Introduction

Olympic National Park held public scoping meetings in 12 communities around the park from February through April 2013 to initiate the development of the park's Wilderness Stewardship Plan. These communities included Port Angeles, Sequim, Port Townsend, Sekiu, Forks, Amanda Park, Seattle, Silverdale, Shelton, Olympia, Aberdeen, and Quilcene. A total of 269 people signed in at the public meetings.

Coincidentally, a total of 269 pieces of correspondence were received via the planning website (www.parkplanning.nps.gov/olymwild), email, formal letter, or hardcopy form completed and submitted at a public meeting. Correspondence was received from people in at least 48 cities or communities in Washington State; at least 19 states and Washington, D.C.; as well as from four countries including the United Kingdom, Portugal, Canada, and Sweden. We also heard from federal agencies, tribal members and representatives, city and county representatives, non-governmental organizations, park concessioners, and local business owners.

This document includes the full text of all comments (correspondences) received during the public scoping period for the Olympic National Park Wilderness Stewardship Plan. All comments are verbatim; grammatical and typographical errors have not been modified. The names and addresses of private individuals have been removed; names of individuals representing businesses or organizations are included.

These comments reflect the sentiments of the authors, and do not necessarily represent the sentiments of the entire public and may not accurately reflect actual existing conditions on the ground or in park management. The public comment process does not serve as a voting mechanism. The park considers the content of all comments equally; comments are not weighted based on the number of times a comment is received.

Many commenters referred to the Topic Questions provided during scoping. These are listed below for your reference. The purpose of the questions was to help commenters frame their responses. The questions were not meant to limit responses or comments in any way. Commenters were given the option to use or not use these questions in their scoping comments.

1) What makes the Olympic National Park wilderness area special to you and why?
2) When you visit the Olympic National Park wilderness area, what activities and experiences are most important to you?
3) What do you think the issues are in the Olympic National Park wilderness area?
4) Imagine you are visiting the Olympic National Park wilderness area 20 years from now. What conditions, experiences, visitor services, and facilities would you like to see?
5) Please share any additional comments or suggestions.

Some comments pertained to subject matter that is irrelevant to the scoping for the WSP/EIS and will not be addressed within the plan, but will be documented in the administrative record for this project. These topics include, but are not limited to, those related to Hurricane Ridge Road, Dosewallips Road (USFS), Deer Park Road, Waterhole Hut, Wild Olympics and Wild & Scenic River Designation, Lake Crescent, the Olympic Discovery Trail/Spruce Railroad Trail, non-wilderness facilities and activities at Sol Duc or in general, and public transit systems.

Full-text Public Scoping Comments

Correspondence ID: 1 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Jan,26,2013 14:15:41
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: I grew up there and know the history of the land

Topic Question 2: Looking for elk and other wildlife, being able to drive all the way around the lake.

Topic Question 3: The government does not have enough money to take care of the Park land they already own they have no business wanting to take more from us.

Topic Question 4: The same thing I have seen for the past 40 years. Nothing has changed so PLEASE LEAVE IT ALONE!!

Topic Question 5: Stop this ridiculous idea of claiming more land for our good. The proposed land has stood the test of time without the Parks influence so LEAVE IT ALONE!!!

Comments: Please get real.. you tax us to take care of the land. You take more land from us so you can tax us more. You do not take care of what you have because you are short on funds. Now you want to take more land. In whose reality is this good for the people? You have too much time on your hands. LEAVE THIS LAND ALONE. Take care of what you already stole from us.

Correspondence ID: 2 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Jan,26,2013 21:08:31
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: Self-willed land. Natural disturbances such as wind, flood, and fire. Ongoing presence of most species (aside from wolf) occurring in the area prior to Euro-American settlement. Arguably the finest and most intact block of primeval forest remaining in the lower 48 states. Rivers with runs of wild salmonids. Large and expansive, allowing for multi-day excursions. Fairly minimal evidence of human use, particularly when not on popular trails.

Topic Question 2: Immersion in relatively pristine wilderness. Physical and mental challenges, including difficult terrain and route-finding. Little or no evidence of human impacts. Observation of wildlife and natural forest succession. Natural quiet is especially important, with overflights by aircraft limited as much as possible.

Topic Question 3: Reintroduction of the gray wolf, which would complete the suite of species native to the Olympic ecosystem at the time of Euro-American settlement. No further trail-building in the backcountry; instead prioritizing existing trails and perhaps some limited front-country trail development. De-emphasizing human structures such as shelters, ensuring that the land immediately surrounding such structures is prioritized for its natural features. Absolutely no new (re)construction of shelters. Allowance of a more natural fire regime throughout the wilderness. Minimizing Park Service use of helicopters. Reducing and significantly limiting recreational aircraft overflights. Minimal tool use for trail maintenance.

Topic Question 4: Less noise from aircraft. All species of wildlife (including wolf) present prior to Euro-American settlement restored and successfully reproducing. Elimination of the non-native mountain goat. Unmanaged native forest, allowing for fire and wind events. Fewer human structures. Enhanced populations of wild salmonids in rivers and streams. Fewer instances of noxious weeds alongside trail vectors. Continue to prohibit campfires above 3500 feet elevation. Fewer "social trails" carving up meadows.

Topic Question 5: I'm concerned that the Olympic marmot is at-risk of extinction from the vastly increased coyote population in the park. Although heavy snow quantities the past few winters have apparently benefitted the marmot by keeping coyotes at bay, this cannot be expected to continue in the wake of climate change. The situation at Yellowstone has demonstrated that reintroduction of the wolf is the only reliable means of reducing coyote populations. While it's essential to reintroduce the wolf to Olympic National Park in order to complete the full suite of native species there, it is arguably equally important for saving

the marmot. There is also evidence that wolf reintroduction would help rehabilitate riparian areas by changing ungulate feeding patterns in valley bottoms.

Comments: The Park Service needs to finally arrive at the logical conclusion that the Dosewallips road cannot be rebuilt past its washout point without severe consequences. It has now been 11 years since the road has washed out, and reconstructing it is no more ecologically, financially, or socially feasible now than before. The Park Service should instead partner with the Forest Service on developing an appropriate trailhead on national forest land below the washout, while also beginning a planning process for how to manage Muscott Flat as a backcountry destination.

Correspondence ID: 3 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: Sol Duc Spey, LLC Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Jan,28,2013 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: The last remaining healthy rivers and riparian habitat in the Lower 48. Beauty, serenity to be found in an ecosystem where anadromous fishes and related plants and wildlife can potentially thrive.

Topic Question 2: Fishing and hiking.

Topic Question 3: Comments are related to west side rivers. Fish scientists are in agreement that the presence of hatcheries in river systems is detrimental to the success of wild fish populations in those systems. Wild fish recoveries are impeded by the existing hatcheries. Secondly, Man is killing too many wild anadromous fish in the west side rivers to save these fish from extinction. Commercial fishing, food fishing, collateral losses from bait fishing and barbed hooks are culprits.

Topic Question 4: Largely, what exists today.

Topic Question 5: The Navy's perpetual training missions in Park airspace detract immensely from the serenity a U S National Park must afford. If Olympic National Park isn't quiet, is it even a Park?

Comments:

Correspondence ID: 4 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Jan,28,2013 13:09:14
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: . Many reasons: 1. a place to explore the natural world which has not be disturbed by humans, this is important from a scientific standpoint as well as an esthetic standpoint. 2. to experience peace and quiet; the wilderness is a refuge from the chaos, noise and stress of the city. 3. the wilderness presents an opportunity to observe wildlife, birds and rare plants that are not found elsewhere 4. the biodiversity in the plant and animal kingdom.

Topic Question 2: A. Walking, climbing, plant, animal and bird study, camping, solitude, astronomy, photography. The existence of trails in the wilderness is essential for these activities. The maintenance of access to the wilderness, both by road to the periphery and trail into the wilderness, is important to have the opportunity to experience the wilderness and have access to areas for study or enjoyment. There are a number of trails or routes that have been abandoned or are no longer maintained in the Olympics; I think that is bad policy and should be reversed. Some trails, such as the abandoned Tschletchy Creek trail in the SW part of the park, should be re-opened as it travels through an area of high botanical interest including outstanding example of low elevation old growth Douglas Fir forest. This trail should be restored. The same goes for the Heather Park trail off of the upper Dungeness river. Expansion of the trail in the N. Fork of the Soleduck River from its end (petering out) to the ridge above (Aurora) is another project that should be considered as it would open new routes from the N. Fork Soleduck River trailhead to connect to other trail systems.

Topic Question 3: 1. Preservation of the wilderness ecosystem from encroachment by noise, pollution, invasive species, and other outside influences. 2. A place to document the effects of climate change on the natural world. This can be seen by the changes in the distribution of plants in the Wilderness, for example at Hurricane Ridge, Deer Park, and other areas which are located at a transition from one ecological zone to another. 3. Balancing the need for public access (e.g., road or trail) and visitor facilities with preservation of wilderness values.

Topic Question 4: A. Essentially the same conditions now (as little disturbance as necessary to accommodate the need for access). The same experiences. Limited or no new visitor services or facilities, with the exception of reopening and maintaining currently abandoned or unmaintained trails, or interpretive exhibits.

Comments:

Correspondence ID: 5 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Jan,28,2013 13:34:47
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: The Olympic National Park is one of the very few places in the world that has designated wilderness areas

which requires very minimal human disturbances. This is a treasure beyond price and we are fortunate to live so close to one of these places, people come from all over the world to see and visit our park. Humans have overrun 95% of the country's land and water resources, please keep this area as pristine as possible. When species disappear all the gold or money in the world cannot bring them back so lets leave some habitat for them to exist in.

Topic Question 2: The beauty of the area is rejuvenating and spiritually uplifting. I don't go often into the wilderness area but just knowing it is there is enough for me.

Topic Question 3: Lack of funds is an ongoing problem and will only get worse in the future. Large predators are not allowed anywhere outside of parks so I think they should be our first priority there, (referring to cougars, wolves,etc and the animals they prey on). Look what is happening to the wolves that stray outside of Yellowstone and elsewhere.

Topic Question 4: I would like to see the Park managed for other species' survival in preference to our species' recreation. We control most other spots on Earth so we should come second there. The road up to Hurricane Ridge is spectacular and should be maintained but some of the other logging roads or side roads could be allowed to go back to nature.

Topic Question 5: I still wish the provision allowing landowners to sell their property to the Park was in the plan, as I would like to see the Park expanded if possible. On another topic I don't want to see the barred owl shot to try to protect the spotted owl. I think this is way over reacting to the problem and would just let nature take it's course at this point. We over estimate our ability to control things and unintended consequences occur, usually for the worse!

Comments: Be firm in your protection of this park and know that the majority of the people are with you. A small but vocal minority is ranting against the Park Service and the protection it provides but don't let them deter you on your mission to preserve the last vestiges of our pristine environment.

Correspondence ID: 6 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Jan,28,2013 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: The utter wildness, the absence of human development on the land. Most of us live in over-developed, over-paved, over-commercialized communities. We lovers of the Olympics need respite from the unnatural manmade of our daily lives by means of personal involvement in the purely natural world of the Olympic wilderness.

Topic Question 2: Interaction with nature by means of hiking and backpacking.

Topic Question 3: Excessive development; construction of roads where they are not needed, paving of trails that should remain unpaved, allowing commercial interests to invade the park, preserving natural habitats and wildlife ranges.

Topic Question 4: I hope to see the same conditions and have the same experiences as I can now. I don't believe the park needs any more "visitor services" or "facilities".

Comments:

Correspondence ID: 7 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Jan,28,2013 15:13:07
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: The onp wilderness area would be nice if we the older people would have access to those areas, the park is set up for , only the young an fittest of people ...

Topic Question 2: I would like to have more access to more of the area for my recreation.

Topic Question 3: not enoufth accesss to the areas.

Topic Question 4: more access for we the tax payers..

Topic Question 5: the opn can not take care of the property that they have now, so then you want to close it down.....

Comments:

Correspondence ID: 8 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Jan,28,2013 18:23:57
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Topic Question 1: The combination of lowland forests, coastal beaches, and high alpine wilderness within such a close proximity.

Topic Question 2: I enjoy being able to hike, ski, and fish in the backcountry wilderness.

Topic Question 3: Two main issues. The first is access. Current management of the National Park is stopping winter access to the high alpine with the road closure of Hurricane Ridge. Winter wilderness is as important to many in the community (both local and non-local) and having the only decent winter access shut down well over 50% of the winter is frankly unacceptable.

The other main issue revolves around the management of fisheries in the wilderness rivers that contain anadramous fish (salmon, steelhead, bull trout, sea-run cutthroat). The overharvest and hatchery impacts downstream of the wilderness deny the important role abundant salmon runs play in not only the health of the wilderness, but of the backcountry wilderness experience of those using the wilderness.

Topic Question 4: I would like to see Hurricane Ridge open to backcountry skiers and other self-powered recreationalists all winter long.

I would also like to see the park stand up to the overharvest and hatchery management that is so damaging to our fish runs. I hope to see larger fish runs in our wilderness rivers in 20 years.

Comments:

Correspondence ID: 9 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Jan,29,2013 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: The seabirds, wild isolated coast. It's gorgeous.

Topic Question 2: Backpacking and birding on the coast, where no cars can go.

Topic Question 3: Litter on the beaches. In the more isolated areas, garbage washing onto the beach is a huge problem. Not only is it an eye sore for people, but it poses a great danger for wildlife that eat too much of it.

Topic Question 4: I would love to see a better job at removing marine debris. Otherwise, I think the services are already excellent.

Topic Question 5: Thank you for your work to preserve this amazing place.

Comments:

Correspondence ID: 10 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Jan,29,2013 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: Wilderness provides physical, mental, and spiritual challenge for me and my family. Wilderness experiences strengthen family bonds to each other and the natural world.

Topic Question 2: Backcountry skiing, on and off trail hiking, overnight backpacking.

Topic Question 3: Restricted access, particularly to winter recreation. Over-regulation and excessive ?lowest common denominator? safety concerns that water down the wilderness experience and eliminate one?s ability to find challenge.

Topic Question 4: I would like to see winter recreation viewed by ONP in its rightful spot as an important resource as intended by the enabling legislation and sponsors. The existing road and trail access still in place. I would NOT like to see current management of heavy use areas expanded to other areas in the park.

Comments:

Correspondence ID: 11 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: Pacific Alpine Guides Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Jan,31,2013 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: The Olympic National Park has been very near to my heart, as both a climber/skier and a biologist. It is a

unique place in which I have many wonderful memories and continue to make new ones. Having lived on the peninsula most of my adult life, and planning a move back to Port Angeles in a few months, I have a feeling that the Olympics are my ?backyard? and care deeply about both the long-term ecological preservation and accessibility of the park.

Topic Question 2: Climbing, skiing, backpacking, and hiking are the most important activities to me currently. They provide both my livelihood and help me to live a happy and healthy life. In specific, the area around Hurricane Ridge is extraordinarily important to me throughout the winter. Hoping to someday raise a family in Port Angeles, I expect the ski area and the wonderful opportunities for kids that it provides to be increasingly important to me. Positive outdoor opportunities for children growing up on the peninsula are at times quite limited, and reliable access to Hurricane Ridge in the winter is profoundly important for the communities.

Topic Question 3: By far and away, the main issue in the park is the very limited access to Hurricane Ridge in the winter months. This is an essential access point in the Olympics and the only local access point to winter sports for most of the peninsula. When the road is open, the activities available to the public help to strengthen the community and increase local environmental stewardship. By limiting winter access to 3 days a week in 2013, the Park Service is doing a detriment to both.

Topic Question 4: Twenty years from now, I would like to see the Olympic National Park operating in the manner to which national parks were intended- to be a park with thoughtful ecological conservation maintained in a way that the public can enjoy (for both recreation and education) daily. I would like to see the Hurricane Ridge Road open 7 days a week year round, so that the public can have access to winter sports and activities everyday.

Comments:

Correspondence ID: 12 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Jan,31,2013 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: It's a beautiful escape from the world. The Olympics have a distinctive character from the Cascades; a friendlier isolation, worse rock, and an adventurous spirit.

Topic Question 2: Backcountry skiing, wilderness mountaineering, peace and quiet.

Topic Question 3: The most prominent changes I've seen are those surrounding winter access to the range. We made our first trip out there in years in order to backcountry ski out of Hurricane Ridge. We'd probably be back even more often if we could be sure of winter access to trailheads. It's a very long trip from Seattle for a day of skiing, so access needs to be quite certain in order to plan weekend+ trips to the area.

Topic Question 4: Rangers understanding of mountaineering/climbing/skiing visitors, who are interested in helping everyone find a rewarding, exhausting, and sustainable adventure in the Wilderness.

Easy access to trailheads throughout the range, winter and summer.

Topic Question 5: The removal of the Waterhole Cabin without public comment seems to have saddened a number of local skiers. A public statement regarding the rationale behind the removal, and an honest discussion to shape future Park policy regarding similar structures within the Park might go a long way toward creating more die-hard Park advocates.

Comments:

Correspondence ID: 13 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Jan,31,2013 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: I love the olympic national park for preserving the natural beauty of the land, protecting the land from harmful industries like logging and real estate development. It would not be such a special place without the protection of the park.

Topic Question 2: In the summer time I love to boat on lake crescent with my family and camp at log cabin resort, but what I love the most in the summer is hiking deep into the wilderness away from civilization and camping for several days at time. In the winter I love going to Hurricane Ridge and touring around on my skis and camping in the snow.

Topic Question 3: I think that the biggest issue with the park is that there is no access to the mountains in the winter. Dear Park and Hurricane Ridge road are the two main access points into the olympics. Dear Park road is closed all winter and Hurricane Ridge road is only open on weekends if at all, witch leaves four or five days without any access. Even when the road does open it usually opens late and a person can never depend on it being open witch leads most people to travel out of town for consistent

winter recreation.

Topic Question 4: I would like to see the park allow people to enjoy the mountains year round 7 days a week (weather permitting). I would also like to see a couple back country shelters put in for the safety of people who travel deep into the wilderness in case of an emergency or severe unexpected weather. Shelters have existed in the olympic mountains since the time when it was only the natives living here. a couple shelters would do allot more good than harm. A good shelter could make the difference between life or death.

Topic Question 5: I am a Native American enrolled with the Lower Elwha S'Klallam Tribe. My father in law is a retired Chief Park Ranger who served many years with ONP. I absolutely love ONP and I am very thankful for the parks existence. Though I do feel that in the winter season the park does more to keep people out than it does to let people in. I know that many others share a similar feeling. Part of the parks existence is for people to enjoy it, so denying access doesn't make any sense to me.

Comments:

Correspondence ID: 14 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Jan,31,2013 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 4: Facilities should not be expanded in the wilderness area, nor should visitor services be prioritized over the protection of the wilderness. Wilderness of all kinds must be preserved and be kept as human-free as possible. There should not be any expansion of roads or facilities into the Olympic National Park wilderness area.

Comments:

Correspondence ID: 15 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: Peninsula Wilderness Club Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Jan,31,2013 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: What can I say? Olympic is a beautiful spot of wilderness in our ever developing world. It is special to me because it is close to home.

Topic Question 2: Hiking, backpacking, snowshoeing, climbing, skiing.

Topic Question 3: Lack of access. Olympic has roads that need to be fixed (Dosewallips) and roads that are closed in the winter during the week when they should be open.

Topic Question 4: I would like to know that the park service listens to what people are saying and acting on their concerns. I would hope all existing structures in the park (shelters) are maintained in the future and not torn down without notice (waterhole hut). Perhaps the hut could be rebuilt. Perhaps a couple more could be added so there could be a unique hut to hut system in Olympic.

Topic Question 5: Tired of hearing the excuse that there are not enough funds to maintain the Hurricane Ridge Road during the week in the winter. Half the time the road is snow free during the weekdays, yet the gate stays closed. It seems that some better planning on the park's part could keep the road open more, at least as much as Mt Rainier does. I believe Mt Rainier is only closed on 2 weekdays during the week in the winter. Funds from the summer could be diverted to winter activities. Hurricane Ridge is the only area on the Peninsula to experience winter alpine activities that you can drive to. Stop wasting your time and money doing studies on how many people use the road during the week (we know its less, duh, people work during the week) and put that money towards keeping the road open more. What do I pay an annual Park Pass for anyways?

Comments:

Correspondence ID: 16 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Jan,31,2013 13:55:10
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: To me the most special element of the Olympic National Park wilderness area is the peace and tranquility that one can find in such a truly wild place. The lack of resource extraction (timber, mining, etc.) helps preserve this place in a state of wildness that is hard to find these days.

Topic Question 2: To me the most important activities are backcountry skiing, hiking/backpacking, and climbing. These activities provide a means for me to explore this wilderness area and experience what makes it so special.

Topic Question 3: I think the biggest issue in my mind is access, and particularly winter access. As it stands currently the only real winter access point to the high country (that does not require a day long approach from the lowland trails) is at Hurricane Ridge. This is a good access point in winter, but the road is only open on weekends and sometimes not at all during storms. I

understand that budgets are limited and that winter visitation is a lot less than summer visitation, but I still feel that it is important to provide consistent winter access (at least through one point). I think winter visitation could be increased by offering and promoting consistent access.

As far as general access goes, the timely maintenance of forest service roads and trails is important. Also, related to this point, I think that maintaining many access points to this vast wilderness area is very important. The population in the surrounding areas is only going to keep increasing and the pressures on the wilderness area from more visitors will increase. Providing multiple access points will help disperse visitors throughout the park and minimize local impacts.

Topic Question 4: See previous question 3 response about maintaining and increasing access points to the parks. In addition, I think that aside from the major access points, not much additional is needed in terms of visitor services and facilities. I think the park should promote general interest access through the major access points where there are large visitor centers with services, and also promote backcountry enthusiast (hikers, backpackers, climbers, skiers, etc.) access in the lest developed access points.

Topic Question 5: Attention should be paid to things that help preserve the essential qualities of the wilderness area, such as minimizing noise pollution, plane flyovers, etc.

Comments:

Correspondence ID: 17 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: Pacific Alpine Guides Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Jan,31,2013 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: I grew up on the Olympic Peninsula, and much of my mountain education occurred in these mountains. I now work as an AMGA Certified Mountain Guide, having guided in some of the great ranges of the world including expeditions to Mt. McKinley, Aconcagua, the Mexico Volcanos, remote climbing and ski mountaineering trips in the Alaska Range and Wrangell-St. Elias National Park, Canada's National Parks, the San Juan Mountains of Colorado, and extensively in Mt. Rainier NP and North Cascades NP. My wife and I started Pacific Alpine Guides in 2011 as the Olympic Mountain's "home mountain guide service" and we've run numerous successful programs here in ONP including educating over 50 AIARE Level 1 avalanche students, many backcountry skiing students and clients, multiple Olympus climbs, and other programs. Our students travel from across the country to experience our programs in this park. We consider ourselves ambassadors for this park, and believe winter access is one of its most valuable assets.

Topic Question 2: Winter activities include backcountry skiing, splitboarding (snowboard touring), ski mountaineering, and having good venues for teaching avalanche training courses. Summer activities include hiking, backpacking, mountaineering, and alpine climbing.

Topic Question 3: The single biggest issue in our opinion is winter access via the Hurricane Ridge Road. There are numerous other issues that are important to us such as the potential for having accessible huts in the winter months (such as a yurt platform in place of the Waterhole hut, with a removable winter yurt setup). But far and away, the quantity and quality of access via the Hurricane Ridge Road is the biggest issue. This is undoubtedly one of the most valuable assets to the local community, offering a healthy outlet for kids growing up on Peninsula. It's an enormous asset for the winter sports community and with our business we have been very successful in raising awareness of the quality of experience offered at Hurricane Ridge. It is one unparalleled in the Northwest, similar only to MRNP in the terrain accessed, elevation, and the fact that it's not a busy mountain pass. People are beginning to realize with the rapidly growing sport of backcountry skiing, that this is one of the best venues in the country.

Our avalanche training programs save lives. The only way we can run more of these critical educational programs is with increased access.

Topic Question 4: A solution in place for the Hurricane Ridge Road that addresses the need for reliable 7 day access, high quality access (for instance, modern, well maintained snow plows) some sort of public transportation that addresses the limited parking capacity on weekends and the fact that many tourists have never driven on a mountain road before. Winter access is far and away the most pressing issue that I hope to see addressed, so that my kids will have the opportunity growing up in the beautiful mountains. Second to access would be a low impact, low cost, well maintained system of winter yurts along summer roads such as Obstruction Point.

Topic Question 5: As a guide service, of all of the mountain ranges we could have chosen for basing our business, we chose the Olympic Mountains because we are so proud of this range, and wish to share this resource with others. The lack of reliable winter access, and the fact that access was cut from 7 days to 3 days is a huge impact on our livelihoods, and our ability to save lives through education.

Comments:

Correspondence ID: 18 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Jan,31,2013 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Topic Question 1: This park is on the edge of the continent and is special in the sense that it is bounded by serious bodies of water on 3 sides. Though access could be improved along existing routes (repaired), I like that it is such a large area of wilderness that has little development along its edges.

Topic Question 2: Off-trail trekking, climbing, hiking, camping, fishing. Doing so without having to get super advanced registration in a competitive way or having to pay additional costs besides the park entrance fee.

Topic Question 3: Lack of access along existing entry ways, most damaged by flooding or other issues. Logging around the boundaries. Winter access is difficult and should be improved/expanded.

Topic Question 4: I would like to be able to show up to the park with a plan in mind for backpacking, climbing, or fishing and not be shut down by a lack of 'available' registration spots for my plan. I would like road access to be available to the many corners of the park--long road walks are not in the interest of keeping visitor experiences up.

I would like to be able to access higher areas in the winter through plowing. There are a great many XC, snowshoe, and BC skiers who would enjoy accessing the Olympic Wilderness Terrain but much of it is off limits in winter.

Comments:

Correspondence ID: 19 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: Wildernest Outdoor Store Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Jan,31,2013 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: It's diverse, close by and there are not the crowds that Mt. Rainier draws. There are mountains, rivers, and coasts to hike, ski and recreate.

Topic Question 2: Backcountry skiing, hiking, photography.

Topic Question 3: Winter access to the park is the most important issue to me and my customers. I own an outdoor store in Bainbridge Island and while some of my customers are able to access the ridge fri - sun - an even larger portion want to access Hurricane Ridge mon through thursday. This closure has definitely had a negative impact on my business this winter (12-13) When the road has been opened parking then becomes an issue - my customers come from further away and are not always able to be there when the gates first open and wind up getting turned away after driving upwards of two hours.

Topic Question 4: I'd like to see 7 day a week access to Hurricane Ridge - 365 days a year. I'd like to see more public transportation options for those accessing the park on the weekends - weather that's a bus or a tram.

Topic Question 5: Why are the plow crews and rangers even working on days when the road is closed? This makes absolutely no sense to me as a business owner. If my business is closed on a sunday why would I have staff sitting at the register? I would never pay an employee to be at work if my doors were closed. I do understand the need to have a full plow crew and rangers on staff while the gates are open and I appreciate those people doing their jobs, but when there are no visitors it makes no sense.

Comments:

Correspondence ID: 20 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Jan,31,2013 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: The beauty of mother nature and the respect for it.

Topic Question 2: The bonding of fellow snowboarders and skiers, and hikers.

Topic Question 3: Not plowing a road for the surrounding community that thrives and breaths outdoor activity. Let the community and it's tourists reap the rewards of you doing your job

Topic Question 4: Some kind of ski lift

Comments:

Correspondence ID: 21 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Jan,31,2013 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: Beauty for all sensual input.

Topic Question 2: Hiking, picnicing, viewing, enjoying nature on "top of the world"

Topic Question 3: Preservation in all forms

Topic Question 4: Same as are now.

Topic Question 5: Preserve the area as it is. It does not need better roads, lodges, or other concessions. Maintain and mark trails well.

Comments:

Correspondence ID: 22 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Jan,31,2013 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: The ONP is a unique wilderness for many reasons: shape, weather, ecosystem, proximity to the ocean, variety of terrain, and the large number of outdoor activities that can be enjoyed therein. Hiking, mountaineering, rock climbing, and skiing are some of my favorite sports to do in the ONP. It is remote, relatively untouched, lacks man-made structures, and is therefore one of the last truly wild places in the United States.

Topic Question 2: Skiing. Growing up in Port Townsend, Hurricane Ridge was the closest ski area, and the time I spent there nourished my passion for winter sports, a passion that has taken me to many corners of the world. I believe Hurricane Ridge and the backcountry ski terrain nearby is vitally important to the continued appreciation and usership of the ONP. Indeed, opening the Hurricane Ridge road on a daily basis in the winter should be a main priority of the Park leadership. Devoid of a way to access the mountains midweek in the winter, the ONP is essentially a dormant resource, a true wonderland that cannot be utilized.

Topic Question 3: As with any National Park, the main issues facing the ONP revolve around two things: recreation access and ecosystem protection. Though some might argue differently, these two agendas are not mutually exclusive and both can be accomplished through intentional, well-thought-out policies. During the spring, summer, and fall, access to the ONP is relatively simple and also balanced with the need to protect the truly wild places in the Park. However, during the winter, access is nearly impossible, save for a single road that is now open only three days a week. Ironically, the impact of recreationalists on the Park ecosystems is reduced during the winter months, due to the fact that layers of snow protect plant life, wild life, watersheds, and trail systems from overuse. It should be a major concern of the ONP leadership that the Park is not readily and easily accessible to user groups during the winter. This needs to change.

Topic Question 4: I would like to see a similar wilderness to the one we have today, with deep wilderness ares protected from motorized vehicles, watersheds protected from dams, wildlife protected from human interference, and mountains with pristine glaciers for all to enjoy. I would also like to be able to take overnight winter trips into the backcountry during the ski season and to be able to access the Hurricane Ridge area with my children and their children whenever the snow is good and deep. In terms of facilities and visitor services, I believe the park does an excellent job. The main concern over the course of the next 20 years should be access. Options and availability of access during the winter should improve.

Comments:

Correspondence ID: 23 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Jan,31,2013 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: Unique environment full of lush vegetation and wildlife. The Olympic mountain range has spectacular peaks and wonderful snowscapes in the winter.

Topic Question 2: All the things that make a wilderness area a wilderness area. No vehicles, power tools, weapons, or intrusive items.

Topic Question 3: Money money money.

Topic Question 4: Electric vehicle charging stations in the parking areas.

Topic Question 5: Keep the wilderness wild.

Comments:

Correspondence ID: 24 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Jan,31,2013 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: The Olympic wilderness is special to me because of it's ruggedness and wildness so close to where I live. I like that many areas are remote and difficult to access, however I am increasingly concerned that visitors need to be more spread out - there is a lack of easy access points to the periphery of the wilderness. Some of that is good, though - I like that the Dosewallips Rd now makes great family bike ride where you don't have to worry about cars, even though Anderson Pass is now harder to get to. Olympic Hot Springs Rd made a great bike ride for a while too. But more trails from the edges up to the alpine zone would be great and might help spread the crowds out.

Topic Question 2: Backcountry skiing is what I do most, from November through July. I wish there were more consistent and early-morning openings of Hurricane Ridge Rd and I wish that Deer Park Rd was open in winter again. I also like climbing, backpacking and day hiking both in the mountains and on the coast. We swim, canoe, fish and sail in Lake Crescent, Lake Ozette and Lake Quinault and bike the Spruce RR and Adventure trails. I look forward to the completion of the Olympic Discovery Trail and would like to bike it from Port Townsend to La Push. I wish there were more small car tent camping spots, even if they were very simple and primitive, to allow staging places for longer adventures. We enjoy both hot springs. We enjoy watching wildlife and searching for big trees and rare alpine plants. I like the historic sites such as Quinault Lodge and the petroglyphs.

