



File Code: 1950-1

Date: March 6, 2009

Dear Interested Citizen:

Enclosed for your review is the environmental assessment (EA) for the proposed **White Chuck Road Repair (Road # 23)**. The Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest is seeking comment on the proposed action, which would restore vehicle access in the White Chuck River drainage to the junction with Road 27, with repairs at four sites of Road 23 (MP 1.9, MP 2.4, MP 3.4, and MP 3.5). (The previous proposed action proposed restoration of vehicle access to the terminus of Road 23 with the repair of three sites on Road 23.) Road 23, from the junction with Road 27 to the White Chuck trailhead, would be decommissioned (MP 5.8 to terminus). Culverts would be excavated and removed, and unstable fillslope pulled. The concrete bridge at Owl Creek would be left, and the decommissioned road prism would be left in a walkable tread. The 2006/2007 flood events that damaged additional sites on Road 23 also damaged the White Chuck Trail (#643.01). At this time, options for the damaged White Chuck trail are still being considered. A location at the junction of Roads 23 and Road 27 would be retained as a turnaround, parking, and a potential dispersed camping location.

The project is located in Snohomish County, southeast of Darrington, Washington in Sections 13, 14, 16, 17, and 18 of T31N, R11E; and in Section 19 of T31N, R12E.

The pre-decisional comment period ends May 7, 2009, 30 days after the publication date of the legal notice in the *Everett Herald*. Comments received, including names and addresses of those who comment, will be part of the Project Record and available for public review. After close of the 30-day comment period, the Forest Service will release a decision notice (DN). The Responsible Official is the Darrington District Ranger. The decision will be subject to appeal, and those who submit timely comments will have standing to appeal the project decision (36 CFR 215.5(b)(1)(vi)).

Comments on this project may be submitted electronically, or through the mail, by fax, or hand delivered. Electronic comments may be sent to comments-pacificnorthwest-mtbaker-snoqualmie-darrington@fs.fed.us. They need to be in message, text, .doc, .rtf, or .pdf format. Written comments should be sent to: District Ranger, Darrington Ranger District, 1405 Emens Ave. N., Darrington, WA 98241, (360) 436-1155, fax (360) 436-1309. Hand delivered comments can be brought to the District Office at the above address during business hours. The EA is also available on the Internet at <http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/mbs/projects/>.

The EA is being sent in CD format to conserve paper. If you would prefer a hard copy or for more information, contact Phyllis Reed at (360) 436-1155, extension 216.

Sincerely,

/s/ Peter Forbes

PETER R FORBES
District Ranger
Enclosure

