



**Pacific Northwest Region  
Olympic National Forest**  
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[www.fs.usda.gov/olympic](http://www.fs.usda.gov/olympic)

# News Release

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## Olympic National Forest Extending Comment Period for Navy's Electronic Warfare Project

**Olympia, Wash.** – The Olympic National Forest (ONF) is extending the current comment period for the Pacific Northwest Electronic Warfare Range Environmental Assessment (EA). After receiving renewed interest in project by members of the public who were unaware of the proposal, the decision was made to extend the current public comment. The current comment period was to end October 10, 2014. To ensure the public has had plenty of time to provide comment, the comment period will extend to October 31, 2014.

In addition to extending the comment period, the Forks Chamber of Commerce is hosting Navy and US Forest staff for a question and answer session on Tuesday, October 14<sup>th</sup> from 6-8pm in Forks, WA. The location for this event is the Forks High School commons, located at 261 South Spartan Avenue, Forks, WA.

**Background** The Pacific Ranger District of the is proposing to adopt an EA, prepared by the US Navy, for training activities on Forest Service roads. If adopted, the EA will allow the forest to provide the Navy with a 5-year special use permit to perform training operations at 12 sites on ONF land.

Training operations would involve the placement of Navy-owned, passenger-size vehicles along pullouts on forest roads. These trucks would be outfitted with cones that would emit electromagnetic waves for receiving aircraft participating in the training operation. Operations would be conducted at any one of the 12 designated sites up to 260 times per year. While an operation is underway, the mobile-emitter truck would be in place for an 8 – 16 hour stretch, with electronic emissions occurring for 45 minutes of every hour. Public health and safety plans are described in the EA, which includes parking the trucks out of the way of traffic and ceasing or moving electromagnetic transmissions if people or animals are found to be present in the area.

The Environmental Assessment includes similar provisions for training operations on Washington State Department of Natural Resources lands, as well as on the Okanogan-Wenatchee and Colville national forests. The ONF's decision notice only covers those operations in the Pacific Ranger District.



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## **NEWS RELEASE**

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The EA is available for review on-line at: <http://www.fs.usda.gov/projects/olympic/landmanagement/projects>