Topic Question 3: I think the human interactions with wildlife are going to get more tricky, and I hope the Park does not react by restricting access. I was there on Klahane when Boardman died and I feel that, tragic as it was, it was wrong to sue the Park. I am hoping that the Park can better educate the public about cougars, bears, goats, and wolves if they ever come back, keep the wildness and have a well-crafted use plan.

Topic Question 4: I want Olympic to stay rugged and wild. I would like to see use spread out a bit around the edges to prevent any one place from becoming overwhelmed. It would be great to have a backcountry hut or two between Hurricane Ridge and Deer Park that would be open in winter to allow ski touring. I was sad that Waterhole got torn down but it would be much better to have a real hut, perhaps like Ostrander in Yosemite. Huts can be a lot gentler on the environment than camping by organizing and controlling human use in a well-thought out location. There are lots of other sites where a hut would make sense too. I also want to see all the glaciers before they dissapear. If better bus service existed it would help visitors cut down on carbon emissions and help save the glaciers.

Comments:

Correspondence ID: 25 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Feb,01,2013 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: The Olympic National Park comprises some of the only true costal mountain terrain in the contiguous 48 States. There is no other area outside of Alaska that has glaciated peaks so close to the ocean.

Topic Question 2: #1 Backcountry Skiing #2 Alpine climbing #3 Hiking and Backpacking

Topic Question 3: Access! This is a major concern especially in winter. The fact that the Hurricane Ridge road is only open Fri-Sat is a major problem for skiers and snowshoers trying to access our federal land.

Topic Question 4: Ideally in 20 years we could have some mass transportation system at the Heart of the Hills station that eliminates the need for auto traffic to Hurricane Ridge in winter and reduces traffic in summer.

In the least there should be snow sheds installed on the road under Mt. Angeles to protect the plow drivers from avalanche and greatly expanded parking along the road and at Hurricane Ridge.

Comments:

Correspondence ID: 26 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Feb,01,2013 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: I grew up in the Puget Sound basin. Many of my earliest memories are traveling the back country with my parents both on the coast and in the Alpine parts of the park. As an adult I return with my young family every year to spend time in a place less trampled by modern society. ONP is a place I am very proud that I can pass on to my children. I want them to be able to pass this place on their children too.

Topic Question 2: I've explored wilderness areas by kayak, foot and ski. These are all equally important to me and must be protected. Reliable Winter access to Hurricane is

Topic Question 3: Reliable winter access to Hurricane is very important to me. Every winter I travel across the country to spend time skiing at Hurricane ridge, both on the Palma lift and as a back country skier. I want both those options to remain. Please continue plowing the access road 7 days a week.

Topic Question 4: 1 Pristine wilderness 2 Knowledgeable rangers who are car free and interacting with public as educators. 3 Rustic ski area still at Hurricane to help people understand the history of skiing. 4 No junky gift shop at Hurricane ridge, instead a tasteful cafe with local food and a shop selling locally produced art and other objects.

Comments:

Correspondence ID: 27 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Feb,01,2013 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 2: Hiking, lodging and restaraunts are most important to me when visiting the Olympic national Park.

Comments:

Correspondence ID: 28 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Feb,03,2013 12:42:55
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: Access during the winter. The incredible contrast between the mountains and the rivers. The ability to get into the high alpine zones.

Topic Question 3: Reduced access via Hurricane Ridge. It is disappointing to see the switch to 3 day a week access. I feel that ONP and MRNP's reduced access during the winter is not a good legacy to have.

Topic Question 4: Unfortunately with the current budget situation and the reduced access I don't think I'd be surprised to see the park closed entirely during the winter. I'd like to see continued access in the alpine zones. I also hope that there continues to be wild steelhead in the park, and while I understand the work that must be done with the tribes in the area, I hope for continuing strong steelhead and wild salmon runs.

Comments:

Correspondence ID: 29 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: Federal Highway Administration - Western Federal Lands Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Feb,04,2013 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 5: In parntership with Jefferson County and Olympic National Park, FHWA is considering implementing improvements to discrete sections of the 18 mile Upper Hoh River Road to address fish passage concerns and to minimize the potential for roadway damage during significant storm events. In the EIS, please consider indirect impacts the proposed Wilderness Stewardship Plan may have on the management and maintenance of this road in the Park, including the ability to implement minor relocations in an effort to reduce flood damage and resulting maintenance costs.

Comments: Please include Neil Christensen, FHWA Project Manager, neil.christensen@dot.gov, David Kennedy, david.kenned@dot.gov, and myself, on your standard mailing/e-mail distribution lists. We all have the same address. Please remove Dick Gatten from your mailing list. He has retired.

Thank you for providing us the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely, Jennifer Corwin Environmental Protection Specialist FHWA-WFLHD 360-619-7623

Correspondence ID: 30 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: yes, behindmyback.org. Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Feb,04,2013 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: The OLYMPIC NATIONAL PARK WAS SPECIAL past tense The Wilderness Area is a depraviation.

The Rains Sr. Family has lived in Clallam County for over 90 years. Our family owned part of Sol Duc Hot Springs 1944-1953 and we lived there as ONP Inholders 60 years ago, Minnie Petersen, my mother and I rode on horseback up to the High Divide in Olympic National Park and picked blue berries. The Olympic National Park 7 lake Basin was wild enough then. Our family backpacked to the Olympic National Park 7 Lake Basin 40 summers ago and it was wild enough then.

Posted behindmyback.org. THE TRUTH ABOUT ?WILD? January 31, 2013 1:57 pm by Pearl Rains Hewett Comment

? Pie N Politics ; 2012 ; May ; 17 An observation on ?WILD? from Pearl Rains Hewett ... pienpolitics.com/?m=20120517 May 17, 2012 ? Pie N Politics .... Read more: http://www.foxnews.com/politics/2012/05/17/voter-fraud-new ... An observation on ?WILD? from Pearl Rains Hewett ... ? THE TRUTH ABOUT ?WILD? AND THE WILDERNESS AREA EVERY AMERICAN CITIZEN (over 300 million) IS DEPRIVED IN EVERY WILD NATIONAL PARK AND ON EVERY WILD AND SCENIC RIVER. WILD OLYMPICS vs OVER 300 MILLION AMERICAN CITIZENS DEPRIVED OF THE FULL USE AND ENJOYMENT OF OVER ONE MILLION ACRES OF PUBLIC LAND IN JUST THE OLYMPIC NATIONAL PARK . POPULATION OF UNITED STATES OF AMERICA Source: U.S. Census Bureau 311,591,917 Three hundred eleven million, five hundred ninety one thousand, nine hundred and seventeen What was the intent of Congress with regard to the full use and enjoyment of the public land, in the creation of Olympic National Park, by the American People that own that public land? Due process of law when just a single citizen is deprived? What happens when over 300 million American Citizens are deprived of the full use and enjoyment of every WILD National Park public land? 2. When you visit the Olympic National Park wilderness area, what activities and experiences are most important to you? Our Family DOES NOT GO INTO THE "WILD" OLYMPIC NATIONAL PARK FOR VACATIONS anymore! (57 direct descendents of George C. Rains Sr.)

SO, President Roosevelt, Appointed Bureau of Land Management? Where do, those whole lot of young people who are going to come along in the next hundred years of America 1937-2012, go for their "WILD" vacations?

THEY GO TO IDAHO, to a private resort, camp 20 feet from the lake and have a bonfire!

DC Comment NO WILD OLYMPICS Jan 20, 2013 2012-13 NO WILD OLYMPICS Olympic National Park Inholder

LET DOCUMENTED FAMILY HISTORY SPEAK FOR IT'S SELF

In 1937, President Franklin D. Roosevelt visited Port Angeles to look at the wilderness area proposed for Olympic National Park. My father George C. Rains Sr. was working in a fire watch tower in the ONP in 1937.

In The President's address to the people in Port Angeles in 1937, he said, ?So, you boys and girls, I think you can count on my help in getting that national park, not only because we need it for us old people and you young people, but for a whole lot of young people who are going to come along in the next hundred years of America.? Fifty seven (57) direct descendents of George C. Rains Sr. have been born since 1937.

National Park negotiations continued for the next several months, and the final bill was signed on June 29, 1938, GUARANTEEING, WE THE PEOPLE the FULL USE AND ENJOYMENT OF THE OLYMPIC NATIONAL PARK.

Let history speak for it's self

The Rains Sr. Family has lived in Clallam County for over 90 years. Our family owned part of Sol Duc Hot Springs 1944-1953 and we lived there as ONP Inholders 60 years ago, Minnie Petersen, my mother and I rode on horseback up to the High Divide in Olympic National Park and picked blue berries. The Olympic National Park 7 lake Basin was wild enough then. Our family backpacked to the Olympic National Park 7 Lake Basin 40 summers ago and it was wild enough then. 2013 SOL DUC HOTSPRING Resort $$$ prices are prohibitive for our famity

PLEASE READ Inholder "Access Denied" to Elwha River by ONP 2011(PDN) SO MUCH FOR OUR FAMILY HERITAGE IN OLYMPIC NATION PARK There are only (3) designated campsites in the "WILD" Heart Lake Basin. No campfires are allowed. Reservations must be made over a year in advance. No horses are allowed above 3500 feet.

Our Family DOES NOT GO INTO THE "WILD" OLYMPIC NATIONAL PARK FOR VACATIONS anymore! (57 direct descendents of George C. Rains Sr.)

SO, President Roosevelt, Appointed Bureau of Land Management? Where do, those whole lot of young people who are going to come along in the next hundred years of America 1937-2012, go for their "WILD" vacations?

THEY GO TO IDAHO, to a private resort, camp 20 feet from the lake and have a bonfire!

Pearl Rains Hewett ONP inholder (access denied) 90 year family history in Clallam County George C. Rains Sr. "Conspiracy Exposed"

Topic Question 2: I haven't been in the Olympic National Park wilderness area for over ten years.

BUT, The Sol Duc Hot Springs area in the Olympic National Park is so important to me, It shall be my final resting place,when

my ashes are spread by my family on the loop trail.

But for now, our Family DOES NOT GO INTO THE "WILD" OLYMPIC NATIONAL PARK FOR VACATIONS anymore! Or, The Olympic National Park. (57 direct descendents of George C. Rains Sr.) have been denied access, the full use and enjoyment of public land and the 2013 ONP costs, SOL DUC HOT SPRING, activities, Resort are prohibitive for our family.

There are only (3) designated campsites in the "WILD" Heart Lake Basin. No campfires are allowed. Reservations must be made over a year in advance. No horses are allowed above 3500 feet. Where do, those whole lot of young people who are going to come along in the next hundred years of America 1937-2012, go for their "WILD" vacations? THEY GO TO IDAHO, to a private resort, camp 20 feet from the lake and have a bonfire!

PLEASE READ Inholder "Access Denied" to Elwha River by ONP 2011(PDN) SO MUCH FOR OUR 90 year FAMILY HERITAGE IN OLYMPIC NATION PARK

Pearl Rains Hewett ONP inholder (PDN access denied) 90 year family history in Clallam County George C. Rains Sr. "Conspiracy Exposed"

Topic Question 3: DEPRIVING OVER 300 MILLION AMERICAN CITIZENS OF THE FULL USE AND ENJOYMENT OF OVER ONE MILLION ACRES OF PUBLIC LAND IN JUST THE OLYMPIC NATIONAL PARK . WHO IS REALLY RUNNING ?WILD? IN AMERICA? SPECIAL INTEREST, NON-PROFIT, non-taxpaying Special Interest Coalitions and groups. About The Wild Olympics Campaign Coalition Members Olympic Park Associates Olympic Forest Coalition Olympic Peninsula Audubon Society North Olympic Group ? Sierra Club Washington Wild The Mountaineers Campaign for America?s Wilderness, Pew Environment Group Sierra Club American Rivers American Whitewater Since when? Do our elected officials and We the American people JUST SIT BACK and ALLOW THE APPOINTED AND SPECIAL INTEREST, NON-PROFIT, non-taxpaying Special Interest Coalitions and groups TO RUN WILD IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA?

Topic Question 4: Conditions? The entire Olympic National Park RESTS and refreshes it's self, and is AS you put it... untrammeled... for eight months out of every year. Pristine again ever spring. Experiences? AFFORDABLE EXPERIENCES! With over a million acres to enjoy? Visitor Services? Affordable prices, for food, lodging and swimming, for the people that live in this area. Even local tribal members haven't gone there in years because of the expense. ONLY WHAT THE PRESIDENT PROMISED In The President's address to the people in Port Angeles in 1937, he said, ?So, you boys and girls, I think you can count on my help in getting that national park, not only because we need it for us old people and you young people, but for a whole lot of young people who are going to come along in the next hundred years of America.?

WE HAVE ARRIVED All 57 direct descendants of George C. Rains Sr were born after that Presidential promise was made.

If we as a family could not afford to go there for the last ten years?

What will be the cost in 2023?

Topic Question 5: "WE THE PEOPLE" I DO NOT NEED OR WANT ANOTHER PROPOSED $$$ PLAN. I DO NOT WANT TO WASTE MY TIME MAKING PUBLIC COMMENTS TO AN APPOINTED AGENCY. PUBLIC COMMENTS, THAT ARE A MOTE POINT EVEN UNDER THE PRESIDENTS COORDINATION ACT. You legal, sly, sneaky and beyond contempt in making this OLYM Wilderness Stewardship Plan UNAVAILABLE to groups or organizations. because if you did,UNDER THE PRESIDENTS COORDINATION ACT they could have an impact on your plan?

YOU represent the OLYMPIC NATIONAL PARK, United States NPS, Bureau of land, hierarchy Wilderness Stewardship Plan Olympic National Park

YOUR reputation precedes YOU "Conspiracy Exposed" 1944-1992 by George C. Rains Sr. YOUR actions from 1992-2013 have proven your INTENT. Any future planning by OLYMPIC NATIONAL PARK and United States NPS is a THREAT to the financial viability of Clallam County (and it's people) and every other county (and it's people) bordering the ONP. Will the ONP provide a stake holders economic impact statement? Will the negative economic impact on Clallam County's 17.1% or LESS tax basis be EXPOSED? Will this "WILD" be the straw that broke the Olympic Peninsula financial back??? Or will it be the Wild Olympics??? And/or the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act ??? and/or other FEDERAL Acts??? and or a Presidential Action???

Comments: ENTIRE OLYMPIC PENINSULA

CONSPIRACY EXPOSED The notarized document "Conspiracy ... www.citizenreviewonline.org/.../George_Rains_Statements.pdf File Format: PDF/Adobe Acrobat - Quick View The notarized document "Conspiracy Exposed" was written on Oct. 8,1992 by. George C. Rains Sr. when he was 77 years old. The referenced "Conspiracy" was ...

For my additional comments on WILD, Wild Olympics, Wild and Scenic Rivers, sovereign countries control of US soil, the UN world historic sites, man and the biosphere, UNESCO, Agenda 21.... etc. Please visit my website behindmyback.org. Please

Google Pearl Rains Hewett

Pearl Rains Hewett ONP inholder (access denied) 90 year family history in Clallam County George C. Rains Sr. "Conspiracy Exposed"

Correspondence ID: 31 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: National Parks and federal recreation parks pass Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Feb,05,2013 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: It is a multi-use recreational area, like a national park should be.

Topic Question 2: Off-road motorcycle riding Mountain Bike riding Campling Hiking

Topic Question 3: Weather is kinda grey...

Topic Question 4: Similar open sharing as happens now.

Comments: Really think the Hurricane Ridge recreation and Ski area is special.

Correspondence ID: 32 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Feb,05,2013 16:12:07
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: I started hiking and mountain climbing in the Olympics in 1966. They are a special place with such varied ecosystems and broad expanse of wilderness. I never get tired of going back. I also work with Olympic Mountain Rescue on the Climbers Guide to the Olympic Mtns and try to stay informed about access and changing conditions.

Topic Question 2: Hiking and climbing.

Topic Question 3: The mane issue is: change Some changes are not man made..receeding glaciers for example. I do not think gobal warming needs to be considered in an EIS. The ice age probably will come again someday too. Some changes are man made: Random camping in alpine space with fire pits etc caused alot of damage. When that was stopped it was easy to see how things began to recover. I dont believe Wilderness means nothing man made. Some people might think that clearing trails in a wilderness area should not be done or at least you cant use a chairsaw. ??? Jets still fly overhead...you have to be realistic.

Topic Question 4: If I were to visit again in 20 years, I would hope to see that things had not changed much as far as over all beauty. The only way to totally perserve the wilderness is to keep people out. Thats not a likely option so some kind of controlled access would seem prudent in high impact areas like Flapjack Lakes, Lake Constance and Royal Basin. This might include good trails, better camping spots so people dont damage adjacent areas and limited access/permits...as distasteful as that is to my "old" free access thoughts. I do not like a concept of "no good access will keep people out thus solving our problem" approach.

Topic Question 5: The Bailey Range is an example of wilderness. Years ago there were no trails but over time various trails were beat across the landscape. Now you prevent that by restricting people..or you develop a trail system, with campsites. Over the years my idea of wilderness use is to develop it modestly and apply limits when needed. When a no development policy is taken...like on the Bailey Range..a helter skelter degrading takes place anyway..over time.

Comments: A comment on restoration. This seems like a good idea and it works in most places. I have noted old camp sites restored but no camping places provided. Goes on that fine line of keeping people out and providing something better. Shelters removed and the area restored. Alternitive sites? I havent looked lately...just an observation from years ago. Closing roads..like above Staircase..although years ago..didnt do much for my outdoor experience except to make it harder to get to climbing in the Sawtooths.

Permits..I find a very restrictive permit system...like into Alpine Lakes Wilderness..particularly unpleasent to deal with.

Correspondence ID: 33 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Feb,05,2013 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: My husband and I have spent 30 years hiking and backpacking in the ONP wilderness. In a sense, we feel it is our "church". The closeness we feel to nature in the the backcountry is deep, reverent, and nourishing to our souls.

Topic Question 2: Hiking & backpacking. Solitude. Quiet. In our noisy world, we need places to go where no sound of humans can be heard. We love to observe & steep ourselves into the natural world.

Topic Question 3: As the popularity of the park's wilderness areas increases, so does the demand on the wilderness resources, which puts this fragile environment at risk. Park managers will try to protect these resources while accommodating increasing demands for access, safety, comfort and unhindered enjoyment of wilderness. Tradeoffs may include administrative helicopter use, unrestricted use of mechanized tools, communications installations, reconstruction of historic structures, increased developments to facilitate stock use, expanding minimum group sizes... the list goes on. All pose a threat to the wilderness character of the Olympic Wilderness and could degrade the experience of wilderness visitors.

Topic Question 4: I would like for it to remain much the same as it is now. Progress does not necessary mean new buildings and facilities, especially in this environment. Of utmost importance is a wilderness area that protects ecological resources, preserves wilderness character and keep developments to a minimum.

Topic Question 5: So far, the park service has done a good job protecting the Olympic Wilderness, however, natural and ecological health, clean water, solitude, an "untrammeled" or unmanipulated natural environment, and other aspects of wilderness character are at risk.

Comments:

Correspondence ID: 34 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: Washington Trails Association Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Feb,07,2013 20:29:18
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: There are many areas in the Olympic National park that are special. I think what makes them special is they are remote, but still accessible. There are also some historic sites that should be preserved and protected.

Topic Question 2: Hiking and running in the park are what is most important to me. Being able to get away from the fast moving society and slow down enjoy the scenery is very enjoyable.

Topic Question 3: Funding for 1. Trail Maintenance, these trails are the life blood of the parks. These allow people to get deep into our park and experience it. Without well maintained trails, people won't be able to personally experience and understand the reasons we need to support our park. Doubly important are the lowland trails because people can use them year round. They should be very well maintained! Without a good trail system, I feel the support for our park will decrease in the future.

2. Winter uses should be maintained and expanded. These activities give people healthy reasons to get out and come to the park. Improve the x-c trails at hurricane ridge so that people have more safe areas to get out and learn and relax. Allow us to use a snowmobile or snowcat and pack the trails.

3. I don't mind paying an entry fee for the park IF I can tell the park where my fee is to be spent. For example I would want 90% going to trail maintenance, and the rest to upkeep of the facilities. Currently I pay them money and even the park rangers can't tell me where the monies are being spent. I have asked at the entry every time I purchase an annual pass. This doesn't make me want to support this tax. And I love our park.

Topic Question 4: I would like to be able to show up at the park headquarters and get on a bus that takes me to the ridge and drops me off at any of the trail heads along the way. That cars are very limited into the park but people don't care because their are enough buses running that it is easy to get a ride in or out of the park at popular entries.

I would also like to be able to hike on a trail from the visitor center in Port Angeles all the way to the ridge. Currently one can almost do it but it isn't a maintained recognized trail.

Comments:

Correspondence ID: 35 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Feb,08,2013 14:23:06
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: The natural beauty right there in my back yard!

Topic Question 2: Hking, light back backing

Topic Question 3: 1. Access to those who are not strapping young elite athletes capable of back packing with pack well over 35 lbs. 2. Non-native mountaint goats that are increasingly agressive.

Topic Question 4: 1. Road to the Dosewallips entrance. 2. Back country lodge(s) similar to those in Glacier National Park.

Topic Question 5: Hold a lottery for hunting permits for guided hunts for mountain goats. You could charge thousands of

dollars, hold the hunt once during low season - fall? -- and see how it goes.

Comments: I have been wanting to try a back pack trip into the park from the Dosewallips for years. However, it is a full day's walk just to the trailheads and ranger station. I hope the road access is restored before I have to hang up my hiking boots. I figure I have maybe ten years. The camp/picnic area at the Dosewallips ranger station is a lovely area that could be used by families with small children as well as people of all ages with limited walking ability. The road should be restored.

Correspondence ID: 36 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: Nature Sounds Society Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Feb,08,2013 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: One Square Inch of Silence.

Topic Question 2: Hiking in pristine wilderness.

Topic Question 3: Aircraft noise pollution.

Topic Question 4: Natural quiet.

Topic Question 5: Be the first park to ban overflights.

Comments: Thank you for asking.

Correspondence ID: 37 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Feb,08,2013 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: Western Washington will continue to grow and add population. It is important that ONP be preserved has a quiet and natural place free from intrusion on the ground and in the air.

Topic Question 4: Eliminate fly-overs except in emergencies.

Comments:

Correspondence ID: 38 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Feb,08,2013 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: It's a place of peace and quiet--a retreat from the urban. Green, fresh, refreshing.

Topic Question 2: Hiking

Topic Question 3: Keeping the noise pollution out--letting the quiet rejuvenate.

Topic Question 4: Minimal intrusion of human activity. Preservation of the natural beauty. A continued retreat from the urbanization of America.

Topic Question 5: I visit as often as vacation time allows. This park is a blessing.

Comments:

Correspondence ID: 39 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Feb,08,2013 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: As a young man I backpacked across ONP with my brother , enjoying the lush and minimally disturbed habitats and doing some catch-and-release flyfishing. We left behind the devastation that was timber harvesting in those days encroaching right up to the border of the park. For 8 days we forgot about our cares and let our senses be filled with the smells and sounds that were not unlike those experienced by earliest man. We were struck by the absence of human made sound, particularly the sounds of cars aircraft and machinery. The sounds we heard were communications of all the creatures that was a tangible web. We didn't need to imagine or explain any of it.It was so obvious. OLP had that more than any place I had been. I am now an old man but I know I can still go there and have that same connection. Hope to share it with my 2 grandsons someday soon.

Topic Question 2: Nature soundscape recording, Photography, Fly Fishing, hiking,entering a meditative state that is restful and rejuvenating

Topic Question 3: Preserving the wildness of the place is paramount. The encroachment of unwanted human generated noise is the biggest threat to a wilderness experience in ONP back country. Increasing car and airplane traffic are making the wilderness area shrink as surely as removing it's boundaries altogether. All of our national parks would benefit greatly from a rearrangement of air traffic routes.

Topic Question 4: Educational programs emphasizing the essential elements of the wilderness experience. Reduction in car traffic within the park.

elimination of overflight of all aircraft other than rescue .

Comments:

Correspondence ID: 40 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: One Squre inch of Silence Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Feb,08,2013 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: Quite beauty. I want to feel isolated from what we call civilization. That means, among other things, a total lack of all noise, including high altitude jet aircraft. Nothing, silence!

Topic Question 2: Walking on the trails. A couple of years ago we visited Hurricane Ridge. In a 30 minute walk I saw at least 40 different types of flowers. Try to educate the public more on these.

Topic Question 3: Noise and traffic must be reduced. Perhaps bus people into areas instead of letting them drive. Stop the overflights by airliners and other aircraft.

Topic Question 4: Total quiet.

Topic Question 5: More docents on the trails, educating people about the unique wild flowers and wild life they are seeing.

Comments:

Correspondence ID: 41 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Feb,08,2013 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: Isolation which is what the wilderness experience is all about which helps to reduce permanent damage to the eco systems by limiting the amount of vistiors in a given area.

Topic Question 2: Hiking and camping overnight in the backcountry. Snowshoeing in the winter on Hurricane Ridge. Hiking the ocean trails near and around Ozette Lake.

Topic Question 3: Deterioration of existing trails and camp sites and identification of trails within the park.

Topic Question 4: Do not feel a need to really expand facilites as much as upgrading and repairing existing one. Since this is a Wildernees Area I would want it to look pretty much the same as is was. Make the main trail through the park more accessible to hikers that would like to make the trek all the way south to north and back but still limit the amount of people at a given time.

Topic Question 5: Olympic National Park is a special place. It allows for all types of visitors but limits the ability for those who truly don't appreciate the wilderness to get too far back into the interior and permanently damage it. But it does allow for the experienced outdoor enthusiast who understands the need to preseve these spectacular wilderness areas to get back and truly experience them.

Comments: As a member of Washington Trail Association and one of twelve trail correspondents in the state I see what these volunteer clubs can do to improve areas with minimal cost.I believe that better communication and promotion of these clubs can help to get more volunteers to improve trails and other facilites within the park which I stated earlier is one of the key areas that could use help.

Correspondence ID: 42 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual

Received: Feb,08,2013 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: Olympic National Park wilderness area is a completely unique experience as it combines both ocean ,coastal plane and alpine environments. I have never been any where else that combines these features.

It is almost free of man made sounds

Topic Question 2: Hiking, tent camping on the beach, viewing the Roosevelt Elk in the Hoh River Valley, petroglyps at the coast.

Topic Question 3: I feel the emphasis should be to protect the quiet, keep the noise of Recreational vehicles away from the River Valleys.

Topic Question 4: I would like to see more tent camping sites at the Ocean units , I would hope the very quiet nature of the park is not changed by building resorts.RV campgrounds or other noise producing facilities.

Comments:

Correspondence ID: 43 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Feb,09,2013 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: I have not yet had the chance to visit the park, but it has been on my 'must see' list for a long time, and I plan to do so soon after I retire.

Topic Question 2: I plan to hike and record the sounds of nature that I encounter along the way. My hope is that there will be none of the man-made noise that currently surrounds us all, especially the intrusive sound of the internal combustion engine.

Topic Question 3: From a natural soundscape point of view, ONP is subject to all the problems of today, which includes the inability to escape from man-made sources of noise.

Topic Question 4: I believe your question ought to be extended by adding the words "and hear" at the end of the sentence, because ONP should also be a place where one can be insulated from the sounds of our mechanized culture. In an ideal world, that would also include restricting aircraft flight paths from crossing the park.

Topic Question 5: In my travels to record natural sounds, it has become increasingly difficult (really almost impossible) to find locations that are entirely free of man-made noises. Even when motorized vehicles are not present, there are almost bound to be aircraft flying on a more or less regular basis. I believe it is essential to try to preserve at least some small space where such intrusions are not present. Due to its location near several major urban areas, this ideal is probably not achievable for ONP, but at least an effort should be made to minimize man-made sounds as much as is practically possible.

Comments:

Correspondence ID: 44 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: yes, behindmyback.org. Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Feb,09,2013 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: Before ONP can create public wilderness solution/plan? Indeed, ONP should identify the problems. I object to the loaded questions they are asking in the Wilderness Scoping Plan. The questions should be pertinent and mulitple choice. What is your location, city county? 1. Clallam County 2. 3. How close do you live to the ONP border lines? 1. 100 miles 2. 50 miles 3. 25 miles or less How has the ONP Wild and Wilderness negatively affected your local economy? 1. Income from Tourism a. Restaurants b. motels c. gas stations d. all of the above How has the ONP Wild and Wilderness negatively affected you local economy? 2. Logging and Timber a. b. c. d. all of the above Historically pre wilderness restrictions,how ofter did your family visit ONP 1. 10 times a year 2. 5 times a year 3. less than 4 times a year 4. NEVER Do you love the ONP? 1. Absolutely 2. It's pretty Cool 3. It's OK 4. I can take it or leave it How often do you and your family visit the ONP after Wilderness restrictions? 1. 10 times a year 2. 5 times a year 3. less than 4 times a year 4. NEVER What restricts your full use and enjoyment of ONP million acres of public land? 1. Access (closed trails, roads and fees) 2. We can't get reservations to camp (limited campsites) 3. We can't afford to go there. ($225.00 @ nite for two people) 4. The prices are prohibitive for the average family ($12.00 each a day to just swim)

Topic Question 2: Before ONP can create public wilderness solution/plan? Indeed, ONP should identify the problems. I object to the loaded questions they are asking in the Wilderness Scoping Plan. The questions should be pertinent and mulitple choice. What is your location, city county? 1. Clallam County 2. 3. How close do you live to the ONP border lines? 1. 100 miles 2. 50 miles 3. 25 miles or less How has the ONP Wild and Wilderness negatively affected your local economy? 1. Income from Tourism a. Restaurants b. motels c. gas stations d. all of the above How has the ONP Wild and Wilderness negatively affected you local economy? 2. Logging and Timber a. b. c. d. all of the above Historically pre wilderness restrictions,how ofter did your family visit ONP 1. 10 times a year 2. 5 times a year 3. less than 4 times a year 4. NEVER Do you love the ONP? 1. Absolutely

2. It's pretty Cool 3. It's OK 4. I can take it or leave it How often do you and your family visit the ONP after Wilderness restrictions? 1. 10 times a year 2. 5 times a year 3. less than 4 times a year 4. NEVER What restricts your full use and enjoyment of ONP million acres of public land? 1. Access (closed trails, roads and fees) 2. We can't get reservations to camp (limited campsites) 3. We can't afford to go there. ($225.00 @ nite for two people) 4. The prices are prohibitive for the average family ($12.00 each a day to just swim)

Topic Question 3: Before ONP can create public wilderness solution/plan? Indeed, ONP should identify the problems. I object to the loaded questions they are asking in the Wilderness Scoping Plan. The questions should be pertinent and mulitple choice. What is your location, city county? 1. Clallam County 2. 3. How close do you live to the ONP border lines? 1. 100 miles 2. 50 miles 3. 25 miles or less How has the ONP Wild and Wilderness negatively affected your local economy? 1. Income from Tourism a. Restaurants b. motels c. gas stations d. all of the above How has the ONP Wild and Wilderness negatively affected you local economy? 2. Logging and Timber a. b. c. d. all of the above Historically pre wilderness restrictions,how ofter did your family visit ONP 1. 10 times a year 2. 5 times a year 3. less than 4 times a year 4. NEVER Do you love the ONP? 1. Absolutely 2. It's pretty Cool 3. It's OK 4. I can take it or leave it How often do you and your family visit the ONP after Wilderness restrictions? 1. 10 times a year 2. 5 times a year 3. less than 4 times a year 4. NEVER What restricts your full use and enjoyment of ONP million acres of public land? 1. Access (closed trails, roads and fees) 2. We can't get reservations to camp (limited campsites) 3. We can't afford to go there. ($225.00 @ nite for two people) 4. The prices are prohibitive for the average family ($12.00 each a day to just swim)

Topic Question 4: Before ONP can create public wilderness solution/plan? Indeed, ONP should identify the problems. I object to the loaded questions they are asking in the Wilderness Scoping Plan. The questions should be pertinent and mulitple choice. What is your location, city county? 1. Clallam County 2. 3. How close do you live to the ONP border lines? 1. 100 miles 2. 50 miles 3. 25 miles or less How has the ONP Wild and Wilderness negatively affected your local economy? 1. Income from Tourism a. Restaurants b. motels c. gas stations d. all of the above How has the ONP Wild and Wilderness negatively affected you local economy? 2. Logging and Timber a. b. c. d. all of the above Historically pre wilderness restrictions,how ofter did your family visit ONP 1. 10 times a year 2. 5 times a year 3. less than 4 times a year 4. NEVER Do you love the ONP? 1. Absolutely 2. It's pretty Cool 3. It's OK 4. I can take it or leave it How often do you and your family visit the ONP after Wilderness restrictions? 1. 10 times a year 2. 5 times a year 3. less than 4 times a year 4. NEVER What restricts your full use and enjoyment of ONP million acres of public land? 1. Access (closed trails, roads and fees) 2. We can't get reservations to camp (limited campsites) 3. We can't afford to go there. ($225.00 @ nite for two people) 4. The prices are prohibitive for the average family ($12.00 each a day to just swim)

Topic Question 5: Before ONP can create public wilderness solution/plan? Indeed, ONP should identify the problems. I object to the loaded questions they are asking in the Wilderness Scoping Plan. The questions should be pertinent and mulitple choice. What is your location, city county? 1. Clallam County 2. 3. How close do you live to the ONP border lines? 1. 100 miles 2. 50 miles 3. 25 miles or less How has the ONP Wild and Wilderness negatively affected your local economy? 1. Income from Tourism a. Restaurants b. motels c. gas stations d. all of the above How has the ONP Wild and Wilderness negatively affected you local economy? 2. Logging and Timber a. b. c. d. all of the above Historically pre wilderness restrictions,how ofter did your family visit ONP 1. 10 times a year 2. 5 times a year 3. less than 4 times a year 4. NEVER Do you love the ONP? 1. Absolutely 2. It's pretty Cool 3. It's OK 4. I can take it or leave it How often do you and your family visit the ONP after Wilderness restrictions? 1. 10 times a year 2. 5 times a year 3. less than 4 times a year 4. NEVER What restricts your full use and enjoyment of ONP million acres of public land? 1. Access (closed trails, roads and fees) 2. We can't get reservations to camp (limited campsites) 3. We can't afford to go there. ($225.00 @ nite for two people) 4. The prices are prohibitive for the average family ($12.00 each a day to just swim)

Comments:

Correspondence ID: 45 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Feb,09,2013 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: My father used to take me to the rainforest as a child. He had a masters degree in forestry and taught us about the trees and the forest.

