invested in these forests? By what authority do you then feel you can threaten to destroy the very landscape upon which we all so completely depend and have invested so much of ourselves into?

As our elders have said repeatedly, this continual rape of the landscape is based on immature and fantastical thinking.

I remember very clearly when Glacier Creek flooded significantly every year, sometimes even twice or more a year; due directly to large scale logging.

At that time both Forest Service and DNR officials tried to deny the obvious connection; even while they were standing directly next to Glacier Creek as dozens of clear cut stumps were rushing by in the flood waters around us.. Glacier Creek road itself has also had several notable landslides over the years and alot of money has been spent on stabilizing Glacier Creek and on bridge and road repair.

Has the Forest Service done a cost assessment of how much the last round of large scale logging damage cost

the taxpayers? When you add up flood and erosion control measures, road and bridge repair, damage to local landowners downstream etc., exactly how much will we the taxpayers be subsidizing this logging/thinning operation?

Our relatively healthy, mature and diverse forests need to be left alone. There is so very little left. Confine all logging to the previously planted monoculture tree farms that so much of our forest and surrounding landscape has become.

I assume roads will be built for thinning operations, not just clearcutting. Roads do ever more damage in our forested hills. I owned property on Cornell Creek road where a big section of road from the enormous clearcut above slid down onto our property. Again who pays for this kind of term damage?

Also who will oversee proposed thinning operations? Will you make sure that ONLY the marked trees will be removed? Will you make sure that steel cables are not left to strangle living trees? Will you make sure that waterway boundary zones are rigorously observed?

How much does it cost to actively and adequately regulate and enforce these operations? Do you even have the person power to do this or will you just grant permits trusting that the logging companies will abide by the rules?

Landowners in this area can tell you that logging companies are notorious for going over property lines to take trees and do damage and there is absolutely no consequence for this collateral destruction. Because Wa state has antiquated timber trespass laws from the era of the timber robber barons.

So will the Forest Service turn a blind eye as our state DNR has repeatedly done, when logging companies take far more timber than they are permitted for? It is unethical to grant permits that you cannot vigorously regulate when it comes to the rare and precious resource which our National Forests have become.

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