USDA United States Department of Agriculture | Forest Service | Olympic National Forest

Hood Canal Ranger District
P.O. Box 280
Quilcene, WA 98376

File Code: 1950
Date: July 26, 2018

Dear Interested Party,

I wanted to let you know that the Preliminary Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Dungeness Watershed Roads Management Project is available for an additional 30-day comment period to provide more time for public comments. The project area is located on the Hood Canal Ranger District of the Olympic National Forest, just south of Sequim, WA in Clallam County.

An electronic copy of the Preliminary EA is available at the following website: http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=49643

Proposed Activities

The Preliminary EA includes an analysis of two action alternatives proposing road decommissioning and closure treatments to improve conditions in the Dungeness River Watershed. Alternatives considered include treatments to: reduce the potential for the roads to generate sediment due to culvert blowouts, debris torrents, and surface erosion; restore hillslope hydrology; and improve stability of roads. Treatments may include: removal of culverts and unstable side-cast material, decompaction of road surfaces, recontouring the hillslope profile, creating cross-drains and swales, blocking vehicular access by constructing berms, and reestablishing native vegetation. Adjustments to recreation sites and habitat for the endangered Taylor's checkerspot butterfly directly associated with project roads are also proposed. All proposed actions are described and analyzed in the Preliminary EA.

The Preliminary EA is available for your review and comment at the website listed above. Hard copies are available upon request.

How to Comment

This project is subject to comment pursuant to 36 CFR 218, Subparts A and B. Only those who submit timely written comments during a public comment period may file an objection. Comments received must contain the requirements listed at 36 CFR 218.5(a)(3) to establish standing for objections. Specific written comments as defined by 36 CFR 218.2 should be within the scope of the proposed action, and must include supporting reasons for the responsible official to consider. Individuals or representatives of an entity submitting comments must sign the comments or verify identity upon request. Comments received in response to this solicitation, including names and addresses of those who comment will be part of the public record for this project.

A legal notice for this comment period is expected to publish on August 2, 2018 in the Peninsula Daily News. The Forest Service will accept comments on this proposal for 30 days following the publication of the opportunity to comment legal notice which is the exclusive means of calculating the comment period. Commenters should not rely upon dates or timeframe information provided by any other source. It is the commenter's responsibility to ensure timely receipt of comments (36 CFR 218.25).

Electronic comments should be submitted at the project website listed above. Under the "Get Connected" group to the right click on the "Comment/Object on Project" link and follow on-screen instructions for submitting comments. In cases where no identifiable name is attached to a comment, a verification of identity will be required for objection eligibility. If using an electronic message, a scanned signature is one way to provide verification. Electronic comments must be submitted in a common format such as plain text (.txt), rich text format (.rtf), portable document format (.pdf) or Microsoft Word (.doc or .docx).

Comments may also be submitted in writing to the Responsible Official, Hood Canal District Ranger Yewah Lau, c/o Dana Butler, Olympic National Forest Supervisor's Office, 1835 Black Lake Blvd. SW, Olympia, WA 98512. Comments can be faxed to 360-956-2330. The office business hours for those submitting hand-delivered comments are: 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM Monday through Friday, excluding holidays. If you have any questions regarding the details of this proposal, please contact the project lead, Dana Butler, at 360-956-2280 or danabutler@fs.fed.us.

Sincerely,

Yewah Lau

YEWAH LAU
District Ranger

cc: Dana Butler, Kim Crider, Susan Garner