Topic Question 2: walking/hiking/seeing wildlife/experiencing the quiet

Topic Question 3: I'm concerned about noise pollution and any potential commercial ventures (helicopter fly overs, etc). I am in the park to experience nature and have a sense of peace and quiet. I'd also like to know that the animals that are native to this area have some reprieve from the constant assault of noise in other areas of our world, so that they can use their natural acoustic signals without interference from manmade noise.

Topic Question 4: I'd like to see the park protected from noise pollution and commercial ventures such as flyovers. I'd like to see an effort to redirect jet traffic away from the park. I'd like to experience natural silence. I'd like to see that there isn't litter and that people are encouraged and educated to tread lightly on the park. I'd like to see an abundance of animals at all levels from tiny insects to birds to small mammals to fish and I'd like to see these animals protected from trapping and hunting.

Comments:

Correspondence ID: 46 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: Wildlife Sound Recording Society Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Feb,09,2013 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: It affords the opportunity to escape the pollution of modern society in most of its excesses and enjoy the natural environment thereby experiencing the healing and restorative powers of nature.

Topic Question 2: Walking, un-powered water craft, recording soundscapes, wildlife watching, quiet enjoyment of the natural world.

Topic Question 3: The threat of vested commercial interests outweighing common sense and greed.

Topic Question 4: No further over-use of resources, no further commercial re-development, no overflying by commercial or private airlines, only permitted ranger and emergency services.

Comments:

Correspondence ID: 47 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Feb,09,2013 11:53:33
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: It has allowed me to find the transcendent. It is perhaps one of the most beautiful places on earth.

Topic Question 2: horse back riding, snow shoeing and hiking

Topic Question 3: Increased use. I think there might have to be a permit/lottery system to make sure the wilderness experience is not compromised. I also think that the introduction of wolves might be an issue in the future. I believe that wolves , apex predators that they are would cause major wildlife imbalances. Wolf pack could decimate elk herds, marmots, and reduce the number of cougar.

Topic Question 4: The same. I would not cherish an expansion of services. It is so perfect as it is. I am concerned that there may be pressure to force privitive methods for trail maintenance and construction. I do not favor that as it takes too long and is so dependent on volunteers who work at glacial speed when not permitted to use power.

Topic Question 5: keeping trails which have been stock trails open to stock use; maintaining trails which are open to stock to standards appropriate for stock use, including bridges and fords; trail classifications are used that are consistent with stock use.

Comments:

Correspondence ID: 48 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: No organization, this is an error. Member click was a mistake. Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Feb,09,2013 12:01:38
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: Because it's so unique.

Topic Question 2: Quiet. It's an opportunity for me to quiet my mind and connect again to what matters most... something I believe only the wilderness can provide. I call it, 'soul food.'

Topic Question 3: Keeping it wild.

Topic Question 4: No air traffic or other mechanical sounds in back country areas. Trail head signage encouraging visitors to be quiet and respectful of others privacy. Necessary wilderness infrastructure (bridges)be made from native materials (wood and stone). Ranger led education about Olympic Parks unique acoustic environment.

Comments:

Correspondence ID: 49 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Feb,09,2013 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: Olympic National Park contains a rich blend of wildlife, cultural history, and the opportunity to reach a remote and wild place. The possibility that we can camp and be awakened by owls hooting across the river adds to the allure. Even more so, that we might some day have the opportunity, should we hike far enough to reach that special "square inch" of silence, where nature can be heard above the din of noise and artificiality that we live our lives in. That is something incredibly special. As a former park ranger, even at the most far-flung atoll in the middle of the Pacific Ocean (Midway Atoll NWR), there

was no natural silence. That is something incredibly special.

Topic Question 2: When we go to the park, we often camp, hike, and relax while photographing and recording the wildlife and viewscapes. It is the sights -- and the sounds -- the natural sounds -- that restore and revive us.

Topic Question 3: The issues are many, including a) loss of habitat due to encroaching logging areas and human habitation; b) loss of natural soundscapes as we continue to expand our aural access through mobile devices as well as our expansion of flight routes; c) habitat restoration (as feasible) in areas where dammed areas are returned to their more natural state; d) articulating these issues to the public in a way that motivates and inspires others who may never reach Olympic National Park to take in its richness to stand up and raise their voice in support of those actions that will ensure the park and its rich resources -- including natural silence -- endure for future generations.

Topic Question 4: In 20 years, I'd like to continue to have the option to hike to that one square inch of natural silence -- but even better, I'd rather it be increased in size to one square mile or more!

The ability to hike and camp, to view displays and learn from rangers trained to share the stories of the park are also important. Visitor services is not just an online activity, but one brought alive through well-trained interpretive rangers who connect and share the history, culture, and natural resources of the park with the public as well as the passion and the important issues it faces and what we individually can do to help.

Sitting around a campfire and camping in a tent without the sound of generators or boomboxes or other man-made inventions, while still being able to drive there (i.e. car camping) is important as well as opportunities to get out away from the facilities and into the wilderness.

Topic Question 5: I would urge the park team to consider the audio impact of your decisions as you move forward in doing your work. Stewardship of wild places includes all senses -- so the issues of sound and light pollution should register in considering such things as exhibitry and building upgrades. Point those lights at the ground, and limit their footprint so we all can enjoy the night sky. Limit the audio intrusions that might degrade our ability to hear the true voice of the wilderness. Consider your decisions carefully because they make a difference, not just to the park but to all of us -- throughout the world. If there is one message I learned as a ranger, that is -- your efforts make a difference, and that public access to these special places is important for ALL of us.

Comments: Thank you for your efforts as you look forward to ensuring the future of a wild and beautiful place.

Correspondence ID: 50 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: ESAIC Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Feb,09,2013 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: The definitive realization of an epic propose, I have read the book and it was and still is an inspiration to me here in Portugal.

Topic Question 5: Here in Portugal the Alqueva Starlight reserve from Unesco is the first dark sky reserve. I hoped they could put it as sound polution reserve as someone once proposed but I think they have changed ideas, so I am hoping for one square inch of silence here in Portugal.

Comments:

Correspondence ID: 51 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Feb,09,2013 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 4: Please no noisy helicopter tour fly-overs!

Comments:

Correspondence ID: 52 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Feb,09,2013 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: The ability to access the wilderness areas without extensive hiking. Citizens of Port Angeles and other surrounding communities have the ability to access ONP as an evening or weekend outing without a lot of planning or travel. Access to the Park is not only a quality of life issue but for the economic viability issues our communities face.

Topic Question 2: Day hikes, photography, snowshoeing, backcountry skiing.

Topic Question 3: It is a well know fact that our population is aging. The number of people who access the wilderness via hiking and horseback is falling and will continue to fall. A strategic look should be made at where budget dollars are spent per user visit and directed where they would have the most impact.

Topic Question 4: Better access in all areas and specifically winter access in the Hurricane Ridge area. Improving and upgrading facilities such as visitor centers and roads.

Topic Question 5: I feel that ONP needs to better address winter access to the Hurricane Ridge area. National Parks throughout the western US provide better access to cross-country and back country types of skiing and should be improved here.

Comments:

Correspondence ID: 53 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Feb,10,2013 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: In our increasingly frenetic and busy world, we need spaces and places that afford quiet and stillness; an opportunity to connect or reconnect with the natural world. I feel it is essential to physical, emotional, and spiritual well-being. Wilderness affords us an opportunity to be alone with ourselves: to think, to listen, to hear, and to be still mentally and physically.

Topic Question 2: Quiet places to walk, hike, and enjoy the natural beauty and wonder of the natural world.

Topic Question 3: I feel it is essential and incredibly important to maintain quiet places - an absence of all man-made sound; to maintain our ancient trees and forests; to preserve this special place for generations to come.

Topic Question 4: I would hope I would find the Park as unchanged as possible: a peaceful, naturally quiet place with an absence of any and all noise pollution; forests intact; wildlife thriving; and water running clear and clean.

Topic Question 5: It's important our National Parks are accessible to all. I would hope any and all visitor's services might occur in an unobstrusive way; well-designed to complement the natural environment, and in such a way they do not distract from the whole point of being in the natural world where we retreat to find solace and quiet - to enjoy the birds and animals; and to renew our bodies and souls. Thank you for the thoughtful way in which you will approach any work going forward.

Comments:

Correspondence ID: 54 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Feb,10,2013 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: The magnificent trees and the preservation of the natural state of the forest. To be able to listen to the wind and experience the truly wild environment free fof man-made noise pollution is an experience I have not had in other parks.

Topic Question 2: Hiking and photography

Topic Question 3: Protection of the natural state of the park.

Topic Question 4: I would like to dee that the park still retains its natural beauty and the quiet solitude of the rain forest. I hope that increased visitor levels do not impinge on the natural setting that is uniquely ONP!

Topic Question 5: Unlike any other park I have visited Olympic National Park has retained most of its primeval nature. It is important to me that the park keep human impact to a minimum, both from visitors and outside influences such as aerial tourism (helicopter overflights, and other aircraft intrusion) in order to preserve the special nature of the park. I would hope that control of vehicular traffic and aircraft intrusion is held in prime importance in your considerations.

Comments:

Correspondence ID: 55 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Feb,10,2013 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: Natural quiet

Topic Question 2: Natural quiet

Topic Question 3: Noise pollution

Topic Question 4: Fewer road vehicles

Comments: We are losing the ability to experience nature without the intrusion of man-made noise and pollution. Please help keep the ONP a refuge for both other life forms and for people to enjoy as an experience different from human-created landscapes. Thank you.

Correspondence ID: 56 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Feb,10,2013 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: The proximity of ONP to my home and that it is still somewhat undiscovered makes is very special.

Topic Question 2: I most prefer to hike in silence and hear only the sounds of nature.

Topic Question 3: I believe that animal poaching and tree poaching is an issue as well as irresponsible users who leave trash and make noise.

Topic Question 4: I would love to see untouched wilderness with basic/simple trails into undeveloped areas.

Topic Question 5: Being able to leave the sights and sounds of civilization is such a gift. Complete removal from daily "life" and getting into nature that pre-dates history allows me to recharge.

Comments:

Correspondence ID: 57 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: REI member Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Feb,10,2013 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: the serenity and quiet of the park is restorative. I esecially appreciate the distance from any motorized vehicles or manufactured sounds. the trails are generally uncrowded the further into the interior you go

Topic Question 2: hiking, viewing and photography, the evidence of wildlife and native foliage and flowers. I appreciate the solitude and would appreciate the promotion of an absence of noise pollution. including high altitude air traffic

Topic Question 3: continuing wildlife education to inform people that they are the "visitors" and that the animals who live in these lands must be protected and given their space to thrive. and maintaining the silence of wilderness

Topic Question 4: continued trail maintance. no additional commercialization of the existing concessions. keep TV, phone etc out! leave it like the 50's. recycling and use of biodegradable products

Comments:

Correspondence ID: 58 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Feb,10,2013 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: It provides what nothing else can-- pristine ecological environment, peaceful space, and quiet.

Topic Question 2: Hiking.

Topic Question 3: Minimizing noise.

Topic Question 4: It to be as it is, not further developed.

Comments:

Correspondence ID: 59 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933

Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Feb,10,2013 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: According to Gordon Hempton's book, it is one of the very, very few areas in America where there is continuous natural silence -- that is -- continuous -- in terms of hours, until, a jet flies over the park

Topic Question 2: I have not yet visited ONP, but what is most important to me when visiting a national park is the natural quiet -- the absence of traffic noise such as motorcycles, sirens, and airline jets.

Topic Question 3: The challenge to keep ONP legally designated as a Quiet Sanctuary -- which includes the absence of airline routes over the park

Topic Question 4: Total absence of traffic noise i.e. motor, engine noise, especially motorcycles

Topic Question 5: There is a super great article on noise pollution (it's only three pages) in Encyclopedia Americana. It is titled "Noise Control." It is a gem, a brilliant piece. Every sentence in this piece hits the mark. The article tells us exactly how noise pollution harms us. PLEASE READ THIS BRIEF ARTICLE! Thank you.

Comments:

Correspondence ID: 60 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Feb,11,2013 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: A quiet place to explore the beauty of nature with family and friends.

Topic Question 2: The boom of native vegetation, the sound of waterfalls and streams, camping and exploration.

Topic Question 3: Protecting it from environmental damage and keeping it an affordable for families to visit.

Topic Question 4: Continued up keep of trails and huts.

Comments:

Correspondence ID: 61 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Feb,11,2013 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: Coming from Southern California, I am amazed by the lush rain-fed growth of the ONP wilderness and by the solitude. It is a uniquely quiet Park, due to the lower numbers of airplane overflights, and that should be preserved and enhanced.

Topic Question 2: I love long distance hiking and the Enchanted Valley area was the stimulus for my pursuit of that passion ever since I first hiked that area in 1998. I recently completed a Pacific Crest Trail through-hike in 2012 after retiring.

Topic Question 3: I support the efforts being taken to preserve ONP as a uniquely quiet Park and believe that can be a strong selling point for the Park.

Topic Question 4: The existing level of services is generally adequate.

Comments:

Correspondence ID: 62 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Feb,11,2013 11:19:24
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: It is the closest wilderness area to our home. The Olympic Mountains are in our view and part of our conciousness everyday the clouds lift. As we've raised our children, our only vacations have consisted of hiking the Olympics, each year going in and coming out on a different route.

Topic Question 2: Whether taking day hikes to revisit favorite places, or overnight camping trips to explore ridges and valleys we've not yet experienced, the natural quiet, and absence of human-made sound, is one of the highest qualities of life we are there to experience. Natural quiet, and the ability to hear unobstructed sounds of the natural world in wilderness areas is equal to

the experience of viewing, touching and smelling the natural landscapes.

Topic Question 3: I do think that protecting the quality of wilderness areas by elimiating aircraft flight paths over these areas is vital.

Topic Question 4: With more of the population living in urban areas, the value of wilderness is going to skyrocket in 20 years time. I would like to see a robust organization of rangers, and volunteer rangers, supported by public funding, that are present at Ranger stations and out on the trails, who are not there as much to "police" the public use, but are there to care for the areas, and educate visitors.

Topic Question 5: Providing small bus shuttles during peak seasons from nearest towns to popular trailheads would be a wonderful way to reduce high traffic on narrow access roads. This might also boost the economies of the nearby communities, and reduce the impact of traffic near wilderness areas.

Comments: The impact of the growing population of Mountain Goats introduced into Olympic Park is a concern to us, noting that this increased population is degredating the alpine vegetation in many areas, increasing erosion.

Correspondence ID: 63 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: REI Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Feb,11,2013 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: The great beauty and diversity. I've known ONP since 1970 when I first did some hiking and exploring. In 1972, I spent a week honeymooning around the "Olypic Loop." It was fabulous! We camped allmany places--including the rather secluded Elk Lake--gorgeous spot--with our "leashed" Irish Setter Clancy. The really cool thing is that even in the rainforest, we had no rain the entire week--June 24 - July4.

For over 5 years I was part-owner of Lochaerie Resort on the north shore of Lake Quinault--a gem of a place on 265 feet of lake front in Olympic National Park! I've known it since February 1972, and became an owner when we purchase the resort the end of 1984, from the previous owners, Irene and Bill O'Connor. They operated the resort for 39 years.

Topic Question 2: When hiking I really love hearing all the nature sounds I've been a member of the Olympic Peninsula chapter of Washington Native Plant Society, so I love seeing, identifying and photographing our beautiful native plants.

Topic Question 3: People not respecting the area: leaving garbage, going off the trails, and "noise" pollution in the form of cell phones. It really drives me nuts to be 6, 8 or 10 miles into the wilderness area and hear a cell phone ring--I start looking for the nearest rock! I would guess there is no way to stop this, but it seems an infringement on the wilderness area when a jet passes overhead--I don't like being reminded of civilization when I'm trying to lose myself in the ONP wilderness areas.

Topic Question 4: I would hope to see things relatively unchanged--the whole idea of preservation is the keep things pretty much intact. I know with all the budget cuts everywhere it makes "policing" people very difficult. In a perfect world, all who are in the wilderness area would be respectful of its fragile beauty and stay on trails, not let dogs off leash, not toss garbage, etc.

Topic Question 5: I think I've pretty much covered what I wanted to share, and hope this input will help in some way. We are so blessed to have this incredible area that we can explore and appreciate, introduce to our children and grandchildren and hold in our memories and hearts. Thank you, Barbara Burgwin

Comments:

Correspondence ID: 64 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Feb,11,2013 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: The unique ecosystem of that park, and its existence away from extensive nearby development. This includes its relative lack of noise pollution compared to many other parks.

Topic Question 2: Hiking, birdwatching.

Topic Question 4: Well-maintained trails, interpretive information for visitors, a quiet environment free from area noise pollution including jet overflights.

Comments:

Correspondence ID: 65 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Feb,11,2013 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: The landscape and ecosystem of the Pacific Northwest are a treasure of global scope and importance. Having it protected is of vital importance to present and future generations. It's a landscape that feels sacred like a sanctuary - and part of that special feeling comes from the absence of noise pollution.

Topic Question 4: I'd like to be able to visit a place that is imbued with a natural quiet, that truly allows me to escape from the constant noise and activity of human civilization.

Comments:

Correspondence ID: 66 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: none Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Feb,11,2013 18:41:52
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: 1. ONP is unique; it's BIG and it's a rich treasure. 2. It's relatively quiet. Restorative for the spirit. 3. It's got the restoration of the Elwha going on--increasing it's wild connections. 4. It's got the "fifth quality, Other Features." It has scientific, ecological, educational, and historical value. In addition to it's scenic value.

Topic Question 2: Hiking into the quiet.

Picking up trash plastic that's washed up on the beaches. Yes, I'm willing to spend vacation time picking up!

Topic Question 3: Non-native fauna doing damage. Jet flyovers.

Topic Question 4: I'd like to see the Parks Department using hand tools rather than chain saws when they need to work in the forest.

I'd like to see jet traffic routed around the park to mark for the world just how much of a treasure it is, and how respectful we are of it.

Topic Question 5: None, thank you.

Comments:

Correspondence ID: 67 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: cant unclick member button on your site Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Feb,12,2013 10:03:42
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: I believe the wilderness area is large enough.

Topic Question 2: Haven't visited the wilderness areas - too much effort to see them

Topic Question 3: Limited access and no way to view them for casual visitor

Topic Question 4: Gondola - roughly from Port Angeles to Aberdeen/Greys Harbor area

Topic Question 5: see below

Comments: Please support volunteer efforts to add a short trail segment in the vicinity of the ONP Visitors Center in Port Angeles in order to connect two widely used trails already in place.

At the present time there is a trail which heads South up the Peabody Creek drainage - it begins at the Port Angeles area ONP Visitor Center and comes out onto Hurricane Ridge Road about 2 miles South of the "Y" intersection of Race Street/Mt Angeles and Hurricane Ridge Road. The end of the existing trail is just South of the pullout at the last "S" curve. This is a frequently used, year 'round hiking trail currently maintained by ONP volunteers.

There is another trail just South of this spot - which is currently accessed via a road which "t"s into Mt Angeles Road, and which which crosses Hurricane Ridge Road just South of this area - via an overpass. The road is identified on many maps as "Walking Horse Lane" - but the unimproved road is actually just South of that named road. This unimproved road leads up the mountain and eventually intersects the East end of the Foothills Trail system maintained by DNR and is used by hikers, ATV's, and horses.

If a walking path were installed between the existing end of the South access point of ONP's Peabody Creek trail to the DNR

road in the space between the creek drainage and parallel to the West side of Hurricane Ridge Road (and appropriate signage and gate barriers installed to prevent motorized and bicycle access to the ONP section of the trail) a hiker would have a nice walking trail from the Visitors Center all the way to the North trailhead of the Little River Trail just east of the intersection of Little River Road and Black Diamond Road via the Peabody Creek Trail, DNR road, and Foothills Trail system.

This could eventually be incorporated into a loop trail which would begin and end in downtown PA - using both the Peabody and Valley Creek drainages - linking the many trails and roads in those areas into a year 'round walking path with a total distance of approximately 17 miles.

I've already hiked and scouted a route - the link between the South end of the existing Peabody Creek trail and Walking Horse Lane simply needs some clearing to become a very usable and viable addition to the park system and which would leverage access to other trails in the area.

Correspondence ID: 68 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Feb,12,2013 14:12:15
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: I appreciate the unmodified, unadulterated atmosphere of ONP. Compared to many parks ONP feels exceptionally natural and healthy.

Topic Question 2: Backpacking and snowsports.

Topic Question 3: I feel there is a conflict between use and preservation. Increased use does not need to mean increased impact.

Topic Question 4: I would like to see less cars inside the wilderness area, perhaps a shuttle, Year-round access to key tourist destinations such as hurricane ridge, and I would like to see minimal development beyond whats is present today.

Comments: My primary utilization of Olympic National Park occurs during the winter months on Hurricane Ridge. Hurricane Ridge counted nearly 100,000 vehicles through its fee station in 2012, making it one of the most profitable destinations in the park. Unlike many sites with ONP hurricane ridge recieves consistant visitation throughout the winter months despite the road crews inability to consistantly open the road. The mission statment of the Park Service is to provide the public with access to pristine wilderness. This access is being unneccisarily curtailed at hurricane ridge. Resouces are allocated away from providing basic access for patrons of hurricane ridge and are being used for superfulous and redundant administrative and enforcment costs. I am an active user of the hurricane ridge ski area and feel that 7-day a week access the the area is an essential use of park resources.

Correspondence ID: 69 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Feb,12,2013 23:38:37
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: the accessibility is what makes it special. need to be able to hike, picnic, camp, visit ONP. MORE access. MORE trails.

Topic Question 2: hiking

Topic Question 3: access

Topic Question 4: more trails.

Comments:

Correspondence ID: 70 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Feb,13,2013 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: The most striking thing to me is how quiet it is.

Topic Question 2: Hiking, camping, climbing.

Topic Question 4: I'd like to see it remain a quiet place, with few to no overflights from airplanes, and a lack of mechanical, motorized equipment.

Comments:

Correspondence ID: 71 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Feb,13,2013 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: It is an amazing place of solitude, quiet, green and living things, a necessary respite from the urban area where I grew up and live now.

Topic Question 2: Being able to walk around and hear, feel and see the forest and its plants & animals.

Topic Question 3: Human machine-powered noise and pollution, including flyovers.

Topic Question 4: Nearly all of it devoted to foot traffic only, with restrictions on noise pollution, including flyovers. Good bathrooms are a plus but more primitive ones are still okay.

Topic Question 5: I would support legislation that further preserves and protects the quiet, solitude and integrity of this beautiful park. I do not believe that biking or motorized recreational uses should ever be prioritized over hiking in the park. I would discourage the addition of parking lots and request that public transit options be added. I currently cannot get to the visitor center from Seattle without a car, because the bus service ends 11 miles from the visitor center. Thank you.

Comments:

Correspondence ID: 72 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: private citizen Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Feb,13,2013 10:38:15
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: It is a wilderness area like no other in the USA. Visiting it is a wonderful experience

Topic Question 2: The whole visual scope.

Topic Question 3: What parts to keep absolute wilderness & what parts to let humans visit.

Topic Question 4: The pristine environment that is here today with minimal interference by man.

Comments: The Olympic Wilderness (established in 1988) is one of the most diverse wilderness areas in the USA with its rugged mountains, lush rainforests, tide pools, & beaches. It attracts 40,000 visitors annually bringing in revenue for WA state while not over- crowding the park. We need a solid Wilderness Stewardship Plan to protect this pristine area now & in the future. It must be protected & preserved at all costs as we only have one chance to save it. Please no drilling for energy products nor needless development. Mankind has managed to destroy parts of some national parks. Please do not allow Olympic Wilderness be one of them. Thank you.

Correspondence ID: 73 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: Olympic Park Associates Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Feb,13,2013 14:51:50
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: See "Comment" box below.

Topic Question 2: " "

Topic Question 3: " "

Topic Question 4: " "

Topic Question 5: " "

Comments: Olympic Park Associates

168 Lost Mountain Lane, Sequim, WA 98382, 360-681-2480

February 13, 2013.

Superintendent Sarah Creachbaum Olympic National Park 600 E. Park Avenue Port Angeles, WA 98362

Re: ONP Wilderness Stewardship Plan, Scoping Comments

Dear Superintendent Creachbaum,

Olympic Park Associates (OPA) has had a long and active history with the Olympic Wilderness. OPA was established in 1938 to defend the wilderness valleys of the west-side rain forests from logging and development. We submitted our first detailed Wilderness Plan to the Park in 1968. We testified at the 1973 wilderness hearings in Port Angeles; we worked diligently for passage of the 1988 Washington Parks Wilderness Act, and we have been longtime advocates for this current planning effort. From its beginning, Olympic has been a wilderness park, as confirmed by this Seattle Post-Intelligencer headline in the August 28, 1938 edition: "[Interior Secretary] Ickes Says New Park to Remain Wild." As such, Olympic has been one of the premiere wilderness parks in the nation, finally achieving congressional designation 25 years ago. "What better way to celebrate our park's golden anniversary than to place the park's matchless wilderness lands in the National Wilderness Preservation System," OPA's Rick Rutz testified at the wilderness bill hearing in Washington D.C. that year.

OPA believes that management of the Olympic Wilderness sets a precedent throughout the National Park Service, the agency that manages the most designated wilderness acreage in the nation. We thank you for pursuing this planning effort and we commend the Park Service on the thoroughness and expertise it brings to the process. We are pleased to share our thoughts on the scope of the coming plan.

Purpose of the Plan and Decisions to be Made

We concur wholeheartedly with the stated purpose of the plan: "to guide the preservation, management, and use of the park's wilderness areas as defined by the Wilderness Act of 1964." And we support its goal: "to restore, protect, and enhance overall wilderness character of the Olympic Wilderness." The plan's focus on wilderness character is commendable, as that is the central governing quality of wilderness as defined by the Wilderness Act. Under "Decisions to be Made," in your Wilderness Planning Newsletter (Winter 2013), it is stated that the Wilderness Stewardship Plan will establish a vision for the Olympic Wilderness. OPA, of course, has a vision for the future of the Olympic Wilderness. But we respectively submit that a vision for the Olympic Wilderness is clearly and eloquently stated in the 1964 Wilderness Act. "A wilderness, in contrast with those areas where man and his own works dominate the landscape, is hereby recognized as an area where the earth and its community of life are untrammeled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain," (Sec. 2 (c)). The definition goes on to describe "An area... retaining its primeval character and influence, without permanent improvements or human habitation, which is protected and managed so as to preserve its natural conditions."

This definition is quite visionary, in our eyes. More importantly, it sets a standard to which the Park Service and visitors to the Olympic Wilderness must adhere. We have no doubt that other visions of the Olympic Wilderness exist. Experience tells us that they will include various "visitor services and facilities" (to quote from Newsletter Question 5) ranging from destination resorts to aerial tramways. But in light of your stated purpose -- as well as your legal responsibilities -- such visions are irrelevant to this planning process.

OPA's vision for the Olympic Wilderness is similar to our vision for the future of Olympic National Park: that the Olympic Wilderness will preserve and protect a fully restored wilderness ecosystem with its original components, species and habitat functions intact. Human use will be managed to insure enjoyment of the wilderness while protecting the healthy functioning of ecosystems into the future.

Ecosystem Protection and Global Warming

The Wilderness Act states that in wilderness "earth and its community of life... is protected and managed so as to preserve its natural conditions" (Section 2(a) and 2(c)). With the unknown ecological disruptions that current human-caused global warming poses to Olympic Wilderness, it is of the utmost importance that park managers do all they can to protect and restore the wilderness's irreplaceable natural ecosystems. These are of planetary importance as evidenced by UNESCO's Biosphere Reserve and World Heritage Site designations. Scientific consensus holds that one of the best strategies for coping with accelerated global warming is the protection and restoration of fully intact and functioning natural ecosystems, "keeping all the cogs and wheels" in the words of Aldo Leopold. At Olympic, that means restoring extirpated species, such as the park's keystone predator the wolf, recovering threatened species, and eliminating non-native species, such as introduced mountain goats. Non-native and invasive plant species should be eliminated where possible, otherwise controlled. The plan should recommend active restoration of the Olympic Wilderness's "community of life," particularly in light of coming ecological disruptions.

