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Comments: Hello! Thank you for this opportunity to comment on the Forestwide Thinning Analysis number 68852 for the Mount Baker Snoqualmie, National Forest. Thank you for all your hard work and efforts to create the documents for this analysis.

Some of my most meaningful and joyful Times of my life have been spent on the Mount Baker National Forest- hiking, camping, swimming, sightseeing. It is incredibly beautiful and magical, and provides me with so much inspiration and peace of mind. Countless visitors also enjoy the experiences of a lifetime when they visit the National Forest. I am always very proud to bring all of our out-of-town visitors there to see how amazingly special it is.

A few of my concerns about the thinning projects are;

The increased road building, and erosion that occurs with that.

Stands that are thinned will have more degradation of soils and existing under story plants, which can have an increased potential for more erosion, especially with heavier, more frequent rains that we seem to be having. And more sediment flowing into streams, degrading fish habitat.

Fragmented wildlife habitat and degradation. Including areas of less cover for animals to travel through and disturbances to threatened and endangered species that called the forest their home.

Increase wildfire risk due to more slash burning and controlled burns that may become uncontrolled.

Increased danger with more logging trucks on the forest service roads where many of the trails are very popular and there's a lot of traffic, with great potential for car accidents.

I am very concerned that what may be described as "thinning", will basically end up being a clearcut. The logging companies that will be contracted to do the work have a priority of making as much money as possible, which may not give much incentive to do things in a more ecological way for thinning. Once areas are thinned and there are "leave' trees, they usually end up just blowing down, and the stream buffers should also be increased because of this increase in blowdown.

My hope is that there would be strict monitoring and inspections of all of these thinning projects, and the rules would be expected to be followed with steep penalties for any problems.

Visual changes associated with any forest thinning are also of concern to me.

I am sure the forest service workers take pride in their positions as caretakers of our shared public lands, and also love these lands. I hope and trust the forest will be managed for multiple uses, not just for human interests and economic reasons. We want future generations to have the privilege of experiencing these forests in the same amazing ways that we have been fortunate to be able to.

Thank you very much.