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Organization: Peninsula Access Coalition

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Comments: Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this project.

We would like to first commend the Forest Service for a much-improved EA format that is more user-friendly and easier to understand. You presented previous public comments and concerns clearly, and added explanations and answers regarding those topics. You have a FAQ that most public will be asking about. There are many maps and charts to assist viewer's queries.

We understand the tasks, challenges, and confines to managing the land. We hope that our input will be helpful with your decisions. With that said, this is our position:

Peninsula Access Coalition supports Alternative C with the following modifications:

2270-400 - For database purposes, we request that the trailhead be moved from its historic location near the Park boundary to reflect its present-day location at milepost 1.3 of the 400 spur. We oppose the road to trail conversion. We support culvert replacement or removal in the long term but would like the Forest Service to consider funding and collaboration options to maintain vehicle access in the short term. Peninsula Access Coalition would continue to maintain this 400-spur road. Should the road-to-trail conversion take place, we encourage the Forest Service to design a new trailhead facility that will adequately serve the present-day needs. We value this access as the most southerly route to enter the Olympic National Park and other backcountry corridors.

2270-600 - We support and commend the Forest Service for recognizing the recreation need for road to trail conversion. Peninsula Access Coalition in cooperation with several other recreation and conservation groups are willing to fully adopt this travel route. This short route connects the Wynoochee drainage to the upper end of the West Fork Humptulips Trail.

2270-560 - We thank the Forest Service for recognizing and preserving this important section as a recreation resource.

2270-500 - We thank the Forest Service for recognizing and preserving this important section as a recreation resource.

2270 upper loop section - We oppose closure (ML1) of the upper loop road. Should the proposed closure take place, we would like the opportunity for a non-motorized travel route that will serve hikers, horses, and bicycles.

Dispersed Camping - there are areas of negative impact from dispersed campers not heeding LNT principles, damage to trees, vehicle travel on sensitive riparian areas, etc. Certain identified locations will be closed to vehicle access and rehabilitated while still allowing for dispersed camping. Where it is feasible, leave adequate space for safe turnaround and parking. Noted APPENDIX B, B53, REC-6.

Foot paths on decommissioned roads - we appreciate the specific Project Design Criteria mention, that where feasible, a slash-free zone for non-motorized use will be provided. Noted APPENDIX B, B52, REC-5.

Wildlife Gate Season - season closure dates are September 30 - April 30. While it is not mentioned in this EA, there are talks of extending the open season date through October and maybe November. We support continued consideration and evaluation by the Forest Service and WDFW.

We generally support Alternative C and hope that the Forest Service will consider the above modifications in the final decision to strengthen the access needs in the Wynoochee watershed.