Wilderness District

With 95 % of Olympic National Park in designated wilderness, the plan should make it a priority to establish a separate wilderness district to oversee management activities in the Olympic Wilderness. A wilderness ranger in charge of a wilderness district would be well trained in wilderness stewardship, minimum requirement, and the legal tenants of the Wilderness Act. We feel this would be superior to the current approach of piecemeal management of wilderness by area rangers, all with extensive law-enforcement responsibilities for front-country areas. Further, it would reflect the central importance of wilderness to Olympic National Park.

Wilderness Character

Wilderness character is a quality that has proven difficult to define, and its protection has presented a challenge to park managers in the past. We endorse the use of the interagency study "Keeping it Wild" to help establish benchmarks and guides for the planning effort. Your discussion of wilderness character under the "Key Components of the Plan" section of the Wilderness Planning Newsletter does a good job of presenting the concepts. The four qualities referenced from that publication: "Untrammeled," "Natural," "Undeveloped," and "Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation," set clear directives for meeting the stated purpose of the plan.

However, we are troubled by your fifth quality, "Other Features of Value," inserted without citation, that purports to have precedence over the previous four, which reflect the clear intent of the Wilderness Act. The newsletter states that this quality "is used to capture elements of a park's wilderness area, such as Olympic's cultural resources, that aren't included in the four qualities and is unique to an individual wilderness." OPA supports the preservation of what are widely valued as cultural resources: Native American archeological sites, artifacts, petroglyphs, shell middens and other resources that reflect the early human presence on lands now protected by Olympic National Park. However, we have a real concern that the park's historic view of cultural resources, which include human constructions dating a minimum of 50 years, will confuse the issue and undercut the preservation of wilderness character as directed by the Wilderness Act. We refer to the "List of Classified Structures for the Park" that was attached, without adequate discussion or review, as Appendix E to the 2008 General Management Plan. The list includes some 40 structures and eight "historic landscapes" located in the Olympic Wilderness.

These include ranger stations, sheds, shelters, homesteads, barns, hunting cabins, a chalet, and under landscapes, the 1930s Forest Service trail system. Many are administrative structures built by the Park Service or Forest Service. Others represent the kinds of private development of wilderness that Olympic National Park was created to stop. Several structures on the list no longer exist. Yet the General Management Plan directs that they are to be "protected and maintained" in wilderness, and the park has invested significant manpower and funds in recent years, and employed the use of helicopter transport and power tools to repair and reconstruct these structures. We interpret your "Other Features of Value" as a further attempt to continue to preserve, repair and reconstruct these structures in wilderness, now as components of wilderness character "unique to the Olympic Wilderness."

We find this contrary to both the 1964 Wilderness Act and the U.S. District Court decision Olympic Park Associates v. Mainella, 2005. In that decision, Judge Burgess found NPS managers guilty of "a clear error of judgment" in their interpretation of historic preservation in wilderness. The Wilderness Act in no way yields priority to the National Historic Preservation Act or to DOI or NPS administrative policies. Nor would it to this plan. Wilderness designation places "a new value" on the land, in Judge Burgess' words, that is, a clear mandate to preserve wilderness character -- not to attempt to re-define it to include nonconforming uses. Further, to suggest that wilderness character is "improved by the by the preservation or restoration of such features, even when such management actions degrade other qualities of wilderness character " (i.e. untrammeled, natural, undeveloped, and solitude) begs credulity.

At a minimum, this planning process should examine each of the classified or listed structures currently being preserved in the Olympic Wilderness and evaluate, with open, public review, which ones may be "unique" to the Olympic Wilderness and indeed enhance the area's wilderness character. For all but a precious few, that is an extremely high bar to reach. Management recommendations should follow.

Wilderness Issues and Opportunities

We would like to comment briefly on the issues listed in the newsletter as well as some of our own. We hope all will be addressed in the plan.

* Day and overnight use. Overnight use is currently well regulated in the park. A process for identifying new areas where overnight quotas may need to be assigned, or fragile areas that should be closed to overnight use, should be outlined in the plan. Day use in a few heavy-use areas may also need to be addressed at some point to preserve wilderness character. Management of parking areas outside wilderness may be a useful tool for this.

* Wilderness permitting. We support the current permitting system and the opportunity for wilderness education that it affords. The plan should encourage adequate staffing to insure both education and enforcement.

* Traditional use. Any traditional uses should fall under the constraints of the Wilderness Act. Traditional uses should be allowed to the point that they do not damage or degrade the wilderness environment or negatively affect wilderness character.

* Use of campfires. With the Olympics' unpredictable weather patterns, campfires should continue to be allowed in lower valleys, in existing fire rings only. Alpine and subalpine areas and all off-trail areas should continue to be closed to fires.

* Proper food storage. Hanging of food should continue to be allowed where conditions for safe food hanging exist. Limited use of bear lines should be permitted where feasible. Canisters should only be required in areas where hanging food is impossible. No food lockers should be placed in wilderness.

* Group size. Maximum group size should be kept to 12 backpackers, fewer in sensitive areas where group camps do not exist.

Maximum group size for stock users should be keyed to capacity of stock camps. Appropriate limits should also be set for day-use group sizes.

* Camping and campsites. Currently, camping is well managed by the Wilderness Information Center. Camping should be keyed to carrying capacity of valleys and destinations. Numbers of campers should be regulated in high-use sites such as Shi Shi Beach. In higher elevation areas, camping should be permitted in designated sites only, with dispersed camping allowed in remote trailless areas. Some sensitive or damaged areas may need to be closed to camping for extended periods. Development of new campsites in wilderness should be prohibited.

* Human waste management. OPA supports "blue bag" or (more efficient) "wag bag" management of waste on Blue Glacier and other sensitive alpine areas. Vault and solar privies are suitable for high elevation areas. Helicopter transport of vaults should take place only after peak-use seasons. Pit privies are adequate in lower areas and should be present at high use-campsites in lower valleys.

* Stock use. Stock use has been inconsistently managed at Olympic, and high-elevation trails and natural resources have suffered. Specific areas should be defined where stock use is appropriate and compatible with hikers, trail conditions, and natural resources. Stock should be confined to designated trails and stock camps. Some alpine trails such as High Divide, Grand Valley, Grand Ridge, Skyline and other trails through sensitive areas should be closed to stock use (rather than posted as "not-recommended"). Stock camps should be located in low-elevation valleys apart from backpacker camping areas. With frequent stream crossings on most trails, manure-catchers should be required for stock.

* Research activities. Research by park natural science staff and independent researchers should comply with wilderness use regulations and minimum requirement standards. Where use of aircraft is absolutely essential (i.e. aerial wildlife surveys, animal removal), flights should be timed to minimize disturbance to wildlife and wilderness users. The current marbled murrelet/spotted owl nesting season closure to helicopter use could be adopted as a permanent regulation to preserve silence as well as wilderness character. Research structures such as the Glacier study hut on Mount Olympus should be evaluated to assess their necessity in wilderness.

* Wildlife management in wilderness. Restoring and protecting ecosystem processes, restoring extirpated species, and removing non-native species should be an objective of this plan. Functioning ecosystems are an essential component of wilderness character in Olympic. Management activities should comply with minimum requirement directives. Parameters for necessary flights for wildlife survey and management activities should be addressed in the plan.

* Cultural Resource Management in Wilderness. To our knowledge, few Paleo-Indian or Native American cultural resources have been restored or reconstructed in the Olympic Wilderness. Archeological sites are investigated and recorded. Artifacts are collected, catalogued and curated. Many known sites are left uninvestigated due to lack of available funding. We consider the archeology program at Olympic to be exemplary. It is entirely compatible with wilderness and enjoys OPA's full support. If anything, it is deserving of increased funding. We see the historic preservation program at Olympic as a different kettle of fish. This program has funded numerous reconstructions of historic structures in wilderness (nearly all without public review). We find many of these to be of questionable historic value and disproportionate in their allocation of resources. One, that was open to NEPA review, was found to be in violation of the Wilderness Act. Others may be as well. We hope this plan will, at a minimum, set clear and legal limits on historic preservation activities in the Olympic Wilderness, requiring full compliance of these activities with NEPA and the Wilderness Act.

* Maintenance of trails, bridges, or other existing or necessary infrastructure. The park has done an excellent job maintaining Olympic's trail system. The plan should endorse continued maintenance of the trail system while seeking opportunities to reduce the footprint of human influence. Some stringer bridges could be replaced with foot logs and stock fords, puncheon bridges by gravel turnpikes. Major bridge construction projects, like Staircase Rapids bridge, should require full NEPA compliance. Lesser used trails should qualify for a lower level of construction and maintenance. Historic trails that are no longer maintained should be closed and rehabilitated to preserve and enhance trailless areas in the wilderness core. Trail maintenance and trail structures should be aimed primarily at resource protection. Administrative structures like guard stations and lookouts should be evaluated to assess their status "as necessary to meet minimum requirements for the administration of [the wilderness] (section 4.(c))." We feel most will comply. Some, like Hayes River Guard Station (which in close proximity to Elkhorn Guard Station and duplicates efforts), could be removed.

* Commercial services in wilderness. We support continued commercial services in wilderness at current levels. Commercial use permits should stipulate that wilderness education be a required activity. Outfitters should not receive special treatment regarding reservations, group size, or access. Volunteer projects should be encouraged as part of guided trips.

Other issues and opportunities that should be addressed in the plan are:

* Mechanized tool use. OPA believes a strong case can be made for use of chainsaws as minimum tools to effectively and safely clear the often heavy amount and large size of blowdown timber on park trials. The plan offers an excellent forum to have that discussion.

* Mechanized transport. Helicopter transport has become fairly common for administrative purposes in the Olympic Wilderness. We recognize that some uses, such as emergency rescues and some wildlife research and management require helicopter use. Similarly, helicopter transport of steel bridge stringers can substitute for the use of large old-growth trees for stringers in

wilderness. At the proper season we see this as an allowable tradeoff. We request the plan outlines those needs and sets standards and seasons of operation for mechanized transport.

* Native materials. Use of native materials should be approved by wilderness managers prior to construction. In general, native and natural (packed-in) materials should be favored over glue-laminate and chemically treated lumber in bridge and puncheon reconstruction. Even when steel stringers are used, wilderness bridges should be decked and finished with natural wood. Construction of new buildings, even when classified as historic repair and rehabilitation, even when using native materials, is illegal under the Wilderness Act and should be prohibited.

* Wilderness fees. OPA supports reasonable wilderness fees. We request that Olympic's wilderness permits be considered special use permits so full fee revenues can be retained in the park and used for stewardship activities in the Olympic Wilderness.

* Coordination with other agencies. Protocols should be established for coordination with Forest Service wilderness managers on issues surrounding trails, visitor use and education, fire management, and other issues affecting adjacent wilderness areas.

The danger facing the Olympic wilderness in the coming decades is the danger facing all of the earth's irreplaceable nature preserves: that this remarkably diverse and intact ecosystem will experience a slow, gradual degradation. As population pressures increase and the world's climate continues to warm, it is imperative to protect and preserve Olympic's wilderness. We look forward to working with you to develop an outstanding stewardship plan for the Olympic Wilderness.

Again, we appreciate the opportunity to participate in this important planning effort. We look forward to continuing to participate in the process.

Sincerely,

Tim McNulty Vice president, OPA

Correspondence ID: 74 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: behindmyback.org Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Feb,14,2013 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 2: Pay per View Or Free On Demand Posted on February 14, 2013 10:29 am by Pearl Rains Hewett Comment

PUBLIC ACCESS TO PUBLIC LAND? PAY PER VIEW? OR FREE ACCESS ON DEMAND?

We are VESTED AMERICAN CITIZENS We have an unquestionable right to the possession of property or a privilege. We have an unquestionable RIGHT to the PRIVILEGE of full use and enjoyment of our PUBLIC LAND.

This is my comment on public access to public land, the WILD Olympics ? Wilderness Scoping Plan and to all Federal State Agencies, elected officials, and appointed government agencies including the ONP and the US fish and wildlife service.

Expand your entertainment options exponentially with direct FREE use and access to public land ON DEMAND.

PAY PER VIEW A non-public service provided by the appointed, including, but not limited to, the National Park Service, ONP and WA state parks in which every vested American citizen can purchase the right to view public land. The government requires the exorbitant payment at the same or new government road blocks, time after time, to every Vested American ordering it (as opposed to the right to view public land ?FREE ON DEMAND systems, which would allow vested American viewers to see and have reasonable use to public land free at any time).

PAY PER VIEW Paid parks entry can be purchased using an on-line guide, an automated telephone system, or through an automated non-customer service representative.

PAY PER VIEW Government park PAY PER VIEW events often include, restricted use, excessive other restrictions, quotas, conservation, no jogging, no horses, road blocks, reservations, limited campsites,closed trails, permits, more permits, closed roads, denied access, no off road vehicles, no campfires, no fishing, no hunting, no shooting, no pets, no bicycles, and adding additional new enhanced features like surveillance, law enforcement, ticketing, court appearance events and exorbitant payment of non-negotiable fines on you, for your entertainment.

FREE ON DEMAND Expand your entertainment options exponentially with direct free use and access by vested American Citizens to public lands on demand.

FREE ON DEMAND Vested American citizens have instant free access to millions and millions of acre in the hottest national parks and state parks, whenever you want, where ever you want. Enjoy the Olympic National Park, catch up on missed camping

episodes of your favorite campsites or rediscover old favorites, like the 7 Lake Basin.

SUBSCRIBE NOW For your free direct public access on demand? To start enjoying free direct on demand access and reasonable use to public land?

GETTING STARTED Sacramento, CA; July 17, 2012: On behalf of off-road motorized recreational users of the Tahoe National Forest, attorneys with Pacific Legal Foundation today sued the federal government for illegally closing off more than 800 miles of roads and trails that have been used for decades by the public for environmentally responsible off-road motorized recreation, access to camping and fishing, and to assist in the prevention of forest fires. Support Pacific Legal Foundation ?We are filing this lawsuit to stop the U.S. Forest Service from illegally padlocking vast areas of the Tahoe National Forest and blocking the public from enjoying responsible recreational use of public lands,? said PLF attorney Brandon M. Middleton.

PUBLIC ACCESS TO PUBLIC LAND?

The Federal Courts will decide.

FREE ON DEMAND? OR PAY PER VIEW?

You decide.

Pearl Rains Hewett This entry was posted in APPOINTED FEDERAL AGENCIES, Pacific Legal Foundation, Public Access to Public land, Public Comments, Wild Olympics. Bookmark the permalink.

Topic Question 3:

We are VESTED AMERICAN CITIZENS We have an unquestionable right to the possession of property or a privilege. We have an unquestionable RIGHT to the PRIVILEGE of full use and enjoyment of our PUBLIC LAND.

Pay per View Or Free On Demand Posted on February 14, 2013 10:29 am by Pearl Rains Hewett Comment

PUBLIC ACCESS TO PUBLIC LAND? PAY PER VIEW? OR FREE ON DEMAND?

This is my comment on public access to public land, the WILD Olympics ? Wilderness Scoping Plan and to all Federal State Agencies, elected officials, and appointed government agencies including the ONP and the US fish and wildlife service.

Expand your entertainment options exponentially with direct FREE use and access to public land ON DEMAND.

PAY PER VIEW A non-public service provided by the appointed, including, but not limited to, the National Park Service, ONP and WA state parks in which every vested American citizen can purchase the right to view public land. The government requires the exorbitant payment at the same or new government road blocks, time after time, to every Vested American ordering it (as opposed to the right to view public land ?FREE ON DEMAND systems, which would allow vested American viewers to see and have reasonable use to public land free at any time).

PAY PER VIEW Paid parks entry can be purchased using an on-line guide, an automated telephone system, or through an automated non-customer service representative.

PAY PER VIEW Government park PAY PER VIEW events often include, restricted use, excessive other restrictions, quotas, conservation, no jogging, no horses, road blocks, reservations, limited campsites,closed trails, permits, more permits, closed roads, denied access, no off road vehicles, no campfires, no fishing, no hunting, no shooting, no pets, no bicycles, and adding additional new enhanced features like surveillance, law enforcement, ticketing, court appearance events and exorbitant payment of non-negotiable fines on you, for your entertainment.

FREE ON DEMAND Expand your entertainment options exponentially with direct free use and access to public lands on demand.

FREE ON DEMAND Vested American citizens have instant free access to millions and millions of acre in the hottest national parks and state parks, whenever you want, where ever you want. Enjoy the Olympic National Park, catch up on missed camping episodes of your favorite campsites or rediscover old favorites, like the 7 Lake Basin.

SUBSCRIBE NOW For your free direct public access on demand? To start enjoying free direct on demand access and reasonable use to public land?

GETTING STARTED Sacramento, CA; July 17, 2012: On behalf of off-road motorized recreational users of the Tahoe National Forest, attorneys with Pacific Legal Foundation today sued the federal government for illegally closing off more than 800 miles of roads and trails that have been used for decades by the public for environmentally responsible off-road motorized recreation, access to camping and fishing, and to assist in the prevention of forest fires. Support Pacific Legal Foundation ?We are filing this lawsuit to stop the U.S. Forest Service from illegally padlocking vast areas of the Tahoe National Forest and blocking the public from enjoying responsible recreational use of public lands,? said PLF attorney Brandon M. Middleton.

PUBLIC ACCESS TO PUBLIC LAND?

The Federal Courts will decide.

FREE ON DEMAND? OR PAY PER VIEW?

You decide.

Pearl Rains Hewett This entry was posted in APPOINTED FEDERAL AGENCIES, Pacific Legal Foundation, Public Access to Public land, Public Comments, Wild Olympics. Bookmark the permalink.

Topic Question 4: FREE PUBLIC ACCESS TO PUBLIC LAND FOR ALL VESTED AMERICAN CITIZENS THE FULL USE AND ENJOYMENT OF PUBLIC LAND Affordable accommodations for ALL VESTED AMERICAN CITIZENS.

We are VESTED AMERICAN CITIZENS We have an unquestionable right to the possession of property or a privilege. We have an unquestionable RIGHT to the PRIVILEGE of full use and enjoyment of our PUBLIC LAND.

Comments:

Correspondence ID: 75 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Feb,16,2013 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: Untrammeled, undeveloped, and natural wilderness are essential for today and the future.

Topic Question 2: Enjoying the natural beauty and splendor.

Topic Question 3: Neglect. Over development. Misuse.

Topic Question 4: Less is more. Maintain the natural, unfettered, undeveloped, natural aspects to the greatest extent possible. Visitor center and parking can be artfully expanded and blended.

Topic Question 5: This project appears fiscally and environmentally sound, well reasoned, and timely. High quality infrastructure standards must be maintained, preserved, and protected. The mission and goals are needed and achievable. The long-term vision is sound. Success will benefit the park and public appropriately. The entire proposed process steps and scope should be approved and implemented.

Comments: Keep up the good work.

Correspondence ID: 76 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: behindmyback.org Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Feb,16,2013 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 3:

ONP Willful Taking of Public Land Posted on February 16, 2013 8:10 pm by Pearl Rains Hewett Comment

HOW DO I SEE THE OLYMPIC NATIONAL PARK? WILD OLYMPICS? AND WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS? Feb 16, 2013

As a TAKING violation, of the use of Public Land, from 313,914,040 Vested American Citizens.

As a 1937 broken promise from President Franklin D. Roosevelt.

In 1937, President Franklin D. Roosevelt visited Port Angeles to look at the wilderness area proposed for Olympic National

Park.

In The President?s address to the people in Port Angeles in 1937, he said, ?So, you boys and girls, I think you can count on my help in getting that national park, not only because we need it for us old people and you young people, but for a whole lot of young people who are going to come along in the next hundred years of America.?

National Park negotiations continued for the next several months, and the final bill was signed on June 29, 1938, guaranteeing, we the people the full use and enjoyment of the Olympic National Park.

How do I see the Olympic National Park? The Wild Olympics? and the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act?

As a willful attempt, by an appointed US Government agency, done deliberately, especially with the intention of harming somebody or in spite of knowing that it will harm somebody, by nullifying the 1938 INTENT of the Act of Congress that created the Olympic Nation Park for the full use and enjoyment of the public land.

As a gated Wilderness accessible only to the rich and upper middle class. With user access, fees and accommodations affordable only the rich and upper middle class.

Who is being deprived of the full use and enjoyment of the public land?

POOR OR LOW INCOME? 156,957,020 Census shows 1 in 2 people are poor or low-income ? USA Today www.usatoday.com/news/nation/story/2011?low-income/?/1 Dec 15, 2011 ? Many middle-class Americans are dropping below the low-income threshold ?

State of Our Union Feb. 2013 President Obama?s acceptance speech His failure to address, the true state of our union, ?The Unequal, Impoverished State of Our Union? HUNGER AND POVERTY did not go unnoticed.

POPULATION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA www.google.com/publicdata 313,914,040 ? Jul 2012 Source: U.S. Census Bureau

How many Vested American Citizens, entitled to full use and enjoyment of the Olympic National Park are deprived of all use, documented as by being financially disadvantaged and by being poor or low income? Half of the US population? 156,957,020

With WILD OLYMPICS? AND WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS? 313,914,040, all American Citizens will be deprived of the full use and enjoyment and excluded from not only the Olympic National Park, but all National Parks.

Who are these deprived vested American?s? the homeless? hungry? poverty level? unemployed? poor or low income? fixed income? and middle class?

HOMELESS? 636,017

HUNGRY? 49,000,000 EL 14.5 percent of U.S. households?nearly 49 million Americans, including 16.2 million children?struggle to put food on the table.

EMERGENCY FOOD HELP? 37,000,000 One in eight Americans ? 37 million ? received emergency food help last year

POVERTY LEVEL? 44,844,862 One in seven Americans lives in poverty Poverty in America has reached its highest levels in over 50 years.

POOR OR LOW INCOME? 156,957,020 Census shows 1 in 2 people are poor or low-income ? USA Today www.usatoday.com/news/nation/story/2011?low-income/?/1 Dec 15, 2011 ? Many middle-class Americans are dropping below the low-income threshold ?

UNEMPLOYED? 12,300,000 at or near that level since September 2012.

FIXED INCOME 23,000,000 Over 23 million Americans aged 60+ are economically insecure?living at or below 250% of the federal poverty level (FPL) Social Security is providing at least 90% of income to more than one-third of America?s seniors.

Feb. 16, 2013 ?So, you boys and girls,

You folks have been going through a really rough patch for the last few years. It?s unbelievable that 16.2 million American kids

are having hunger issues.

It?s really sad to see families in Port Angeles WA putting up tents and camping in their own back yards with 922 thousand acres of public land, in the Olympic National Park, just a few miles away. The back yard of a 50?150? lot is pretty small for a campsite.

If the Wild Olympic?s and the Wild and Scenic River Act is passed, it will be even worse for you.

I think you can count on NPS/ONP, an appointed federal agency, to deprive you of even more, of your full use and enjoyment of that National Olympic Park,

Not only depriving us old people and you young people,

But, also depriving a whole lot of young people who are going to come along in the next hundred years in the United States of America.?

What issues do I see with Olympic National Park?

Accommodations FOR RICH PEOPLE Olympic National Park Lodging

SOL DUC HOT SPRINGS RESORT The River Suite starting at $375 plus tax (up to 4 people) Non-Kitchen Cabins starting at $146 plus tax (2 people) Kitchen Unit starting at $180 plus tax (2 people) $15 NPS Entrance Fee per vehicle required All room rates based on double occupancy Additional person charge is: $23 per person ages 12 and up $9 per person age 4 ? 11

LAKE QUINAULT LODGE Peak Season Rates $156 ? $309 Low Season Rates $120-$234

LAKE CRESCENT LODGE Historic Lodge Double Occupancy Starting at $120 Storm King Rooms Double Occupancy Starting at $168 Marymere Rooms Double Occupancy Starting at $168 Pyramid Mountain Rooms Double Occupancy Starting at $172 Singer Tavern Cottages ? 1 Room Double Occupancy Starting at $202 Singer Tavern Cottages ? 2 Room Double Occupancy Starting at $222 Roosevelt Fireplace Cottages Double Occupancy Starting at $232

KALALOCH LODGE starting at $132 ? $376 All room rates based on double occupancy additional person charge is $15 per person ages 6 and up

I guess this is what happens, when the true state of our union, ?The Unequal, Impoverished State of Our Union? HUNGER AND POVERTY goes unnoticed by the President of the United States.

This entry was posted in APPOINTED FEDERAL AGENCIES, Public Access to Public land, Wild Olympics. Bookmark the permalink.Edit

Comments:

Correspondence ID: 77 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Feb,17,2013 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 2: a significant part of the experience is the sonic landscape of the park. it is very important to me to not hear human activity when in the olympic nation park wilderness area.

Topic Question 3: airplane and helicopter traffic as well as powered vehicles tend to devalue the experience at best and ruin the trip in the worst situation. I like to listen to nature.

Comments:

Correspondence ID: 78 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Feb,17,2013 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: It4s variety and its calmness.

Topic Question 2: Calmness and the joy of exploring new areas.

Topic Question 3: It4s important that the area is not exposed to too much trafic noises, might it be aerial, or landbased, seawise. Just keep it a silent and calm place for animals and visitors to explore a wonderful area or the earth.

Topic Question 4: The same as now. Maybe some more informative signs here and there.

Topic Question 5: You rock!!

Comments:

Correspondence ID: 79 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: american citizen Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Feb,18,2013 05:36:18
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: 1. i consider quiet - no planes flying overhead as special. peace and quiet is needed somewhere in this nation. 2. no toxic chemicals should be used. i consider leaving a site natural so that the impacts that are not noticed from use of the crap of monsanto, dow, etc. are noted and tdg mohey are not used in this site. 3. no prescribed burning so that mankind, the biggest predator of all time, goes after trees and vegetation and polluting the air to cause sickeness in fellow americnas. 4. real protection for all living mammals, birds, etc from the psycho gun wackos who abound courtesy of the depraved deranged nra and its riches

Topic Question 2: peace and quiet, respect for god's work

Topic Question 3: the impact of greed and money and the evil nature of some to kill what is left of what is natural

Topic Question 4: peace for anim frals, birds, trees - the impact of man should be absent. i think our forest/parks mgt are going too far these days in their make work projects for themselves. let nature work whate er it is working. keep the place quiet

Topic Question 5: keep overflights out of this site. keep it peaceful. keep mankind predators from this site. protect animals and birds froom the nra psycos with guns

Comments:

Correspondence ID: 80 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: Harvard University Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Feb,18,2013 10:58:17
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: It's one of the only quiet places in the world. This is increasingly rare.

Topic Question 2: Hiking. Sleeping. Taking photographs and videos. Enjoying place free from man-made creations, both aural and visual.

Topic Question 3: Like many places, the Olympic National Park is completely gorgeous and protected except when it comes to noise. The airplanes that ruin the solitude and quiet of this special place should be rerouted.

Topic Question 4: I would like to see very little development. I would like to preserve the open space. I would not like to hear airplanes flying overhead every hour.

Comments: Historically, the national park service recognizes that natural quiet (the absence of noise pollution) is a natural resource and it will be managed and protected; however, in practice, the national park service has declared that any noise source above 18,000 feet AGL will be ignored in its effort to manage this, and changed the language of its management goals from "absence of noise" to absence of "significant" noise. This language change has resulted in standards such as absence of air traffic for a few minutes during daylight hours and the absence of air traffic for 15 minutes during nighttime, and only one occurrence of a single hour within a 24 hour period. The noise-free interval at Olympic Wilderness (time between aircraft intrusions) has shrunk from greater than 1hr. prior to 2007 to less than 20 minutes today. We will witness the complete loss of quiet in the next two decades unless something is done.

I believe the standard should be fly-around Olympic Wilderness. Rerouting air traffic around Olympic Wilderness would result in an increase of less than $1 per passenger and in some cases would result in a cost savings.

Correspondence ID: 81 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Feb,18,2013 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: It is beautiful, accessible and diverse. Being able to escape the din of everyday life (including plane / air traffic noise) is incredibly special and important.

Topic Question 2: experiencing nature and the natural diversity of the area. Escaping the city, human noise and construction.

Topic Question 4: Minimal facilities (like at the bottom of the Hoh trail), maintained trails, but certainly not overdone. this area rules for how remote and dense and green it feels.

As I mentioned above, I also love being able to listen to nature and be removed from the overall noise of the city. I REALLY appreciate this project:

http://onesquareinch.org/ (one square inch) and how they address air traffic noise.

Comments:

Correspondence ID: 82 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Feb,18,2013 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: It is a place of peace and quiet that helps restore me for working in a busy, fast-paced world.

Topic Question 2: Hiking, enjoying the beautiful vistas, and sitting in deep silence.

Topic Question 3: Please maintain its beauty and its peace. Minimize wrong use and noise. I've noticed there is noise from loud radios and from aircraft, and it is sometimes deafening. I come to the wilderness to get away from all that, as wilderness is the only place I know that one can do this.

Topic Question 4: Please be sure that it remains peaceful and quiet, and take care in not letting the load of visitors exceed the park's carrying capacity.

Comments:

Correspondence ID: 83 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Feb,18,2013 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: It is the place that I first experienced wilderness. I camped at various locations with my parents and siblings as a child, then began my backpacking and overall wilderness travel experiences around the park. The lands of ONP were integral to my character development.

Topic Question 2: I want to hike and kayak in nearly undisturbed environments. I'd like to pass this legacy on to my children with confidence that they can share experiences of the same kind that I had forty years prior. I want to visit with confidence that the wilderness environment is not polluted--including noise--by industrial and commercial interests.

Topic Question 3: The biggest issue, and obviously the one by which this planning process is centered, is how to balance the demand for recreational opportunities in the park with wilderness preservation. People can not appreciate and support a place that they can not experience and understand. Yet, infrastructure to help the masses experience wilderness would in fact destroy it. The park must find balance between recreation for the masses and substantial untrammeled areas. I don't think it is practical to support a large undisturbed area without lots of nature trails and campgrounds around the perimeter. Access to the heart of wilderness must not be made easy.

Topic Question 4: The same that I saw 20 years ago, or 40 years ago. I am not noting this merely for the legacy to my children that I mentioned in question 2. I think that the park has done a fine job of wilderness management in the past and should continue that dedication.

Topic Question 5: My fear of change in the park is centered more around coastal areas. These seem most vulnerable. It is my hope that the park management will work with tribal leaders, the National Forest Service and private land owners to maintain a natural character within the entire peninsula. How would one feel about shouldering a backpack and setting out for Shi Shi or Third Beach from the casino parking lot? What would a paddling trip on Lake Ozette be like if the east shore were clear cut (again)and filled with summer cabins? I understand that park boundaries exist to control the sprawl of these things, but in coastal areas the physical size of reserved lands are so small as to make no room for an adequate buffer between wilderness development. Cooperation is necessary.

Comments:

Correspondence ID: 84 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933

Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Feb,20,2013 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: The stillness of the forest. There are few places of such beauty, where visual and aural experience intersect.

Topic Question 2: Hiking, meditating, access to "off-the-map" locations where few visitors frequent

Topic Question 3: Noise, over-attendance

Topic Question 4: Less obtrusion on nature, less commercialization, less roads. More nature awareness programs for youth.

Topic Question 5: Olympic National Park is a model in many ways for nature management. What about human management? We think we control things, but so often forget the planet that sustains us. It would be great to see ONP embrace a model beyond that within the economic system that drives so much in this world. Thanks for considering!

Comments:

Correspondence ID: 85 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Feb,21,2013 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: The diversity of wildlife, flora, fauna, geology, and ecosystems make Olympic National park special. The history of nomadic/native Americans(indians)and the stories that have lived on as myths and legends adds to the mystic and magisty of the Olympic National Parks and Washingtons many tribal reservations and tribal parks. The enchantment and charm of the rain forests can give the feel of walking into an ancient fairytale with many species both animals, birds, and plants that are rarely found any where else.

