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Comments: Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Forestwide Thinning Treatments Project (FWT) in the Mt Baker - Snoqualmie National Forest (MBSNF) that the U.S. Forest Service (FS) proposes.

The MBSNF is a key recreation destination, resource, and economic driver for all Washington State. See Gem of the Emerald Corridor: Nature's Value in the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest, Earth Economics/The Wilderness Society, 2017, (<https://bit.ly/gemoftheemeraldcorridor>). The Emerald Gem Article touches on several areas the EA does not, especially the impact of non-timber production economies.

I am concerned the FWT will likely have negative impacts on tourism and local communities' livelihoods as local and regional economies depend far more on tourism and recreation, as well as non-timber production jobs, than the timber jobs of the past.

The FWT will likely have negative impacts on Water quality. The Hydrology Report lists many watersheds in the MBS which might be impacted by the FWT. The MBS provides domestic water supplies to a number of communities, and the EA needs to adequately address the impact on domestic water sources so communities are not faced with needing to pretreat their drinking water supply.

Thinning projects also pressure threatened and endangered species and their habitats, like the Marbled Murrelet, Northern Spotted Owl, Canada Lynx, Wolverine, Bull Trout, and numerous flowers and plants. Federal law requires that these species be protected.

As noted in the EA, three designated "Wild and Scenic" rivers are in the MBSNF, as well as 47 rivers that were deemed 'eligible' for designation, all of which need to be protected as listed by applicable law. (See Appendix E of the Mount Baker/Snoqualmie National Forest Plan.) As a whitewater kayaker who has kayaked the North Fork of the Nooksack, the Skykomish, the North Fork of the Skykomish, the Middle Fork of the Snoqualmie, and the White River, I would request the final EA describe the impact on the designated Wild and Scenic Rivers as well as those rivers deemed eligible for designation as Wild and Scenic, from the perspective of a person recreating on those rivers.

Also, I hike in and around Mount Rainier National Park. Several of our hikes begin in the National Park but end in the surrounding National Forest. One hike I am specifically concerned about is the hike from Sunrise to Grand Park which ends in Mount Baker/Snoqualmie National Forest outside of Lake Eleanor. The trailhead is accessed via Forest Service road 73. Please be specific in the final EA as to impacts to road, trails and scenery in Mount Baker/Snoqualmie National Forest that are accessed or visible from Mount Rainier National Park.

This EA is very vague in describing specific and detailed actions which will occur over the Mount Baker/Snoqualmie National Forest over a time period of 30 years. The EA does not identify thinning units by location or acreage, it does not prioritize which projects across the Mount Baker/Snoqualmie National Forest will occur where and when. Because the EA gives vague descriptions of actions, it gives equally vague descriptions of impacts. Unfortunately, the impacts will not remain vague but become very real to users of the National Forest once these projects begin.

These issues must not remain vague but be addressed via an in-depth Environmental Impact Statement.