



State of Washington
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
Coastal Region • Region 6 • 48 Devonshire Road, Montesano, WA 98563-9618
T (360) 249-4628 • F (360) 249-1229

April 16, 2020

Hood Canal District Ranger Yewah Lau, c/o Kim Crider
Olympic National Forest Supervisor's Office
1835 Black Lake Blvd. SW
Olympia, WA 98512

RE: Wynoochee Restoration and Roads Management Project Proposal

The Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife would first like to thank the Forest Service for putting this project forward. We at WDFW believe that this will greatly enhance habitat for terrestrial and aquatic species within the watershed. The existing habitat has been highly influenced by anthropogenic activities over the past century and we are confident that this multilayered project will enhance wildlife corridors, reduce wildlife interaction with the general public, and provide positive effects on the streams for aquatic species in the watershed.

WDFW Comments:

1. In order to fully assess the fish passage components of this project, WDFW recommends that the final plans for each fish passage project within the road management project area be added to the final proposal. WDFW would like to ensure that all culvert installations meet our fish passage requirements and meet the agreed upon provisions outlined in the MOU Document.
2. It was addressed in the document that the roads proposed as "decommissioned" or "closed" would have the culverts and cross-drain culverts removed in certain areas. WDFW would like to see the plan to mitigate heavy storm runoff from the roads into the fish bearing streams. WDFW recommends that the final plans include a stormwater management plan for the project as well as silt fences installed while new vegetation establishes. WDFW would also recommend that plans regarding the channel re-naturalization processes proposed for these areas be provided in the final proposal.
3. WDFW agrees that the roads proposed for "closure and decommissioning" would enhance habitat for the current ungulate, avian, and aquatic species populations. We fully support the proposal for forest thinning and habitat enhancements proposed in this document.
4. WDFW recommends that the proposed processes for decommissioning or closure of roads facilitates walk in recreational access. In the past we have seen decommissioned roads become completely impassable on foot due to the amount of debris piled on these roads. We acknowledge that the

intention is to keep vehicular access restricted. However, we would also like to ensure that this is addressed in the planning stages to ensure recreational opportunities in the future.

5. For the “Slash Treatment” portion of the project, WDFW recommends using suitable native materials from the slash clearing for aquatic bank enhancement. In addition, we also recommend that any large wood not being used for merchant timber harvest purposes be utilized for in channel and in stream enhancement.

Megan Tuttle



4/15/2020

Name Printed

Signature

Date