Topic Question 2: Learning from experience wildlife experts, habitat experts,botonists, ornithologists, geologists etc. is very important. Presentations and guided tours from elders and those who have learned from the experts would be enjoyed. Interactive fireside chats, story telling and singing would be fun activities for all ages. Special events honoring not just holidays but the animals and people who have lived here even before Washington became a state, would also be pleasant activities. Many events would encourage pattronage and business donations to the park and could assist volunteers in need of supplies, shirts, hats shoes, etc.

Topic Question 3: Preservation of habitats, protection of wildlife, ecosystem management, and research are issues that many are concened about. The environment should be protected from chemical and geneticly modified plants and fellonous activities such as poaching or bringing weapons into the parks. Keeping the parks safe for responible pattrons,and free for campers willing to volunteer is also important. Observation research is important to ensure wildlife wellness and will interest many age groups.

Topic Question 4: I would like to see designated cooking areas and free fire wood in such areas. Campers could socailize and share food that should not be wasted in designated cooking areas. I would like to see many elders and experts giving presentations and interactive fire side chats and singalongs, as well as more guided tours. More Native American events for many to find a spiritual connection to the wildlife and legends of Olimpic National Parks. I do not like the fee envelopes and believe there should only be a comment box and surveys or questionares.

Topic Question 5: More volunteer opportunies and incintives for volunteering. No matter what socio economic group a person belongs too, volunteering should be rewarded. Vouchers, gift cards, and gas cards should be given if a person is not recieving a tax refund. The volunteer experiences should lead to employment if desired and needed. The friendships and memories made lasting forever and will be vividly inspireing the next generations to appreciate and responsibly enjoy the parks as our nations living treasure.

Comments:

Correspondence ID: 86 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Feb,23,2013 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: I grew up hiking, skiing, and learning about nature there. It is one of the most unique places on the planet and holds some of my fondest childhood memories.

Topic Question 2: Skiing, backpacking, hiking

Topic Question 3: Road access to Hurricane Ridge in the Winter

Topic Question 4: Id love to see 7 day a week road access to Hurricane Ridge in the winter

Comments:

Correspondence ID: 87 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: american citizen Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Feb,24,2013 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: my children and grandchildren deserve to have space kept natural. we dont all like to live with or see concrete all over like nyc or newark nj, which has shown just how bad mankind can make an environment. i want to share this country with wildlife and believe it has a right to life in peaceful ways, protected from gun wacko killers who get their joy from kiling an innocent victim. wildlife is an innocent victim of a psychotic mindset. this is not l860 and we need to ban hunting and trapping totally.

Topic Question 2: seeing living animals living peacefully and flourishing. seeing vegetation the same. want few people milling about and changing nature. do not want employees building endless concrete buildings for their cushy environment. it needs to be focused on nature. you need to be outside when there. not inside.

Topic Question 3: mankind despoiling everyting he touches. the profiteers come in and want to log and burn and change it for their own convenience, comfort and bank account inflation. stop all logging in this area. stop the prescribed burns which pollute the air and kill people with lung cancer, heart attacks, strokes, allergies, asthma and pneumonia.

Topic Question 4: want to see it like it looked in early times. do not want to see logging sites, burned sites, to not want all animals dead, want trees that grow naturally there to be standing. look at how greedy profiteers have even knocked down the redwoods. mankind pollutes everything. it needs to be protected from the biggest predator in the world - mankind. crooked politicians all want to make deals to take and enrich themselves with our national land. that needs full protction. it should get constitutional protection.

Topic Question 5: the locals think they own it. the national taxpayers pay for it. the national taxpayers pay to save it. it is not there for locals to make money on.

Comments: make no "deals" or "partnerships" with locals because the locals always want something. nobody gives for gthe sheer joy of giving and helping anymofe. they come there to see what they can get. stop that entirely.

Correspondence ID: 88 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Feb,24,2013 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: For many years I have wanted to visit Olympic National Park, and finally this summer we have made our reservations for ten days in the region, staying at three different locations during our visit. This will be our first visit to the Olympic Peninsula, although we have visited Seattle several times. One of the big draws to the Olympic Wilderness is the soundscape, both in the rainforest and the beaches, which I have read about and long wanted to hear for myself.

Topic Question 2: Hiking, photography, and reasonable and comfortable accommodations. At this time we neither camp nor backpack overnight.

Topic Question 3: I have an interest in sound recording through which I have learned of the increase in air traffic noise in the park over the last five years. Although I'm sure there are other issues in the park, which we will learn about during our visit, at this time I am most concerned about the preservation of the natural quiet.

Topic Question 5: I encourage the NPS to enhance the natural quiet of the park, to maintain as much as possible a sonic environment free from noise. I specifically support proposals to reroute air traffic around the Olympic Wilderness.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment

Comments:

Correspondence ID: 89 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Feb,25,2013 20:01:46
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: The beautiful scenic beauty compiled with the quiet sounds of nature allow me to experience a remarkable sense of timelessness. I feel almost as if I am discovering the earth as the first inhabitants that came over on Beringia.

Topic Question 2: The vistas, the variety of wild life, and enjoying the serenity uninterrupted by the sounds of man or

machinery.

Topic Question 3: Keeping it pristine, keeping it full of nature's sounds, not man's.

Topic Question 4: I would like to keep it mainly as is, but enhanced by quiet areas, scenic vistas and informational walking trails.

Topic Question 5: It is imperative to preserve and enhance areas in our national parks that acknowledge all the senses...the eyes, the ears, the smells. Do what is necessary to adress all.

Comments:

Correspondence ID: 90 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Feb,26,2013 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: Nature sounds without any interference from cars, bikes, or planes

Topic Question 3: Air noise

Topic Question 4: It to be more wild than it is now;

Comments:

Correspondence ID: 91 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: Friends of One Square Inch Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Feb,27,2013 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: All the different elevations and diversity of landscape. ie. Ocean Beach,Rain Forest, Mountain Peaks. I feel that this Park is special because to date it has been well protected from developement. I like the natural quiet and would like to see every effort to keep it that way.

Topic Question 2: Hiking and listening to the natural soundscape.

Topic Question 3: I am from Alberta ,Canada and Industry is always a threat in this province. Oil and the lumber Industry have a way of getting laws changed and keep getting closer and closer to our Parks. I would like to see every effort made to keep road development and residential tourist development out of the park. I would also like to see all air traffic rerouted around the park to preserve the natural quiet.

Topic Question 4: Twenty years from now I would like to see it very close as it stands today with any changes being caused by natural forces. I would also like to see all air traffic banned from flying over the park to preserve the soundscape.

Topic Question 5: As a tourist it is always nice to have certain comforts to make the experience more pleasant, however with this comes all sorts of developments and facilities which I feel are just not needed. Leave the park as natural as you can. Let the visitors bring in and take out any and everything they will need for the visit.

Comments:

Correspondence ID: 92 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: none Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Feb,28,2013 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: It is lush, remote, diverse and relatively unaffected by neighboring encroachment by humanity. There are not that many places in Washington where one can achieve what one can achieve in ONP.

Topic Question 2: I find the most enjoyment in getting away from roads and all other man made noise pollution. From planes to leaf-blowers, there in no quicker way to ruin a wilderness experience.

Topic Question 3: How about designating ONP as a protected no fly zone.

Topic Question 4: No new roads, fewer two-stroke powered maintenance tools and an even more serene experience.

Comments:

Correspondence ID: 93 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Feb,28,2013 18:48:41
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: Olympic National Park is an incrediby wild habitat of unbelievable beauty. It's coastline, rain forest and stunning mountains are unlike anywhere else on Earth (and in this galaxy...) I frequent this park for the solitude it offers, the opportunity to see wildlife in their natural habitat, to hike, to fish, to relax, to renew my energy.

Topic Question 2: Hiking in peace and solitude through the many beautiful back country woods, through the nature trails,and along it's one of a kind beaches. Fishing too! But it's best to be able to hike in and fish!

Topic Question 3: Encroachment of civilization. I stongly oppose more development in the park. We don't want this park to go the way of Yosemite. The Yosemite valley is horrible. It is unacceptable what has happened there.

We desperately need to make Olympic National Park larger. Much much larger. It is awful that 101 is just a little tiny strip separating our amazing coastline from deforestation. Our wildlife should have a large forest to negotiate to our beaches without having to cross 101.

Topic Question 4: I would like to see spotless beaches. I have been making every effort to pick-up garbage when I am out there. Last summer the beaches were deluged with styrofoam. We need the national guard and the federal government to make an ongoing effort to pick up as much garbage as possbile for the next 20 years. I'm talking helicopters , boats ,whatever it takesthat can lift out dumpsters of garbage. This effort needs to happen not only along the coastline but on the outer islands that host so so much wildlife.

I do NOT want to see a road around the south end of the park. Or any more roads through the park. I cannot stress enough that this park is more unique than other in it's bio diversity and that should be protect at all costs. Frankly, I sih we had had the forsight to reserve the entire peninsula as a park.

The only other suggestion I have is to update the camping facilities. Improve the bathrooms,showers.

Topic Question 5: The Japanes tsunami debris and the Pacific garbage patch are killing the beaches and everything on them. Any plan must include a state and national effort to get rid of this enormous amount of garbage, and encouraging EVERONE that visits the park to take a garbage bag with them to the coast and to hall out trash.

Comments: Olympic National Park is like nowhere else on Earth. We must preserve it's wild nature for our sake and for the sake of future generations.

Correspondence ID: 94 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Mar,01,2013 09:23:45
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: America's greatest and most diverse national park

Topic Question 2: easy access to the primeval forest

Topic Question 3: currently, the issues seem to be about expanding the wilderness areas adjacent to the national park

Topic Question 4: The Dosewallips questions need to be resolved finally. We need to either move foreward with the road rebuild or convert to trail and establish a large, new campground (possibly through annexing a portion of National Forest land)at the current end of the road. I have also expressed in the past a desire to see the old O'Neil Trail route, along the south bank of the N. Fork Skok. (Four Stream to Seven Stream) re-established. Much of this old trail still exists, although very faint and hard to follow, and covered with many blow-downs. I am not proposing that this trail be rebuilt as a major primary route. I am, however, proposing that at least minimal maintainance be performed, mainly the cutting out of blow-downs, so that this route can be navigated as a secondary trail, or even just a way trail. Footlogs over Five Stream and Six Stream would be simple and inexpensive to install, but neccessary, as these streams are dangerous. Seven Stream can be safely waded most of the year. The advantages of this trail are two-fold. First, this trail has great historical significance with regard to the 1890 O'Neil Expedition, and the story of this route can still be found in books by ONP expert Robert Wood. Secondly, the natural scenery rivals any area in ONP, in particular, Five Stream's "Jumbo's Leap", Six Stream's spectacular Honeymoon Falls (this has no connection to Honeymoon Meadows in the upper Dosewallips area), and the hidden canyon of the N. Fork Skokomish, running from just above Four Stream, all the way to Seven Stream. I have seen these places, and they are some of the most scenic in ONP. I believe that much of the trail upgrades could be done by volunteer labor, and I can't imagine why the simple cutting out of blow-downs, or installation of a couple of footlogs should require expensive invironmental impact studies and permit applications or lengthy approval procedures. Incidentally, the trail is well flagged, and has been marked with metal markers which were attached to trees by the Boy Scouts back around 1983.

Topic Question 5: I would like to see Forest Service Road 2451 completely decommisioned above the Lake Cushman causeway. This was built as a forest service logging road, and ONP approval was, unfortunately, obtained to build this road through the southeast corner of ONP. I have spoken with the forest service about this, and they indicated that they will decommission, and convert to trail, only the upper part of this route, alongside Four Stream. They believe that vehicle access on this route is important for hikers heading into the Wonder Mountain Wilderness. Nothing could be further from the truth. With this route converted to trail it would only enhance the wilderness experience for hikers headed that way. The National Forest area that this road goes into has been logged in the past, and could potentially be re-opened for logging--right on the hill above Staircase Rapids (you can still see the damage up there from the N. Fork Trail, near Slide Camp). The area is recovering, with new trees growing, and should never be logged again. I have suggested that this area be included in the Wild Olympics plan, but was told that this is impractical, as it is no longer "wilderness". Well, it's becoming wilderness again, and I believe it should be annexed into ONP, to further protect the area, and to provide an additional, ready-made hiking trail for park users.---Thank You.

Comments:

Correspondence ID: 95 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Mar,01,2013 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: It is the reason we chose to live on Bainbridge Island rather than Seattle. It is nearby but still fairly wild. It has a rare combination of shoreline, mountains and forest. We love the moss and ferns on the west side, and the huge old growth trees. Hopefully it will be the source of water for the returning salmon in the Elwha River, and perhaps other rivers.

Topic Question 2: With our family and friends we have taken overnight hikes and day hikes on three sides of the park. We have rented a rowboat on lake Crescent. We have driven up Hurricane Ridge.

Topic Question 3: We are always disturbed by the large amount of clearcutting in nearby forests. We are disappointed when we hike for hours and can still hear vehicle traffic. We hope that natural predators will be allowed to live there.

Topic Question 4: I would like to be able to hike for a couple of hours and not be greeted with engine noise: logging machinery, snowmobiles, ORVs, vehicles on backroads, jetskis, mountain bikes. I would like to be able to see and hear birds living in old growth forests. I would like short labeled nature trails near existing paved roads.

Topic Question 5: I feel strongly that a natural preserve like the Olympics are not an amusement park for people on vehicles to get their endorphin rushes. They can do that anywhere, and they do not need the quiet. Spending time in an area of nature free from human noise is an important experience to retain and it should be treasured and protected. Even campgrounds should limit the use of radios and tvs. Otherwise we might as well be at home or in a hotel in Forks.

Comments:

Correspondence ID: 96 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Mar,01,2013 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: My first camping experiences were in Olympic National Park, as was my first backpack trip. I saw my first Townsend's warbler and my first ouzel there. Even if I were incapacitated and could not go, knowing that it existed would make my life richer.

Topic Question 2: Hiking, skiing, lack of people, feeling like I'm in "The Sound of Music"

Topic Question 3: Feral species. Over-love!

Topic Question 4: I would like to have the opportunity to go into a wilderness area with few other folks. I would like to be able to climb tall mountains, see beautiful wildflowers and feel at peace. I would like bars to hang food from at wilderness campsites, or bear boxes. I would like to see our national parks used in science to better understand the natural world.

Comments:

Correspondence ID: 97 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Mar,02,2013 10:49:39
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: A chance to be out in God's creation with no phones, noise, intrusions. You can see and hear and feel and smell nature. It is close by, so not a major trip or expense to get there and be able to enjoy it therefor many people can use it. Important for kids to learn about nature. Helps me stay centered and peaceful.

Topic Question 2: Being able to safely hike on established trails and camp in established campsites with out houses. There

should be bridges across water ways. This way I can be in the natural beauty, be safe and not intrude any more than is necessary.

Topic Question 3: It seems that the biggest issue is how far to go to make it human friendly/safe without making it like a city park. Bottom line though - if people can't get to it to see and enjoy, they are not going to support it with money. If we cannot use it, why have it.

Topic Question 4: Need to have a place to get information about what is there and how to safely/correctly get to it and enjoy it. Need maintained trails/access to the area and in the area. Need designated camping/hiking areas and trails. Signs that show where you are on the trail and how far to next campsite or trail.

Topic Question 5: Please remember "if no one can use it, why have it." No, I don't want to intrude on the wild life and destroy the ecosystems, but we need to be able to access this area. I would even go for quotas for access as long as we can get in there and enjoy it.

Comments:

Correspondence ID: 98 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Mar,03,2013 07:40:46
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: I haven't visited Olympic National Park yet, however it is on of the most preserved natural areas in the US, and it is mandatory that we keep it as natural as possible. Parks like ONP are crucial to our future because they are like huge books of knowledge that we as a race can benefit from.

Topic Question 2: When I visit any wilderness area, the most important thing for me is being able to isolate myself from the outside world, which is very hard to do in most wilderness areas due to many factors including noise and light pollution, as well as indicators of human presence (garbage, partially burnt wood, food scraps, etc). I think if we are able to isolate ourselves and be in nature, we can learn from nature much more effectively, and that's the most important thing.

Topic Question 3: I think that the problem with most parks is that humans don't fully comprehend how to use the area without effecting it. It's not always intentional, however even just a walk through a forest can degrade and hurt it, if you aren't careful. Sometimes it is intentional, and people mis-use the area by not disposing of garbage and waste properly, or harming the area for their own benefit. Education is really the only way to avoid mis-use.

Topic Question 4: I hope in 20 years, the park looks like humans never stepped foot in it. I hope we are able to protect and preserve the area to help it expand, grow, and prosper.

Comments: I've spent a lot of time in many different natural and wilderness areas across the country, and I have to say that my biggest concern is that our society generates so much noise that interferes with nature. In almost every place I have been, the distant rumble of a highway or the plane passing overhead has severely impacted the way I view nature. It is now nearly impossible to find places that are completely devoid of human presence, or indicators of human presence. Not only does this effect our interaction with nature, more importantly it effects nature in a negative way. I think it is beyond important to preserve the natural sound of the wilderness, and try to make a conscious effort to prevent noise pollution from entering these natural areas. Sounds can tell us so much about nature, and as an audio engineer and environmentalist, I find this fight against noise pollution a crucial battle within our parks system, both state and national, because when nature is speaking, we have to listen and learn from it, instead of talking over it.

Correspondence ID: 99 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Mar,03,2013 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: I haven't visited Olympic National Park yet, however it is on of the most preserved natural areas in the US, and it is mandatory that we keep it as natural as possible. Parks like ONP are crucial to our future because they are like huge books of knowledge that we as a race can benefit from.

Topic Question 2: When I visit any wilderness area, the most important thing for me is being able to isolate myself from the outside world, which is very hard to do in most wilderness areas due to many factors including noise and light pollution, as well as indicators of human presence (garbage, partially burnt wood, food scraps, etc). I think if we are able to isolate ourselves and be in nature, we can learn from nature much more effectively, and that's the most important thing.

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preserve the area to help it expand, grow, and prosper.

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Correspondence ID: 100 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: Olympic Park Associates Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Mar,03,2013 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: Many years of exploring its unique wilderness--coast, mountain, valley. Much flora and fauna are unique to the Olympics. Long ago, when my daughter was conceived on a cross country trek through the Olympics, I petitioned the WA State Board of Geographic Names to name the unnamed meadow/lake location. The Superintendant of ONP wrote me, explained he was opposing this action in order not to attract excessive visitation to pleasantly named features. I happily withdrew the application. My daughter's middle name is "Meadow."

Topic Question 2: Experiencing quietness, wildlife. Backpacking, day hiking and climbing, nature study, meditation, writing.

Topic Question 3: Overuse, some residual extractive industry competition, motorized access, perception of Big Government control of land.

Topic Question 4: Tasteful interpretive centers, maintenance of most existing trails, and leave the rest alone. We have so little left.

Topic Question 5: I love this place. Please do your best to do it right. Thanks

Comments:

Correspondence ID: 101 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: Sierra Club - National Park and Monuments Committee Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Mar,03,2013 21:32:01
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: I experienced the rare natural quiet of this area and confirmed that at the "One Square Inch" site (designated by sound recordist Gordon Hempton) there was a 90-minute uninterrupted stretch of pristine natural quiet, unmarred by the audible sound of aircraft at any altitude.

That is extraordinarily difficult to have in the Grand Canyon National Park, near my home. So sad. But Olympic can give us all home with a high quality Wilderness Stewardship that anticipates the need for the highest quality natural soundscape throughout the Wilderness.

Topic Question 2: Experiencing complete, extended, natural quiet throughout, contemplative recreation, hiking, camping.

Topic Question 3: Natural Soundscape Protection ("One Square Inch of Silence") is Issue #1, owing to the herculean advance work done by Gordon Hempton. Hempton is correct, that commercial jet and other general aviation or tour aircraft can be routed around this "One Square Inch" site, quite easily, so as to have zero (0) motor noise there, and corresponding noise reductions in a wide radius around it.

Topic Question 4: Unimpaired, unmarred *natural quiet*. No motor noise from aircraft at any altitude.

See current Yellowstone Winter Use DSEIS for more useful information and metrics, particularly Per Cent Time Audible, and Average Sound Level (Audible) = "Leq audible"

Use both of these indicators in setting standards for no noise.

Comments:

Correspondence ID: 102 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Mar,03,2013 21:37:02

Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: It's proximity to where I live, and its accessability. The ski area at Hurricane Ridge is very important to me -- I was introduced to winter wilderness when my parents took me Cross Country skiing as a child, now I've continued the tradition with my kids, who both ski and snowboard at Hurricane Ridge.

Also, Lake Cresent is a very special place, and again, it's because of how accessible it is. I grew up here, and have spent time on the lake at public beaches and private cabins. Every time I drive the lake and see the pullouts packed with visitors from all over the world, I smile. It's a special lake, and I love it when others can easily discover the magic that I grew up with.

Topic Question 2: 6 am dawn patrol water skiing on Lake Crescent. Downhill skiing with my family at Hurricane Ridge in the winter. Digging for razor clams on Kalaloch Beach as a storm blows on shore, then frying and eating them at my campsite that night. Backpacking the coast and spending the night in the soft sand between massive grey driftwood logs.

Topic Question 3: The steady erosion of access for the public is a huge issue. I grew up here, in a poor family, and we were able to go to the Ridge and Sol Duc anytime we wanted. Now there's an entrance fee. I doubt we would have been able to go to ONP if we had to pay 30 dollars year for a pass when I was a kid.

I firmly believe access for all makes for better people, and better parks.

"The establishment of the National Park Service is justified by considerations of good administration, of the value of natural beauty as a National asset, and of the effectiveness of outdoor life and recreation in the production of good citizenship." --Teddy Roosevelt

Topic Question 4: I would like to see year-round access to Hurricane Ridge. New life at Log Cabin Resort, so future generations can make that place a family tradition. I'd like to see backcountry cabins that were built decades ago left in place -- they're a part of the park's history. And how about rangers leading folks further into the wilderness than the 2:00 snowshoe walk at Hurricane Ridge? Ranger led overnight trips would go a long way towards getting people into the wilderness...

Oh, and I hope the gunboat that ONP has on Lake Crescent is gone 20 years from now. It's ridiculous, intimidating, and unnecessary. I find its incongruity highly ironic.

Comments:

Correspondence ID: 103 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: BCHW Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Mar,04,2013 16:01:13
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: The wild and beautiful scenery and access ///////plus the quality of your staff

Topic Question 2: Stock access to trails

Topic Question 3: i have no problem with how the wilderness is managed to date!

Topic Question 4: I would like to see more of the originial 1,100 miles of stock trails reopended instead of jsut 600 miles of trails now in existentse and of that only a few open to stock.

Topic Question 5: please see below.....

Comments: i do not want the chainsaws or any other required motorized tooling remove from our wilderness.....it will raise the risks to trail crew and limit the access to the park for all users.....to open up our trails with hand tools will require many more members to trail crew to accomplish this.....in a time of srinkling budgets these is not a wise choice.....it is like, plain and simple closing the gates on the park at the 5 mile nmark.....

I think it is wise to allow lnt practicing commercial stock packers in the park.....the taxpaying public is ageing rapidly and this is at times the only way the will be able to visit their old and deeply loved haunts.

Correspondence ID: 104 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Mar,04,2013 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: It provides an area where I can view and commune nature. As such I think we as a nation should care for it and make it as self sustaining as possible. I believe that by applying the "Permaculure" ideology to this project, we can create an environment with abundant food reserves for our wildlife and plant life. This will create an abundant natural reserve that, if well managed, can provide employment and resources to the area. Please search permaculture on YouTube, best of wishes and good luck

Topic Question 2: I enjoy tasting edible plants when I've been hiking up a trail and I stop for a rest. I like to see the animals eating food frm Maureen and not being fed junk food from tourists. I like soaking my feet in a clear stream to cool myself off or swimming in a lake or pond on hot summer days. Talking with friends on rocks beside streams.

Topic Question 3: Providing a sustainable forest that provides food for the plant and wildlife and perpetuate these resources with little help frm people once it is established. That is not to say that the area should not have oversight but that it could maintain itself and the people who visit it.

Topic Question 4: Rangers or guide educating people on how to duplicate that wilderness in their own backyards and community parks.

Topic Question 5: Proving and abundance of food for plants and wildlife will leave an abundance for us should we ever be in need. Isn't it better to plan it and not need it than to need it and never planned for it?

Comments:

Correspondence ID: 105 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: Green Planet Zipline Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Mar,05,2013 10:13:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: Wildlife depends on wilderness for its survival.

Topic Question 2: Pristine habitat.

Topic Question 3: Sustainability

Topic Question 4: A Gondola from the Port Angeles Harbor to Hurricane Ridge with a midway point at the (DNR foothills) outside the park. This would reduce the carbon footprint of the ONP and help create a sustainable local environmentally friendly economy for decades to come.

Topic Question 5: Initial GPS for a 10.6 mile 2 stage tram alignment has been completed by our company. Phase 1 is a 4.3 mile Gondola to the foothills. Phase 2 could be a 6.5 mile Gondola from the foothills to Hurricane ridge parking lot. Total ride time to the foothills 17 minutes. Foothills to the ridge 26 minutes. Total ride time harbor to the ridge 43 minutes. Positives include no pollution and small footprint while creating a new ecotourism destination attraction promoting environmental stewardship programs outside and inside the park.

This plan would reduce ONP cost of operation while providing new revenue streams.

Comments: We have investors that will fund the entire 8 million per mile Gondola development phase if supported by authorities.

Correspondence ID: 106 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Mar,07,2013 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: I have never visited ONP but hope to one day soon. I have fallen in love with the area through Ross Hamilton's beautiful photographs and Gordon Hempton's nature recordings.

Topic Question 2: When I do visit, I want to be able to walk the trails and see the wildlife up close. I want to be able to sit by the water and listen to the birds. I want to really be able to let go and enjoy my surroundings.

Topic Question 3: I have become aware of how disturbing the noise from air traffic is to the wildlife. It effects their breeding and nesting patterns. I am disturbed by this in my own area while trying to enjoy a quiet spot by the river. I don't want to spend a lot of time and money traveling to a place that is going to be just as noisy as my own backyard.

Topic Question 4: I would love to see ONP as well as other National Parks be no fly zones. I would like to see commercial flights as well as flight tours banned. When I'm in the park I want to be able to enjoy the natural sounds of my surroundings. We live in such a noisy, busy world we all need places to escape to.

Comments:

Correspondence ID: 107 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933

Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Mar,07,2013 12:19:51
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: I most appreciate the unique, unbounded wilderness. Even though I usually only visit the edge of the wilderness I love that such an awesome landscape remains a wilderness. This park is not a playground for people. We have visited many of the National Parks and appreciate that the ONP has not become a "Disneyland" like parks such as Zion, Yosemite, Arches, etc.

Topic Question 2: Camping and hiking are our favorite activities. Although I would not want the campgrounds extended or additonal trails added. I also enjoy the educational programs at the visitor centers but would limit expansions to the current low land properties.

Topic Question 3: It's a huge challenge for the ONP to meet the intent of the 1964 Wilderness Act and keep the Park as "an area where the earth and it's community of life are untrammeled by man.." The ONP is a unique lab for studying and observing a one-of-a-kind temperate rainforest. It's protection should take precedence over "cultural resources" and "other features of value".

Topic Question 4: I would like to see a shuttle service similar to those in other national parks (especially Glacier). I think motorized vehicles should not be allowed beyond the lowland campgrounds.

I should hope that within 20 years the local towns will finally recognize the importance of the ONP to the local economies.

Topic Question 5: Studies should be conducted to preserve the park ecosystem threatened by global warming and polution - both local and due to global drift. I want to see more restrictions regarding use of private and Park air and ground vehicles in the wilderness area. Livestock should be kept off the higher elevation trails. Eliminate unecessary structures such as sheds, chalets, hunting cabins, etc.

Comments: There seems to be a great need for more of the budget relegated to law enforcement to discourage mis-use of the campgrounds and trails, poaching, and illegal harvesting of natural resources.

Correspondence ID: 108 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Mar,08,2013 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: The wilderness area is special specifically because it is designated wilderness. It's wilderness character (untrammeled, natural, undeveloped, a place for solitude and it's access to primitive recreation that's not disturbed by motorized recreation) is a true gem for our country. We're fortunate to have it, even if we never go to it ourselves. To me, I feel a sense of pride knowing that we have protected this incredible area from development and habitat-degrading human activities.

Topic Question 2: The activities and experiences most important to me are those that allow people to experience the wild, in its own terms. The wilderness area is a place of solitude, a place where we can go and find something special within ourselves. And so the activities that are most important to me are those that encourage people to experience the wild, and find something within themselves that they never knew existed before.

Habitat restoration efforts, including species re-introduction efforts, are also most important to me. I strongly support the reintroduction of the fisher to this area.

Topic Question 3: I think the main issues are the differences in opinion about what we should do with this area. I feel it's important to balance the strong voices of local residents who may feel their opinions about the future of the area should hold more weight than those who may not live nearby, may be a significant issue if they are proposing activities that are not in alignment with upholding and strengthening this area's wilderness character.

Topic Question 4: I want to see degraded areas restored, and trails maintained so they don't cause erosion. As far as facilities, having a nice educational center that helps people connect with this special place, would be good.

Topic Question 5: In your stewardship plan, please include a section of the plan that specifically identifies and prioritizes partnering with non-profit organizations, businesses and private outfitters to encourage practices that care for the wilderness area. Please continue to allow these organizations to lead group excursions to the area, as wilderness excursions can be important moments in people's lives; moments of healing, insight and meaning. Please help foster a strong connection between people and this incredible land. It's these moments, that each individual must have on their own, which will foster our next generation's interest in continuing to preserve the wilderness area's legacy.

Comments:

Correspondence ID: 109 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Mar,09,2013 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: Being able to be in nature and away from the ugliness of modern life. Getting away from hordes of people, I can hike and see only a few people, and those I do see also care about nature and the environment (generally). Saving one of the most beautiful places in the world for our enjoyment.

And perhaps most importantly: quiet!! Being able to listen to nature without the sounds of modern life is so valuable. It is almost impossible to get away from the sounds of cars and lawnmowers and construction, it is so nice to be able to listen to just the sounds of nature.

Topic Question 2: Enjoying the views, going on both short and long hikes in the summer, snowshoeing in the winter, picnicking with friends. Enjoying the peace and quiet.

Topic Question 3: overcrowding on some days; it might be good to limit the number of people who can go in at one time? But otherwise, it seems to be an incredibly well run park - thank you!

Topic Question 4: Not much different from now! I'd hope that we could preserve the environment, keep man-made intrusions into the park as minimal as possible, and keep the peace and quiet.

Topic Question 5: I love Olympic National Park! It's so beautiful. I'm so glad I have access to this amazing park.

Comments:

Correspondence ID: 110 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: None Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Mar,09,2013 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: I've been exploring the Olympics back country for the past roughly 25 years. Have hiked nearly all of the maintained and many of the non-maintained or abandoned trails in the Bob Woods book. Why special? First, I can get to ancient forests, snowy ridges, or wild rivers in a few hours from my house. Nowhere else in the U.S. does such a treasure exist as close to a major metropolitan area. Yet the back country is relatively lightly used. I'm often alone!

