

The Canopy

January 2026



Celebrating our exciting progress!

Trees protected
to date:

493,074

Trees planted
to date:

5,745

Tree Connect
Events to date:

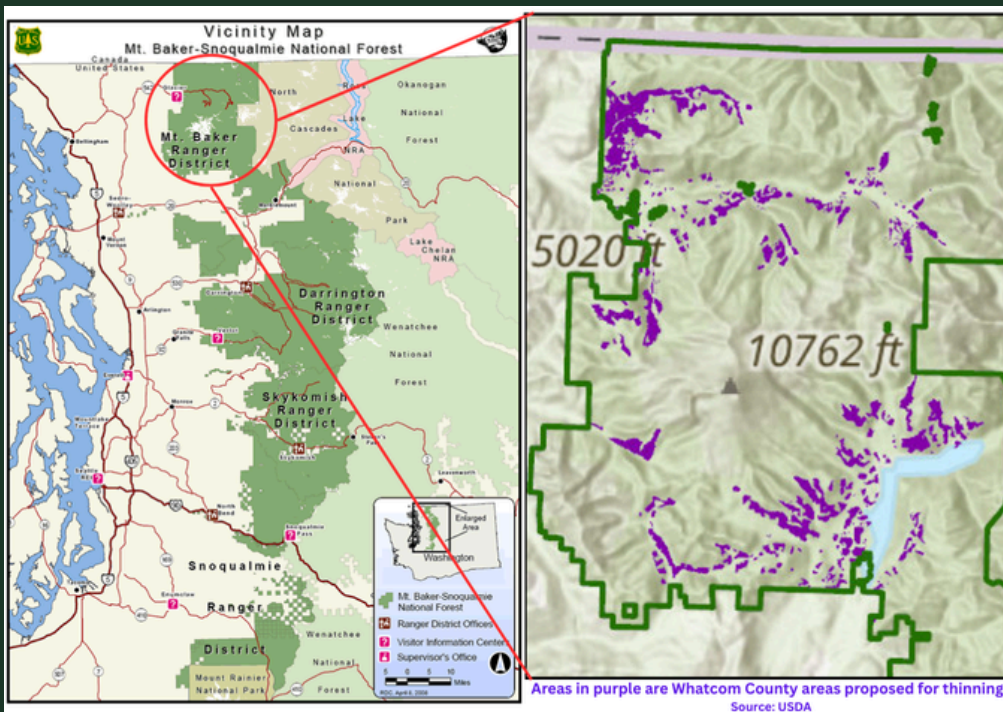
214

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Speak Up for Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest by Monday, Jan. 12th!

The US Forest Service has proposed a massive thinning plan for the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest (MBSNF), an area that represents a significant portion of the wild forested land in Whatcom County. The proposed thinning would degrade the forest's complex ecosystems and water quality, and it would increase wildfire risks by building new roads.



