

	Comment Table (214 comments)		
Comment # & Name	Comments	Concerns/Issues	Response
1-Pete Paget	<p>I am writing to express concern for the redevelopment of the Excelsior Mine and the new road construction in the Mt. Baker North Inventoried Roadless Area. Our roadless areas are comprised of unlogged ancient forests which are underrepresented on national forest lands due to unsustainable logging practices decades ago. Roads also have measurable and important impacts on the watershed and surrounding environment and the area proposed for new road construction has been and should continue to be managed for unroaded values.</p> <p>The 2 million acres of roadless forests here in Washington State are a critical part of the quality of life we have come to expect. Roadless forests provide much of our clean water and safe drinking water, besides protecting fish and wildlife. New road building in an Inventoried Roadless Area is unacceptable and threatens these values. In fact, unauthorized road development work has already taken place within the Mt. Baker North Inventoried Roadless Area prior to completion of the environmental analysis and public involvement process. This activity clearly violates both the Roadless Rule and the National Environmental Policy Act. The Forest Service should take immediate corrective action and suspend further review of the proposed Excelsior Mine operating plan pending an investigation.</p> <p>In addition, there is another alternative that includes repairing the washout on an existing Forest Service Road that provided the original access to the Excelsior mine site without impacting the inventoried roadless area. Repairing this road would restore access without violating the Roadless Rule and potentially at less or comparable expense and impact than constructing a new road through intact old-growth forest to arrive at the same location. The EA should be supplemented to include the analysis of this alternative</p> <p>I urge you to consider an alternative that does not violate the Roadless Rule and protects clean water, fish and wildlife habitat and world class opportunities for recreationists and the ability for northwest Tribes to exercise their cultural and treaty rights.</p>	Inventoried Roadless	<p>The 2001 Roadless Rule is explicit that existing mineral availability, exploration, and development for locatable minerals, access rights, and related road construction or reconstruction continues, subject to the General Mining Law of 1872, and regulated by provisions of Title 36 CFR 228, subpart A. Although there is an exception within the 2001 Roadless Rule for new road construction for mining, there will in fact be no new road building for this project. Instead, access to the mine portals will be by way of an existing road (upper road) within the inventoried roadless area; which would require reconstructing existing waterbars into drivable drainage dips in order to restore the road for use. This access route would be reclaimed as part of the required reclamation plan to restore the inventoried roadless character of the area.</p> <p>To address the suggested alternative access route, located outside of an inventoried roadless area, we considered the alternative of utilizing FSR 3700-031 as an access route to the mine. Historically, this route was the main access road to both mine portals. However, in 1992 a half bridge was removed from this road segment as part of required reclamation in the approved plan of operations. In addition, a segment of this road from the half bridge to the Mill Level portal was decommissioned as part of the same reclamation plan stated above. As a result, re-establishing access by utilizing FSR 3700-031 would require extensive repairs and new construction. This would include either installing a new bridge or constructing an engineered retaining wall at the site where the half bridge was removed from past reclamation work. Utilizing this access route would not minimize impacts to surface resources as directed by Forest Service mining regulations (36 CFR 228.8) and forest plan direction (USDA Forest Service 1990, p. 4-136). Due to the existing conditions of FSR 3700-031, and exceptions within the Roadless Rule as written, this alternative was eliminated from detailed study, as discussed in section 2.3.</p> <p>The project was reviewed (October 2, 2018) by the Chief of the Forest Service and determined to be consistent with the 2001 Roadless Rule.</p>

2-Susan Thompson	Exact comment as above (comment #1)	Inventoried Roadless	See response to comment #1.
3-Joanna Muench	Exact comment as above (comment #1)	Inventoried Roadless	See response to comment #1.
4-Corey Burgess	Exact comment as above (comment #1), with added statement: Roads in roadless areas is unacceptable.	Inventoried Roadless	See response to comment #1.
5-Brian Davidson	Exact comment as above (comment #1)	Inventoried Roadless	See response to comment #1.
6-Richard Draves	Exact comment as above (comment #1), with added statement: I recreate on forest service land around Mt Baker frequently (climbing, skiing, and hiking) so preserving the roadless area is important to me.	Inventoried Roadless	See response to comment #1.
7-Paul Fitzgerald	Exact comment as above (comment #1)	Inventoried Roadless	See response to comment #1.
8-Jeff Hummel	Exact comment as above (comment #1), with added statement: This is a terrible idea. This is clearly part of the porn president's plan to steal the commons from Americans and give it to corporate fascists. This must be stopped. We don't need more environmental destruction for corporate profit.	Inventoried Roadless	See response to comment #1.
9-Bob Aegerter	Exact comment as above (comment #1), with added statement: We depend on you to protect and enforce the Roadless Rule. Live up to your commitment.	Inventoried Roadless	See response to comment #1.
10-Dorothy Jordan	Exact comment as above (comment #1), with added statement: As a Washington resident, I spend as much time as I can out hiking on trails, mostly in the North Cascades. I truly value the natural areas which would not be there if we didn't have roadless areas. They need to be protected.	Inventoried Roadless	See response to comment #1.
11-Veronica Fairchild	Exact comment as above (comment #1)	Inventoried Roadless	See response to comment #1.
12-Mimsi Milton	Exact comment as above (comment #1), with added statement: The Forest Service has 380,000 miles of roads across the country, many of which are unused and in disrepair. We don't need more, especially not in roadless areas.	Inventoried Roadless	See response to comment #1.
