

1 **Fair Public Process Needed for Pacific Northwest Electronic Warfare Range Plan**

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3 **WHEREAS** the U.S. Navy has submitted an application to the Forest Service for a
4 permit allowing use of Forest Service roads for its Pacific Northwest Electronic Warfare
5 Range project in the Olympic National Forest; and
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7 **WHEREAS** the project is proposed for parts of the Olympic National Forest that fall
8 within Jefferson, Clallam and Grays Harbor counties; and
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10 **WHEREAS** both the Navy and the Forest Service are required by the National
11 Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) to inform and consult the public about the
12 proposed project by providing the affected communities with notice of the project and
13 the opportunity to make a public record of their concerns, and
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15 **WHEREAS** the Navy has unreasonably limited the scope for public comment on the
16 electronic warfare project to whether the Forest Service shall issue a permit for the use
17 of its roads; and
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19 **WHEREAS** the Forest Service allowed the public 15 rather than the required 30 days to
20 comment on the permit application and failed to give notice of the project in any
21 newspaper directly serving a community directly affected by the project as required by
22 NEPA, and consequently received no public comments on the overall project; and
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24 **WHEREAS** the National Forest Service Management Act and Forest Plan require the
25 Forest Service not to give greater priority to the needs or demands of any outside
26 agency than to its responsibility to the public; and
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28 **WHEREAS** the Forest Service has not conducted independent research, as required by
29 law, to verify statements in the Navy's Environmental Assessment (EA), which EA is
30 based upon previous Environmental Impact Statements which are not readily available
31 to the public, and which EA makes a Finding of No Significant Impact on the
32 environment, and
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34 **WHEREAS** two informational meetings held by the Navy due to political pressure
35 amply demonstrated that people living on the Olympic Peninsula have multiple, grave
36 concerns about the effects of the Warfare Range project and the involvement of Growler
37 aircraft using electronic attack weapons; and
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39 **WHEREAS** it appears that the Navy and the Forest Service have acted in bad faith by
40 circumventing their responsibility to inform and receive official comment from the
41 public on the full range of impacts of its proposal;
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43 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Jefferson County Democrats call upon our
44 elected representatives at all levels to use all the powers of their office to effect the
45 following:
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47 that the Forest Service extend the deadline for public comment on the Navy's permit
48 application;
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50 that the Navy schedule public hearings as required by NEPA on the Environmental
51 Assessment of its Pacific Northwest Electronic Warfare Range Plan and its Finding of
52 No Significant Impacts, which were done without public input, so that the public may
53 have the opportunity to refute those claims;
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55 that such hearings, at a minimum, be held in the county seat of each affected County in
56 such a manner as to allow the public its legal right to be informed and to comment;
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58 that the Forest Service, being aware of the public controversy, take no further action
59 until the Navy provides an Environmental Impact Statement.
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61 Presented by Kenneth Bleyer for consideration by the Jefferson County Democrats at
62 their meeting on November 18, 2014
63 Passed November 18, 2014