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Organization:

Title:

Comments: The Wynoochee Project Area is a very special and important place to the citizens of Grays Harbor County. It is a vital part of our lives. Local folks have been coming here for decades. The uses are many and varied. Families have developed traditions of annual campouts, hikes, picnics, mushroom and berry picking, geocaching, hunting, fishing, and the favored past time of road trips. The Wynoochee Project Area has some rugged country that contribute to the scenic value. Views that are the goal of the hike or the road trip. Life in Grays Harbor is a lot like other areas of the Peninsula. We work hard and love the outdoors for relaxation. For a lot of folks, that's all they have. We used to roam all over the lower woodlands until recent years when private timber companies closed their gates. Many families can't afford to "pay to play". We have been squeezed out of favorite hunting grounds, road therapy loops, and other forms of recreation. So, we cling even tighter to what we have left. It may not seem like a lot to folks that aren't familiar with our part of the Forest and how we relate to it. Our relationship with this area means the world to us. There are traditions, history, and memories that we want to pass down to our children. In a world where technology and every day busy-ness are disconnecting us from nature and each other, it's more important than ever to keep access to the outdoors open.

We encourage you to keep in mind a framework for recreation as you prepare your proposals. Now that the road is paved from Montesano all the way up to the Wynoochee Dam, people from all over the state come to camp in the summer months. Any holiday weekend or non-rainy weekend, the campgrounds are full. Dispersed campers are nestled into every nook and cranny. At times they are literally camped on the mainline roads (see suggestion below). For attractions, there are a few waterfalls and some trails. The place could use some more family friendly trails (see suggestion below).

Specific suggestions:

* A forest health interpretive site or trail, related to the restoration project, would be an excellent educational tool for visitors.

* 2371 as proposed is much appreciated. Leaving the 200 and 210 spurs as travel ways or navigable. The 210, Weatherwax Ridge, is a nice hike with amazing views. There are also communication towers on the ridge. The 200 leads to an old lookout site. Historic value.

* 2372-040 as proposed (no change) is great. Or, could be a road to trail project as this leads to historic Anderson Butte.

* 2372-600 & 700, please leave as wildlife migration access. This allows the animals escapement into wild territory.

* 2270 please retain as ML 3 and as mainline loop road

* 2270-300 suggested road to trail conversion from the big culvert to the first switchback. This spur leads to beautiful views and also views of Wonder Mountain and the Upper Skokomish Valley. In addition, climbers/peak baggers like to climb Wynoochee Point and a short traverse to Grays Harbor County High Point (CoHp)

- * 2270-400 please retain as ML 2, Wynoochee Pass Trail #874
- * 2270-500 please leave unchanged as proposed
- * 2270-560 please leave as is. It is parking for dispersed recreation to Discovery Lake, Discovery Peak, Mt Hoquiam, Lake Connie. The remaining 560 could be road to trail candidate.
- * 2270 upper loop, (ML 1 or 2) please remain open, remove from maintenance, post signs "primitive road - not maintained". It is vital to keep open.
- * 2270-600 please leave unchanged, it connects to West Fork Humptulips Trail, Humpnoochee Pass. Views to be had into both Wynoochee and West Fork Humptulips watersheds.
- * 2270 wet crossing (2275-100) Concerning the river bank and bridge area, this should be closed to motor vehicles and accommodated as a walk-in dispersed camping area. An ADA restroom should be budgeted at this location from May through September. Also, a kiosk with Leave No Trace principles for visitor education.
- * 2275-100 please retain road as is until river area. Please broaden parking, as Wynoochee Lake Shore Trail #878 is accessed here.
- * 2294 Trout Creek, suggest road to trail conversion as this leads to dispersed recreation, exploring, and hunting grounds.
- * 2294 & 2281, mainline loop - please keep this open. It should remain intact for emergency escapement (fire, dam breach, etc) and it is a favorite road trip loop.
- * The Big Creek valley area (2294) has great opportunity for mixed use recreation ideas.
- * Safety pullouts, created where closed temp roads and closed spurs reach a mainline. A place with room for a turnaround and set back from the mainline 100' - 200'. These will contribute to public safety.
- * Temp road loop trails for hiking. We would like to see some trail options made from temporary thinning roads that are near the Coho side of the lake. This would be a great opportunity to have trail interpretive education about the newly completed restoration projects. (forest health, riparian, aquatics, wildlife habitat, and fish passages)
- * Temp road closure application - We encourage the planning team to keep in mind wildlife habitat, corridors, and movement as well as aesthetics for the beautiful Wynoochee forest. This will restore the natural settings and compliment the restoration work.

In closing, we are grateful for the revitalization of our backyard. We thank you and your planning team for your hard work on this. Please add the human/nature consideration (recreation) to your analysis for this project.

Thank you