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To Whom It May Concern;

The Clinton Northwest Forest Plan unfairly constrained forest management activities on the Olympic National Forest. The proposed Wynoochee River Watershed plan is part of the NWFP preservation of Old Growth. Our National Forests were intended for multiple use and proposed management activities foreclose opportunities for recreation and forest management. Your own words comment that "a reduced road maintenance budget and deteriorating road systems threaten riparian and aquatic habitats." This is a problem created by your inaction due to regulation and lack of funding. Timber harvest provided revenue that helped maintain forest health, mitigate damage from fire and provided dollars for road maintenance and upgrades. Now you write management plans that take limited dollars and spend those dollars on the most expensive projects that will further limit opportunities to provide access for forest management activities and recreation. If you continue to decommission roads how do you complete thinning which produce little revenue? How do you manage for forest health, protect habitats from catastrophic forest fires and provide access for recreation?

The North Olympic Timber Action Committee opposes road decommissioning. Spend your road budget maintaining and upgrading existing roads. Develop harvest and thinning activities to maximize revenue. Accelerating development of old growth habitat as a single management policy is what has created your lack of budget revenue, accelerated forest fires, and ultimately harmed aquatic habitat and water quality. Focus on timber management activities to produce revenue and maintain existing roads.

Respectfully,

Carol Johnson

Executive Director