13-Michelle Be Roth	Exact comment as above (comment #1)	Inventoried Roadless	See response to comment #1.
14-Tom Stevens	Exact comment as above (comment #1), with added statement: The long-term devastation is not worth the short-term financial gains. No mine, no road, no long-term problems.	Inventoried Roadless	See response to comment #1.
15-Timothy Keeler	Exact comment as above (comment #1)	Inventoried Roadless	See response to comment #1.
16-Brenda Paull	Exact comment as above (comment #1)	Inventoried Roadless	See response to comment #1.
17-Sarah Ameny	Exact comment as above (comment #1)	Inventoried Roadless	See response to comment #1.
18-Polly Taylor	Exact comment as above (comment #1)	Inventoried Roadless	See response to comment #1.
19-Michael Steele	Exact comment as above (comment #1)	Inventoried Roadless	See response to comment #1.
20-Laura Reutter	Exact comment as above (comment #1)	Inventoried Roadless	See response to comment #1.
21-Steven Erwood	Exact comment as above (comment #1)	Inventoried Roadless	See response to comment #1.
22-Carol Sibley	Exact comment as above (comment #1)	Inventoried Roadless	See response to comment #1.
23-Lisa Rome	Exact comment as above (comment #1)	Inventoried Roadless	See response to comment #1.
24-Ralph Becker	Exact comment as above (comment #1)	Inventoried Roadless	See response to comment #1.
25-Nicholas Harvey	Exact comment as above (comment #1)	Inventoried Roadless	See response to comment #1.
26-Cheryl Schuelke	Exact comment as above (comment #1)	Inventoried Roadless	See response to comment #1.
27-Kathryn Sharpe	Exact comment as above (comment #1), with added statement: This is not the time to violate a roadless area. We need to preserve and protect the wild areas that remain.	Inventoried Roadless	See response to comment #1.
28-Teresa Dix	Exact comment as above (comment #1), with added statement: Thank you for this consideration. We need more wilderness not less.	Inventoried Roadless	See response to comment #1.
29-Brian Fogel	Exact comment as above (comment #1)	Inventoried Roadless	See response to comment #1.
30-Jocelyn Phillips	Exact comment as above (comment #1)	Inventoried Roadless	See response to comment #1.

31-Anna Wehowsky	Exact comment as above (comment #1), with added statement: As someone who spends a lot of time exploring our great outdoor recreation areas, this is extremely important to me. Leaving these areas as intact as we can is one of the most important aspects of Leave No Trace.	Inventoried Roadless	See response to comment #1.
32-Julie Slocum Bennani	Exact comment as above (comment #1), with added statement: It is so important that Washington continue to lead the way in the US to protecting our precious environment and public lands. Please reconsider this action.	Inventoried Roadless	See response to comment #1.
33-Kristen Randall	Exact comment as above (comment #1)	Inventoried Roadless	See response to comment #1.
34-Ken Goldsmith	Exact comment as above (comment #1)	Inventoried Roadless	See response to comment #1.
35-Barbara Wilhite	Exact comment as above (comment #1), with added statement: Keep the Roadless Rule and the National Environmental Policy Act that protects the 2 million acres of roadless forests in Washington State. This area is a critical part of the quality of life we have come to expect and treasure.	Inventoried Roadless	See response to comment #1.
36-Amy Mower	Exact comment as above (comment #1), with added statement: A wide-range of activities are permissible in roadless areas however building roads is not. Building a new road into the Mt. Baker North Inventoried Roadless Area is unacceptable.	Inventoried Roadless	See response to comment #1.
37-Richard Shugerman	Exact comment as above (comment #1)	Inventoried Roadless	See response to comment #1.
38-Robert Eiffert	Exact comment as above (comment #1), with added statement: Please define who benefits from this road building, traffic, extraction.	Inventoried Roadless	See response to comment #1.
39-Amanda Blewet	Exact comment as above (comment #1)	Inventoried Roadless	See response to comment #1.
40-Shannon Sorem	Exact comment as above (comment #1)	Inventoried Roadless	See response to comment #1.
41-Ricky Taylor	Exact comment as above (comment #1)	Inventoried Roadless	See response to comment #1.
42-Emily Myette	Exact comment as above (comment #1)	Inventoried Roadless	See response to comment #1.
43-Ann Bradshaw	Exact comment as above (comment #1)	Inventoried Roadless	See response to comment #1.
44-Bill Burwell	Exact comment as above (comment #1), with added statement: We can look throughout the West at the monumental damage to land, water, air, scenic and wildlife resources from mining. We do not need another mining operation to add to the damage.	Inventoried Roadless	See response to comment #1.
45-Virginia White	Exact comment as above (comment #1)	Inventoried Roadless	See response to comment #1.
46-Margaret Sandvig	Exact comment as above (comment #1)	Inventoried Roadless	See response to comment #1.
47-Mike Shurgot	Exact comment as above (comment #1), with added statement: I have hiked and climbed in the MT Baker region for 30 years, and I know firsthand that mining and road building are completely incompatible with wilderness and roadies areas. Do not allow roads in a roadless area!	Inventoried Roadless	See response to comment #1.
48-Chris Cottrell	Exact comment as above (comment #1)	Inventoried Roadless	See response to comment #1.
49-Anne Lepora	Exact comment as above (comment #1)	Inventoried Roadless	See response to comment #1.
