

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: Declaration of Emergency due to County Road Damage

Statement of Issue:

Declaration of Emergency due to damage on both the Upper Hoh Road, County Road No. 914207, at milepost (MP) 9.8, and the Quinault South Shore Road, County Road No. 911607, at MP 1.3.

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 both roads impassable. There are no full-time County residents upstream from the damage. The Board's declaration of a state of emergency is required in order to make the County eligible for potential emergency response funding. It also provides the Department of Public Works with authorization to proceed with emergency repairs when funds are available, without regard to the time consuming procedures and formalities prescribed by law, with the exception of mandatory constitutional requirements.

Fiscal Impact/Cost Benefit Analysis:

Public Works has been working with our state and federal partners to identify funds to address the damage and restore access. Until such time as suitable funding is found to make the necessary repairs both roads will remain closed.

Recommendation:

Declare that a state of emergency exists due to County Road damage.

Department Contact: Eric Kuzma, 360-385-9167

Reviewed By:


Mark McCauley, County Administrator

Date

**JEFFERSON COUNTY
STATE OF WASHINGTON**

**In the Matter of a
Declaration of Emergency
Due to County Road Damage**

RESOLUTION NO._____

WHEREAS, significant rainfall on Jefferson County’s West End from mid-December to present (1/6/2025) 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 (CR# 914207) near MP 9.8 was damaged, as was approx. 85 linear feet of the Quinault South Shore Road (CR# 911607) near MP 1.3; and

WHEREAS, in both locations the roads have been closed to vehicular traffic and ongoing erosion will likely render both roads impassable; and

WHEREAS, subsequent weather events are likely to threaten additional segments of the Upper Hoh Road, near MP 9.8, and the Quinault South Shore Road, near MP 1.3, upstream from past emergency repairs at both sites; and

WHEREAS, there are no full-time County residents upstream from the site, but the 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 Park access be lost; and

WHEREAS, Jefferson County has been working diligently with our partners to try to find a solution for this repair, including the: City of Forks, Federal Highways Administration, Hoh Tribe, Olympic National Park, Quinault 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, immediate preventative action and repair are the best ways to prevent further damage and to restore essential services; and

WHEREAS, a suitable funding source will need to be identified, and the Board’s declaration of emergency is required in order to make the County eligible for federal emergency response funds;

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 declare that a state of emergency exists. Such declaration is required in order to make the County eligible for potential emergency response funding. It also authorizes the County Department of Public Works to enter into contracts and incur obligations necessary to make emergency repairs as soon as suitable funding is identified and without regard to the time consuming procedures and formalities prescribed by law, with the exception of mandatory constitutional requirements.

Section 3. Declaration of a state of emergency. Jefferson County Board of Commissioners hereby declare that a state of emergency exists.

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:

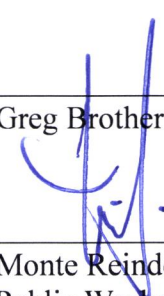
Heather Dudley-Nollette, District 1

Heidi Eisenhour, District 2

ATTEST:

Greg Brotherton, District 3

Carolyn Gallaway, CMC Date
Clerk of the Board

For:  _____
Monte Reinders, P.E., Date
Public Works Director/County Engineer

1/3/2025