Topic Question 2: Being able to enjoy unspoiled terrain, totally or nearly totally unaffected by man. Quiet and solitude in a natural setting. Exploring off-trail areas. Camping in the high meadows. Picking my way up the steep ridges. Fly fishing (barbless, catch and release only!) in the lakes and streams.

Topic Question 3: Some areas get a little too much traffic, like the Royal Basin, Seven Lakes Basin, the Hoh trail, and so forth. That is probably inevitable, but some gentle efforts to limit use are appropriate. Goats have become a bit troublesome. We were actually hassled by goats in the Lake of the Angels area a couple years ago. (One stole an ice axe in the night.?) Management decisions on neighboring private, state, and Forest Service lands are critical to the overall health of the Olympics wilderness. The ONF does a relatively good job, but the state rules allow much too much clearcut logging.

Topic Question 4: Keep things as they are, by and large. ONP staff seem professional and mature; they tread pretty lightly, in terms of regulation and policing in the back country, and that is how it should be. As far as wilderness goes, we don't need additional visitor services or additional facilities -- except one. I know it is controversial, but you really should rebuild the Dosewallips road. By making the Dose area strictly a long-term hiking proposition (and a 5.5 mile walk on an old road), you are over-saturating other areas, like the Dungeness. The Dose road used to provide access, even on a day-hike basis, to some of the most spectacular back country in the Park. Now one needs several days and a heavy pack. For my generation and the generations to come, and for visitors of varying abilities, you need the road. Olympics wilderness management is a balancing act, as you well know -- protecting the fragile lands while providing opportunities for people to actually enjoy them. I don't advocate for any other roads; the Dose is special.

Topic Question 5: For the most part, it is hard to improve the Olympics. Every time we travel there, we marvel at how lucky we are. Please keep up your excellent public service.

Comments:

Correspondence ID: 111 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Mar,09,2013 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: The Olympic National Park wilderness area is special to me as a place where I can go to escape the noise and busyness of my everyday life. I go and feel rejuvenated by the birds, the plants, the sense that this area has looked/sounded/felt the way I am experiencing it for hundreds of years. I want to experience a natural quiet.

Topic Question 2: I am a hiker. My teenage son and I, while we may struggle at home, are able to go to the Olympic wilderness

area and enjoy the surroundings and each other's company. We both love to get our hiking boots on and explore.

Topic Question 3: I think it is important to maintain an absence of noise pollution, as that is central to the wilderness experience.

Topic Question 4: I love the park ranger stations, and would like for there presence to continue. I don't think there is a need for more facilities - it would break my heart to see restaurants or other amenities. Part of what I find so striking aobut the park, as I've said before, is the fact that the area has remained largely unchanged in hundreds of years. I'd like that to continue.

I am disturbed by the lack of knowledge some visitors display by feeding goats, etc. I've been happy to see rangers there monitoring and encouraging appropriate interaction with nature (i.e. look with your eyes).

I would love to see more ranger-led hikes, I suppose, as there is so much natural history/biology that I don't know!

Comments:

Correspondence ID: 112 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: YMCA Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Mar,11,2013 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: The beauty and ruggedness of the olympics stays with me long after I leave. For the youth groups I bring there it is an accessible and inviting landscape. The Olympic coast and many of the river valleys are exceptional for youth adventures and groups. Also, with the current lack of access to National Forest lands for youth groups due to the outfitter guide backlog Olympic National Park is one of the only places we are allowed to take groups to visit wilderness.

Topic Question 2: Back country use. Backpacking, mountaineering.

Topic Question 3: Many campsites are too small for a group of 12 thus making backpacking itineraries challenging for youth groups. Since we cant get access to Olympic National Forest due to the requirement that educational non profits have outfitter guide permits many trails in ONP wilderness areas are inaccessible.

Topic Question 4: More designated campsites, less social trails in popular areas, same amount of off trail use as today. Greater amount of on-trail use, especially by low-income and urban populations.

Topic Question 5: Olympic National Park is one of our favorite destinations and does an exceptional job working with non-profits and educators. I am a fan.

Comments:

Correspondence ID: 113 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Mar,11,2013 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: The very fact that we have so very little "wilderness" remaining is unsettling. To look down on Washington State from a satellite shows how we have raped and pillaged to the extend of extinction for so many flora and fauna, many of which we probably will never even know they existed. With so little left of this natural wonder it is imperitive to set aside the entire Olympic National Park for "wilderness".

Topic Question 2: Nature hiking, birdwatching.

Topic Question 3: Political pressure to open areas up for "selective" logging, making these areas vulnerable to invasive species and hotter, dryer climates due to improperly managed relative densities while not predicting future global climactic threats. The threat of being "loved to death" by the public.

Topic Question 4: I would hope that like Yosemite there would be shuttles and trams to take the thousands of visitors in and out of the park. No public cars allowed. Leave it WILD not paved.

Topic Question 5: Base all decisions on SCIENCE, not political rhetoric or coercian. If your decisions are not based on extending the existance of these endangered and threatened species then it is NOT the right decision. We humans have devoured 96% of the land, not one more acre should we give up to development.

Comments: WE NEED MORE WILDERNESS!!!

Correspondence ID: 114 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933

Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Mar,11,2013 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: I live near ONP and I feel very fortunate to be so close. I hike the trails in ONP and the US Forest Wilderness areas all year long. I love that it is wild and relatively free of mechanical sounds. When I venture into the Olympics, I leave the modern world, schedules and stress behind. The Olympics are unique in that it is a circle of mountains (as opposed to the chain form of the Cascades). The farther one hikes in, the more one sheds our modern world. Whether alone or in company of a friend, the journey is a route inward to the heart of the mountains and the core of my soul. Our modern world presses always and ever more into the last remnants of the wild. Please protect this vanishing resource.

Topic Question 2: 1) hiking @ all ONP trails but especially the alpine areas, the river trails and the ocean 2) cross county skiing & snowshoeing @ Hurricane Ridge & Mount Townsend area 3) relaxation on the ocean @ Shi Shi & Rialto, LaPush 4) sketching & painting wildflowers 5) swimming @ Crescent Lake Solduc, Lake Ozetter & the ocean 6) mountain biking on the Spruce RR trail & the Olympic Discovery Trail 7) camping at Solduc campground (hiking & hot baths) & cam[ing at the old Elkhorn campground on the Dosewallips 8) kayaking/canoeing & Crescent Lake & Lake Ozette

Topic Question 3: 1) I am concerned that the mountain goats are wiping out the wildflowers in the alpine country. I wrote in about this concern. I don't know what the answer is but the goats are an introduced species and they are munching 24/7 on the native plants.

2) As more people use the back country, I think education is very important. I think it is great, for example, that Second Beach at LaPush is so accessible for beginner hikers. However last year, when camping there with some teen girls, our tent stakes struck shallowly buried human feces. On the same trip we encountered human feces on the beach near the stream where we went to pump drinking water. It seems that there should be clearly stated etiquette at popular trail head like this. Or maybe a handout when people get their permits.

Topic Question 4: I feel that ONP does a great job educating the average campground visitor. The center in Port Angeles is very informative and visitors I have brought there love it.

When I visit the park, I make a point of getting in a mile as quickly as possible to avoid this crowd. I hope in 20 years there will still be places where you see only a few other hardy souls. Places where there are no radios, car engines, generators, ipods & iPads, chainsaws, jet skis, motorboats, motorcycles, snowmobiles, leaf blowers or any other noisy human inventions.

Topic Question 5: Keep the center of ONP wild and quiet of mechanical sounds.

No resource extraction in ONP and surrounding wilderness areas.

Comments:

Correspondence ID: 115 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Mar,13,2013 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: Wilderness areas that we can explore on foot and on horseback with well maintained trails.

Topic Question 2: Trail/lookout/waterfall signage; access to same. Horseback trails.

Topic Question 3: Managing wildlife/people; maintenance; costs/expenses.

Topic Question 4: I would like the children of today to have the same experiences we have now.

Comments:

Correspondence ID: 116 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: Friends Of Lake Ozette Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Mar,13,2013 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: ONP is how the Peninsula used to be before people ruined it. If we are to have even a amall hope of survival as a species (to say nothing of us as a "civilization"),we must preserve and protect our natural systems and all they support.

Topic Question 2: To tread lightly and do no long-term harm - and hope others do the same.

Topic Question 3: Not just to preserve and protect what is there, but to assist in the growth and preservation of existing natural systems and even the return of some of those which have been unwisely utilized - too much, too soon. This would include both

plant and animal species together with their habitat (s).

Topic Question 4: ONP is a very popular destination retreat or attraction. This puts it at real risk of being "loved to death". Obviously this puts use and the tourist benefits so cherished by local businesses at odds with protection and preservation. If we assume use will continue to grow, some guidelines must be in place to insure the least harm is done to natural systems while allowing use by all those who wish to renew their spirit by the great outdoors. This could take to wisdom of Solomon and the patience of Job to balance these clearly conflicting values.

Topic Question 5: I am an inholder in ONP. Where we live (Ozette) is NOT wilderness (defined as untouched by human hands or activities) but rather semi-wilderness. We have something no other visitor to ONP has - the rights guaranteed us by the Warranty Deed which transfered ownership to us at the time we recorded it for the Public Record. We are there because we love the area, not because, as has happened so often in the past, the natural systems are exploited for quick profits by those who also claim some interest in the land and those systems. Sometimes in an effort to preserve and protect (the NPS credo), inholders are confused with those who seek the quick profits and even thrown under the same blanket when rules are made. Inholders are actually the first line of defense for those Natural Systems because they are there the most and their interest is paid for by them, not a conglomerate of taxpayers. This alone should prove our care and concern in maintaining things as they are. At Ozette inholders can counted in the dozens in a season - in the same season, ONP visitors can be numbered in the millions. I ask you this in that light - WHO has the most impact on Natural Systems at Ozette?

Comments: Stop flooding the waterfront inholders at Lake Ozette - it is counter-productive to long term good relations between inholders with very specific and highly defined legal rights to their properties and ONP. It is also causing long-term and serious harm to natural systems at and within the lake basin and is NOT helpful in fisheries recovery or new habitat development. If you do not believe me, look for yourself along the northeast shoreline of Umbrella Bay and witness the death and dying of the old-growth Spruce (mainly) forest there by the unnaturally high water levels. This is also true along the drainage of the Ozette River, where several hundred year old trees are also dead or dying by this stupid and misguided policy - a policy which is certain to cause legal action against the NPS in time.

Correspondence ID: 117 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Mar,14,2013 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: Being able to get out into the Mountains and away from the crowds has always been important to me. My most memorable times have been spent deep in the woods, without a tent(if possible) under the stars or deep in the middle of a snow field with not a soul around...So many scenarios I could give, but my heart is in the mountains. It is my church, its where I get my peace. I would not choose to live some where else as I feel our Park is unique with all that is has too offer.

Topic Question 2: I Hike, snowboard, snowshoe, and ski. I have a have 4 boys ages 11 - 1. I take them in the mountains as much as possible. My older children learned to ski up there and now snowboard at the winter sports park. My baby is carried every where on my back. Snowshoeing and even snowboarding with me. I do not own a television as I feel it wastes the time I could spend out doors in our mountains. My most important experiences where when i had my new born son, I was able to go up to the ridge any day of the week. I would call the report and as long as it was not stormy, we would snow shoe for hours starting when he was a week old. My most cherished place was the water hole cabin. I went out there any time of year. But my most favorite time was winter. I was able to get away from the crowds that used the ski park. I enjoyed it more than going to a large ski resort such as stevens or Baker. I could ski four miles out. Stay in the hut if it was not crowded (but prepare otherwise) as stay the night. Most times I would go on from there the next day and camp out at Obstruction point area and ski the bowls there. But it was always nice having that beautiful cabin within a few miles reach. I was planning on taking my baby out there this winter. I would allow me to still get out some what in the back country with a new child and have a decent shelter....dont get me wrong, I am equipped to stay in a tent, but the shelter afforded so much more of a luxury for a young family and now its gone

Topic Question 3: Closing the road to only 3 day access in the winter...WRONG! The tubing area only for 8 and under ! Taking out the water hole cabin. Outraged so many, did not inform the public and lost our trust

Topic Question 4: I want to be able to go to the ridge any day of the week. I would love for there to be a hut or two from Obstruction point road out to Deer Park for us back country skiers. I would love the road to Blue Mountain to be open again and plowed to that last gate like it used to be.

Comments:

Correspondence ID: 118 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Mar,15,2013 08:30:44
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: I grew up in Port Angeles where I had easy access to some of the best hiking and skiing in the state. Hurricane Ridge is PNW tradition, some of my fondest memories skiing are at 'the Ridge'. Memories.

Topic Question 2: I love to snow shoe and ski up at Hurricane Ridge in the winter. I love to run and hike up there in the Summer.

Topic Question 3: Access. Hurricane Ridge needs to be kept maintained and kept open to the public year round.

Topic Question 4: Snow shoeing and skiing at Hurricane Ridge.

Comments:

Correspondence ID: 119 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Mar,15,2013 10:31:34
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: Being able to get away from the crowd is very important after a hecktic week at work, a huge stress reliever. So many wonderful trails to hike and a beautiful area in my backyard is priceless.

Topic Question 2: Once again, getting away from the crowds by hiking and Cross country skiing. I especially enjoy the winter activities up there. I love the fact that families can take there entire family up to ski or snowshoe. And if I want to get away from "people" I can hike out and rarely see anyone. Specially when I could go visit the waterhole hut.

Topic Question 3: ACCESS ! I often want to go up on my day off which is wednesday and tuesday. I am not able to visit the park in the winter since it has been closed during weekdays and that was how i would relieve my stress on my time off. I have to travel further such to get that now such as Baker wilderness. I am also hugely dissapointed that the Waterhole cabin was removed and I still have not heard why or a response from the park on that one ?? I want 7 day access if I had my wish !

Topic Question 4: Seven day access to the ridge cause that is where I want to take my grandchildren! Sledding for all. Backcountry ski huts. Maybe a restuarant in the upstairs of the lodge like back when I was younger !

Topic Question 5: Very happy you are taking comments from the public to help create the wilderness plan

Comments:

Correspondence ID: 120 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Mar,15,2013 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: When I moved here for school and had no friends yet, I took the time to explore the many trails here and in doing so was able to meet others with my same interest. Trail running and snowshoeing helped to relive the stress from school and work due to the natural beauty and breathtaking views while in our mountians.

Topic Question 2: Snowshowing, skiing, hiking, trail running, camping. The Waterhole hut was a place I felt was safe to go to by myself, a safe haven of sorts. My favorite memories were made there !

Topic Question 3: I am amazed and still in shock about the removal of that Waterhole cabin "hut". I feel like I am losing trust more and more in the park since I moved here. I have learned thru many people around here about the ongoing issues like this and also that access was moved to only three days a week. WHY??

Topic Question 4: I want the gate to be removed going up to Hurricane ridge if it was up to me. I would like there to be a permanent sign that says Hurricane Ridge OPEN! I want the Waterhole cabin to be replaced so that I can ski out and stay like I used to, and to be able to experience that with my future family. Maybe even more BC huts, cause every where else in this world, Back country skiing is an important way of life, That vision seems to not be shared with the rangers here. I would like to see that changed.

Topic Question 5: Open the road...Pretty Please !

Comments:

Correspondence ID: 121 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Mar,15,2013 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: When I moved here for school and had no friends yet, I took the time to explore the many trails here and in doing so was able to meet others with my same interest. Trail running and snowshoeing helped to relive the stress from school and work due to the natural beauty and breathtaking views while in our mountians.

Topic Question 2: Snowshowing, skiing, hiking, trail running, camping. The Waterhole hut was a place I felt was safe to go to

by myself, a safe haven of sorts. My favorite memories were made there !

Topic Question 3: I am amazed and still in shock about the removal of that Waterhole cabin "hut". I feel like I am losing trust more and more in the park since I moved here. I have learned thru many people around here about the ongoing issues like this and also that access was moved to only three days a week. WHY??

Topic Question 4: I want the gate to be removed going up to Hurricane ridge if it was up to me. I would like there to be a permanent sign that says Hurricane Ridge OPEN! I want the Waterhole cabin to be replaced so that I can ski out and stay like I used to, and to be able to experience that with my future family. Maybe even more BC huts, cause every where else in this world, Back country skiing is an important way of life, That vision seems to not be shared with the rangers here. I would like to see that changed.

Topic Question 5: Open the road...Pretty Please !

Comments:

Correspondence ID: 122 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Mar,15,2013 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: The pristine wilderness and rainforest, its unlike any other place I have been or laid eyes on.

Topic Question 2: Snowshoeing, hiking, trail running, camping, hot springs, A better dining experience at the lodge such as a restuarant upstairs. Exploring.

Topic Question 3: Not having 7 day access to the Ridge has a huge impact on my visits now, I am never sure if it might be open on even the weekends now, plowing seems to be so iffy. I used to come over there much more when I was sure that the ridge would be open. It was worth the long travel cause I love the back country skiing over there. Now most my trips are spent closer to home. It is very unfortunate because it was my favorite place to spend the weekend with my friends. I also wonder what happened to the Waterhole cabin that I have so memories in. Where did it go.....what happened. It was there for 45 years, It is missing and leaves a large hole in my heart. Put it back, no put in more. I believe that it was in a non wilderness area any way. This is hugely important to me and am still upset highly with its removal and dissapointed in ONP management lately !!

Topic Question 4: Road Access in the winter !!! Open the Road, I want to know that if I make my trips back there again that I dont get there and have to be turned around by a shut gate AGAIN! I would love to see the guy that shuttles people up to the top in the winter be allowed to go thru the gate. We already have issues with parking, he just wants to help out the situation. Watching him wait with the rest of us just tans my hide ! Put our hut back up as well !

Topic Question 5: Thank you for taking comments on this very important issue !

Comments:

Correspondence ID: 123 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Mar,15,2013 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: I grew up with the Olympics as my back yard. My family took me into the park all of my life and I feel like it is a part of who I am. My most beloved memories are spent going up to the hot Springs, both Olympic and Sol Duc and camping up in the Seven Lakes Basin Area in the summer time and in the winter, skiing up at the ridge or hiking out towards Hurricane Hill or the other way, out to Obstruction Point where we would XC ski. Ofter staying the first night at the Snotell and then the next night out at Obstruction point. I lost a piece of my heart when that hut was removed I believe around last October. I was hoping to camp again out there. I will still go out, but the experience is not the same. Our mountians are very special, the views are incredible and I am lucky to live in a place where I can go from ocean to mountain in 30 mins.

Topic Question 2: Camping is top priority. The Waterhole snotell of coarse would probably be number one on my list in winter time. Summertime, I would say a multi-day hike.

Topic Question 3: Well I now work every weekend so going up to the ridge in the winter time is shot for me. I literally can not go up unless I can get someone to trade a shift with me which is not very often. I have only gotten in two days of skiing in up there so totally bummed on that and yes, I work friday as well. I dont know why the decision was made to close the road during the week. As far as I know the town raised money two years in a row to keep it open. Obviously we had a few others that would agree with me that it should be open with 7 day access! I now travel to Stevens for skiing. I would also like to see the Road to Deer Park open close to the top like it used to be...why are our roads shut down now days...I learned how to ski up there. I would like the Waterhole Cabin to be replaced, that was total BS. It can never really be "replaced" in my heart but I want to continue going to a place like it. I am sure we could get a group together to manage the place if the park is not willing...even

build it. I dont have too many issues with Summer time access.

Topic Question 4: Road to Deer Park open close to the top. Road to Hurricane Ridge to remain open thru the winter time and maybe a better plow job down by the switch back trail so people can park there that want to ski that area. Easier to get there with out having to hike up part of the road. Continue 7 day access in the wintertime. Ski huts or at lease hut like back in the day. I want my children to have the experience like I have back there.

Comments:

Correspondence ID: 124 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Mar,15,2013 11:26:25
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: I come to Port Angeles at least once in the winter time to visit family. The Mountians and snow are so different compaired to where I am from and the views are insane. I look forward to every time I get to visit.

Topic Question 2: Taking my family sledding and snowboarding up at Hurricane Ridge and having a hot chocolate and fries in the Lodge afterwards. I am sure it is beautiful as well in the summer but can not come at that time, other wise we would be hiking up there.

Topic Question 3: In the last 10 years or so, the atmosphere has changed. There seems to be more "rules" and more closures and more tickets handed out. Last year when we came to visit, the road to the ridge had been closed for a week straight. Sure we got to visit family but was really looking forward to going up to the ridge. This year I found out once again they are only open three days a week. Why?

Topic Question 4: I would love to move here in the future so in 20 years I hope we dont have the same issues with the road.

Topic Question 5: I would love to see a ski lift go in eventually ! Maybe better parking up there in the winter.

Comments:

Correspondence ID: 125 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: Free Hurricane Ridge ! Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Mar,15,2013 11:33:24
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: To have the option to go hiking and to take my family to a park that is so close, its a huge reason why we live here

Topic Question 2: We enjoy camping, hiking, fishing, sledding.

Topic Question 3: Access seems to be my biggest issue. I work per diem so my work hours vary and I find I can rarely go up there any more. It is a national Park, it should not be open only Sometimes. Its the peoples park ! Also, some sort of transit system to help out with the parking issues in the winter.

Topic Question 4: A park that is always open, no road issues. I would love to see it look the same ! Maybe a few more camping spots. I would like sledding to be addressed.

Topic Question 5: Thank you for listening to my comments and considering them in your planning process !

Comments:

Correspondence ID: 126 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Mar,15,2013 11:58:13
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: I am new to the area, coming from Mt. Shasta area and the park here reminds me of home. The views are better and there seems to be more passion here for the park. I am very active so most my time is spent learning of the trails in this area.

Topic Question 2: The Olympic mountians are my reason for moving here. I am a trail runner so have ran many of the popular trails anyway. Snow sports are new for me. I have been having fun taking my teenage son up to snowshoe this winter. He is big into skiing so it is nice that there is a small local ski club up there. I would love to see a lift go in in the future.

Topic Question 3: I have taken the shuttle up there, Willy Nelson, I believe is his name. Unfurtunately we had to wait at the gate

for an hour, and I was thinking why didn't I just drive. I am not sure why He has to wait at the gate specially when it would be helping out the parking situation. I also wish the road was open in the winter more. Many times my son wants to go up there mid week but the road is closed. I also feel that the road is closed due to high winds too often. I have noticed that when I am skiing there are many areas that are out of the wind so that I am not blown over at all ! It should be our choice if we feel it is too windy or not.

Topic Question 4: If I am still here, I would love to see the park stay the same, just better parking at the ridge and less road closures...not just the ridge road but, Deer Park, Sol Duc...

Comments:

Correspondence ID: 127 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Mar,15,2013 12:05:20
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: Is there anythink about the ONP that is not special.....to many to list !

Topic Question 2: Camping with my Family, Winter Camping by myself, hiking, fishing, sledding, show shoe

Topic Question 3: I wonder why we cant figure out a better solution for sledding for families. The little sledding area right now, parents can't go with the children and its a hazard because its also a trail right in the middle of it. I also wish the road was not closed 4 days a weeks. Who came up with that decision. I was apart of raising the funds to keep it open. The Road crew never wanted the seven day access so I feel like they botched the whole study. So many days the road was closed for the stupidest reasons. It wasn't like that up there when I was a kid. If you wanted to go to the ridge, you would go to the ridge. I also used to camp in the Waterhole cabin with my dad, and he his dad. It was our tradition. Why was it taken out. Now that is an issue !

Topic Question 4: I would like our hut to be replaced, I would like the road to stay open, and I would hope that in twenty years there will be some sort of solution to the sledding

Comments:

Correspondence ID: 128 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Mar,15,2013 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: I don't hike like I used to at a younger age, my father was a mountian man so to speak and he brought me EVERYWHERE in the Olympics. He has now passed on but the park is still a special place to me, At least all the memories I have of it. I was an avid skier as well and learned how to ski up at the ridge. Things seem to be more low key back then. The road was open more, less excuses as to why it was open, or at least in my eye, a real excuse. The road crew gave it all they could back then. I also would go up to Deer Park to ski just to mix it up and I wish I still had that option. Why are we now told Deer Park road is too dangerous ? Who made that decision ?

Topic Question 2: Hiking, the old shelters and the history behind them. Skiing, hanging out with my old friends in the lodge afterward ! Now more hanging out, less skiing;)

Topic Question 3: Well obviously the access issues with the road now. I would say who ever decieded when we can and cannot go up there should be replaced. Their head is not in the right place if you ask me. We didn't have as many issues in the past. Not sure why that has changed so much, my father would roll over in his grave ! I don't like that the shelters keep dissappearing. Once they are gone, thats it.

Topic Question 4: I hope to be alive in twenty years....I would like to see families enjoy the park like I did as a kid. I would like to see a whole new change of command up there if you ask me.

Comments:

Correspondence ID: 129 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Mar,15,2013 13:16:32
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: I love taking my two younge kids up there to enjoy the mountians and there are all kinds of hikes to take them on for so many different ages. I grew up here in Forks and feel like to be surrounded with such beauty and so many different ways to explore, the ocean included !

Topic Question 2: The most important things to me about the wilderness area would be the views and any way I am able to experience that, or should I say the numerous ways to experience it. We do alot of camping in the summer time and now that my

kids are getting stronger legs, we hike more and more. Sledding is also something that we all enjoy.

Topic Question 3: I can't say I have to many issues, but one things that really frustrates me and makes me nervous is that I am not allowed to sled with my children. I don't like the age restrictions. Sometimes waiting in line at the bottom of the road is difficult to. We don't always get an early start so a few times we just turned around when we saw the line at the bottom.

Topic Question 4: I would like my children to have the same joys I have gotten out of being at the ridge. I hope there are not sledding or road restrictions like there are now days.

Comments:

Correspondence ID: 130 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Mar,15,2013 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: I grew up near the Olympic National Park, so not only is it beautiful, it's home to me. Now that I have children we love to visit and they have grown to love the area as well.

Topic Question 2: We love picnicking at Hurricane Ridge, hiking to Merrimere Falls, rowing across Lake Crescent, walking through the Hoh rain forest, and experiencing many other beautiful places.

Topic Question 3: You need to find a way to keep these places available to the public without it being overrun or misused.

Topic Question 4: I would hope that in 20 years it would not have changed too much.

Comments:

Correspondence ID: 131 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Mar,15,2013 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: I like to be able to backcountry ski every day during the winter. I like to hike and backpack.

Topic Question 2: back country skiing and hiking.

Topic Question 3: We need to keep the road open during the week in the winter. There needs to be better access to skiing. I think the biomass at the Nippon Paper mill will ruin the air and discourage potential tourism and visitors to the National Park. This biomass should be stopped.

Topic Question 4: Would like it to be much the same.

Comments:

Correspondence ID: 132 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Mar,15,2013 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: All wilderness areas are special places. Olympic National Park is especially special because of its proximity to where I live and work. During the long days of summer the park is close enough to allow me to take a day hike after a short day of work.

Topic Question 2: Backcountry skiing/snowboarding, hiking, and bicycling.

Topic Question 3: The most important issue for the past 5 years or so has been the unwillingness of the park service to allow winter access to Hurricane Ridge (the only access to Olympic Mountain snow). This is a vital issue to all who enjoy winter in the mountains. So important that the past two years the Port Angeles chamber of commerce raised money to fund the park service for 7-days per week access. Unfortunately the park service did a terrible job fulfilling its obligation. Everyone understands when mother nature drops too much snow at once that the road to Hurricane Ridge may not be easily maintained. However it has become very clear that the park service really does not want to open the road and has in fact kept the road closed at times when the road is completely clear of snow, ice and debris. I don't know who makes the decision whether to open the road or not, but I suspect that decision is made by a person or persons whose job becomes easier when the public is denied access to Hurricane Ridge. I don't believe the park service has been held accountable for all the times public access to public lands has been unreasonably denied. I would like to see winter access increased to 7-days per week and I would like to see some

kind of accountability for decision making on whether the road opens.

Last year the park service removed a small cabin from the Obstruction Point area. This is a cabin that was used in the winter by a small number of backcountry skiers. Unfortunately the cabin was removed without adequate public consultation. This is the type of behavior the park service has been engaged in that leaves the public feeling helpless as if the park service were a dictatorship, which is exactly what I feel has been going on.

Topic Question 4: In winter access to Hurricane Ridge would be 7-days per week, weather permitting of course. The road from Hurricane Ridge to Obstruction Point would be maintained as a nordic ski trail.

The multi-use trail on the north side of Lake Crescent will allow cyclists, runners, walkers, and limited mobility users to traverse Lake Crescent without having to set foot on busy and narrow Highway 101. This trail, part of the Olympic Discovery Trail, will bring many non-motorized visitors to this area. Other trails dedicated to non-motorized users have been established and the park is teaming with quiet bicycle and wheelchair visitors.

Topic Question 5: I believe that Olympic National Park Service has forgotten they are public servants and that the park service needs to listen to public comments and respond to those needs.

Comments:

Correspondence ID: 133 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Mar,16,2013 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 4: I would like to see a great cross country trail system that is accessible daily during the winter. I would like to see the trails groomed for both classic and skate skiing.

Comments:

Correspondence ID: 134 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Mar,17,2013 19:45:03
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: I was raised in this town and have no intentions of leaving now that I have a family of my own because of the vast playground of the Olympics right at our door step. No other place could compare!

Topic Question 2: Most of my families free time is spent somehow in the NP. We are usually at the Ridge in the winter every weekend as we have a seasons pass for the ski park. We snowboard, snowshoe, hike, winter camp, camp, hike, splitboard (tour).

Topic Question 3: In the last few years the attitude up there seems to have changed. It feels like we are intruding on "their" land. So many regulations and so many rediculous tickets I have seen being handed out. The road crew now is so quick to close the road for any reason way too often. I am amazed when I call the report and its open. When I was growing up there never seemed to be issues with the road opening or even opening on time. The crew actually did their best to make sure that it was open yet now I feel with late or closed days...it may be more than the days actually open. The access is a huge problem. Even the fact the current road crew has decieded that even Deer Park should be closed in the winter, deemed too dangerous. I used to drive up to the gate that was closed about two miles from the top and would often snowboard over there. Let us decide what is too dangerous for our family. As a teenager in a honda civic, I never had any issues driving up there....why has that changed. Also the fact that the road crew now chose to not have the seven day access at the ridge. Out town raised that money two years in a row because it was important to us to have that access. The main ranger told me herself she did not want the seven day access. I personally feel that the whole study was botched those two years. SO MANY DAYS the road would be closed or opened so late that we never got the number of visitors the park wanted to keep it open. How could we show those numbers when any excuse was made not to open the road during this trial period. I am also very upset and highly disappointed in the removal of the Water hole cabin. That was taken out with out public knowledge and when asked why it was removed, no ranger could give a straight answer. I want that Hut replaced. I also want more back country huts place on the non wilderness area that runs on obstruction point road on out to Deer Park. There is a huge need for these ski huts out there!

Topic Question 4: I want the access to the park to be open 7 days a week. This is our park. Keep it open. I want the ski huts put back in on out to Deer Park road. I would like the sledding issue to be resolved. I would love to see less aggression from some of the rangers.

Comments:

Correspondence ID: 135 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Mar,17,2013 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: I have enjoyed hiking and camping in the Olympic National Park since i was a child, the rugged coastal

terrain and pristine mountain ranges have always been an inspiration to me, now as a father of four avid young hikers i am excited to see my childrens interest in exploring and learning about the park and its excellent backcountry potential.

Topic Question 2: The solitude and beauty of backcountry trips are what i enjoy most. My family has a very active year round hiking schedule, snowshoeing and backcountry skiing in the winter, hiking and camping in the summer.

