

PEPC 191037

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Olympic National Park Draft General Management Plan

Summer 2006

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



COMMENT SHEET ONP - GMP

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9/30/2006

We welcome your comments on this project. The comment period closes on 09/15/2006. Your comments must be delivered or postmarked no later than 09/15/2006.

You may complete this form and provide it to the NPS at one of the open houses, or you may send this form and/or your letter to:

National Park Service
Denver Service Center - Cliff Hawkes, DSC-P
12795 West Alameda Parkway
PO Box 25287
Denver, CO 80225-9901

It is the practice of the NPS to make comments, including names, home addresses, home phone numbers, and email addresses of respondents, available for public review. Individual respondents may request that we withhold their names and/or home addresses, etc., but if you wish us to consider withholding this information you must state this prominently at the beginning of your comments. In addition, you must present a rationale for withholding this information. This rationale must demonstrate that disclosure would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of privacy. Unsupported assertions will not meet this burden. In the absence of exceptional, documentable circumstances, this information will be released. We will always make submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives of or officials of organizations or businesses, available for public inspection in their entirety

Personal Information

First Name:

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Organization:

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State/Province *WA*

Postal Code: *98444*

E-mail:

Keep my contact information private. Provide justification:

Please use below and the back of the paper for your comments. Attach extra sheets as necessary. Please print or write clearly.

See 2 Attached sheets.
cc: to Denver Service Center

September 27, 2006

Cliff Hawkes:

Following are my comments on the Olympic National Park Draft General Management Plan.

I attended the open house regarding the changes and options at the Amada Park Library. One common theme I heard from most of the ONP personnel that evening was "we're under funded" or "we're out of money."

My wife and I have traveled in all 50 states, and where possible we stayed in and visited our National Parks. The cry of "we're out of money" seems to be universal in all the parks. Olympic is of special interest to us because we live close by, we have backpacked in and across the trail systems, and have the strong connection to the Queets Corridor because of my wife's family members being original homesteaders in 1891.

Through the years we have questioned the parks rational on the way they communicate and do business. These options present the same logical questions. If you don't have the money then how can the park even present options and programs that can not be funded or completed if started?

Why force one of the four alternatives down the throat of the public's throat when the "current plan" from 1976 can't be made workable.

Why would a boundary adjustment of 2,300 acres be added to the Queets corridor, when the park's mission, purpose, and significance can't be met?

It makes no sense to have considerations like these presented when the park for years can't even get a slide fixed and the Queets road re-routed and opened so users can get to the end of the road to use the camp sites and trailhead. It has been decades since the Queets River Trail system has been cleared for use. And the many side trails have not been opened or maintained for many years. The road is in a degraded state and not kept in good driveable condition. There are homesteader survivors that can't get to two cemeteries to visit graves because of the road being out. The upper river is closed. Not knowing the "plan" it appears the park likes it that way – no users are in there to check on, so no rangers needed.

When the staff was questioned about the Dosewallups road being out for years, five miles from the trailhead, the answers came out painfully – "we are working with our partners, private timber companies, the state, etc., it takes a long time to get a road fixed. We are held back by federal laws, etc." When is it time to fix a slide on a road? How much time does the public have to wait?

I am convinced by the parks past practices that if a slide happened in the new area that is being touted as a great elk habit and fish rearing area in the Queets drainage, that road would be locked and never opened again.

Another issue is the public's ability to dig clams. If there is a shortage of razor clams at Kalaloch Beach, why don't you open up the beaches you closed many years ago (there were no reasons given) like Ruby Beach and many others along the highway for digging? Having not been dug for all these years they are well stocked. Here again the perception appears to be – once closed for any reason these areas are never opened again.

Logic tells me that along with wanting to acquire more land for the park would come responsibility to maintain it for public use. If the past is an indicator of the future, that won't happen. My vote would be for the 1976 option and bring that to completion before trying to convince the public you are trusting and responsible to add more land to the park – remember, you "have no money."

Sincerely,

A solid black rectangular box redacting the signature of the sender.

Tacoma, WA 98444