



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest  
Service

Pacific  
Northwest  
Region

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**File Code:** 2720/1950

**Date:** January 7, 1015

**Route To:**

**Subject:** Regional Forester Response to Karen Sullivan - Navy Electronic Warfare (EW)

**To:** Ms. Karen Sullivan

Dear Ms. Sullivan:

Thank you for contacting me about the Navy's proposed training activities on the Pacific Ranger District of the Olympic National Forest. I understand you have concerns about the Forest Service's permitting process and the environmental analysis associated with naval activities on the Forest.

To date, the Olympic National Forest has authorized four short-term permits to the Navy to conduct feasibility tests of the Integrated Air Defense System. These permits were determined to be minor and short-term in duration. The process in which these permits were authorized is consistent with Forest Service policy. The first of the four temporary permits was authorized in 2010 and the last of the four was authorized at the beginning of 2014.

The Navy is in the process of formally applying for a special use permit in support of its proposal for increased training activities. A decision has not yet been made on this and there have been no further permits issued at this point. The application process is laid out in a manner that considers many factors including environmental impacts, as well as potential public concerns. When the forest receives an application for special use permitting, a review is done on the activities found in the proposal. The review process determines whether the activities are appropriate, and within Forest Service policy and the Forest Plan. The Authorized officer has the latitude to determine the level of processing based on the scope and intensity of the proposed action.

The Forest has received significant comments on the Navy's proposed activities. Those comments will be considered as part of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process prior to a decision being made. The Forest is currently assessing its schedule for addressing comments.

Public input is important and in your letter, you raised concerns about a public meeting held by the Navy. The November 19, 2014, public meeting in Pacific Beach was not a Forest-sponsored meeting. Communications with the Navy indicated that the focus of the meeting was to be on the proposed fixed emitter project located at the Naval Station Everett Annex; and that no topics related to the Forest would be discussed. We recently held discussions with the Navy to ensure more coordinated efforts on public engagement for issues that impact our joint communities in the future.



As we move through this process, the Forest Service will share the draft decision using multiple means to notify the public of the opportunity to object. These will include: updating the Schedule of Proposed Actions, sending letters to interested parties, issuing a News Release, and putting Legal Notices in the newspaper of record, The Daily World (Aberdeen), and The Peninsula Daily News (Port Angeles).

A copy of the Navy's programmatic 2010 "Northwest Training Range Complex (NWTRC) Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)/Overseas EIS (OEIS)" referred to in its 2014 "Pacific Northwest Electronic Warfare (EW) Range Environmental Assessment," is available at <http://nwtteis.com/DocumentsandReferences/RelatedLinks.aspx>.

Again, thank you for your interest in management of your National Forests.

Sincerely,



*for* JAMES M. PEÑA  
Regional Forester

cc: Reta Laford, Gordon E Blum, Jen Fitzpatrick, Noelle C Glines-Bovio, Shoshona M Pilip-Florea, Richard N Rine, Jackie C Andrew