



Quinault Indian Nation

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Greetings,

I'm writing to invite you to a community meeting to discuss the Upper Quinault River Roads and Access project. The Quinault Indian Nation is hosting the meeting to hear concerns and input from local community members, clarify the goals of the project, correct misinformation, and reset the public engagement process moving forward. **The meeting will be held on:**

April 10, 2019 from 6-9 p.m.

at the Lake Quinault School, 6130 U.S. Hwy 101 – Amanda Park, WA.

Based on input to date from the community and ongoing study of options to balance private property, loop road access and habitat concerns, removal of the National Park Service bridge is no longer being considered as part of the project.

We understand and share the concerns of our valley neighbors about maintaining traditional access to private property, recreation and other activities. At the same time, the current road system is increasingly vulnerable to flooding and other natural processes at work on the valley. Without proactive action local residents, businesses and property owners will only become more vulnerable to ongoing and inevitable erosion and river channel migration. Business as usual may be the most costly and disruptive option.

Various options such as lengthening the bridge, realigning the roads, decommissioning unused road segments, and improving roads infrastructure to reduce flood risks have been part of the research and planning phase of the project to better understand their potential impacts and benefits to people and salmon. Planning and research to meet the goals of the project is ongoing. Project goals are to:

- Address and support community interests and values
- Improve habitat conditions in the upper Quinault River valley
- Provide sustainable access in the upper Quinault River valley

We have a long way to go before any decisions are made. We believe actions can be taken to improve habitat conditions for salmon, respect private property, maintain access, and enhance the safety and resilience of local infrastructure. Major options, like moving roads, will only happen with the voluntary cooperation of private property-owners and land management agencies.

Moving forward, we are committed to improving communications and transparency about the goals and details of the project and demonstrating our dedication to working collaboratively with road and land managers and everyone who lives, works and enjoys access to the valley.

Also invited to the meeting are leadership and staff of road and land management agencies, including Grays Harbor County, Jefferson County, the National Park Service, U.S. Forest Service and Washington State Dept. of Natural Resources.

What to expect at the meeting:

- Opening remarks by Fawn Sharp, President of the Quinault Indian Nation
- Short presentation about the project purpose and need
- Public Q&A and comment session
- Remarks outlining next steps for public input and plan finalization
- Informal discussion among meeting participants

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'F. Sharp', written in a cursive style.

Fawn Sharp, President
Quinault Indian Nation