



PEPC 191204
BUCKHORN RANGE CHAPTER
BACKCOUNTRY HORSEMEN OF WASHINGTON
P.O. Box 845, Chimacum, WA 98325

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Cliff Hawkes
Olympic National Park - GMP
National Park Service
Denver Service Center - Planning
P.O. Box 25287
Denver, CO 80225

September 16, 2006

RE: Dosewallips Access and Use

The primary arterial into the Olympic National Park from the east side for pack stock is via the Dosewallips drainage. The maintenance and supply access point has been in the past near the upper Muscott Flats Dosewallips campground. At one time, there was a horse camp down the road from the main campground - which was near the river. This site is mostly destroyed now due to the river changing course.

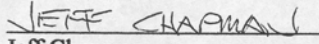
Due to the road washout in the Olympic National Forest, the Dosewallips campground has been cut off to motorized traffic, and use of the campsites has been dramatically reduced. As it is, this campground has a large enough area to accommodate both hike-in traffic and stock use. Some stock items (hitching posts) have been added to address the need for stock facilities.

When the road was still open to motorized vehicles, recreational users pulling horse trailers would either brave the hill past the falls, or park below at Elkhorn Campground or across 10 mile bridge. If parking below, you could then ride up the road over Constance Creek, though traffic made this trip less pleasant for recreational riders than it has been while vehicular traffic is cut off.

Planning for use in the Dosewallips drainage must deliberately address continued stock access. Even ONP maintenance crews pack tools and supplies in using this route. Should restoration of motorized access to Muscott Flats occur, ONP needs to continue to provide a suitable place for a stock camp near the road end.

In addition to continued maintenance of the existing road, we also support any effort to establish an additional off-road corridor trail, including the possibility of a non-motorized route south of the river which would run between 10 mile bridge in the Olympic National Forest and the upper campground.

Sincerely,


Jeff Chapman,
Director, Buckhorn Range Chapter BCHW