Topic Question 3: park access is a huge issue in the winter with the Hurricane Ridge road only being open on weekends at best. In recent years i have witnessed some of the worst road closures for no apparent reason, the road has been closed on sunny days, for possible storms that never hit, wind, ice and other typical mountain conditions that never hampered the road access in the past. The Deer Park area was also an excellent place for winter hiking and camping, the road was open two miles from the top shelter area for decades, winter access to this area is now cut off as the 12 mile road is closed (no exceptions) during winter months. The upper portion of the Sol Duc road also remains closed during winter, limiting backcountry access there as well. Another topic that i feel should be addressed is, although there are many informative and friendly rangers in the park, i cant help feeling the increasing emphasis on law enforcement at ONP. Hiking and camping should bring a feeling of peace and happiness not of trespassing or rule breaking, after all, Who's park is it? I feel that the removal of the Waterhole cabin was just one more instance of backcountry access being limit, it was a shame the cabin was removed because it was a magical place to be at in the winter, my friends and family have many fond memories of camping there over the years and it will be missed.

Topic Question 4: I would like to see more backcountry access, winter ski use huts, open roads(year round) and less of a law enforcement approach to dealing with the public. It would be great to see more of our youth enjoying the park.

Topic Question 5: Please rebuild the Waterhole cabin, it was used and loved by many backcountry enthusiasts for the last 50 years, its unannounced removal was a slap in the face to anyone that has ever used it.

Comments:

Correspondence ID: 136 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Mar,17,2013 21:09:09
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: Its a nice place to go and spend time with your kids and family. We have a nice park and like to go there.

Topic Question 2: Hiking and camping

Topic Question 3: The park is always closed during the winter and it makes it hard to enjoy. It would be nice to expand the skiing area also.

Topic Question 4: More of the same that is there now. Maybe some camping up at the top.

Topic Question 5: We here in Port Angeles need the tourism that is provided by the park. It needs to be accessible for all the people to enjoy.

Comments:

Correspondence ID: 137 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Mar,17,2013 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: There is just too much to list on what I love about our park! I spend so much of my life up there because out side of my family it is what makes me a happy man !

Topic Question 2: I grew up in this town and would often hear kids say this town was boring because there was nothing to do. I thought they were crazy and it is why I continue to live here and now raise a family. I never get bored having the Olympic mountians and the ocean as my playground. I am very in tune with the outdoors any time of year. I spend most of my time snowboarding up there in the winter and my family continues to buy family passes to ski up there each year. But for myself personaly I splitboard in the backcountry overnight ofter spending a night or two in the waterhole cabin as that was what made my favorite memories. I would explore the back country as i loved our untouched snow and enjoyed my activities outside of the crowds. This is what keeps me coming up to the rigde versus traveling to other larger resort. We have such beautiful views of the Straits, as well as the many different ranges of the Olympics. The scenery here is priceless.

Topic Question 3: Road access would be my number 1 issue, to Deer Park and Hurricane Ridge in the winter. I grew up having a road crew that made it their priority to have the road open. I never remember it being an issue before. I learned how to snowboard up at Deer Park road. We would park at the eco blocks that was two miles down from the top and snowboard that area. I never felt the road was dangerous,even as a sixteen year old boy, we would drive up all the time. Now it is just closed in the winter with no access how awfull,very dissappointing. there is just such limited access. I am very angry and lost much more trust in our park when they took out the Water Hole cabin. So many times I have spent out there to have it removed with no

public notice what so ever. We asked the Acting Park Superintendent Todd Seuss Who made the decision and to show us the paper work the same week it was removed. He stated he could not find the paper work at all and didn't really have a good explanation for its removal. Specially since a couple years prior to the removal the Winter Sport Club proposed to manage the cabin and the park said no. I have little faith in how our park is run right now. I feel like they dont care what it is that we want. I know that it is very important to replace our cabin, one to heal our faith in the park and because it was so important to so many. I would love to have the priority of the road crew to have the road open on time. If it snows, get up early and clear it so it is open on time. I would also like to see Willy Nelson's shuttle to not have to wait the hour in line with every one else. He is there to help us with the parking problem. Let him help ! I feel like the park is there to keep people out, not for the people's enjoyment, physical activity and to learn about the mountains and animals like the NP's original mission. I feel like our park has lost sight of that. When it dumps in the mountian and that is the time that I want to be up there, that is the time that winter access is usually shut off. The road crew is good at opening the road on mild or sunny days, but that happens to be when the snow is not that great !

Topic Question 4: The goal of the park should be what is was originaly intended for. preservation and for the physical activity of the people and the knowledge and enjoyment of the land and animals. Not the bureaucracy of the park service who now act more like law enforcement ! I want our waterhole cabin replaced and I would love for the superintendent to understand the need for more back country huts, not only is it a great low impact way to explore more country,it would be there for safty and shelter as well. Open our road seven days a week. Also take care of our parking problem even if that means building an additional parking lot below the lodge which would be great! Hundreds of people are being turned away because the parking is managed so poorly. maybe intead of hiring law enforcement the park service could hire parking lot attendants since there are so many that are interested in seeing our mountains

Topic Question 5: i understand how hurricane ridge can get tons of snow in a short period of time and especially with wind the snow drifts at certain corners can get very deep. i also understand that the mountain looms over many spots in the road and avalanches could make a ton more work for the road crews, BUT... after it is cleared and the storm has passed, the sun is shinning, there is two feet of fresh snow on the ground with the mountain glowing and beckoning,heck..even screeming for me to come and get some fresh tracks BUT... IT IS MONDAY..OR TUES...OR WED...OR THURS AND THE ROAD IS CLOSED!!! even though there hasnt been any wind to blow new snow over the road or any new precip. its just closed because it isnt the weekend. That is frustrating to no end it has literally made me want to move away from port angeles to be honest and thenfriday comes and somtimes it has warmed up by then and the window of oppertunity is lost...BUMMER, BUT ALL WEEK THE ROAD HAPPEND TO BE CLEAR AND DRY

Comments:

Correspondence ID: 138 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Mar,17,2013 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: The scenery and peace and quiet and many, many hiking trails

Topic Question 2: Hiking along the trail, sailing at Lake Crescent & Lake Ozette, snowshoeing and snowskating at Hurricane Ridge

Topic Question 3: Clearcut logging seems to be a big issue. If there was a better way to help grow the natural forest in a managed way, not a haphazard manner, the forest could be self sustainable

Topic Question 4: More detailed maps of the trails available to take with hikers on the trails. The trail maps on the signs at trailheads are not complete.

Comments:

Correspondence ID: 139 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Mar,17,2013 21:34:06
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: Taking my son up to the mountain so much lately and all that it has to offer not only is creating this very special bond between us and many wonderful memories but he is realizing the importance of nature, its beauty and the excitement that comes from being in the outdoors. Staying physically fit is also a lesson for him as he has been hiking and snowboarding so much this year.

Topic Question 2: Hiking and snowboarding with my son and the friends that I have up there, many of our families have bonded over these activities

Topic Question 3: I have grown up in this town and feel lucky to have the Olympics so close. I have a big issue with the fact that the park took it into their own hands to limit our access to the Ridge to only 3 days a week. Deer Park is closed and they took out the Water hole cabin.

Topic Question 4: I would like some changes to happen now, but at the pace the park runs, I feel it might be twenty years before I start seeing changes for the better. I have lost my trust in the park in the last couple of years and the removal of the waterhole cabin is no surprise as I keep shaking my head in awe over and over. Please do something to restore our faith in our park again. OPEN the Road, both Hurricane Ridge and Deer Park. Replace our Waterhole Cabin and more parking at the Ridge for all those that continue to turn away because of the lack of parking.

Comments:

Correspondence ID: 140 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: Olympic National Park card holder Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Mar,17,2013 21:41:37
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: Close proximity for my family and I to enjoy the snow, mountains and unique wilderness with one of the best views in the world in our backyard.

Topic Question 2: Playing in the snow whether sledding, snowboarding or learning about the habitat are the most important things to my family.

Topic Question 3: Access and the mission of the Park.

Topic Question 4: The road widened and larger parking areas to the trails on way up Hurricane Ridge Rd. Access in winter time on more than just Friday-Sundays.

Comments:

Correspondence ID: 141 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Mar,17,2013 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: It is my back yard. It is a wonderful place to play with my family. We often use the camping,trails,ski area...ect love the place when it is not closed

Topic Question 2: My family and I camp,hike ski and enjoy the beauty of the land

Topic Question 3: We often call it the no fun zone. No dogs,bikes sledding, when I meet most rangers I always think o crap what am I doing wrong... The camp host have been great very nice and we love the shows they put on at the camp sights.

Topic Question 4: A firkin chair lift to be able to use the snow. A locals discount. Double the price for yuppie Seattle people

Topic Question 5: Love the park hope it is there for ever I hate the dam removal what a joke. Put in a lift chair to make more money fore the park. I hear some people don't want to see it. I say what about the buildings and roads? They are there for people to enjoy the park well how about the snow part we the locals want to enjoy the park more in the winter. The people in the place where you get back country passes are some of the most annoying people with there know it all attitude and look at me I am authority ways can ruin a backpacking experience. Maybe some locals should be able to put our two cents in I know I share views on a lot of topics with most people I know.

Comments:

Correspondence ID: 142 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Mar,17,2013 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: I love the vast number of trails and variety of scenic vistas. I cherish that this is in my back yard and can be enjoyed year round. In an world where a lot can get you down, this is my personal escape to serenity and I take advantage on a weekly basis.

Topic Question 2: I can not get enough Snow Shoeing on Hurricane Ridge. We have often tried to do Hurricane Hill but due to road closures and weather I was only recently able to complete the enire hike due to having enough time. I also spend a considerable amount of time on the beaches and look for opportunities to take me dog with me.

Topic Question 3: Affordable and consistent access to the Ridge is a big issue for me and my friends. Having access to our favorite trails and snow activities is important. It may sound silly, but I think we can make more of our snow capped mountains and offer a variety of entertainment for all. Adults like to sled too! I don't know if this is appropriate for this question, but I feel that the website is lacking and often outdated and difficult to find answers.

Topic Question 4: I would like to see more access to the park overall and a greater variety of areas. I think more guided tours and better facilities could help draw more people to share in the experiences that have shaped me. I love the lodge, but I think there could be more educational opportunities/talk/tours and better more varied services. I think there is room for more activities while maintaining a pristine atmosphere. I would like to see a greater reach in marketing and education of our wonderful assest and be able to share this area with others.

Topic Question 5: Thanks for all you do, I know that we all want more...yesterday. I think it is a great step forward to be reaching out for the opinions of your loyal visitors.

Comments:

Correspondence ID: 143 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Mar,17,2013 22:40:44
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: access to snow in the winter. i moved here to ski and surf as much as possible and you guys killed me this year not being open during the week.

Topic Question 2: road access, snow saftey, working lifts

Topic Question 3: weekday road accessability. with our low elevation the snow changes quickly, what would have been good on tuesday goes bad by friday.

Topic Question 4: a gondola if you cant figure out the road in the winter.

Topic Question 5: please get the road open next year during the week. use a private contractor if necessary. and do some avalanche control along the ridge road- WAY TOO COWBOY

Comments: If ONP makes a effort to get the road open during the week and makes it public knowledge (advertise) you will get the #'s needed. ONP has been consistantly bad and thats why your numbers reflect it. On a personal note, its important to make the call PUBLICLY as early as possible for the road to open- the next nearest resort is a few hours away and 10am is a late start to a long day. Thanks for the time.

Correspondence ID: 144 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: Free Hurricane Ridge Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Mar,17,2013 22:44:15
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: Its in my backyard.

Topic Question 2: All activities! Most importantly to me is accessing and experiencing the backcountry during the winter season

Topic Question 3: Limited accessibility during the winter months. With such an epic variety of mountain ranges and skiing terrain only minutes from town, i feel neglected of right to access it considering its for the public and i pay for it

Topic Question 4: Road open 7 days a week with camping available in the parking lot during winter months

Topic Question 5: Free hurricane ridge. Let the people who support and pay for the park use it.

Comments:

Correspondence ID: 145 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: Mervin Mfg. Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Mar,18,2013 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: Hurricane Ridge makes the ONP special for me, for the opportunities I used to have to enjoy it's beauty, and winter recreation. Now it's closed during the week. I work Fri-Sun, just got promoted this year, but that means that not only can I not go up to the Ridge on the weekend while I'm working, but I can't go up during the week when I'm not because its NOT OPEN. Last year a co-worker and I spent nearly 50 days in the snow up there last year, and half those days were during the week before work (when I worked swing shift instead of weekends.) This weekday closure is new this year and completely inappropriate for the budget, the crew, staffing, and public desire to use the space. The ONP claims there wasn't enough attendance last year to make it feasable to keep open all week. If you're road crew would get up before 8am to do their job, maybe the road would have been open more often and you would not have had all those days last year, with the gate closed, turning away car after car. For every one to two days I spent actually riding the ridge, there was another one or two days of waiting at the gate in the morning only to be told at 10am that the road crew just couldn't get the road clear. It's not true, there are national parks all over the country with less money and people, longer roads and more dangerous conditions, who keep their

access open more often. I can understand the ONP wanting to cut back a little, the economy is tight everywhere. But I can't afford to drive over to the Cascades every-time I want my feet in the snow. So I can either leave a Job I love, after just getting promoted so I can ride the Ridge on the weekend, or I can be a responsible adult, keep my job, and tell you guys where to stick it.

Topic Question 2: Winter sports. The other three seasons out of the year, I have no problems with ONP. I have never been refused entrance to the park in spring, summer, or fall for camping, running or hiking.

Topic Question 3: I think the issues do not lie with the wilderness area itself, it is an inanimate object, the issues are with the incompetence of it's staff. You are all paid WAY TOO MUCH money to do the jobs you do, so when the times get tough, you keep getting paid way too much, and take away public access. INAPPROPRIATE.

Topic Question 4: I would like to see the road open, and maybe a chairlift at the top, or better yet, lets get rid of the road all together and build a base to summit gondola. No more plowing, no more dangerous road, and no more turning people away.

Topic Question 5: Obviously this season is over, or nearly enough that no changes you even think about making could possibly happen before the snow melts. I would suggest you realize that you are stewards of land that belongs to the people. NOT YOURSELVES. This attitude that you can close it whenever you want is completely inappropriate, especially when you do not even attempt to open it a majority of the days of the week.

Comments: I apologize if my comments come off as rude, it is hard to write with tone and inflection, and I may have a notion or two of how the park works wrong, but the overall issues remain the same. The road is closed Mon-Thur, this isn't the 1950's, not everyone works Mon-Fri 9-5. As far as I'm concerned, you stole my winter season, I can't get it back, and I shouldn't have to move away or quit a job I love so I can snowboard. I should have access to the same public land that my parents grew up using in the 1960's. It's odd that the more time goes by, the more you take away. SHAME ON YOU.

The terrain and snow conditions of the ridge are exclusive to the Olympics, no where else in the northwest gets snow conditions so preferable, so often. If the ONP cannot find a way to keep that road open the they need to give up control of it to the DOT and let someone with knowledge and road clearing experience take over the job. I know they have made the offer more than once.

I hope that the public can influence your decision to open the road more, but I'm intelligent enough to know that this may just be pissing in the wind.\

Good luck.

Correspondence ID: 146 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: American Mountain Guides Association Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Mar,18,2013 07:44:16
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: Access to high elevation mountain terrain to hike ski and climb. Run rivers and camp on the coast

Topic Question 2: Skiing Back country Inexpensive camping

Topic Question 3: Over regulation and expense from over managment

Topic Question 4: Hurricane ridge Rd that stays open and opens early in the AM. Require chains and four wheel drive rather than not open on time or at all. Maybe a free shuttle service from visitors center to hill with stops at the BC access points along the way. Less expense generated by over managing not a "high crime area" Yet the # of law enforcement officers seems high and that is costly.

Comments: Camp grounds should be encouraged. AMGA certified guides should be supported and encouraged to take public into wilderness areas as custodians to help guide educate leave no trace practices, and promote safer travel in the hazardous mountain environment.

Correspondence ID: 147 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: Great Old Broads for Wilderness; Olympic Park Associates; Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Mar,18,2013 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: It the closest National Park to my home. I go there to camp (mostly on Second Beach) and to marvel at and experience the temperate rain forest. I cherish it as essential habitat for many species. I greatly appreciate that it is designated wilderness and can remain wild and natural forever.

Topic Question 2: It is important to have some safe trails for quiet walking into the part of the area. I also want some areas to be not accessible so they are truly wild for the wildlife. Some creatures in nature should be able to reproduce and continue without

exposure to any inventions of modern man. I don't want to see buildings and shelters. I don't want to hear machines.

Topic Question 3: Protection from over use, even if non-motorized. Too many people can damage the wilderness. There must be limits to numbers of people and their behaviors. Removal of non-native species is important to correct the ecological balance. Re-introduction of native species that have been removed or destroyed is important. Effort should be made to protect the natural silence in the wilderness by not allowing motors or other noise producing equipment.

Topic Question 4: I would like to see fewer facilities (except for some toilet facilities at trail heads). I would like the wilderness to be truly wild - it doesn't need to be easy to be in wilderness. Thee should be no commercial use of the wilderness area (by vendors selling products or services.) I would like to get a permit for limited overnight stays within the wilderness requiring me to carry a food canister, to not use soap, to carry out waste.

Topic Question 5: Keep it WIld!!

Comments:

Correspondence ID: 148 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Mar,18,2013 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: It's a place to get away and enjoy nature, Hiking trails for miles and miles. It's so close It's just about in my back yard!

Topic Question 2: Hiking, back country camping, Snow shoeing, Snowboarding, Winter access.

Topic Question 3: The biggest issues I feel with the ONP is over the last ten years I have seen more and more roads being closed down cutting off winter access. Like Hurricane Ridge road, Deer Park road, Sol Duc road,with roads like this closed most of the winter It cuts of winter park access and I feel like our park is just seasonal and I don't like that.

Topic Question 4: I would like to see the park open all winter long, I would also like to see some back country ski huts for the public to use, there are many parks with this kind of camping experience and I would like to see this happen here. I would also like too see a few trails open up for mountain biking like wolf creek trail (It is a old road)

Topic Question 5: The ONP needs to listen too the public more after all it is our park. I keep getting the feeling when I use the ONP that It's for rangers and biologists, they come first and the public comes second.

Comments: I feel the park was scandalous about how they removed the Water hole cabin (Emegancy shelter / back country hut) without letting the public know, when the public found out and asked questions about why it was removed the park did not care to give explanations about the cabins removal. This is just one more time the park does what it will and the public just feels like the ONP will not listen!

Correspondence ID: 149 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Mar,18,2013 15:51:24
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: The Olympic Mountains are the closest mountains to Victoria BC as the crow flies and the nearest source of epic road rides, good ski touring and potentially mountain biking

Topic Question 2: Ski Touring, but keeping access to Hurricane ridge in the winter is key, tough to justify the time and expense of the ferry if you don't know that the road will be open.

Topic Question 3: Keeping Hurricane Ridge open, without access I'm not coming to the US to spend money on local businesses.

Topic Question 4: A well maintained road with access to some of the best ski-touring in North America.

Topic Question 5: Free Hurricane Ridge. You have some good plows, keep that road open. If you park the plows mid-way up the mountain have snow-mobiles to get the drivers to the plow. On Vancouver Island a road much more trecherous with a lot more snow is kept clean using a really, really old decrepit vehicle. Kick it up a notch.

Comments:

Correspondence ID: 150 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: Hurricane Ridge Ski School Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Mar,18,2013 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Topic Question 1: When I moved to Port Angeles I was 4 Years Old. My stepfather had taken me to Hurricane Ridge and told me "Jesse you are lucky, this is our backyard." It took me almost 16 years to realize the importance of that. I have meet some of my best friends in the world from this park. I ran into some guys that told me they were from New Hampshire and i asked what are you doing in PA? They replied working on the trails. The next thing you know we are going on a 24 mile round trip hike into the Quinault and we are still friends to this day even though they have left. Their experiences here were so amazing that one of them convinced his little brother to do the same thing and come here to work on the trails. I also have taught snowboarding for 5 out of the last 6 years. (the year the road washed out i skipped!) This has been the best part of every year for me. Most like the lake in the summer. I like hurricane in the winter! I love it because I can get a summer tan on the mountain in the middle of the winter. i get into shape from riding and teaching all day. I meet new people and catch up with old ones. this year i brought a BBQ up there and I had a cook off for 6 straight Sundays! Not for myself but for the community, for the lifties, for the instructors and anyone who wanted to join. I did this out of my pocket to make it a better place because I care about the ridge and the environment up there.

Topic Question 2: As a local the big ones are Hurricane Ridge, Lake Crescent and all the west coast beaches. I think that the new addition to the Ridge with the new tubbing section was a real improvement. Even though i did not participate in any tubing this year that addition completed the "FAMILY FUN" of the ridge. some of my best memories are sitting in 6th period at PAHS and waiting for that last bell to ring with all my gear in my car waiting to drive up the mountain and get one or two runs in before it closes.

Topic Question 3: I work at The Olympic Lodge in Port Angeles. Today my last straw was broken. I had a group of girls staying here from Costa Rica that wanted to go to hurricane ridge but could not because the road was closed. I also had another group from Northern Vancouver today that made plans to go up there and could not. This is not even close to the first time that this has happened. Im talking about people traveling sometimes all the way around the world to see my favorite part of the park and being denied. how do you expect to gain credibility and awareness of the park when its not open half the time? how do you expect to bring more money into the park and the town when the tourist attractions are closed?

Topic Question 4: i want to see the same community at hurricane ridge. i love that it is a safe fun and friendly place to be. i dont have to worry about getting my board stolen from the parking lot. i love that it is a small ski area that feels like my home. when i bring friends there i love that they only have to pay $32 bucks for a lift ticket. i do think that we should get a chair but i think we should only get one, stay small and reasonable. respect the park and our ability to enjoy it. i dont ever want to see hurricane ridge looking like crystal mountain. this is our gem. people dont remember what its like to really ski. to many heated gondolas high speed 6 seat chairs. they have forgotten how to hold a rope tow, forgotten how to hike, forgotten how to work for the sport that they claim to love! I do want expansion and advancement, but a reasonable amount. i would like to see one chair lift that seats either 2 or 4 people in addition to what we have and that is it.

Topic Question 5: The decisions that the NPS makes DIRECTLY effects me. I work at a hotel for the whole year and during the winter i work at hurricane ridge as a snowboard instructor. You have to realize that your actions can determine weather the company i work for has enough business to have me work 30 hours a week or 40. this can determine if i break even teaching snowboarding or how much money i loose just by being there. in turn this causes a ripple effect across the community.

Comments: Honestly this town has gone to hell. Kids getting into trouble, drugs. sometimes i dont even want to go into town and see these people. almost everyone i grew up with has said they hate Port Angeles and they want to leave. but, there are a few young adults that were raised here and they love it. there are a few people that have opened their eyes as i have to see the true beauty of this town and this national park. right now im fighting for more of us. i think that everyone should understand what we have right here in our "back yard". To restrict and to deny any people of access to the roads that are currently closed is only adding to the downward spiral of this city and this park!

Correspondence ID: 151 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933

Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual

Received: Mar,19,2013 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Topic Question 1: It is my backyard. It is not very congested. I really enjoy all the access to the trailheads. I just wish there was less road closures. Sometimes the road closures make it harder to access the backcountry wilderness. I love how small The Olympics are. It is a special place to spend time. I enjoy the Elk, Deer, Goats, and Varmints.

Topic Question 2: Hiking, snowshoeing, sledding, and just family time spent in Wilderness. I love to watch the Wildlife. The one thing I enjoy most is visting shelters. I like seeing the construction of the Shelters. It is always a destination to look forward to. One other huge hobby is looking for old trails and/or history.

Topic Question 3: I think the biggest "issue" in the ONP Wilderness is not so much the Wilderness in general but, the limited access there is to get to the Wilderness, i.e. road and trail closures.

One other thing that could be a big problem in the ONP is the introduction to Wolves. I do not think we have the resources to host Wolves here. Our wildlife here suffers enough without them.

I also really enjoy watching the goats. I believe they are a great asset to our park. They are very entertaining to watch.

Topic Question 4: When I visit the ONP in twenty years I hope to see the Wilderness in the same condition it is in now. I DO NOT believe that the park Wilderness should expand its boundaries. I believe we have a great ratio of land ownership out here on the Peninsula. The great thing about diverse land ownership it that it accommodates different hobbies for different people. Not everyone is the same. I would also like to see all roads to ACCESS the Wilderness to stay maintained, if not improved. I would also hope that all shelters and cabins stay maintained for use.

Topic Question 5: Open Skyline Trail and post it.

Rebuild shelter at Home Sweet Home

I would also like to see the mentality of Rangers change in the Wilderness and in general. Most people entering the Park are not criminals, so don't treat them like it. Ranges in Park should be more welcoming to new visitors!

Comments:

Correspondence ID: 152 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Mar,20,2013 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: The amazing mountains and the snowboarding terrain it has to offer. Brings all the best people together.

Topic Question 2: Snowboarding

Topic Question 3: THE ROAD IS NEVER OPEN! PISSES ME OFF. Open it all week!!!!!!

Topic Question 4: Snowboard area grow!!! More rope tows and a chairlift!

Topic Question 5: PLEASE OPEN THE ROAD EVERYDAY!!!!!!!!!!!! Everyone wants it open so just come through!

Comments:

Correspondence ID: 153 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Mar,20,2013 11:03:56
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: Freedom

Topic Question 2: Winter recreation and beach camping

Topic Question 3: Limited access to alpine areas in the winter.

Topic Question 4: 7 day a week access to snow/alpine areas in the winter

Topic Question 5: There is only one road to get to the alpine in Olympic peninsula and it is closed most of the winter. If the park service needs to save money they should close Mt Rainier in the winter. In the Cascade Mt. there is plenty of ways to access winter wilderness. On the Olympic Peninsula we only have one unless we want to drive five hours. Please the the road open as often as possible. We have enough fat kids, keep them fit in the mountains.

Comments:

Correspondence ID: 154 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: Snowboarder Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Mar,20,2013 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: HURRICANE RIDGE!!!! i love to snowboard and what better place to do so then right in my backyard!

Topic Question 2: snowboarding in the winter and many many many hikes in the summer!! such a great area to hike and many trial options! especially Obstruction Point!

Topic Question 3: Not being open everyday, limited parking

Topic Question 4: CHAIR LIFT! that would bring in many more tourists and snow activity activists.

Comments:

Correspondence ID: 155 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Mar,20,2013 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: I was born and raised in southern New Jersey, so having mountains in my backyard is an incredible delight. I love being able to go up to the Ridge on weekends year round as it changes with each season. My work is indoors, so I really need that outside time to reconnect with what is important. The Pacific Coast, especially 2nd and 3rd Beach are also special, so different from the Boardwalks and Arcades of my youth.

Topic Question 2: I enjoy hiking, snowshoeing, beachcombing. Both of my children learned to ski at Hurricane Ridge which was so important in their growth and development. There is so much children can learn from the outdoors and we have a perfect opportunity to capitalize on that for our local youth.

Topic Question 3: I think the Park has not been a good neighbor to the surrounding community. Not keeping the Ridge Road open throughout the winter has been selfish. Last winter, the road closures on weekends were so unpredictable that no one could plan any outdoor activities and many were disappointed. It seemed as though there was a definite attempt to keep the Park closed to only those lucky enough to be employed by the Park Service. This winter has been much better, although it would have been nice to have weekday access. I agree that preservation of wilderness areas is important, but denial of human access is not in the best interest of the local population, particularly our children.

Topic Question 4: I would like to see a more robust program of recreation for our local youth. I would like to see the downhill ski area expand with chair lifts and more groomed cross country and snowshoe trails. I would like to see shelters in the back country so that backpackers would have some predicatable shelter in inclement weather which would encourage more people to get out into the wild. I do think the goats need to go.

Topic Question 5: After 9/11, I climbed to the top of Hurricane Hill which was so good for my soul. I wished I had Osama Bin Laden with me, not to push off the hill, but to show him what a beautiful country we have and how well we are taking care of it. How could you hate someone if you saw that?

Comments:

Correspondence ID: 156 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: Mervin Manufacturing Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Mar,20,2013 12:13:21
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: It is a local mountain with several beneficial features year round, the main attraction to me being the snow for snowboarding.

Topic Question 2: The most important experiences and activities at the Olympic National Park for me are hiking and snowboarding.

Topic Question 3: I think the main issue in the Olympic National Park is their inability to be open 7 days a week during winter, as someone that only has the opportunity to go snowboarding during the week due to the fact that I work on the weekends it leaves very little opportunity for me to go enjoy it first hand.

Topic Question 4: I would like to see features of a larger park area during winter without limited accessibility, also features like zip lines to enjoy during summer a more accurate lift system for your winter sports with a more fair price, $30 for a palmalift that destroys glove after glove is a tad steep in my opinion.

Topic Question 5: Open the road 7 days a week during winter and maintain your equipment more frequently.

Comments:

Correspondence ID: 157 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Mar,20,2013 15:13:06
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: The Olympic National Park wilderness is one of the most beautiful, prestige areas of the world. I would love to see cross country skiing, boarding and snow skiing brought into the back country.

Topic Question 2: Hiking, camping, snowshoeing, and getting away from the crowds.

Topic Question 3: I believe the biggest problem is so much road closures. It is a 2 1/2 hour trip for me to get their from my home and it is very sad and upsetting to get to Port Angeles and find out the Park has closed access to the park. I am also heartbroken that the waterhole cabin was torn down. I is hard to trust Park decisions since the cabin was in a nonwilderness. I hope the Park can replace the cabin to instill trust back to the public.

Topic Question 4: I would love to see the road open 7 days per week to give more access to those of us who love winter sports.

Comments:

Correspondence ID: 158 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: Peninsula Wilderness Club, Mountaineers, Seattle Backpackers and Kitsap Outdoors Meetup.com group Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Mar,20,2013 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: 1. My children were able to see wildlife such as marmots, bear, elk, and deer, in its natural environment (except goats) and all this wildlife ignored humans, knowing that they were harmless. 2. In general, the wilderness areas are left alone, resulting in a visible life cycle of trees including old growth. 3. Demonstration that a forest fire cleans away brush that two centuries ago would not have been as prevalent as it is today. 4. The water runs clean, pure, cold, and without flow management. Log dams are such a great indicator of the rise and fall of the moisture rate. Log dams are also such great creators of temporary eco systems.

Topic Question 2: 1. Hiking, snowshoeing, and backpacking through the wilderness. 2. Walking among the old growth trees. 3. Sitting beside cold glacial or snow melt streams. 4. Observing wildlife or it observing me. 5. Snow camping and snowshoeing in rugged alpine areas. 6. Great vistas from the many alpine trails throughout the park.

Topic Question 3: 1. Non indigenous life population growth (goats) 2. Repetitive maintenance and repair instead of a robust eco project that endures: specifically using a more robust bridge system on trails to preclude frequent replacement. Use of pre-oxidized steel structures would be nice. 3. Funding to do the job properly.

Topic Question 4: 1. No goats. 2. It is not quite an isolated experience goal, but it would be nice if there were a better communication relay system in place in the higher traffic areas for emergency response purposes. 3. The existing trail structure/routes should still be in place. 4. The frequent temporary bridges should have been replaced by a more durable, but visually and chemically more eco friendly. Bridges anchored in locations that are not going to vanish at the whim of a creek bend change. 5. The existing flown in potties are still the norm. If anything they are in position longer during the year.