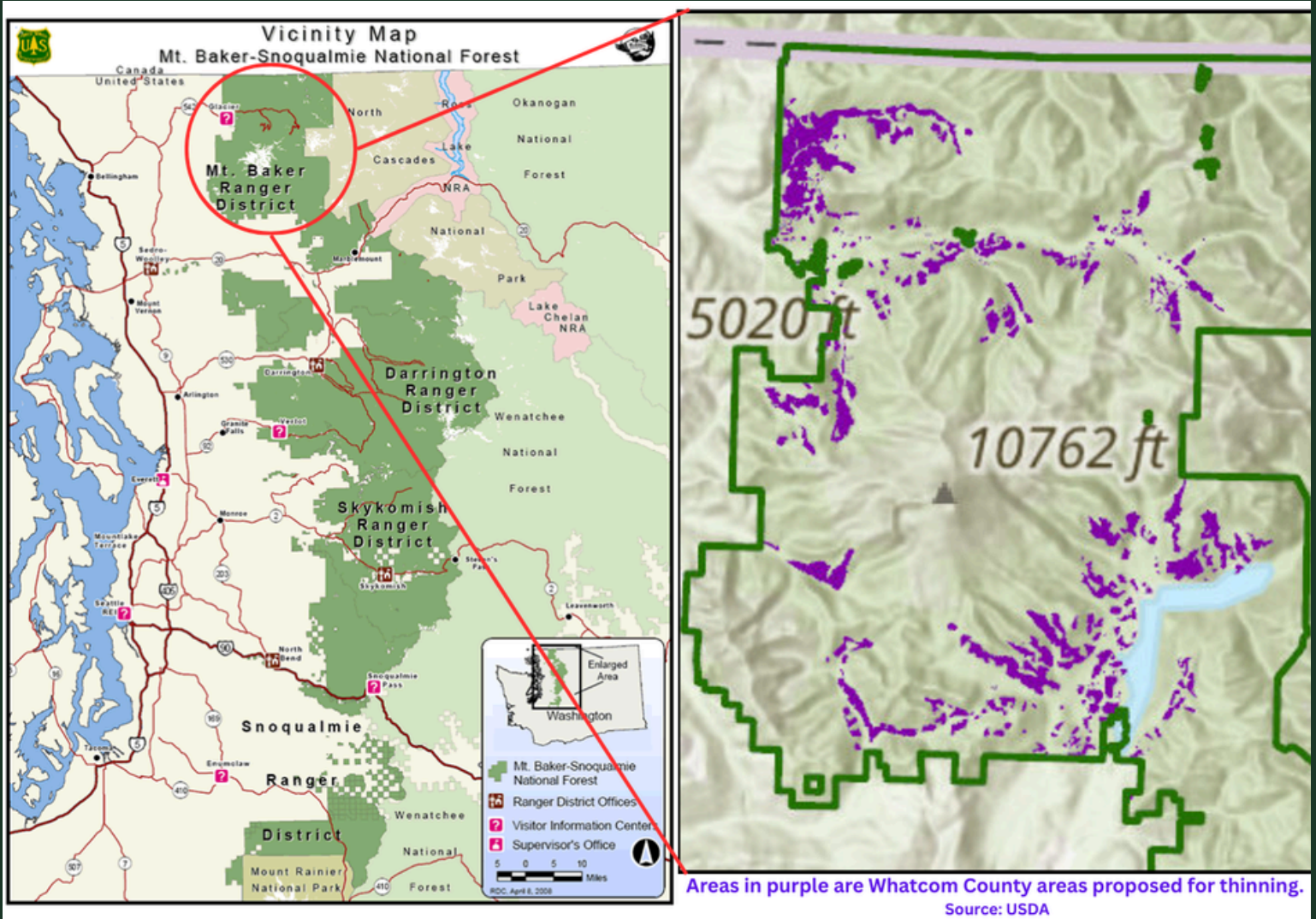
**Submit
comment**

*Larger image
next page*

The thinning project spans 36,000 acres—from the Canadian border to Mt. Rainier National Park—and the thinning would continue for more than 30 years. We encourage you to submit your comment by Monday to help prevent this plan from taking effect. Public comment on this plan is due Monday, January 12th. Thanks to the Sierra Club Washington Chapter for the information and commenting form!



Speak Up for Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest by Monday, Jan. 12th!



Submit
comment



Speak up for Mud Bay Cliffs: Public Hearing on Jan. 14th



The Bellingham Hearing Examiner will hold two public hearings January 12-16th about The Woods at Viewcrest, the proposed subdivision that would be built on Mud Bay Cliffs, the 38-acre, steeply sloped urban forest overlooking North Chuckanut Bay. The first hearing is an appeal of the City of Bellingham's State Environmental Policy

Act (SEPA) decision of non-significance. It begins January 12, at 9:30 am, at City Hall. There is no opportunity for public comment at this hearing. The second hearing will review the project's permit applications and begins on Wednesday, January 14, 2026, at 5:00 pm. There is an opportunity to submit public comment at this hearing. Protect Mud Bay Cliffs (PMBC) urges you to attend both hearings and to share your concerns on January 14th during the public comment period via Zoom or in person at City Hall.

Sign up!



Join us for the
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service

January 19th, 2026

12:00-3:00pm

Dittrich Park



Honor the legacy of MLK, Jr. on this special day by getting outside in community with others and contributing to the restoration of Whatcom County's beautiful Dittrich Park, which is not generally open to the public! You'll remove invasive English ivy from the ground and tree trunks, which will extend the lives of trees and clear the way for native undergrowth to return. Ivy removal is an easy and fun way to make a real and immediate positive impact on the health of our environment! We're excited to collaborate on this event with Whatcom County Parks & Recreation and Washington Conservation Corps (WCC)!

