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## Enchanted Valley Chalet Frequently Asked Questions

### 1. Why dismantle the Enchanted Valley Chalet?

Dismantling the Enchanted Valley Chalet is a difficult decision given its local significance. To reach this decision, the park thoroughly considered all alternatives. Dismantling the chalet allows a balanced approach toward management and stewardship of cultural, natural, and wilderness resources. The Quinault River is designated critical habitat for the federally listed threatened bull trout and is an important tribal fisheries and ethnographic resource for the Quinault Indian Nation. If left in place, or even moved as far back as possible, the remaining river terrace in the vicinity will likely be gone in its entirety in 10-20 years. In addition, floods are increasing in both size and frequency and there are avalanche risks close to the valley wall. If the Enchanted Valley Chalet fell into the Quinault River there could be a substantial environmental and cultural impact.

### 2. Why doesn't the park move the Chalet again to the furthest possible point away from the river?

Through this planning process we learned that the terrace will likely be gone in its entirety in 10-20 years. The main concern is preventing the structure from ending up in the river, whether now or later. Dismantling and removing the structure is the most responsible management and stewardship of cultural, natural, and wilderness resources. By making a decision now, we can resolve the concern of the structure eroding into the river and avoid any additional future actions or impacts to the river, wilderness resources, or tribal fisheries.

### 3. Why can't the park modify the riverbank or change the course of the river?

River channel modification or bank stabilization activities within the Enchanted Valley would be contrary to the provisions of the Wilderness Act as the vast majority of the Quinault River within the park is located within designated wilderness. The Quinault River is designated critical habitat for the federally listed threatened bull trout, contains Essential Fish Habitat for federally listed threatened Chinook and coho salmon, and is an important tribal fisheries resource for the Quinault Indian Nation. The Quinault River is also eligible for Wild and Scenic River (WSR) designation and, given its eligibility, the river must be maintained in accordance with the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act for the protection of the "outstandingly remarkable values (ORVs)" for which it is eligible.

### 4. Doesn't the NHPA require the park to protect the chalet to the same level as other NPS cultural resources such as the Liberty Bell, Statue of Liberty, Washington National Monument, Arlington National Cemetery, Lincoln Home, etc.?

The Enchanted Valley Chalet is listed with a Category III level of significance – local significance. Structures such as the Liberty Bell, Lincoln Home, etc. are identified as nationally

significant resources. Historic structures that are central to the legislated purposes of parks, especially those that are to be interpreted, may be subjects of additional, specialized efforts appropriate to their functions and significance.

**5. What has been the timeline of the NEPA process to date?**

<b>Steps of the Planning Process</b>	<b>Timeline</b>
Internal scoping, define purpose and need, and develop preliminary alternatives	Summer 2015- Spring 2016
Conduct public scoping	Summer 2016
Analysis of public comment	Summer-Fall 2016
Determine Data Needs (based on internal <i>and</i> external scoping)	Fall 2016
Conduct Research (wetlands delineation, soil survey, lead-based paint testing, site flood hazards)	Summer 2017
Final Site Flood Hazard Report	Spring 2018
Refine alternatives	Spring-Summer 2018
Identify environmental impacts and select preferred alternative	Summer-Fall 2018
Prepare environmental document (EA) and minimum requirement analysis (MRA)	Fall-Winter 2018/2019

**6. What are the next steps after the public comment period?**

First, all public comments will be analyzed. A Memorandum of Agreement will also be prepared with the State Historic Preservation Officer, Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, and consulting parties. The NPS Regional Director, Interior Regions 8, 9, 10, and 12, based on a recommendation from the Superintendent of Olympic National Park, will then make a decision about the final disposition of the Enchanted Valley Chalet. The decision would be documented in the proposed Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for this EA. Implementation would occur as soon as technically and financially feasible.