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Title:

Comments: Please accept these comments, respectfully submitted, regarding the "Environmental Assessment " pertaining to the North Fork Nooksack Vegetation Management Project.

I care about this area because I value diverse and multi-aged forests. I value healthy forest soil and clean water, functioning watersheds, unsilted streams, and viable, diverse populations of wildlife, including protected and important species of Puget Sound salmon, the northern spotted owl, and marbled murrelet. I am concerned about maintaining carbon stability in the forest soil, preventing too much run-off in the winter, (leading to soil saturation and mass wasting), and too little flow in the summer, including consequent increases in stream temperatures.

For all these reasons, and because clear-cutting of forests is a practice that has been shown, repeatedly and scientifically, to adversely impact all that I value and have mentioned above, I am requesting that the USFS NOT adopt Alternative #1, or any other alternative that includes clear-cutting (AKA "stand regeneration").

Please consider the ecological goals and responsibilities of the USFS. Please consider the impacts associated with climate change. Please consider that the USFS has stated the following as a leading point in its publication "What We Believe": "Advocating a conservation ethic in promoting the health, productivity, diversity and beauty of forests and associated lands." Please consider that all productivity need not and should not be monetarily based. Please consider selective thinning rather than clear cutting the forest.

Additionally, and very importantly, I strongly request that an EIS be conducted before any plan is adopted for this area for the following reasons:

*This is a large area that has already experienced negative impacts from clear-cut logging (USFS Watershed Analysis).

*Roads are planned through a Riparian Reserve.

*Habitat for protected species will be adversely impacted, particularly by clear cut logging.

Thankyou for receiving and considering these comments.