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Title:

Comments: Thank you for this opportunity to comment on the "North Fork Stillaguamish Landscape Project". We are opposed to the decommissioning of the Mt Higgins (FS# 640 and 640.1) and Round Mtn (FS# 664) trails. The proposed trail decommissioning will remove the only dedicated hiking trails in the project area. The trails are located in roadless non-wilderness areas, and the high points provide a commanding view of the Stillaguamish Valley. These trails have historical significance. The Mt Higgins trail was constructed by the Forest Service in 1918 and Round Mtn trail in 1933. These trails are the last remaining remnants of Forest Service trail system that included over 100 miles of trails. Mt Higgins and Round Mtn trails are still hikeable in spite of years of official neglect, logging and now access issues. The Forest Service made promises to restore and maintain these trails for years and now instead of restoring these trails intends to obliterate these trails. Including the decommissioning of trails in a larger program of unrelated activities seems unnecessary as presence of these trails have no impact on any current or future forest vegetation and fish habitat actions. With the increasing demand for hiking trails, it is completely inappropriate for the Forest Service to decommission these trails. These trails must be preserved and restored Forest Service for future use.

Thank you.