50-Michael Little	Exact comment as above (comment #1)	Inventoried Roadless	See response to comment #1.
51-Ariel West	Exact comment as above (comment #1)	Inventoried Roadless	See response to comment #1.
52-Stacy Strickland	Exact comment as above (comment #1)	Inventoried Roadless	See response to comment #1.
53-Eileen Reichert	Exact comment as above (comment #1), with added statement: I want my grandchildren and their grandchildren to hike into roadless forests to see ancient trees hosting wildlife in their woodland arms. Enforce the Roadless Rule and the National Environmental Policy Act. Stewardship is not optional!	Inventoried Roadless	See response to comment #1.
54-Kathryn Alexandra	Exact comment as above (comment #1)	Inventoried Roadless	See response to comment #1.
55-Jennifer Fairchild	Exact comment as above (comment #1)	Inventoried Roadless	See response to comment #1.

56-Claire Egtvedt	Exact comment as above (comment #1)	Inventoried Roadless	See response to comment #1.
57-Scott Elliot	Exact comment as above (comment #1)	Inventoried Roadless	See response to comment #1.
58-m dulin	Exact comment as above (comment #1), with added statement: Preserving our forests should be a priority. I support enforcement of the Roadless Rule as it pertains to the Mt Baker North Inventoried Roadless Area and the Excelsior Mine. I support repairing the existing Forest Service Road.	Inventoried Roadless	See response to comment #1.
59-Susan Vannerholm	Exact comment as above (comment #1)	Inventoried Roadless	See response to comment #1.
60-Mary Beinmer	Exact comment as above (comment #1)	Inventoried Roadless	See response to comment #1.
61-Izaak Koller	Exact comment as above (comment #1), with added statement: Roadless areas are the next best thing next to designated wilderness. I am spiritual renewed when I enter wilderness and areas that have not been modified by mans shortsighted actions. Please work within the existing impacted area.	Inventoried Roadless	See response to comment #1.
62-Laverne Will	Exact comment as above (comment #1)	Inventoried Roadless	See response to comment #1.
63-Gail Bohnhoff-Hlavacek	Exact comment as above (comment #1), with added statement: If you have lived for any years in Washington, you already know that the nearly 2 million acres of roadless forests here in Washington State are a critical part of the quality of life we have come to treasure. Keep roadless forests roadless!	Inventoried Roadless	See response to comment #1.
64-Peter Rimbos	Exact comment as above (comment #1)	Inventoried Roadless	See response to comment #1.
65-Catherine Moore	Exact comment as above (comment #1)	Inventoried Roadless	See response to comment #1.
66-Brian Peterman	Exact comment as above (comment #1), with added statement: I personally hike, walk, and fish in Roadless Areas and hope that eventually they get Wilderness designation. That won't happen if there are roads already there. Please, no roads into Roadless Areas!	Inventoried Roadless	See response to comment #1.
67-Jeremy Schmidt	Exact comment as above (comment #1), with added statement: Thank you for your time, it's greatly appreciated.	Inventoried Roadless	See response to comment #1.
68-Russell Dial	Exact comment as above (comment #1), with added statement: Please do not build a road to reopen a mine! It's counter to the best interest of the land and citizens of the great state of Washington. These areas have environmental, recreational and economic benefits exactly as they are. No new road or mine!	Inventoried Roadless	See response to comment #1.
69-Erinn Zavaglia	Exact comment as above (comment #1)	Inventoried Roadless	See response to comment #1.
70-Jennifer Kardiak	Exact comment as above (comment #1)	Inventoried Roadless	See response to comment #1.
71-Gloria Bond	Exact comment as above (comment #1)	Inventoried Roadless	See response to comment #1.
72-Barbara Blackwood	Exact comment as above (comment #1)	Inventoried Roadless	See response to comment #1.
73-Tosha Mayo	Exact comment as above (comment #1)	Inventoried Roadless	See response to comment #1.
74-Adam Deer	Exact comment as above (comment #1)	Inventoried Roadless	See response to comment #1.
75-Gregry Loomis	Exact comment as above (comment #1)	Inventoried Roadless	See response to comment #1.
76-Julia Buck	Exact comment as above (comment #1), with added statement: These forests are a part of the Pacific Northwest's regional identity, and we need to protect what makes us unique.	Inventoried Roadless	See response to comment #1.
77-Mara Price	Exact comment as above (comment #1)	Inventoried Roadless	See response to comment #1.
78-Kenneth Davidson	Exact comment as above (comment #1), with added statement: I have lived in Washington for 44 years and hiked so many trails in the roadless areas of Washington and found them to be one of our country's greatest treasures which should be preserved for generations to come. Please preserve this one.	Inventoried Roadless	See response to comment #1.
79-Richard Lintermans	Exact comment as above (comment #1)	Inventoried Roadless	See response to comment #1.
80-Bill Daugaard	Exact comment as above (comment #1)	Inventoried Roadless	See response to comment #1.

81-Monty VanderBilt	Exact comment as above (comment #1), with added statement: I participated in the Sustainable Roads initiative by attending a public forum a number of years ago. The number of roads that needed to be removed from the system was astounding. It's surprising that you are considering new roads now.	Inventoried Roadless	See response to comment #1.
82-Samantha Grim	Exact comment as above (comment #1)	Inventoried Roadless	See response to comment #1.
83-Kenton Vance	Exact comment as above (comment #1)	Inventoried Roadless	See response to comment #1.
