

Jefferson County
Board of County Commissioners
Agenda Request

To: Board of Commissioners
Mark McCauley, County Administrator

From: Monte Reinders, P.E., Public Works Director/County Engineer 

Agenda Date: January 6, 2025

Subject: Upper Hoh Road Closure (County Road #914207) - MP 9.8

Statement of Issue:

Emergency road closure of the Upper Hoh Road, County Road #914207, at milepost (MP) 9.8 to all vehicular traffic.

Analysis/Strategic Goals/Pro's & Con's:

High rainfall on Jefferson County's West End from mid-December to present led to flooding which has caused significant road damage. Ongoing erosion combined with subsequent weather events are likely to render the road impassable. There are no full-time County residents upstream from MP 9.8 but visitors to the Olympic National Park Hoh Rainforest Area could become stranded beyond MP 9.8 if the road were to completely wash out. The Board of County Commissioners is authorized by Chapter 47.48 RCW to close the road by Resolution.

Given the current state of the County Road Fund Public Works has been working with our partners to identify alternative funds to restore access. Until such time as adequate funding is found to make the necessary repairs the road closure shall remain in effect.

Fiscal Impact/Cost Benefit Analysis:

Olympic National Park has communicated that a complete loss of the road would have catastrophic impact for them. There is also the economic impact to the region should Hoh Rainforest Park Area tourist access be lost.

The passing of a Resolution acknowledging the closure has little fiscal impact except for the negligible cost of publishing a public notice of the closure.

Recommendation:

Adopt the proposed Resolution in the matter of closure of the Upper Hoh Road, County Road No. 914207, at MP 9.8 to all vehicular traffic.

Department Contact: Eric Kuzma, 360-385-9167

Reviewed By:


Mark McCauley, County Administrator


Date

**JEFFERSON COUNTY
STATE OF WASHINGTON**

**In the Matter of Closure
of the Upper Hoh Road
County Road No. 914207**

RESOLUTION NO. _____

WHEREAS, significant rainfall on Jefferson County’s West End from mid-December to present (1/6/2025) has resulted in flooding and associated streambank erosion which included the Hoh River cresting at approx. 30,000 cfs on 12/18/24; and

WHEREAS, approx. 250 linear feet of the Upper Hoh Road near MP 9.8 has been damaged and ongoing erosion will likely render the road impassable; and

WHEREAS, a hazard exists at this site to the motoring public; and

WHEREAS, persons and/or property may be threatened or damaged and access to property may be impaired unless emergency efforts are taken to reduce the threat to life and property; and

WHEREAS, there are no full-time County residents upstream from MP 9.8 but visitors to the Olympic National Park Hoh Rainforest could become stranded beyond MP 9.8 if the road were to completely wash out; and

WHEREAS, Olympic National Park has closed the Hoh Rainforest Park Area; and

WHEREAS, in addition to the Olympic National Park, Jefferson County has notified our other partners, including the: City of Forks, Federal Highways Administration, Hoh Tribe, The Nature Conservancy, US Army Corps of Engineers, WA Dept. of Fish & Wildlife, Western Federal Lands, WA Dept. of Transportation, and State legislative staff; and

WHEREAS, the Public Works Department shall erect signage and barricades to prevent unauthorized vehicular traffic from entering the closed road segment. Said closure shall remain in effect until such time as adequate funding has been found to make the necessary repairs; and

WHEREAS, Chapter 47.48 R.C.W. authorizes closure of roads;

NOW, THEREFORE, THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF JEFFERSON COUNTY, WASHINGTON, HEREBY RESOLVE AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Whereas Clauses are Findings of Fact. The Jefferson County Board of Commissioners hereby adopts the above “Whereas” clauses as Findings of Fact.

Section 2. Purpose. The purpose of this Resolution is to have the Board of Jefferson County Commissioners authorize emergency closure of the Upper Hoh Road to vehicular traffic at MP 9.8.

Section 3. Declaration of Road Closure. Jefferson County Board of Commissioners hereby declare the Upper Hoh Road closed to vehicular traffic at MP 9.8.

Section 4. Severability. If any section, subsection, sentence, clause, phrase or section of this Resolution or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of this Resolution or its application to other persons or circumstances shall be fully valid and shall not be affected.

Section 5. SEPA Categorical Exemption. This Resolution is categorically exempt from the State Environmental Policy Act under WAC [197-11-800 \(19\)](#).

Section 6. Effective Date. This Resolution shall take effect and be in full force immediately upon passage by the Board of County Commissioners.

ADOPTED and APPROVED this ____ day of _____, 2025.

**JEFFERSON COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

SEAL:

Heather Dudley-Nollette, District 1

Heidi Eisenhour, District 2

ATTEST:

Greg Brotherton, District 3

Carolyn Gallaway, CMC
Clerk of the Board

Date



Monte Reinders, P.E.,
Public Works Director/County Engineer

1/3/25

Date