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Comments: I've worked as a hydrologist and geomorphologist in Bellingham for years. A healthy forest is critical for clean water access and flood/erosion mitigation. Access to wood as a resource is important, but there are correct and incorrect ways to go about this.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Environmental Assessment (EA) for Forestwide Thinning Analysis #68852 for Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest.

Given the broad project scale and complexity of the planned activities, more basin- and site-level specifics are needed to adequately assess the environmental 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 additional, more specific community feedback on project sub-areas.

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 jurisdiction-in line with other USFS planning processes and similar projects conducted in the PNW region.

Thinning treatments like Variable Density Thinning (VDT) 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, and place-based analysis of the environmental impacts is considered before moving forward with any proposed management activities.

Thank you for considering my comments.