84-Randall Kuhns	Exact comment as above (comment #1)	Inventoried Roadless	See response to comment #1.
85-Darcey Hughes	Exact comment as above (comment #1)	Inventoried Roadless	See response to comment #1.
86-Maureen McGregor	Exact comment as above (comment #1)	Inventoried Roadless	See response to comment #1.
87-Mitchell McCommons	Exact comment as above (comment #1), with added statement: Please don't put more roads into our forests. Their will just open the area up for more usage. I urge you to abandone these plans. Thank you.	Inventoried Roadless	See response to comment #1.
88-Jess Daiger	Exact comment as above (comment #1), with added statement: Please keep our wilderness areas wild. Humans are taking up more and more and we need to have spaces that are untouched.	Inventoried Roadless	See response to comment #1.
89-Megan Conley	Exact comment as above (comment #1)	Inventoried Roadless	See response to comment #1.
90-Courtney m	Exact comment as above (comment #1)	Inventoried Roadless	See response to comment #1.
91-Lyle Collins	Exact comment as above (comment #1), with added statement: What the? USFS wants to build a road in an IRA? I urge you to mess up someone else's backyard, not Mine. It's called playing by the rules. Basic stuff.	Inventoried Roadless	See response to comment #1.
92-Pete Malerich	Exact comment as above (comment #1), with added statement: roadless areas cant be replaced.	Inventoried Roadless	See response to comment #1.
93-Janice Brookshier	Exact comment as above (comment #1)	Inventoried Roadless	See response to comment #1.
94-Cameron Groh	Exact comment as above (comment #1)	Inventoried Roadless	See response to comment #1.
95-Michael Byron	Exact comment as above (comment #1)	Inventoried Roadless	See response to comment #1.
96-Matthew Heitzenroder	Exact comment as above (comment #1)	Inventoried Roadless	See response to comment #1.
97-Diane Clifford	Exact comment as above (comment #1)	Inventoried Roadless	See response to comment #1.
98-Andrea Faste	Exact comment as above (comment #1), with added statement: We need every inch of standing timber to stay standing for carbon sequestration. If you build a road, you have to cut down trees. Given there is another alternative available for access that doesn't harm existing stands, please comply.	Inventoried Roadless	See response to comment #1.
99-Theodore Booth	Exact comment as above (comment #1)	Inventoried Roadless	See response to comment #1.
100-Edward Whitsell	Exact comment as above (comment #1)	Inventoried Roadless	See response to comment #1.
101-Constance Eichenlaub	Exact comment as above (comment #1), with added statement: It is essential that the Forest Service uphold the laws and regulations that are already in place. This is the basic rule of good stewardship -- do no harm.	Inventoried Roadless	See response to comment #1.
102-Tom Uniack	Exact comment as above (comment #1)	Inventoried Roadless	See response to comment #1.
103-Kristian Jaeger	Exact comment as above (comment #1)	Inventoried Roadless	See response to comment #1.
104-Lin Provost	Exact comment as above (comment #1), with added statement: It is important to follow what the people in the State of Washington want and this is not it. This is our state please look at the alternative that has been proposed.	Inventoried Roadless	See response to comment #1.
105-Mike Betz	Exact comment as above (comment #1)	Inventoried Roadless	See response to comment #1.
106-Ruth E. Rawhouser	Exact comment as above (comment #1), with added statement: Please, do not destroy this beatiful natural area with a road. It is a draw for many to be able to appreciate such a piece of real beauty. Washington has a reputation for saving the pacific NW and the uniqueness it can offer.	Inventoried Roadless	See response to comment #1.

107-Amanda Erickson	Exact comment as above (comment #1)	Inventoried Roadless	See response to comment #1.
108-Nancy White	Exact comment as above (comment #1)	Inventoried Roadless	See response to comment #1.
109-Gro Buer	Exact comment as above (comment #1)	Inventoried Roadless	See response to comment #1.
110-Gena DiLabio	Exact comment as above (comment #1)	Inventoried Roadless	See response to comment #1.
111-Selena Gutierrez	Exact comment as above (comment #1)	Inventoried Roadless	See response to comment #1.
112-Al Bergstein	Exact comment as above (comment #1), with added statement: As a WA State citizen I amazed that you would consider allowing new road construction in this roadless area. The 2001 Roadless Rule establishes prohibitions & the 2017 case by Alaska challenging it (CC 11-1122) was dismissed *with prejudice*.	Inventoried Roadless	See response to comment #1.
113-Ryan Davis	Exact comment as above (comment #1), with added statement: Thank you for taking seriously the protection of the few wilderness areas we have left.	Inventoried Roadless	See response to comment #1.
114-Jean Lanz	Exact comment as above (comment #1)	Inventoried Roadless	See response to comment #1.
115-Diana Cristina	Exact comment as above (comment #1)	Inventoried Roadless	See response to comment #1.
116-Melody Beiler	Exact comment as above (comment #1)	Inventoried Roadless	See response to comment #1.
117-Laura Gibbons	Exact comment as above (comment #1)	Inventoried Roadless	See response to comment #1.
118-Hilary Groh	Exact comment as above (comment #1)	Inventoried Roadless	See response to comment #1.
