



File Code: 1950

Date: April 13, 2004

To: Interested Parties

The Olympic National Forest, Pacific Ranger District is in the process of planning habitat development projects within the Bear-Saddle Planning Area located in T30N, R11W, Secs. 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 17, and 18 and T30N, R10W, Secs. 3, 4, 7, 8, and 9 (see enclosed planning area map). The planning area is within Bear Creek, Deep Creek, and the West Twin River watersheds and comprises approximately 3186 acres. This proposal would use commercial thinnings in simplified, young, second-growth stands to accelerate the development of some of the structural and compositional features of late-successional forests and accelerate growth of the residual stands. This proposal would require some road construction and the bridging of Bear Creek. Not all of the 3186 acres would be treated. The planning process will identify those areas appropriate for treatment to meet proposed project objectives of habitat development.

Management of the Olympic National Forest is guided by the Olympic National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan as amended by the Record of Decision to Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management Planning Documents Within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl and its attached Standards and Guidelines for Management of Habitat for Late-Successional and Old-Growth Related Species Within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl, commonly known as the Northwest Forest Plan (NWFP). Land allocations designated by the NWFP within the planning area are Late-Successional Reserves (LSR), Adaptive Management Areas (AMA), and Riparian Reserves (RR). Federally-administered lands within the range of the northern spotted owl are also allocated to one of three watershed categories. Watersheds that are important sources of high water quality are allocated as Tier 2 Key Watersheds. Bear Creek is within the Sol Duc watershed, a Tier 2 Key Watershed.

The purpose of and need for this proposal is to implement direction in the NWFP and its standards and guidelines for the respective land allocations and recommended management directions in the Sol Duc Watershed Analysis, the Deep Creek and East and West Twin Rivers Watershed Analysis, the Olympic Adaptive Management Area Guide, and the Soleduck Late Successional Reserve Assessment.



As a requirement of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), we are soliciting comments, issues, or opportunities you may have associated with the proposal. Written or verbal comments will be accepted and used in the planning and decision-making process. Send comments to the Pacific Ranger District, 437 Tillicum Lane, Forks, WA 98331 or phone (360) 374-6522. Comments may also be sent via e-mail to comments-pacificnorthwest-pacific@fs.fed.us. Please respond by April 30, 2004. For further information on this proposal, you can contact Verne Farrell at the above address or phone number. As we proceed through the NEPA process, we will be soliciting additional comments from those responding to this request. In addition, those who respond will receive a copy of the Environmental Assessment for a thirty day review and comment period. If you have no comments at this time but would like to remain involved, please let us know.

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District Ranger