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Comments:

This message is in response to an invitation to comment on the use of US Forest lands by the U.S. Navy; In 2014 we expressed concerns about the US Navy using our forest lands for electronic warfare training. Since then, our original concerns have not been addressed. We, therefore, request that they be properly addressed and mitigated.

1. The Navy map used in the Electronic Warfare Range EA omitted important geographical details.
2. Flight increases were vastly underestimated in the EA.
3. Surface ship involvement was not disclosed.
4. Contractors, not Navy personnel will be operating the equipment.
5. Forest Service failed to disclose important information. 18 US Code 1515 were violated by four permits signed by Mr. Millett. These statements have not been corrected.
6. The Navy and the Forest Service did not take a "hard look" as required by NEPA.
7. Inadequate notification. The Navy and the Forest Service did not give proper notices to the Olympic Peninsula community.
8. Public hearings in affected communities were not held.
9. The Forest Service failed to conduct their own in-depth research.

The noise of U.S. Navy's Growler jet flying day and night over our community has been very disturbing. Increased activity would be intolerable. There is no doubt in the public's mind that noise from Navy aircraft is being significantly and chronically underestimated; no doubt that severe effects in some communities, which were never evaluated, will occur with greater severity and frequency than documents show, and no doubt that the evaluation of electromagnetic radiation impacts is entirely absent from the Electronic Warfare EA and other NEPA analyses. There is no doubt that noise and other impacts have been so severely piecemealed that a permit for the mobile emitters does not account for the increased jet noise it will trigger. There is no doubt that air pollution was not adequately addressed in the EA, no doubt that effects of radiation are both unknown and unevaluated, and no doubt that the Forest Service, having failed to conduct its own research to verify the Navy's claims, appears to be about to rubber-stamp an unfair, unethical process that has created a deep well of public anger and mistrust. We urge the Forest Service to rescind the decision to issue this permit, to conduct the necessary science, to consider the impacts that were left out, and to start again, with an EIS, an honest dialog, and a more inclusive public process.

We understand that the Navy has been using the Peninsula for their training for as long as 40 years. But, for most of those 40 years its planes were not nearly as intrusive as the Growlers that have been flying recently, nor did they engage in secret electronic warfare training without proper public notification. The increase in planned Navy electronic activity will be detrimental to the quality of life for humans as well as for the environment.

Respectfully submitted,
Charles Strickland

