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Comments: Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Environmental Assessment (EA) for Forestwide Thinning Analysis #68852 for Mount Baker-Snoqualmie Forest. I live in Washington state, and I love our forests for their fundamental contribution to salmon habitat, to clean air and water, and to the health of Washington residents and visitor. The Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest is of central importance in the forests of our state.

Given the broad project scale and complexity of the planned activities, more basin-and-site level specifics are urgently needed to adequately address the environmental and human impacts of the Forestwide Thinning project.

Please issue an Environmental Impact Statement for the project to allow for an appropriately in-depth assessment of the project impacts and outcomes, as well as more specific community feedback on project sub-areas. Substantive Tribal consultation is a basic requirement to proceed with this assessment.

Please also consider breaking the project into four distinct plans, based on district, so that environmental assessments can be tailored to the unique conditions of each region-in line with other USFS planning processes and similar projects conducted in the PNW region.

Thinning treatments like Variable Density Thinning can be an effective management tool for reaching ecological and forest resilience goals while supporting rural livelihoods through contributions to a sustainable local wood volume-but not all thinning applications are created equal. In order to avoid the demonstrated hydrologic, ecological, habitat, cultural, and recreation impacts of poorly implemented forest management activities, it's crucial that a full, detailed, place-based and Tribal Sovereign-involved analysis of the environmental impacts is considered before moving forward with any proposed management activities.

Thank you for taking my comments into consideration.

Karla Ward