119-Ben Curran	Exact comment as above (comment #1), with added statement: I recently had the opportunity to hike to the top of Yellow Aster Butte in the Mt. Baker Wilderness on a beautiful, clear day and gaze at Mt. Baker, Shuksan and the entire North Cascades. I think it's incredibly important that the area is preserved.	Inventoried Roadless	See response to comment #1.
120-Andrew Stuntz	Exact comment as above (comment #1)	Inventoried Roadless	See response to comment #1.
121-Emily Haney	Exact comment as above (comment #1)	Inventoried Roadless	See response to comment #1.
122-Thomas Allen	Exact comment as above (comment #1)	Inventoried Roadless	See response to comment #1.
123-Kristen Smith	Exact comment as above (comment #1)	Inventoried Roadless	See response to comment #1.
124-Audrey Sheffield	Exact comment as above (comment #1)	Inventoried Roadless	See response to comment #1.
125-Ruth Harvey	Exact comment as above (comment #1)	Inventoried Roadless	See response to comment #1.
126-Clare Cloutier	Exact comment as above (comment #1), with added statement: Re do the existing road. Stop chipping away at roadless areas until there are none left. I'm opposed.	Inventoried Roadless	See response to comment #1.
127-Jonathan Loeffler	Exact comment as above (comment #1)	Inventoried Roadless	See response to comment #1.
128-Peter Wilsnack	Exact comment as above (comment #1)	Inventoried Roadless	See response to comment #1.
129-Gail McDonough	Exact comment as above (comment #1), with added statement: The critical need to slow climate change makes ancient, unlogged forests absolutely essential in sequestering carbon. The suicidal drive for profit is literally killing us all. I respectfully demand that this precious area be protected & roadless.	Inventoried Roadless	See response to comment #1.
130-Janet Pocsi	Exact comment as above (comment #1)	Inventoried Roadless	See response to comment #1.
131-Richard Rust	Exact comment as above (comment #1)	Inventoried Roadless	See response to comment #1.
132-Rachel Covault	Exact comment as above (comment #1)	Inventoried Roadless	See response to comment #1.
133-Jim Seeks	Exact comment as above (comment #1)	Inventoried Roadless	See response to comment #1.
134-Geoff Cole	Exact comment as above (comment #1), with added statement: In short, roadless areas were intended to be areas without roads. Continuing to chip away at these designations makes the whole exercise pointless.	Inventoried Roadless	See response to comment #1.
135-Gordon Wood	Exact comment as above (comment #1)	Inventoried Roadless	See response to comment #1.
136-Monica Dunn	Exact comment as above (comment #1)	Inventoried Roadless	See response to comment #1.
137-Carol Bee	Exact comment as above (comment #1)	Inventoried Roadless	See response to comment #1.

138-Susan Juhre	Exact comment as above (comment #1)	Inventoried Roadless	See response to comment #1.
139-Caroline Brown	Exact comment as above (comment #1)	Inventoried Roadless	See response to comment #1.
140-Nancy Wright	Exact comment as above (comment #1), with added statement: Environmental and recreation resources generate income for the surrounding communities and are part of what keeps Washington State unique and our ecosystems healthy. Please protect our roadless wilderness areas in the national forest	Inventoried Roadless	See response to comment #1.
141-John McGlenn	Exact comment as above (comment #1)	Inventoried Roadless	See response to comment #1.
142-Justus Hyatt	Exact comment as above (comment #1)	Inventoried Roadless	See response to comment #1.
143-Jennifer MacDonald	Exact comment as above (comment #1)	Inventoried Roadless	See response to comment #1.
144-John Butler	Exact comment as above (comment #1), with added statement: Repairing the existing road as alternative to building a new road through a roadless area seems almost infinitely preferable. If the mine is to be reopened let's ensure least possible impact.	Inventoried Roadless	See response to comment #1.
145-Jeff Keenan	Exact comment as above (comment #1), with added statement: I sincerely hope that the Forest Service will abide by the "Roadless Rule", and not proceed with *new* road construction in Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest near Wells Creek. kind regards, Jeff Keenan, Seattle, WA	Inventoried Roadless	See response to comment #1.
146-Tara Hollins	Exact comment as above (comment #1)	Inventoried Roadless	See response to comment #1.
147-Diane Weinstein	Exact comment as above (comment #1)	Inventoried Roadless	See response to comment #1.
148-Susan Fitch	Exact comment as above (comment #1)	Inventoried Roadless	See response to comment #1.
149-Candice Walsh	Exact comment as above (comment #1), with added statement: The consideration of any kind of mining through land that has many water sources that eventually end up in the drinking glasses of Bellingham residents should not be pursued. The thought process of anyone who consciously condones cutting into more old growth forests, after gaining the basic knowledge of how much that kind of land does for not only Whatcom county, but, for the whole world, completely baffles me. But here we are. This quest for monetary success is ultimately failure; for our future, for our morals, for our health, for our children. . . Please, do not expand into OUR land.	Inventoried Roadless	See response to comment #1.
150-Mark Blitzer	Exact comment as above (comment #1)	Inventoried Roadless	See response to comment #1.
151-Wayne Palsson	Exact comment as above (comment #1), with added statement: Maintain the integrity of roadless areas. Do not allow this activity in an unroaded area!	Inventoried Roadless	See response to comment #1.
152-Alyx Fier	Exact comment as above (comment #1), with added statement: I think it's important to keep wild areas wild. As our state becomes more crowded it is increasingly important that we preserve places for people to get away from the noise and crowds to refresh their spirit through connecting with nature.	Inventoried Roadless	See response to comment #1.
