

Governor Ferguson Steps Up with Funds to Reopen Hoh River Road

On March 13, 2025, Governor Bob Ferguson announced that he has come up with the funds needed to open the Hoh River Road. He directed that \$623,000 in the state's Strategic Reserves Account be made available to restore access to the popular Hoh Rain Forest in Olympic National Park.

The road washed out in a December 2024 storm, and federal funds needed to fix it had not been granted. State emergency funds will be used along with \$27,000 of privately raised matching funds.

"The Hoh Rain Forest is one of the crown jewels of Olympic National Park and Washington's coastal communities," Ferguson said. "It is also a critical driver of tourism on the Olympic Peninsula. We cannot allow access to remain closed during the peak visitor season."

Some 176,566 vehicles used the road to access the rain forest in 2024, bringing nearly 460,000 visitors according to the National Park Service. The \$650,000 repair will take Jefferson County about a month to complete.

OPA president John Bridge attended the Seattle news conference along with fellow conservationists and local officials. The Governor thanked OPA for its support. *Thank you, Governor Ferguson, for stepping in when the federal government clearly dropped the ball.*



OPA president John Bridge, 2nd Row, R, behind Gov. Ferguson