

November 1, 2020

**Wynoochee Restoration and Road Management Project – OBJECTION with remedy to resolve**

Forest Supervisor, Kelly Lawrence  
Olympic National Forest  
1835 Black Lake Blvd SW  
Olympia, WA 98512

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for incorporating many of our early suggestions into the draft Final decision. This is a perfect example of how public engagement can affect the NEPA process. You listened and took into consideration our descriptions of our favorite places and our visiting experiences. I am confident that the Wynoochee Watershed will be a healthier environment and the visitor experience much improved when this project is complete.

We are focusing our access advocacy efforts to the upper reaches of the Wynoochee Watershed. In particular, the upper area that resides behind wildlife gates seven months of the year. It is a very special place, not only to visitors from outside of the county, but more so for local folks who have been coming here for decades.

We appreciate the recognition as recreational use for the following:

- a portion of the 2270-600 as a non-system trail. Peninsula Access Coalition has volunteer commitment to maintain this non-motorized trail section. This is a short section that connects the Wynoochee drainage to the upper end of the West Fork Humptulips Trail.
- 2270-560 as parking for dispersed recreation/hiking/hunting
- 2270-500 as parking for dispersed recreation/hiking/hunting

**We have narrowed down our objection to two sections of road: The 2270-400 aka Wynoochee Pass Road and the upper 2270 loop section. We object to ML/1 closure of the upper 2270 to vehicle access. And we object to the road-to-trail conversion of the 2270-400.**

**As a suggested remedy to resolve our objection, we are presenting a counter proposal:**

**We are proposing, in cooperation with ONF's Hood Canal District Ranger, to adopt the maintenance on these two sections of road in order to retain vehicle access.**

PAC in cooperation with Hood Canal District Ranger Yewah Lau have been exploring a partnership to engage the public, retain access, and benefit the agency by saving maintenance costs. PAC calls this "Adopt-a-Road". It is volunteer powered and sponsored by PAC through a Special Use Permit on specific sections of road. Peninsula Access Coalition (PAC) is a 501c3 nonprofit organization. We promote education for LNT, stewardship, NEPA engagement, and

conservation. We feel it important to teach youth how these all work together to steward their “backyard”. **(please reference Ranger Lau’s reply to our comment in Appendix H of the draft EA) “As discussed in the EA, Chapter 1, we appreciate and are open to opportunities to find collaborative solutions to work together on roads. While the decision is to convert the 2270400 to a trail and move the trailhead to the junction of the 2270, the implementation of this will be delayed as long as there are partners to help maintain the road access or when resource risk compels the Forest to remove the culverts and no funding is available to replace them. While final designs would be drawn up prior to implementation, the parking area for the new trailhead would most likely accommodate up to three vehicles”.**

We propose to partner both the 2270-400 and the upper 2270 with a Special Use Permit that is guided by the Roads Engineer and Ranger Lau. PAC has strong volunteer commitment and resources for both road sections. Items in the Permit would include road specifications and safety details.

We view this program as a beneficial tool, with many possibilities, for both the public and for the agency.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mitzi Schindele". The ink is dark and the signature is fluid and legible.

Mitzi Schindele, President (lead objector)  
Peninsula Access Coalition