153-Susan Heywood	Exact comment as above (comment #1)	Inventoried Roadless	See response to comment #1.
154-Melissa Menti	Exact comment as above (comment #1), with added statement: Please protect this valuable area.	Inventoried Roadless	See response to comment #1.
155-David Neevel	Exact comment as above (comment #1)	Inventoried Roadless	See response to comment #1.
156-Jason Scullion	Exact comment as above (comment #1)	Inventoried Roadless	See response to comment #1.
157-Lynn Rabenstein	Exact comment as above (comment #1)	Inventoried Roadless	See response to comment #1.
158-Yaim Cooper	Exact comment as above (comment #1), with added statement: I love Mt Baker, go hiking there often. Please do not allow more roads to be built into the protected roadless area.	Inventoried Roadless	See response to comment #1.

159-Paul Fredrickson	Exact comment as above (comment #1)	Inventoried Roadless	See response to comment #1.
160-Christy Steckler	Exact comment as above (comment #1)	Inventoried Roadless	See response to comment #1.
161-Richard Johnson	Exact comment as above (comment #1)	Inventoried Roadless	See response to comment #1.
162-Mary Blackstone	Exact comment as above (comment #1), with added statement: We can never regain the loss of a roadless area with its crucial benefits to wildlife and water quality. The use of the former access road must be considered and the roadless area preserved intact.	Inventoried Roadless	See response to comment #1.
163-Pradyumna Misra	Exact comment as above (comment #1)	Inventoried Roadless	See response to comment #1.
164-Menno Sennesael	Exact comment as above (comment #1), with added statement: Please do the right thing. Thank you. Future generations will thank you as well.	Inventoried Roadless	See response to comment #1.
165-Emily Shellabarger	Exact comment as above (comment #1)	Inventoried Roadless	See response to comment #1.
166-Roger Lippman	Exact comment as above (comment #1)	Inventoried Roadless	See response to comment #1.
167-Nigel Veach	Exact comment as above (comment #1)	Inventoried Roadless	See response to comment #1.
168-Sarah Davidson	Exact comment as above (comment #1)	Inventoried Roadless	See response to comment #1.
169-Hannah Chapin	Exact comment as above (comment #1), with added statement: The roadless spaces in Washington state are a jewel of the US Forest Service system and should be preserved as such. I strongly encourage you to affirm the value of these spaces and keeping them untouched.	Inventoried Roadless	See response to comment #1.
170-Maya Martin	Exact comment as above (comment #1)	Inventoried Roadless	See response to comment #1.
171-Kathryn Schetzer	Exact comment as above (comment #1)	Inventoried Roadless	See response to comment #1.
172-Karen Burns	Exact comment as above (comment #1), with added statement: Building a new road into the Mt. Baker North inventoried roadless area is unacceptable to me. Protect the roadless rule.	Inventoried Roadless	See response to comment #1.
173-William Dixon	Exact comment as above (comment #1), with added statement: We don't want mining in our wild areas!	Inventoried Roadless	See response to comment #1.
174-Andy McDonald	Exact comment as above (comment #1), with added statement: Keep pristine areas pristine!	Inventoried Roadless	See response to comment #1.
175-Dana Davoli	Exact comment as above (comment #1)	Inventoried Roadless	See response to comment #1.
176-Alice Steijn	Exact comment as above (comment #1)	Inventoried Roadless	See response to comment #1.
177-Adam Lenhardt	Exact comment as above (comment #1)	Inventoried Roadless	See response to comment #1.
178-Fritz Wollett	Exact comment as above (comment #1)	Inventoried Roadless	See response to comment #1.
179-Nicole Pando	Exact comment as above (comment #1)	Inventoried Roadless	See response to comment #1.
180-McCree Williams	Exact comment as above (comment #1)	Inventoried Roadless	See response to comment #1.
181-Patrick Lehr	Exact comment as above (comment #1)	Inventoried Roadless	See response to comment #1.
182-Gerald Wheeler	Exact comment as above (comment #1)	Inventoried Roadless	See response to comment #1.
183-Phillip Shaw	Exact comment as above (comment #1)	Inventoried Roadless	See response to comment #1.
184-R. Peggy Smith	Exact comment as above (comment #1)	Inventoried Roadless	See response to comment #1.
185-George and Frances Alderson	Exact comment as above (comment #1), with added statement: Please consider this message as our comment on the matter of the Excelsior mine and new road building in the Mount Baker North inventoried roadless area. I (George) am a native of Washington state, and I moved east for my military service.	Inventoried Roadless	See response to comment #1.
186-Breanna Duffy	Exact comment as above (comment #1)	Inventoried Roadless	See response to comment #1.
187-Tom Uniack	Joint letter (see below)		
188-Javier Ortiz-Aponte	Exact comment as above (comment #1)	Inventoried Roadless	See response to comment #1.
189-Tim Dichiaro	Exact comment as above (comment #1)	Inventoried Roadless	See response to comment #1.
190-Jessica Gillespie	Exact comment as above (comment #1)	Inventoried Roadless	See response to comment #1.



191-Katelynn Manz	Exact comment as above (comment #1)	Inventoried Roadless	See response to comment #1.
192-Jerome Graber	Exact comment as above (comment #1), with added statement: Especially with recent issues affecting salmon and orcas in our region, please do not build this road until we have a better understanding of the complex changes happening in our special regional ecosystem.	Inventoried Roadless	See response to comment #1.
