U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Highway Administration

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To Interested Parties and Agencies:

Draft Environmental Impact Statement
WA FS ERFO 2002(1) – 21(4), Dosewallips Road Washouts

The Olympic National Forest (ONF) and the Western Federal Lands Highway Division (WFLHD) of the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), in cooperation with the Olympic National Park (ONP), would like to notify you of our intent to repair two washouts on Doseswallips Road. The major washout is on Forest Service Road (FSR) 2610 about 10 miles west of Brinnon, Washington (WA). This occurred during a January 2002 storm event which removed about 310 feet of the road. Since then, the washout has increased in size to about 500 feet as measured in December 2007.

The other washout is much smaller and is located on the Dosewallips Road in the ONP about 14 miles west of Brinnon. Essentially, Dosewallips Road is an extension of FSR 2610, but it is the formal name for the section of road in the ONP. This washout occurred as result of a storm event in late 2003. Damage occurred near the Dosewallips Falls when log retaining walls failed, which resulted in slumping of the road fill.

The ONF and WFLHD seek your input on the following:

1. The purpose and need,
2. The range of alternatives, and
3. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS).

Items #1 and #2 are required by FHWA per Section 6002 of the *Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy For Users* (SAFETEA-LU), which was issued August 10, 2005. Normally input on these items would occur earlier in the environmental review process. However, this project was in development prior to the issuance of SAFETEA-LU. In May 2002, ONF prepared an environmental assessment (EA) to analyze alternatives to respond to conditions created by the washout on FSR 2610. Based on additional information, the EA was revised in February 2003. After a public comment period on the 2003

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EA, ONF decided to reestablish road upslope and north of the washout. The ONF subsequently withdrew their decision to complete a more detailed analysis in a DEIS. The decision to prepare the DEIS was issued shortly after the SAFETEA-LU, thereby requiring WFLHD's involvement as a lead agency. Because of these series of events, we are combining steps #1 & #2 with the release of the DEIS.

Information about the project can be found in the DEIS for the Dosewallips Road Washout Project. The DEIS describes and analyzes proposed alternatives to meet the project's proposed purpose and need of reestablishing road access on Forest Service Road (FSR) 2610 and on ONP's Dosewallips Road. These roads provide access to Forest and Park recreational facilities. The project is located in Jefferson County, Washington, legal description T26N, R3W, Sections 16 and 17; and T26N, R4W, Sections 23 and 24.

The DEIS analyzes the following four proposed alternatives, including a No Action alternative. However, revisions of the proposed purpose and need or other alternatives developed as part of the public process as per Section 6002 of SAFETEA-LU may result in additional opportunity for public comment.

- Alternative A or "No Action": Road access would not be restored. Only measures to provide for public safety at the washout site would be implemented. A future decision would be needed to determine appropriate management of the Forest and Park roads and recreational facilities located beyond the washout.
- Alternative B: Approximately 0.84 mile of single lane road with turnouts would be constructed above and to the north of the washout site using standard construction methods involving the clearing of about 7.1 acres of late-successional reserve. About 0.7 mile of FSR 2610 would be decommissioned, and ONP would repair its Dosewallips Road. This alternative includes five Forest Plan amendments to Late-Successional Reserve and Riparian Reserve standards and guidelines.
- Alternative C: This alternative is similar to Alternative B except that construction methods would be used to minimize the cleared area, reducing clearing of late-successional reserve to about 6.5 acres (8 percent reduction from Alternative B). About 0.7 mile of FSR 2610 would be decommissioned, and ONP would repair its Dosewallips Road. This alternative includes four Forest Plan amendments to Late-Successional Reserve and Riparian Reserve standards and guidelines.
- Alternative F: A single-lane bridge about 700 feet long spanning the washout would be constructed. The Park would repair its Dosewallips Road. There would be one Forest Plan amendment to Riparian Reserve standards and guidelines associated with this alternative.

The DEIS is available on the Olympic National Forest web site at: http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/olympic/projects-nu/index.shtml. If you would like an electronic copy of the DEIS on a CD-ROM or a paper copy, please contact Tim Davis at 1835 Black Lake Blvd SW, Suite A, Olympia, Washington, 98512, or phone 360-956-2375.

Public comments will be accepted for 60 days following the date of publication of the notice of availability (NOA) in the Federal Register. Persons submitting comments should provide the following information, which will become a matter of public record: name and address, title of document on which comments are being submitted, and specific facts or comments along with supporting reasons that the commenter believes the Responsible Officials should consider in reaching a decision. Commenters wishing to be eligible to appeal must include their signature or be able to provide other verification of identity upon request.

The Agency Responsible Officials will decide whether and how road access on FSR 2610 and the Park's Dosewallips Road will be restored. The Responsible Official for the Forest Service proposed action is Dale Hom, Forest Supervisor. The Responsible Official for the WFLHD is Clara Conner, Division Engineer. The National Park Service Responsible Official is Jonathan B. Jarvis, Regional Director.

Persons wishing to comment on the DEIS should address their comments to the Forest Supervisor in care of Tim Davis at the address or phone number shown at the conclusion of this letter. Hand-delivered comments will be accepted at the Forest Headquarters in Olympia, Washington between 8:00 am and 4:30 pm, Monday through Friday. Comments may also be submitted by e-mail, to the following address: comments-pacificnorthwest-olympic@fs.fed.us. Those submitting electronic comments must put the project name in the subject line and must either submit comments as part of the e-mail message or as an attachment in one of the following three formats: Microsoft Word, rich text format (rtf), or Adobe Portable Document Format (pdf).

Comments received in response to this solicitation, including names and addresses of those who comment, will be considered part of the public record on this proposed action and will be available for public inspection. Comments submitted anonymously will be accepted and considered; however, those who submit only anonymous comments will not have standing to appeal the subsequent decision under 36 CFR Part 215. Additionally, pursuant to 7 CFR 1.27(d), any person may request the agency to withhold a submission from the public record by showing how the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) permits such confidentiality. Persons requesting such confidentiality should be aware that, under the FOIA, confidentiality may be granted in only very limited circumstances, such as to protect trade secrets. The Forest Service and WFLHD will inform the requester of the agencies' decision regarding the request for confidentiality, and where the request is denied, the agencies will return the submission and notify the requester that the comments may be resubmitted with or without names and addresses.

All comments received on this proposal will be considered in making a final decision. The decision documents will be mailed to those who request them and to those individuals who submit comments during the 60-day comment period. If you need more information please contact Tim Davis, ONF Project Leader, at:

1835 Black Lake Blvd., SW Suite A
Olympia, Washington, 98512
360-956-2375

Thank you for your interest.

Sincerely yours,

Clara H. Conner

Clara H. Conner
Division Engineer