



# United States Department of the Interior

## NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Mount Rainier National Park

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Ashford, Washington 98304-9751

IN REPLY REFER TO:

L76

December 21, 2012

### **Subject: National Park Service Announces Decision to Rehabilitate the Nisqually to Paradise Road**

Chris Lehnertz, Pacific West Region Director, National Park Service, has issued a decision and a *Finding of No Significant Impact* (FONSI) for the *Nisqually to Paradise Road Rehabilitation Environmental Assessment* (EA). Lehnertz's decision permits the rehabilitation of 17.6 miles of road between the Nisqually Entrance and the developed area at Paradise in Mount Rainier National Park. The project is needed to address deficiencies in the condition of the road and safety concerns. Deteriorating road conditions are due to a number of factors including large volumes of traffic, abundant precipitation, structural and design deficiencies, and normal wear. The project includes rehabilitation of pavement on Ricksecker Point Loop Road and Paradise Valley Road. Also included is the installation of in-road buried conduits and junction vaults for future electrical power and telecommunication upgrades. The project is also designed to protect adjacent natural and cultural resources, and will replace culverts to improve aquatic conditions.

The Nisqually – Paradise Road corridor is an integral part of park operations and a component of the Mount Rainier National Historic Landmark District (NHLD). The road is an outstanding example of park landscape design, embodying the complimentary styles of rustic architecture and naturalistic landscape architecture. One of the objectives of this project is to ensure that the NHLD work meets the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation*.

The FONSI, EA, Errata and associated documents are available for viewing on-line via the Planning, Environment and Public Comment (PEPC) website at: <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/mora/> and selecting the project from the drop-down menu. For a printed copy of the FONSI, please call Mount Rainier National Park at (360) 569-6501.

Thank you for sharing your comments, ideas and concerns, and your contribution to the Mount Rainier National Park planning process. Please feel free to call if you have questions about this decision. I can be reached at 360-569-6501, or contact Karen Thompson, Environmental Coordinator at 360-569-6507.

Sincerely,

Randy King  
Superintendent