Quinault Indian Nation
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Upper Quinault River Roads and Access Planning

Project update for the reporting period May – June 2019

Quinault Indian Nation, roads managers, and consultant team members continued to study and evaluate options to improve habitat conditions for salmon, provide sustainable access for residents and visitors, and enhance the resilience of local roads and infrastructure in the upper Quinault River valley. Following is a brief progress report on activities since the April 10 public meeting at Lake Quinault School where QIN and road managers received feedback from businesses, landowners and community members in the valley.

On May 10 project team leads Bill Armstrong, (Quinault Department of Fisheries), John Soden (Natural Systems Design) and Chris Soncarty (Confluence Environmental) met with Olympic National Park technical staff at National Park Headquarters in Port Angeles. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss community feedback from the April 10 public meeting, review the draft conceptual alternatives, and discuss next steps in the planning process.

On June 20 and 21, Bill Armstrong, technical staff with Natural Systems Design, and a road engineer with SCJ Alliance, which specializes in transportation planning, conducted field surveys as part of ongoing field work.

Two areas on the north side of the valley within Olympic National Park were surveyed. They included the area from Canoe Creek to Finley Creek (Planning Area 2) and the area of Big Creek (Planning Area 5). The goal was to survey the topography and old homestead and logging haul roads to collect information to help evaluate feasibility for potential realignments of the North Shore Road in these areas.

A second survey was conducted in the community reach (Planning Area 1) on the south side of the valley. The goals of this survey were to complete a comprehensive list of existing culverts, bridges and channel crossings for county roads and driveways and collect information needed to evaluate their capacity to convey streamflow and flood waters. Each location was GPS located and basic measurements were taken, including channel bankfull width and channel depth. The type of structures present were also documented. This information will be used to develop potential solutions to help improve flow conveyance, access and safety of local residents.

Results of the surveys will be shared and discussed at the upcoming public meeting this Fall.

Lastly, QIN staff worked with the State of Washington Department of Ecology to secure a 2-year extension for the Floodplains by Design grant which is funding the roads and access planning project.

Thank you for your interest in the project. If you have any questions about this update or the project overall please contact Mark Glyde at mrglyde@gmail.com.

Sincerely,

David Bingaman, Director
Quinault Division of Natural Resources