193-Sarah Barnhart	Exact comment as above (comment #1)	Inventoried Roadless	See response to comment #1.
194-Arthur Grunbaum	Exact comment as above (comment #1)	Inventoried Roadless	See response to comment #1.
195-Audrey Burgard	Exact comment as above (comment #1)	Inventoried Roadless	See response to comment #1.
196-Michelle Chamberlin	Exact comment as above (comment #1)	Inventoried Roadless	See response to comment #1.
197-Harriet Bakken	Exact comment as above (comment #1)	Inventoried Roadless	See response to comment #1.
198-Greg Giboney	Exact comment as above (comment #1)	Inventoried Roadless	See response to comment #1.
199-Jennifer Blume	Exact comment as above (comment #1)	Inventoried Roadless	See response to comment #1.
200-Jennifer Barr	Exact comment as above (comment #1), with added statement: This area is recovering from previous heavy land use and is adjacent to the last bit of Roadless Area. I strongly object to the Forest Service complying with opening more roads for resource extraction in one of the last remaining wilderness areas.	Inventoried Roadless	See response to comment #1.
201-Tom Plank	Exact comment as above (comment #1)	Inventoried Roadless	See response to comment #1.
202-Kim Foley	Exact comment as above (comment #1)	Inventoried Roadless	See response to comment #1.
203-Eden Toner	Exact comment as above (comment #1)	Inventoried Roadless	See response to comment #1.
204-Jennie Scheerer	Exact comment as above (comment #1)	Inventoried Roadless	See response to comment #1.
205-Elizabeth Salle	Exact comment as above (comment #1)	Inventoried Roadless	See response to comment #1.
206-Lance Hammer	Exact comment as above (comment #1)	Inventoried Roadless	See response to comment #1.
207-Kim Jones	Exact comment as above (comment #1)	Inventoried Roadless	See response to comment #1.
208-Linda Orgel	Exact comment as above (comment #1)	Inventoried Roadless	See response to comment #1.
187-Washington Wild	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Request for a field tour to better understand the rationale behind the proposed action in the EA.</li> <li>2. <i>Unauthorized clearing of the upper road has already occurred.</i></li> <li>3. <i>The Roadless Rule does not allow for maintenance of "unclassified roads" such as the upper road identified as part of this project.</i></li> <li>4. <i>The Roadless Rule only allows reconstruction pursuant to statute (i.e., the 1872 Mining Law) if a road is needed</i></li> </ol>	<p>Field Trip</p> <p>Forest Management</p> <p>Inventoried Roadless</p> <p>Inventoried Roadless</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Field Trip was conducted on November 13, 2018. Organizations attended were Washington Wild, The Wilderness Society, and The Sierra Club.</li> <li>2. The cutting of trees and brush, as noted in the October 14<sup>th</sup> site visit, was conducted by someone in the general public within the Burnt Knob Quarry. The Burnt Knob Quarry is not within an inventoried roadless area. This activity was not authorized by the Forest Service. Flagging noted along the upper road was placed by Forest Service engineers when evaluating the road.</li> <li>3. The roadless rule does allow for maintenance of temporary roads within an inventoried roadless area. The maintenance of the road will be the responsibility of the permit holder, and bonded to ensure compliance.</li> <li>4. Upon receiving a mining plan of operations the Responsible Official reviews for completeness and</li> </ol>

	<p>5. <i>The project has not been approved by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.</i></p> <p>6. The EA's decision to dismiss developing an alternative around repairing the original access to the mine site was arbitrary and capricious.</p> <p>7. The EA fails to fully analyze all baseline conditions.</p>	<p>Inventoried Roadless</p> <p>Policy</p> <p>Analysis</p>	<p>determines if the plan is logical and sequential. In this case, the mine claimant proposed vehicular use in support of his stated activities in the plan. The Responsible Official determined that vehicular support would be incident to what is proposed in the plan of operations. Vehicular access would be needed to excavate and repair the blacksmith portal and be needed for transporting samples off National Forest Service System lands.</p> <p>5. The project was reviewed by the Chief of the Forest Service on 2 October 2018 and determined to be consistent with the 2001 Roadless Rule.</p> <p>6. To address the suggested alternative access route, located outside of an inventoried roadless area, we considered the alternative of utilizing FSR 3700-031 as an access route to the mine. Historically, this route was the main access road to both mine portals. However, in 1992 a half bridge was removed from this road segment as part of required reclamation in the approved plan of operations. In addition, a segment of this road from the half bridge to the Mill Level portal was decommissioned as part of the same reclamation plan stated above. As a result, re-establishing access by utilizing FSR 3700-031 would require extensive repairs and new construction. This would include either installing a new bridge or constructing an engineered retaining wall at the site where the half bridge was removed from past reclamation work. Utilizing this access route would not minimize impacts to surface resources as directed by Forest Service mining regulations (36 CFR 228.8) and forest plan direction (USDA Forest Service 1990, p. 4-136). Due to the existing conditions of FSR 3700-031, and exceptions within the Roadless Rule as written, this alternative was eliminated from detailed study, as discussed in section 2.3.</p> <p>7. The wildlife specialist report, which is part of the Project Record, provides the historic background information for the spotted owl and marbled murrelets. This report documents the historic surveys that occurred for both of these species which provided the baseline for assessing the habitat as occupied by both spotted owl and marbled murrelets. Since the project area habitat has not substantially changed</p>
