

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 4/1/2021 4:06:33 PM

First name: Colleen

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear District Ranger Uloth,

Thank you for the opportunity to share my concern regarding the recent Environmental Assessment of the Nooksack Vegetation Management Project. I am writing to express my strong rejection of the proposed Alternative 1 and my support of Alternative 2, along with a comprehensive Environmental Impact Statement.

I grew up in and am a current resident of Bellingham. The North Fork Nooksack and Mount Baker area was and continues to be very important to me. More importantly, the health and stability of this area is essential to the health of our local ecosystem and watershed. Clear-cut plantation forestry degrades water quality and destroys salmon habitat by increasing the rate of erosion and landslides. It also makes water move faster through the hydrologic system, causing major flooding in the winters and near drought in the summers. The Canyon Creek Watershed has already been adversely impacted by logging, as clearly documented by the USFS Watershed Analysis for the basin.

It is my strong belief that the Forest Service should not be clear-cutting in the 21st century. Our old growth forests are well-established and well-balanced ecosystems that would take hundreds if not thousands of years to regenerate and it is imperative that we protect them. Mount Baker Ranger District should advance selective thinning, rather than clear-cutting, to meet its ecological responsibilities.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Colleen Freeman