

Letter Writing Needed to protect the Olympic National Forest from the Electronic warfare by the US Navy



From: **Protect Olympic Peninsula**

Sent: Tuesday, May 05, 2015 12:10 AM

Subject: **Letter Writing Needed for Olympic National Forest**

Letters Needed:

United States Forest Services Revision of Forest Management Plan

Deadline: Friday, May 8th

Dear Commenter on Northwest Electronic Warfare Training Range,

Thank you for sending your letters to the U.S. Forest Service this past fall during the comment period. We wanted to alert you to the additional opportunity to be heard through the current series of "Listening Sessions" that the Forest Service is doing as part of the revision of forest management plan.

The deadline is May 8, 2015. All comments are to be postmarked by this Friday and mailed to:

Attention: Listening Session Comments
Olympic National Forest
1835 Black Lake Blvd SW
Olympia, WA 98512

Citizen's answers to three questions will help inform the Forest Service as it revises the management plan. We have put together some "Potent Points" in the Urgent Action Alert listed below.

This message is sent to you by a group of concerned community members. What began as a Facebook page in response to the Navy and Forest Service meeting in Forks, has grown to connect activist groups and coalitions working together in the region. Your voice is crucial in protecting the Olympic Peninsula and we thank you for your concern and your action.

With gratitude,

Protect Olympic Peninsula

www.protectolympicpeninsula.org

Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/protectolyphen?fref=ts>

Email

protectolympicpeninsula@gmail.com

URGENT ACTION ALERT:

Help Protect The Olympic National Forest. Submit your comments to the Forest Services this week!

The Forest Service wants to know:

What does the public want the Forest Service to consider as they develop their forest management plan?

How should the public be engaged?

How should science be used?

When writing your comments, consider expanding upon some of the “POTENT POINTS” compiled below. Your comments must be postmarked by this Friday, May 8th, 2015.

POTENT POINTS:

1. The public wants the management of our National Forests to be based on solid science, not politics. Comprehensive, unbiased, current scientific data should be the foundation for all management decisions. This data, in an easily understandable format, should be accessible to the public. The Forest Service’s management plan should include adequate funding to conduct independent, unbiased scientific research.
2. The Navy’s application for a permit to use the Olympic National Forest for an Electronic Warfare Range must be denied until unbiased, solid scientific data can support their claim that the Range will have “No Significant Impact” (Note: key themes compiled from community responses are listed below).

NOISE:

No sound studies have been done of actual noise levels of multiple Growler jets practicing daily above endangered species habitat. The stress of such extreme levels poses significant risks. Research must be conducted before any permitting is considered. As does the adverse effect of such noise levels on humans.

ECONOMICS:

Socio-economic repercussions of the Navy’s plans on local communities have not been analyzed. The proposal to fly Growler Jets directly over Olympic National Park and Olympic National Forest poses significant impacts to the regions predominant tourist attraction.

A quiet atmosphere is central to “the wilderness experience” that is desired by the majority of visitors to this region. Visitation to Olympic National Park grew more than 10% last year, flushing the local economies with millions of tourist dollars.

Managers of Olympic National Forest need to recognize that the economic stability of the small communities on the Peninsula has shifted from timber harvesting and forest products to outdoor recreation and tourism.

INCREASED FIRE RISK:

With drought conditions increasing every year, the risk of fires is a considerable risk. Growlers fuel tanks carry thousands of gallons of highly toxic fuel.

The probabilities and the consequences of these inevitable events should be rigorously and scientifically evaluated before any permit is granted to the Navy for Electronic Warfare Training Range.

RADIATION:

Subjecting sensitive species such as butterflies, bees, amphibians, birds and other species to this powerful and potentially harmful technology without adequate scientific studies is unacceptable. The public wants to see current, comprehensive, peer-reviewed scientific data.

3. Strengthen the NW Forest Plan.

We must not revert to a "forest-by-forest" management plan if that results in a weakening of protections. The ancient forest groves, endangered species, and watersheds must be preserved. Climate change demands that National Forest lands remain protected.

4. Revamp the Forest Service's flawed public comment process.

Thousands of citizens voiced objections to the Electronic Warfare Range. Many expressed sentiments that cannot be "quantified"---such as valuing the peace and silence they experience in the wilderness. They were informed that such objections would carry no weight in the Forest Service's decision because their comments were not considered "substantive". This was confusing, discouraging, and disheartening.

5. Abide by Forest Services' own management plan.

The Olympic Forest Service's own "Land and Resource Management Plan" (p55) states that, when deciding whether to issue such a permit..."The interests and needs of the general public shall be given precedence over those of the applicant."

The public has communicated their desires clearly. The disregard of public outcry makes the Forest Services' mission statement of "serving the people" and "encouraging public participation" a farce.

Our National Forests belong to the American people. They do not belong to the military. We want our voices to be heard, and we want our opinions to carry weight.

Important Reminder: Keep a copy of your letter.

Send additional copies to your Representatives in Congress, House and Senate, and to Washington Governor Jay Inslee. Contact information for Representative Derek Kilmer, Senators Murray and Cantwell, Governor Inslee and more, can be found on our website. You are also encouraged to post your letter to

the Protect Olympic Peninsula Facebook Page or send it by e-mail so you can share your perspective with others.



***Activism is my
rent for living
on the planet.***

Alice Walker

**Write the
USFS!**

