Data Submitted (UTC 11): 9/25/2018 7:00:00 AM
First name: Michael
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Organization:
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Comments: I believe that the proposed project in the Wynoochee watershed should be significantly modified. I do support the improvement of habitat and forest quality through thinning and improvement of fish movement where it makes sense. Unless the Wynoochee dam will be removed, it seems to make little sense to improve the upper watershed when most species of fish will not be able to access and utilize this area.

I believe the 2270 road should be maintained as a loop route with no reductions in maintenance levels. The Humptulips watershed projects have shown that reducuing maintenance levels of roads effectively means that no brush intrusion maintenance will ever be performed. While most who access the area use high-clearance vehicles already, we should not need to destroy our vehicles to travel on these roads. This road has great public value as an upper watershed access. The proposed changes would cut off the entire west side of the watershed.

I am adamantly opposed to the road de-commissioning style that has been used in the Humptulips watershed. I would oppose any such treatment in the Wynoochee watershed. Any road that is decommissioned should be replaced with an adequate trail pathway to make up for lost access. The current method makes areas nearly inaccessible where there was once drive-up access. I also think that many spurs and side-roads should be preserved for the purpose of dispersed camping. This is one of the few areas that local families can go experience nature without the cost. Access should be preserved to the current Wynochee Pass trailhead - I would consider that a critical access in an area with few entry points to the ONP other than cross-country travel.

I support old-growth restoration and improved fish passage in the Olympic National Forest but I believe that it can be done with less net impact to public access than is being proposed. The Humptulips watershed appeared to be done with a "lock it up and throw away the key" approach that left a bad taste in the mouths of many.

Primary user groups to this area include fishermen, hunters, hikers, adventure motorcycle riders, campers, and most other outdoor activities. We live in a time when people are becoming less engaged with nature. This forest should help all interested parties continue their activities at a reasonable level so they can remain advocates for this wonderful area. I have spent most of my life traveling to this watershed and I hope to be able to someday take my grandkids to my favorite places.

Thank-you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

Michael Kachman