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SEQUIM-DUNGENESS VALLEY
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
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TO: ONP	NO. OF PAGES: 3
COMPANY: Carla McConnell	FROM: Hanan
FAX: 303-969-2736	COMPANY: Sequim Chamber
DATE: 9.29.06	FAX: 360.683.6349
	PHONE: 360.683.6197

Carla McConnell
Olympic National Park-GMP
National Park Service
PO Box 25287
Denver, CO. 80225

Dear Ms. McConnell:

These comments in reference to the General Management Plan are the opinions from the Sequim-Dungeness Valley Chamber of Commerce Executive Committee of the Board of Directors. We hope you find our observations helpful. We are working in conjunction with the Port Angeles Regional Chamber of Commerce and the Joint Marketing Cooperative of the Olympic Peninsula. We generally pool our resources and expertise, although some differences may be evident in our recommendations. Please be assured that all of these organizations welcome the opportunity to evaluate your plan, and want to be involved. Your Park is very important to us and we want to remain involved.

Headquarters, ONP Visitor Center & Heart of Hills

-We would suggest you focus on Option D. We receive many requests for better public transportation to and within the park. This option seems to help in this area. However we suggest you not only keep Heart of the Hills Campground but expand it to make it more user friendly for larger RVs, and also offer RV hook ups with water and power.

Hurricane Ridge & Obstruction Point

-Option C appears to be the best choice here. Hurricane Ridge is a universally popular tourist destination, one which is relatively easy for the motorized tourist to access and see the broad vistas of the Park. If the road were to be open more often and more consistently would be a big plus to our community. With that in mind we would like to see better snow removal for the ridge road with the opportunity for alternative transportation access. Also allow for significant upgrades of ski area facilities. Recommend putting ski area operations out to bid for a private developer and allow them to enlarge facility.

-We also encourage you to allow Hurricane Ridge Road to be used for Bicycle special events. This ride would be very popular as a hill climb, or part of an organized tour event. Putting a limit on the use to no more than three times per year would be acceptable.

Elwha

-This section is going to be going through major changes in the years to come, as the dams are removed. We like your approach to the growth with the comments in option D

Lake Crescent

-Improving the trail on the North shore of the lake is an important step. We need to have another option for cyclists and get them off 101. Of the options we agree most with option C. Lake Crescent is known as a unique tourism destination and better access would benefit the visitor. Improvement of facilities and the trail system is important, however we do not agree with increasing the boundaries of the park.

Sol Duc

-The Sol Duc area is very popular and definitely would be used more if it were open for a longer season. Therefore we agree with option C

Ozette

-We agree with option D but only with these adjustments:

*improve Ozette Campground to handle larger RVs with power and water.

*Allow nonmotorized and motorized boating.

However, we suggest that no wake zones be established to help separate the users, which would allow for a better experience for all, and promote safety.

*Park boundaries stay at current levels

*Explore partnerships to acquire land easements to protect fisheries and the water quality of the lake

Mora

-We like Option C except we would like the Park to take it a step further. We encourage ONP to do a land swap to allow Quileute Tribe to have access to some higher land, and ONP have an official trailhead and defined access to second beach. This would make a much better trailhead and also allow the tribe to have a safe haven during severe storms.

Hoh

-We agree with the ideas proposed in option D

Kalaloch

-This area definitely needs upgrading. It has much more potential if the facilities were improved. Therefore we agree with option D

Queets

-We would like the Park to pursue option C

Quinault

-The improved trail and biking opportunities in C would be very welcome. This option would increase the visitor access and make the area more of a destination. We encourage option C.

Staircase

-We agree with option C with the following suggestions.

-Access to the park would be improved for year-round use, if feasible, with the U. S. Forest Service.

Dosewallips

-Agree with option D

Deer Park

-The Deer Park area in Park history was a much higher use than now. We would like to see this area grow and we feel the options of C would allow this to happen best.

Wilderness

-Olympic National Park is known for its wilderness areas. We believe that by making that wilderness just a little more accessible to the ordinary visitor that the wilderness experience will be shared with a wider audience. Therefore we agree with option C with no boundary adjustment.

-As you will note, we are asking for no boundary adjustments. We support and respect the economic impact of the timber companies' activities in these areas.

Sincerely,

Marny Hannan

Marny Hannan
Executive Director
Sequim-Dungeness Valley Chamber of Commerce