Sign up!



Pot-a-palooza on March 1st!

A popular and essential part of our tree-planting program is back – tree-seedling potting at NSEA's native plant nursery! Sunday, March 1st, 12-3 pm: help us get hundreds of bare-root native tree seedlings and plugs safely into pots so they can survive and grow until it's time to plant them in their permanent home somewhere in Whatcom County. It's a fun and accessible way to support our tree-planting program!



[Sign up!](#)



Plant Trees, Plant Hope - 2026 Spring Work Parties Scheduled!

You can now register for one or more exciting tree-planting work parties coming up at two NEW locations for WMTP – Whatcom Humane Society’s Division Street animal shelter in Bellingham and Jensen Family Forest Park near Custer.



WHS

(All Sundays, 12-3pm)

March 8

March 15

March 22

Jensen

(All Saturdays, 12-3pm)

March 28

April 11

April 18



25
years

of the
Roadless Rule

Monday, January 12th, marks the 25th anniversary of the Roadless Area Conservation Rule, better known as the Roadless Rule. This was a huge milestone in protecting our forests, and an occasion to remember and celebrate.

The Roadless Rule was adopted in 2001 to protect 58 million acres of national forests from new road construction. The Roadless Rule has allowed our wildest remaining undeveloped national forestlands to continue to provide wildlife habitat, outdoor exploration opportunities, hunting and fishing, clean water, and other benefits. Thanks to this rule, these cherished public lands have not been auctioned off and carved up for clear-cutting, road building, mining or oil drilling.



**Roadless Rule
Timeline**



25
years

of the
Roadless Rule

Last summer, the administration launched a new attack against the Roadless Rule by proposing to repeal it entirely. Although the administration allowed a mere 21 days for public comment, the proposal drew extraordinary backlash. More than 625,000 public comments flooded into the U.S. Department of Agriculture, 99% of which opposed the proposed rollback.

WMTP was one of the organizations advocating to keep the Roadless Rule, and we will continue to do so. Should the rule become imperiled again, we'll keep you informed and share opportunities to advocate for this crucial legislation so we can keep it in place for another 25 years.

“
For in the true nature of things, if we
rightly consider, every green tree is far
more glorious than if it were made of
gold and silver.”

- Martin Luther King Jr.

Forest Talks & Forest Walks Book Club Starts 4th Session – First Discussion on January 21st!

Sign up!



If you're looking for motivation to read more in the new year, learn more about Pacific Northwest forests and forest action, and build community with others who share your passion, the Forest Talks and Forest Walks Book Club may be just what you're looking for! The current session just started, and the book selection is *The Final Forest: Big Trees, Forks, and the Pacific Northwest*, By William Dietrich. Join the club and you can purchase the book for 15% off at Village Books!

The first discussion on Zoom will occur Wednesday, January 21st, 7-8:30 pm, followed by a Zoom discussion with a special guest (TBD, but often the author) on February 19th. The session will conclude with an in-person dialogue and guided walk in a local forest on March 22nd (location also TBD). All are welcome and there is no cost to join.



Gratitude for Our Community's Generosity

Our hearts were so warmed by the outpouring of generosity from you between Giving Tuesday and the end of the year! December 3rd 2025 was by far our most successful Giving Tuesday yet, exceeding our goal of \$5,000, and our end-of-year giving has already surpassed our goal.

Thank you! Your support means so much to us, and it's especially meaningful and significant in a time where so much funding has been eliminated or cut. Thank you for believing in us and the work we do!



We also want to acknowledge community members who supported us in other ways. Fairhaven Bicycles invited us to be a part of their Holiday Market, which was a terrific opportunity to connect, and local artist Harmony Thiessen partnered with us to use her artistic talents in support of our mission.

Thank you to everyone who has supported WMTP and the trees of Whatcom County!





DON'T BE AFRAID
TO GET A LITTLE SAPPY
THIS VALENTINE'S DAY

SHARE
THE LOVE!

ON FEBRUARY 14TH
YOU'LL BE ABLE TO SPONSOR A TREE
IN HONOR OF A LOVED ONE,
AND WE'LL SEND THEM
A PHYSICAL OR
DIGITAL
CARD

Thanks for reading!

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