



File Code: 1950

Date: April 23, 2010

Dear Interested Party;

The Olympic National Forest is proposing a project to restore road access on Forest Service Road (FSR) 2923060. The project is located in Clallam County, Washington, within T29N, R12W, Section 12. The objective of the project is to reestablish access to the final 1.4 miles of the road, which were made inaccessible by a washout along the North Fork of the Calawah River at milepost (MP) 0.9 during the flood events of early 2009. This road serves over 1,000 acres of Olympic National Forest land and approximately 3,000 acres of industrial forestland belonging to Rayonier Forest Resources, L.P. The road is identified as Maintenance Level 2 (open to high clearance vehicles) under the Forest's 2003 Access and Travel Management (ATM) Plan. The current use of FSR 2923060 is primarily access to National Forest and Rayonier Forest Resources land for silvicultural treatments and timber management activities. The road receives a minor amount of dispersed recreation travel, primarily hunting and fishing use.

The Forest is preparing to conduct an environmental review for the proposed project, as required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). I do not anticipate any extraordinary circumstances, and expect that this project may be categorically excluded from documentation in an Environmental Assessment (EA) or Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) (36CFR220.6). I expect this project will meet the criteria of 36 CFR 220.6(d)(4): Repair and maintenance of roads, trails, and landline boundaries. If during the course of this analysis extraordinary circumstances are found, further analysis will be conducted.

## **PURPOSE AND NEED FOR ACTION**

The purpose of this action is to provide access to both National Forest and private timberland. Management of roughly 4,000 acres of forest land (most of it privately owned) has been made quite difficult by the lack of access resulting from the washout at MP 0.9. The intent of this proposal is to facilitate management access while minimizing project environmental effects.

### *Olympic National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (LRMP) Allocations*

The 1990 Olympic National Forest LRMP identifies the North Fork Calawah River corridor, and thus the project area, as Management Area A4BG – River Corridor, General Level. The prescription for this management area applies to a corridor extending 660 feet on either side of the river channel. The presence of roads and motorized travel within this corridor is consistent



with the management prescription, and the proposed project will be designed to meet management area standards and guidelines.

### *Northwest Forest Plan Land Allocations*

Land designations of the 1994 Northwest Forest Plan (an amendment to the Forest LRMP discussed above) within the project area are Adaptive Management Area (AMA) and Riparian Reserve. The objective of AMA lands is to provide a land base upon which to develop and test technical and social approaches to achieving desired ecological, economic, and social objectives. Riparian Reserves, overlaying other Northwest Forest Plan land allocations, are intended to protect the health of the riparian and aquatic system. The proposed action is intended to meet the Northwest Forest Plan standards and guidelines for both AMAs and Riparian Reserves.

## **PROPOSED ACTION**

The proposed action is to relocate FSR 2923060 to reestablish access around a washout along the North Fork of the Calawah River at MP 0.9. The relocation will involve construction of about 500 feet of new road on gentle terrain. Vegetation will be removed (mostly brush and small trees; there are three Douglas-fir in the 21- to 24-inch range) and the ground will be leveled. A subgrade of pit run rock and surfacing of crushed rock will be placed and compacted. One 18-inch cross-drain culvert will be installed. Implementation of the project will involve use of heavy equipment such as excavators, bulldozers, and dump trucks. Chainsaws will be used in clearing vegetation from the new route. There will be no instream activity in the North Fork Calawah associated with this project. Measures to control the spread of invasive plant species will be included in the project as appropriate.

## **DECISION TO BE MADE**

As the responsible official I will decide whether or not to proceed with this proposal. If the project is to be implemented, I will also decide which invasive species control measures are to be applied and what management requirements and mitigation measures are to be included in the project.

## **YOUR INVOLVEMENT**

The purpose of this letter is to invite your participation in this NEPA evaluation. Comments in support of or opposition to the proposed action are welcome. In particular, if you have information you feel the Forest Service may not be aware of, or feel you have issues (points of dispute, debate, or disagreement) regarding potential effects of this proposed action, please send your thoughts in writing to the project leader (Ward Hoffman, 1835 Black Lake Blvd. SW, Suite A, Olympia, WA 98512), or by e-mail to: [comments-pacificnorthwest-olympic-pacific@fs.fed.us](mailto:comments-pacificnorthwest-olympic-pacific@fs.fed.us) by May 26, 2010.

All comments received will become part of the public record and copies of comments, including names and home addresses of respondents, may be released for public inspection. Requests by

individual respondents to have their home addresses withheld from the public record will be honored to the extent allowable by law. Such requests to withhold names and/or addresses must be stated prominently at the beginning of the comments. Anonymous comments will not be considered. Submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, will be made available for public inspection in their entirety.

Thank you for your interest in the management of Olympic National Forest.

Sincerely,

*/s/ Molly Erickson (for):*  
DEAN R. MILLETT  
District Ranger

cc: Ward L Hoffman