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	<p>8. The EA fails to fully analyze all baseline conditions</p> <p>9. The EA fails to fully analyze all direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts</p> <p>10. The EA fails to identify cost of reconstructing the upper road</p> <p>11. The EA fails to fully review all reasonable alternatives</p>	<p>Analysis</p> <p>Impacts</p> <p>Cost</p> <p>Alternatives</p>	<p>since those surveys, the area is considered to still provide suitable forest for nesting owls, and marbled murrelets. The determination following previous survey detections of “occupied habitat” would still be in effect for the old growth or habitat surrounding those detections. Therefore, even if the Forest Service conducted surveys and the surveys resulted in no detections of spotted owls or marbled murrelets, there is still suitable forest. Occupancy of the Forest is presumed based on the previous surveys and habitat retaining the identified characteristics for those species’ use as nesting habitat. Wildlife specialist report will be posted on the project webpage.</p> <p>8. The project does not authorize any placement of waste or mineralized rock on Forest Service System lands. If the claimant would like to place any material from within the mine on NFS lands the Forest Service would require sample results for waste rock sulfide contents before placement would be authorized. All samples collected would be stored in 5 gallon buckets or 55 gallon drums, underground, until ready for transport off NSF lands.</p> <p>9. Each resource specialist analyzed and documented the anticipated direct, indirect, and cumulative effects to their individual resource in the environmental assessment (Chapter 3, pp. 20-58).</p> <p>10. The cost of initial repair and the long-term maintenance of the upper road would be the responsibility of the mine claimant. The District would hold a bond of sufficient amount to reclaim the road should the claimant default for any reason. The upper road, once permitted, would be classified as a temporary road and as such would not contribute to road mileage for the classified road system or add maintenance costs to the District.</p> <p>11. To address the suggested alternative access route, located outside of an inventoried roadless area, we considered the alternative of utilizing FSR 3700-031 as an access route to the mine. Historically, this route was the main access road to both mine portals. However, in 1992 a half bridge was removed from this road segment as part of required reclamation in the approved plan of operations. In addition, a segment of</p>
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	12. The project should require an EIS	NEPA	<p>this road from the half bridge to the Mill Level portal was decommissioned as part of the same reclamation plan stated above. As a result, re-establishing access by utilizing FSR 3700-031 would require extensive repairs and new construction. This would include either installing a new bridge or constructing an engineered retaining wall at the site where the half bridge was removed from past reclamation work. Utilizing this access route would not minimize impacts to surface resources as directed by Forest Service mining regulations (36 CFR 228.8) and forest plan direction (USDA Forest Service 1990, p. 4-136). Due to the existing conditions of FSR 3700-031, and exceptions within the Roadless Rule as written, this alternative was eliminated from detailed study, as discussed in section 2.3.</p> <p>The EA includes the following required mitigation measure to minimize impacts to wildlife: W-1: Restrict use of chainsaws and other motorized equipment activities generating noise above ambient levels from April 1 through September 23 to occur 2 hours after sunrise to 2 hours before sunset (Chapter 2, p. 16).</p> <p>The submitted plan of operations requested a term of 20 years to conduct mine maintenance and sampling. After reviewing the plan the responsible official determined that a 10 year term was appropriate and should be sufficient to complete all work proposed in the plan of operations.</p> <p>12. The Responsible Official appropriately documented the project in an Environmental Assessment and found that because of the limited context and intensity of effects, that preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement would not be necessary.</p>
Comments received after designated comment period ended			
209-Deborah Kaye	Exact comment as above (comment #1)	Inventoried Roadless	See response to comment #1.
210-Dennis Fisher	Exact comment as above (comment #1)	Inventoried Roadless	See response to comment #1.
211-Spencer Morgan	Exact comment as above (comment #1), with added statement: I spend a lot of time exploring the area around My Baker precisely because of the lack of roads and mining. Please keep Mt Baker wild.	Inventoried Roadless	See response to comment #1.
212-Jennifer Roberts	Exact comment as above (comment #1)	Inventoried Roadless	See response to comment #1.
213-Deborah Kaye	Exact comment as above (comment #1)	Inventoried Roadless	See response to comment #1.
214-Washington Wild (supplemental comments)	Washington Wild and The Wilderness Society submit these comments as a supplement to our October 24 coalition comment letter on the draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Excelsior Mine redevelopment project	Compliance	No new road building would occur within an inventoried roadless area. Access to the mine portals will be by way of an existing road (upper road) within

	<p>located in the Mt. Baker Ranger District of the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest.</p> <p>We wish to bring to your attention a requirement of the Northwest Forest Plan that is highly relevant to the project but is not mentioned in the EA. Specifically, we are concerned that the Excelsior road access plan would violate the Northwest Forest Plan's prohibition against road building in inventoried roadless areas (IRAs) within Key Watersheds.</p> <p>The Northwest Forest Plan's prohibition on road building is clearly stated on page C-7 of the Plan's standards and guidelines for Key Watersheds: "<b>Inside Roadless Areas – No new roads will be built in remaining unroaded portions of inventoried (RARE II) roadless areas.</b>"<sup>1</sup> Unlike the Roadless Rule, the Northwest Forest Plan does not provide an exception for road building needed for hard rock mining development.</p>		<p>the Mt. Baker (north block) inventoried roadless area.</p>
<p><b>End of Table</b></p>			