

Olympic National Forest Sustainable Roads System Public Engagement Results

March 9, 2015



for the greatest good

Public Interest

Public comments for the Sustainable Roads System were solicited through a series of eight open houses throughout the Olympic Peninsula, a written questionnaire, and an online interactive map. Additional comments were received via email. A total of 271 responses were received that referred to specific National Forest System roads. The responses were distributed as follows:

- Written Questionnaires : 119 comments
- Online Interactive Map: 81 comments
- Open Houses Maps: 61 comments
- Email: 10 comments

The written questionnaires provided an opportunity to comment on up to six different sites/ roads. Many of the comments also referred to more than one road needed to access the specific area of interest. A total of 842 individual comments were received providing information on 1541 road segments.

The responses were entered into an excel spreadsheet along with information on the primary activities of the user and the frequency of use, if available. Each road mentioned in the comment or needed to access the specific area was included as a separate row in the spreadsheet. Rather than trying to tie comments to specific mileposts or individual INFRA road segments, comments were generally assigned to each INFRA segment on that road.

The number of public comments received for individual road segments ranged from 0 to 77. The number of comments was used to develop the summary rating for Public Interest as follows:

- 10 or more comments: High
- 1 to 9 comments : Moderate
- 0 comments: Low

No effort was made to separate responses in favor of continued access from responses suggesting potential road decommissioning or other uses.

An additional 320 comments were received that were outside the scope of the Sustainable Roads System project. Almost one third of the additional comments referred to many or all roads on the Olympic National Forest so the concerns could not be attributed to specific roads. Other comments referred to decommissioned roads or unclassified roads that are not part of the National Forest road system. Many comments referred to roads in the Olympic National Park. Several comments were not related to roads or the sustainable roads system project.

Comments received that were outside the scope of the Sustainable Roads System project included:

Comments about all Olympic National Forest roads	46
Comments about large numbers of Olympic National Forest roads	62
Comments about decommissioned roads	18
Comments about Olympic National Forest easements	5
Comments about Olympic National Park roads	31
Comments about the Quinault Lake Loop	15
Comments about roads that are not part of the Olympic National Forest transportation system	103
Comments not specific about roads or the Sustainable Roads System analysis	40
Total	320