

March 30, 2007

Linda Goodman
Regional Forester – Pacific Northwest Region
USDA Forest Service
P.O Box 3623
Portland, OR 97208-3623

Dear Ms. Goodman:

As participants in the Skokomish Watershed Action Team (SWAT), a diverse collaborative group working to restore the Skokomish River watershed, we respectfully request your support and funding of the watershed restoration proposals submitted by the Olympic National Forest as part of the FY 2007 Whole Watershed Joint Venture Proposal Package.

As you may be aware, road problems in the upper watershed have contributed to excessive sedimentation in the Skokomish River, causing the river to overflow its banks and flood the lower watershed as often as several times each year. The land and residents of the lower Skokomish watershed, including the Skokomish Tribe and local farmers, continue to suffer the consequences of these frequent floods. Habitat for several species of anadromous and resident fish, some listed under the Endangered Species Act, has also been harmed. Our collaborative group has been working together to implement the Forest Service's South Fork Skokomish Restoration Strategy in an effort to reduce sedimentation and restore critical wildlife and fish habitat, benefiting the area both ecologically and economically.

If funded, the proposals submitted by the Olympic National Forest will significantly further the goals of the SWAT and enhance our ability to complete high priority restoration work. The Forest Service has identified the Le Bar and Brown Creek roads as its highest priorities for decommissioning in the South Fork Skokomish. The SWAT is designing the Pine Creek stewardship project in collaboration with the Forest Service.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Bonnie Phillips, Olympic Forest Coalition
Keith Dublanica, Skokomish Indian Tribe
Patti Case, Green Diamond Resource Company
John Bolender, Mason Conservation District
Mike Marsh, Washington Native Plant Society
Neil Werner, Hood Canal Salmon Enhancement Group
Derek Churchill, Conservation Northwest

Richard Brocksmith, Hood Canal Coordinating Council
Marc Wicke, Tacoma Power
Mike Anderson, The Wilderness Society