



File Code: 1950-1
Date: May 25, 2006

Dear Interested Party,

The Pacific Ranger District, Olympic National Forest, has completed an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Olympic Discovery Trail project. The EA describes and analyzes alternatives to meet the project's purpose of responding to Clallam County's request for authorization to construct and maintain 12.1 miles of the Olympic Discovery Trail across National Forest System land. The Olympic Discovery Trail will be a 150 mile paved, multi-user, non-motorized route extending from Port Townsend to La Push. The project is primarily located within the Sol Duc Watershed from west of Lake Crescent, parallel to State Route 101 (SR 101) to an area south of the Mary Clark Road, in Clallam County (see enclosed map). The legal description is: T 30 N, R 9 W, Section 15: T 30 N, R 10 W, Sections 22, 23, 28, 29, 30, 34, 35: T 30 N, R 11 W, Sections 25, 26, 27, 31, 32, 33: and T 29 N, R 12 W, Sections 5, 6, 7.

The EA is available for your review and comment in accordance with regulations at 36 CFR 215.5. Comments will be accepted for a period of 30 days from the date legal notice of availability of the EA is published in The Olympian, Olympia, Washington. Persons submitting comments should provide the following information, which will become a matter of public record: name and address, title of the document on which comments are being submitted, and specific facts or comments along with supporting reasons that the commenter believes the Responsible Official should consider in reaching a decision. Commenters wishing to be eligible to appeal must include signature or be able to provide other verification of identity upon request.

The EA analyzes the following two alternatives outlined below, including a "No Action" Alternative:

- Alternative A (No Action). Under this alternative, the Olympic Discovery Trail would not be constructed on National Forest System lands.
- Alternative B, the preferred alternative, would issue an easement to Clallam County to construct and maintain 12.1 miles of the Olympic Discovery Trail on National Forest System land. There would be 1.2 miles new trail construction, 0.3 miles widening and improving the existing Mt. Muller trail, 2.0 miles reconstruction on the abandoned Spruce Railroad grade, and use of 8.6 miles of existing Forest Service system roads. Trail design standards would be as specified in the EA, and includes paving of portions of the trail. Construction and maintenance of the trail would be governed by an Operating and Maintenance Plan.

The EA is available on the Olympic National Forest web site at: <http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/olympic/projects-nu/index.shtml>. For further information regarding the EA or to request a copy of the EA, you may also contact Tim Davis at 1835 Black Lake Blvd. Ste. A, Olympia, Washington, 98512, or phone (360) 956-2375.



I am the Responsible Official for the proposed action. Persons wishing to comment on this project should address their comments to me in care of Tim Davis at the address or phone number shown above. 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).

At the end of the 30 day comment period, comments received and responses to them will be included in an appendix to the EA, and I will then make a decision. Notice of the decision will be published in The Olympian, as well as the Peninsula Daily News and in The Forks Forum, and those who comment on the EA will receive a copy of the decision document.

Thank you for your interest.

Sincerely,

/S/

DALE HOM
Forest Supervisor

ENCLOSURE