Comments:

Correspondence ID: 159 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Feb,25,2013 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Park Form
Correspondence: 1. Beautiful beaches make us locals proud. Messes come when outsiders "fly" through on their weekends.

2. Being able to cook a meal over a campfire on the beach, or on the gravel bar before the beach. Hunting for fishing lines, etc.

3. Providing access for people of varied physical abilities. Maintaining what you already have.

4. Would like to see that power saws continue to be used for trail maintenance.

5. Far too many people consider the Olympic Peninsula as their own private recreation area when they come from other areas. Local people tend to be "trampled." Need to conitnue to use power saws for trail maintenance. Not good for "wilderness" to have people floundering around in brush/logs trying to find way through. Power saws to be used during "window of opportunity."

Correspondence ID: 160 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Feb,25,2013 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Letter
Correspondence: I think outside the Wilderness (box) is the best way to steward Wilderness. The outside edge of any biological entity is its most cirtical component. The EDGE chapter of my book: Ski Trails and Wildlife - Toward Snow Country Restoration, elaborates this idea.

I'm a retired national park ranger-naturalist, with more time in ONP than any other. Trail Crew in 1959 started my Olympic

experience, back when I was in the College of Forestry at the UW, studying under C. Frank Brockman. The Hurricane Ridge and Staircase subdistrict ranger jobs, from 1967-1971 were full time, but I spent more time as a seasonal by choice after that, with 3 summers as a a naturalist on Hurricane and one as mountaineering safety ranger, up at the C-141 crash site on Inner Constance.

Closing the last 4 miles of the Staircase Road, so that the trailhead is now closer to ranger surveillance, is an example of better Wilderness edge stewardship. The same priniciple could be applied at Waterhole, by closing the Obstruction Point Road beyond there, except perhaps for shuttle bus access. Denali N.P. of course has pioneered this approach. Seasonally adjusted access could include not plowing the Hurricane Ridge Road, and instead grooming it for cross-country skiing and over-the-snow shuttle busses. My book and Yellowstone's experience provide details.

Waterhole is the obvious location for a safer and more sanitory overnight hut, to replace the one installed by local skiers, back when I was the Hurricane sub-district ranger. The classic Quinault Lodge is the kind of Wilderness gateway facility that ONP needs more of. NOCA is pioneering this with NCI's new overnight accommodation and Okanogan-Wenatchee N.F is also, with its expanding lodging enterprises near the Park's east side entries and adjacent Wilderness areas, on the national forests. The Methow Valley's Sport Trail Association (MVSTA) with its associated lodges, cabins, huts, yurts, and campgrounds, where I live, is the best example of coordinated ski trail and wildlife management, using visitor management as the principle tool. Jack Hughes put it nicely with his "trail maintenance as a zoning tool." Bob Kaune's "friction factor" had the same idea, but my experience indicates that carrots work better than sticks. Frictions, such as multiple permits and fees, tend to rub visitors the wrong way.

Wilderness stewardship must extend to the wildland matrix surrounding it, particularly as it influences wildlife. Dr. Jerry Franklin's work emphasizes this, and David Moskowtz's latest book, Wolves in the Land of Salmon, applies it specifically to the Olympics. "Parks do not exist in a vacuum." was Hartzog's way of expressing it. Wolves are the next most important stewardship challenge, together with restoring the Elwha watershed, and providing more visitor friendly trails and accommodations surrounding Olympic's legal Wilderness.

Correspondence ID: 161 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Feb,27,2013 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Letter
Correspondence: Each of us holds dear our own relationship with nature and wilderness. I was born in Brazil and my first experience of wilderness was flying over the Amazon rain forest. In the mid 1950's this was an unbroken wilderness the size of the continental United States. My family re-patriated and moved to the Washington D.C. area. My parents built a house against a boundary which would later become National Park. My father was personal friends with Howard Zahnizer and he was a regular guest in that house. I grew up in heart ache and angst for a greenbelt that was under a seize of development. Eventually my love of wild, open space brought me to the Olympic Peninsula where I had the wonderful opportunity to work at ONP for 23 years. I participated in the original Limits of Acceptable Change and Wilderness Management Plan meetings 20 years ago. For 10 years I was the only permanent Backcountry Ranger on the payroll of ONP. For 35 years, I have been the closest human neighbor to ONP in the Bogachiel Rain Forest. All this introduction is to say that I have every right to my own opinions about wilderness management. My opinions are worth no more or less than any Park employee and worth no more or less than those of any resident of New York, Los Angeles or Forks. Though most of us care about wilderness, few of us perceive it through the same lens.

It is in the truly great wildernesses like Alaska or the Amazon basin in the mid '50s, that the words wilderness management seem like an oxymoron. More finite territories, such as Olympic National Park require the deliberation of these scoping sessions to protect wilderness features from over, or untoward use. Setting opportunity classes in wilderness serves recreational opportunity spectrum and a way to reduce conflicts between user groups. But, just as there are parking lots and roads in this mostly wild National Park, there are areas of legislated wilderness that receive seasonal heavy use. I am uncomfortable with trying to use opportunity classes to impose a wildness that has already been lost. Thank William O. Douglas for saving the coastal strip from being another scenic bi-way. The wild beaches of Olympic National Park are surely among crown jewels of this crown jewel Park. But if they are a bit wild still, they are not wilderness as conceived and described in Howard Zahniser's 1964 legislation. The coastal portion of Olympic National Park is a strip as seen from air or space. It is a strip as seen from a ship. It is a strip as seen from a logging road. It is a strip as seen through the eyes of wildlife. And it is a strip as seen from Forks. Setting pristine benchmarks for the coastal strip is unrealistic and fights a hard battle to defend an illusion. I have a huge amount of professional and recreational experience in this environment. Solitude in this environment can be easily achieved five days a week, seven months a year. If the coastal strip is overused - and it may be - trying to manage it with more quotas may be like squeezing the bulge on a tire. The overuse will just move out to destroy some other, perhaps more pristine, environment. I cherish Olympic's wild coast and turn to it frequently for my own recreaitonal experiences. But it is not pristine and no opportunity classification will make it so. Attempts to mandate primeval characteristics upon the Olympic coast would put ONP management at odds with current user groups and the strip environment itself.

When I worked for ONP, several times I was detailed to the wilderness beaches to make hover hookups of cargo nets filled with marine debris collected by volunteers. In my early retirement years, I volunteered several years in a row to clean up Goodman/Mosquito Beaches. There was no helicopter support for the garbage that I collected and it was left in cache piles to be taken out by Rangers from Mora on a Zodiac. Then, that level of support was withdrawn and volunteers were discouraged from making caches from marine debris removed from the tidal zone. As a volunteer for the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary I manage two 100-meter marine debris study areas (Goodman and Norwegian Memorial). I feel that I have my finger on the so-called pulses of marine debris. Wilderness beaches in Olympic National Park have suffered aesthetic and environmental degradation from lack of the Park's management. I occupy a chair on the North Pacific Coast Marine Resource

Committee and lack of management of marine debris has become an issue for us.

Whether or not supporting citizen efforts to clean wilderness beaches is within the purview of hte WMP scoping sessions, the need for caches and marine debris staging probably is. Currently, volunteers are discouraged from removing Styrofoam, pressure treated lumber and other items that pose considerable environmental threat to the inter-tidal zone to above tide line. Concerned citizens including myself ignore this admonition and large amounts of material are accumulating in a very conspicuous zone. While the word "dump" has bad connotation, the term "staging area" might find more favor with Park management. Multiple staging areas should be defined in the WMP to allow this environmentally deleterious marine debris to be removed from the sensitive inter-tidal zone and stored out of view in the woods until it can be dealt with. Park personnel will find pressure treated lumber for backcountry projects in such a staging area. Beach combers will carry off some of it as treasure. Most of it will have to be boated out or flown out, but at least it will not be destroying wildlife habitat and it will be out of view.

The Pacific Northwest National Scenic Trail intersects and terminates in Olympic National Park. I am a veteran of more than 6,000 miles on National Scenic Trails and things can go very wrong when the trail runs into National Park. One would expect that the National Park Service, above all land managers, would know how to manage backpackers, but, sadly, it seems Park management can't grasp the concept of a long trail. Long hikers don't have cars to secure permits from far away ranger stations. Sometimes they are with dogs. I'm not a fan of dogs in the backcountry and gave out plenty of violation notices for same when I was in the green and gray. Specifically, the PNWT through Olympic National Park is not a good place to relax dog regulations. But the WMP should address the PNWT and accommodate hikers that have come on foot more than a thousand miles to step into Olympic National Park.

On the subject of dogs, I was present in 1980 when Superintendent Roger Contor challenged a room full of ONP rangers: "Olympic National Park is almost a million acres of wilderness," he observed. "Isn't there some place in all that backcountry where we can manage dogs." My supervisor was the Mora subdistrict ranger and he immediately spoke up, "I don't want dogs on my beaches." What superintendent Contor said next stuck with me for the next 20 years I worked for ONP. "First off, these are not your beaches. They belong to the people of the United States. And, second off, a lot of them are showing up here with dogs and no place to go with them." I know the argument of sending dog owners to Olympic National Forest. I know the environmental arguments made to exclude dogs from wilderness - I've quoted them myself. But they are scientifically flawed and tend to break down when you consider how a wolf re-introduction would benefit Olympic's ecology. The feeling of so many Park employees (including to some degree, myself) that dogs don't belong in wilderness is challenged by real explorers who go into real wilderness (Alaska or 1889 Olympic Peninsula). They take dogs. My boss at Mora and myself considered Superintendent Contor's charge and we proposed opening Ellen Creek on Rialto Beach to dogs. For the 15 years it was allowed, I never heard of any problems associated with it. Whether it's Ellen Creek, or someplace else, almost a million acres is enough ground to find a place in the backcountry for a family and their pet.

In the 23 years it was my privelege to be an employee of ONP, it was obvious to me that my views on wilderness management were somewhat eclectic to those of my coworkers. Surely, my neighbors in Forks have left an impression on me. Sadly, I am seen as an environmental extremist by the same neighbors who have influenced my thinking. However out of place may seem my opinions, I have every right to them and resent it when I am patronized. WMP is the challenge of processing my opinions, my neighbor's, those of every ONP employee, and the divergence of competing user groups. The result must fair to all, protect wildlife and preserve wilderness opportunities for generations yet born.

Correspondence ID: 162 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: WTA & Mt Rose Trail Crew Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Mar,22,2013 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: I live close to the park (Lake Cushman)and I have done volunteer work in the park. The park has much open space, lots of trails and one can usually find solitude even on busy weekends. Rainforest, beaches and snow can be seen.

Topic Question 2: The road is open. Not a closed gate or a wash out. Not over regulated on wilderness camping (quotas).

Topic Question 3: Continue using chainsaws to clear trails (impossible to do the same amount of work with crosscut saws ,avalanche debre fields and blown down forest is in mind). Improve the trails that exist and add new trails so people actually can go to certain areas that contain a certain scenic beauty. Not many people will choose to crawl over hundreds of blow down trees. Reroutes are always a lower quality than an original trail that was washed out by a river. Open the Dosewallops road that was washed out. The ultra-enviromentalists are a small percentage of people.

Topic Question 4: I am afraid that in twenty years the decision might have been made to "use it or loose it". During a national emergency areas of the park and forest wilderness could be logged. Areas that have very little use would be the first to go. It happened during World War 2 when the Bogachiel and Lake Cresent was logged. It would just take a big enough reason and the stroke of a pen. Building a trail particularly into an area that has valuable timber so that people actually go there may help off set this if such a thing came to pass. Hopefully I am wrong but we do live in uncertain times.

Topic Question 5: Most of the major trails in the park was constructed or improved during the depression years. Trail shelters are slowly disappearing and not being replaced. Some roads have not been fixed and are washed out. I would like to see these fixed. There are still plenty of areas a person can go to seek solitude but I think most people would still not want to crawl over logs and end up on the sides of cliffs and dangerous stream crossings to get there. Some would but most wouldn't. One can still

get close to nature even when walking a trail.

Comments:

Correspondence ID: 163 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Mar,22,2013 17:08:02
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: The Olympic Wilderness is one of the most popular wilderness areas in the entire wilderness system, and is among the top three in terms of visitation in the National Park System. Besides being the primary reason that I moved to the Olympic Peninsula, it is my back yard.

The diversity of the Olympic Wilderness makes it truly special among other wilderness areas in the lower 48 states.

I love that I can literally be in the wilderness within half an hour of arriving at the decision to go there. I love that I can easily find places of solitude even on a busy day. I love that I can easily find places where there is no traffic noise and the odds of seeing other people are diminishingly small, even within a hour drive of Port Angeles.

I love that Olympic is close enough to the Seattle metro area that urbanites can easily come visit. But I am equally pleased that it is a several hour drive from the city to the park so that the park is not completely overrun.

The reason that these things are special to me is a little hard to define--but it goes something like this: I need, and I am not alone, this natural area to be able to feel a connection to the pre-industrial, pre-agricultural world that is Nature. Wilderness is a refuge from modernism. It is a place that I can go to KNOW who I am and how I fit into the world. It is a place to go to reflect on where we are as a species, how we got to that place we call civilization, and how we can connect to the natural world, even if we cannot simply strip off the fetters of humanness and go back to the garden. Wilderness offers hope.

Topic Question 2: I seldom go to the wilderness with other than my wife and perhaps one or two close friends. I like to hike, mostly day hikes anymore, maybe ten miles round trip, plus some decent elevation gains. We enjoy spontaneous outings that don't require a lot of planning--wait for decent weather as much as anything. We are not into risk taking anymore, stay pretty strictly to the trail. We like to hike to a destination, eat a little lunch, and hike back. Enjoy talking with people along the trail, but gauge that on their apparent interest in contact. We avoid groups of more than a few people. We enjoy seeing wildlife, passively studying plants, rocks, etc. Photogrphy. Listening to nature sounds. Escaping traffic and other sounds of civilization. Leave technology behind.

Topic Question 3: Some of the greatest issues lie outside the wilderness. Visitor education is perhaps the biggest single key to preserving wilderness values into the long distant future. Visitors need to have adequate information in order to protect the wilderness. They need to know how to protect themselves so that intrusive search and rescue operations are not necessary. They need to love the value of wilderness and share this love broadly.

Even though we think of wilderness as the place that we go, or at least know of, wilderness is a political entity that can be affected, grossly altered or eliminated if we as a community, or as a nation, lose the political will to adequately fund administration of wilderness, and face the incursions of such things as mining, air and water quality, intrusions of technology, and other yet unimagined challenges.

A specific current example, on a small scale, of the type of challenge the park (or Wilderness in general) may face, is the act presently going to the House of Representatives to debate the return of seven acres from Fort Vancouver NHS to the City of Vancouver. In this case, as in many challenges, the NPS must stay ahead of the issues. In this context, Wilderness is a much broader concept than the piece of turf defined within set boundaries.

Sequestration points out that adequate funding of administration of wilderness will ever be a major challenge.

Finish the wilderness management plan, or whatever you want to call it, then implement it! This plan should not go on the shelf for decades as too many other NPS plans have done.

We need people in all levels of management that are passionate about protecting wilderness values. Not the least of these agency functions is the naturalist staff--they perhaps have less contact with backpackers than other divisions. But the Resource Education division (or whatever it is called now) can do a better job than any other division to educate non-wilderness users to the value of wilderness.

Topic Question 4: Having lived on the Olympic Peninsula for a third of a century, and worked as a ranger for Olympic National Park for 24 years, I have seen many changes in management. It is not hard to imagine some of the possible changes that might occur in another couple decades. Within that time period, I hope that wolves could be reintroduced and that mountain goats could be eliminated. It will be interesting to see salmon spawning in Lillian River and at Elkhorn on the Elwha.

I would like to see the present system of wilderness use permits and fees continued. The use of animal resistant food containers has been a tremendous success and should continue. I would like to see the system of visitor use quotas expanded to all areas of the wilderness. Where a quota is not needed today, such a quota may be desperately needed at some point in the future. Waiting until a quota is really essential based on resource degradation makes the approval and implementation all the more difficult.

The public is increasingly aware of the need to contact the park ahead of planned outings. And to meet that objective, a separate well-staffed Wilderness Information Center is needed similar to several in parks with much less wilderness visitation--an excellent example is the wilderness center at Zion National Park. Rocky Mountain and Wrangel-St Elias National Parks also have wilderness centers separate from their main Visitor Centers. Here at Olympic, the WIC was operated from a rental trailer for thirteen years, until it was crammed into the lobby of the visitor center. That idea was rejected in 1995 during initial planning for the WIC, when use of the facility was much less than it is currently. At one time, the WIC was the number one priority in the region for funding of a permanent building of its own--that was over fifteen years ago. Will it ever happen? The number of phone calls received at the WIC has increased tremendously in the past few years. The visitor service provided by the WIC, and the related education and prevention of problems, is essential to this park.

I would like to be able to NOT see wildlife that is ear-tagged or radio-collared. I would like it if in twenty years we can say that the 'baseline' monitoring of wildlife is long completed.

I would like to be able to NOT see large groups (over 12)of day hikers more than a mile beyond any trailhead.

Years ago there was a regulation that said that it is prohibited to use non-designated entrances and exits from the park (such as the shortcut trails on the coast). At some point it may be a necessary regulation that will be hard to gain approval for and implement when it is really needed.

Topic Question 5: Although cultural resources have certain value, in wilderness the shelters and other 'modern' improvements should in most cases ultimately be removed. Wilderness values should generally trump cultural values in the Olympic Wilderness, unless there is some remarkable discovery yet to be unearthed.

Trail and campsite maintenance should be kept to standards consistent with historic use patterns for the protection of natural conditions. No new campsites should be added. Existing campsites need to be maintained to prevent sprawl.

Day use group size should be limited to the size of overnight groups beyond a mile from the trailhead.

Restrictions on use of campfires should continue as regulations have been in the past couple decades.

All park staff who spend the night in wilderness should obtain a wilderness use permit, just as the public does, in order to account for the level of administrative use.

I believe that the restriction on carrying firearms in the Olympic Wilderness should be re-instituted.

I would like to see some of the acquisitions to park wilderness as proposed in the Wild Olympics bill.

I would like to see the park refer to 'the Olympic Wilderness' in just that way, as it is specified in Public Law 100-668. Section 101 (a)(2) states in part: "Such lands shall be known as the Olympic Wilderness." Please note the one example of the misuse of the term in the OLYM Wilderness Stewardship Plan - Newsletter #1 - Scoping in paragraph two under the heading Description: http://parkplanning.nps.gov/document.cfm?documentID=50933

Comments: Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Correspondence ID: 164 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Mar,23,2013 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: It is comforting to know that there is at least one place in this country where a wilderness area exists so close to densely populated areas.

Topic Question 2: The apparent attempt by all involved to keep the wilderness character.

Topic Question 3: How to best restore, protect, and enhance overall wilderness character of the Olymoic Wilderness.

Topic Question 4: I would love to see less man-made strutures and fewer visitors. I would want no stock use in the wilderness. All commercial services will be removed to areas outside the actual Wilderness area. Wolves will have thrived and non-native

species (like mountain goats and pigs) will have been removed. Strict limits to access will be in place.

Comments:

Correspondence ID: 165 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: Olympic Park Associates Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Mar,23,2013 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: The broad spectrum of ecosystems packed so closely together. I grew up hiking in the riparian zones of central California and in the high Sierra: a day hike in ONP can combine the wet, mossy, fern grottos of the redwood forest with the high alpine.

Topic Question 2: Solitude, wildlife encounters. (Native wildlife - not encounters with non-native invasives.)

Topic Question 3: Non-native invasives; inappropriate rebuilding or replacement of "historic" structures. Over-use of course - quota system seems to work pretty good.

Topic Question 4: I'd be very happy to see everything largely as it is: one of the best parts of visiting the wilderness is the very slow change that tends to occur there. Excited to see salmon up the Elwha! Wolves

More important is what I'd rather *NOT* see: Non-native invasive species running amuck Historic structures rebuild as new More horses Cell phone towers or other "installations"

Topic Question 5: No drones in Wilderness!

Comments:

Correspondence ID: 166 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Mar,23,2013 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: The park is unique in preserving the wild character of the area, showing people now and generations to come, the structure, integrity, and beauty of the area.

Topic Question 2: I enjoy the wilderness by hiking and simply being present in the magnificent mountains, rivers, rain forest, and ocean beaches. I also appreciate the continued connection with the native culture and he rich heritage present there.

Topic Question 3: The proposed plan would extend the protections of the Wilderness Act of 1964 and expand that stewardship for the restoration of the natural ecosystems and maintain this wilderness area as a permitted use area for those who wish to experience it.

Topic Question 4: I would like to see the park maintained and supported as an exceptional wilderness area with excellent stewardship of its natural habitats and superb, but non-intrusive, facilities for those who come to see and learn.

Comments:

Correspondence ID: 167 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Feb,28,2013 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Letter
Correspondence: 1. What makes the Olympic National Park wilderness area special to you and why? The Olympic National Park is special because it is a wild and spectacularly scenic area. It is a place where we can see nature at work without human development and interference. In my opinion, this wilderness and biodiversity and diversity of habitats must be protected and preserved. In my opinion, the wilderness act of 1964 defines wilderness very well. Any management plan must have that definition fully respected and implemented.

2. When you visit the Olympic National Park wilderness area, what activities and experiences are most important to you? Wilderness areas need to be managed to be wild without too much human interference and enjoyment. All of the activities and experiences that we have in the park our important to me, but they must be preserved and protected so they truly remain a wilderness experience and not overused to the point where the wilderness experience is degraded.

3. What do you think the issues are in the Olympic National Park wilderness area? There are many issues that are important to the Olympic National Park.

First, I believe climate change is going to continue to happen. The Olympic National Park has a biodiversity and ecology that is unique. We must preserve the resilience and wilderness of the park so the flora and fauna can adapt to climate change as much as possible.

Second, wolves should be reintroduced into the park. They are an important part of the natural ecosystem of the park and an important predator. I believe they will enhance the wilderness experience. Before retiring to Sequim, Washington, my wife and I lived in Minnesota for 35 years. We had wolves on our property and we had wolves in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area (BWCA) where we saw them and heard and howling at night. Frankly that experience is magical. Also, when I was at University of Minnesota in the department of entomology, fisheries and wildlife, the man next door (at the University) had a grant to study wolves in Minnesota. Since I had first hand discussions with the wildlife biologist doing research on wolves, I have had a long standing special interest in their reintroduction and their biology and behavior. When the wolf populations in Minnesota expanded to include our rural property we discovered they were actually a benefit to us and our immediate neighbors. Before wolves displaced the resident coyotes, small dogs, cats, chickens and guinea hens were often killed and eaten by the coyotes. When the wolves moved in the coyotes disappeared.

Third, I believe the mountain goats should be removed from the Olympic National Park. They are not an endemic species for the Olympic Peninsula. They have no natural predators here and they have learned to tolerate humans entirely too much resulting in some serious human and mountain goat incidents. Frankly, if the decision were up to me, I would create a lottery system for local hunters to have the privilege to hunt the mountain goats and remove them from the park. The lottery system should be created on a pay-as-you-go basis so that the moutnain goats would be removed and interested hunters would have the oportunity to pay for and hunt the animals. This should happen only once and it should be a once-in-a-lifetime experience. Otherwise the park should remain a wilderness park with zero hunting allowed.

Fourth, I believe the Eastern Brook trout should be removed from lakes within the park. They are not an endemic species.

Fifth, I believe the park should be increased in size especially in the lowland areas between the seashore areas and the mountainous areas. I believe developing national Park is going to have more and more visitors in the future. If the park were larger and expanded into more areas, more of it would be available and it would be able to be more resilient to visitor pressure. More of the Olympic National Forest should be placed into the park wilderness areas. There should also be more coordination between the areas endorsed by the Wild Olympics campaign and the Olympic National Park. I feel it is only a matter of time before the Wild Olympics legislation passes.

Sixth, human waste management always seems to be a problem in wilderness areas especially in specific areas where large numbers of people wish to go. Research should be conducted to find better ways to handle human waste in camping areas deep within the park. I have seen areas where the amount of human waste had become seriously objectionable. Perhaps solar operated composting toilets could be used in specific sites. Otherwise I suspect the best way to manage the problem is to restrict the numbers of people allowed into certain areas.

4. Imagine you are visiting the Olympic National Park wilderness area 20 years from now. What conditions, experiences, visitor services and facilities would you like to see? I would like to see the part exactly as it is now with all rivers designated Wild and Scenic Rivers, with an existing healthy population of wolves and fishers, and without mountain goats.

5. Please share any additional comments or suggestions. All of my suggestions and comments have been covered above.

Correspondence ID: 168 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Mar,14,2013 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Letter
Correspondence: I am writing concerning the Olympic Wilderness Plan. I am against it. The ONP has enough wilderness now! Your people cannot care for the acerage they already have. Many people are against this plan. The trails are not maintained and neither are the roads. We need entrances to get in to fight fires and aid people in distress or lost or injured. The campgrounds need repairs. So devote your time and money into the areas you already have developed.

I have enjoyed the wilderness areas since the 1950s climbing and hiking extensively in them.

It is so important to get away, enjoy the views, the animals, the lakes and learning about the backcountry solitude. The ONP is so beautiful more people should enjoy it not less - which would happen if you increase the wilderness.

More shelters in the back areas and areas to lakes and Mt. vistas are also needed. I know many (12) were destroyed so why not build more now that hiking and climbing are done by so many more people?

A tram to high areas is one example of new ideas that could allow more people to enjoy our ONP. One such starting point could be the Sol Duc Hot Springs then up to the Little Divide where a cafe or Hostel could be the stopping point, and people could have views of the Hoh Valley Mt. Olympus, [illegible] and others.

Again do not lock up more Wilderness areas!

Correspondence ID: 169 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Mar,10,2013 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: E-mail
Correspondence: We would like to have included into the Olympic wilderness Stewardship Plan the following considerations:

Wilderness impact topics, or current activities which have a lasting detrimental impact on wilderness: 1. Remove bear wires, bear cans only. 2. Restrict campfires, possibly by distance from trailhead, or only in campgrounds. 3. Deter unofficial route brushing and flagging. 4. Scientific monitoring residue . . . data is collected but flagging/equipment remain in field after . . . shift to GPS or include funds to ensure removal.

Reallocation of existing budget 1. More backcountry or wilderness staff, with fee-offset incentives not fines to issue upon encounters. 2. Trail maintenance, especially tread and brushing . . . greatest return on labor dollar spent. 3. Improve permit issuing inconsistencies and outdated low-tech practices.

Stewardship enhancement topics, or how to include visitors more into Stewardship concept . . . especially in a shrinking budget generation: 1. Issue GPS to select groups . . . e.g., NOLS/Boy Scouts/Individuals to remote areas. Invite/include them in route marking and impact monitoring that they see while in Park. Establish incentive to mark their route and document impacts they see. 2. Establish incentive to remove trash and reduce fire rings in frontcountry and near-trailhead areas. 3. New campaign for exotics. Invite pulbic to offer solutions to presence of exotics in Park . . . start with reality that there is a problem, massive cost, huge consequence, no budget. 4. Sponsored Volunteer Projects. Many companies have need for group activities and funds to support them. Can't think of a better place and way to do something beneficial in a pristine Wilderness.

Thank you for considering these ideas, we are available to discuss them.

Correspondence ID: 170 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Mar,12,2013 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Letter
Correspondence: I am writing to you regarding ONP's Wilderness Stewardship Plan. I love and use ONP!

I support the current permit system for backpackers, group size limits and campfire restrictions. I request the plan regulate stock use in wilderness to keep commercial services to current levels. No increased stock use please!

I request ONP park managers protect and restore natural ecosystems, including restoring wolves!

The plan must preserve wilderness as defined by the Wilderness Act of 1964. Every effort must be made to protect and preserve its /ONP's wilderness character.

Please do all you can to protect ONP!

Correspondence ID: 171 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Mar,11,2013 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Letter
Correspondence: My wife and I offer the following views on the proposed Wilderness Stewardship Plan:

1. Olympic National Park is one of the US' premier wilderness parks. Every effort should be made to protect and preserve its wilderness character. Therefore, we support the Park's stated purpose in the proposed plan "to guide the preservation, management, and use of the park's wilderness areas as defined by the Wilderness Act of 1964" and its goal "to restore, protect, and enhance overall wilderness character of the Olympic Wilderness".

2. In light of (what most scientists consider human-caused) global warming/climate change, and increased demands on wilderness, we request that Park managers protect and restore Olympic Park's natural ecosystems as an integral part of its wilderness. We believe that means restoring species which have been removed (e.g, wolves) and eliminating non-native species (e.g., introduced mountain goats).

3. We support the current permit system for wilderness backpackers; campfire restrictions in the high country; food storage requirements and group size limits. Further, all wilderness fees should be used for wilderness stewardship. We request that the Plan regulate livestock use in the wilderness to protect the natural resources and trail infrastructure, and not allow commercial services to increase beyond current levels.

4. Finally, we believe that the Park's cultural resources (e.g., Wedding Rocks) and archeological sites should be protected in the

wilderness, but that reconstruction of historic shelters, barns and cabins is prohibited by the Wilderness Act.

Thank you for considering our comments.

Correspondence ID: 172 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Mar,11,2013 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Letter
Correspondence: Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Wilderness Stewardship Plan for Olympic National Park. I am a board member of the North Olympic Group of the Sierra Club and live in Port Townsend.

The presence of Olympic National Park wilderness is one of the key attractions of both visitors and residents to Jefferson County and Port Townsend. In fact, 24% of Jefferson County's total per capita income is attributable to the proximity of protected public lands. People travel here from the Seattle-Tacoma metropolitan area, the continental United States, and the world to experience the grandeur and exceptional wilderness qualities of this park. They are motivated to do so by the integrity of the Park and its unspoiled wilderness.

I recently had the opportunity to speak with and outdoor recreation guide who had relocated his business from Wyoming to the Elhwa River. He was enthusiastic about the untrammeled qualities of our wilderness and spoke eloquently about how people were increasingly seeking unchanged wild landscapes as a place for recreation and refuge from the human built environment.

I personally value the wilderness of Olympic National Park for its majesty, diversity of ecosystems, and opportunities for spiritual renewal. For many, like myself, wilderness is akin to the world's great cathedrals and sacred places of worship and is fundamental to our well-being and sense of connectedness with creation.

The existing General Management Plan is a good starting point for protecting this priceless asses of the American people. I do, however, have several recommendations as the Park Service considers the development of a Wilderness Stewardship Plan:

--Protecting natural soundscapes and minimizing motor noise should include noise from aircraft crossing the Park. I enocurage the NPS to work with the military, the airlines and the FAA to reroute existing flight patterns to eliminate this intrusion on the Park's wilderness.

--Balancing protection and use is challenging. Americans need to see and experience their wilderness; in fact, support for wilderness preservation depends on these personal experiences. On the other hand, the absence of day use limits Park Service to monitor the use of popular areas and to impose limits, as necessary, for the recovery of damaged areas. The current permit system for wilderness backpackers, campfire restrictions in high country, food storage requirements, and group size limits should be maintained and all wilderness fees should be used for wilderness stewardship.

--Stock use provides a valuable way to access the wilderness but also introduces invasive, non-native species. The Park Service needs to monitor this problem closely and regulate stock use accordingly.

--The General Management Plan notes that boundary adjustments are needed in three areas of the Park: Lake Crescent, Queets, and Ozette. I encourage the Park Service to continue to seek funding to purchase land from willing sellers and to facilitate land exchanges to allow for these boundary adjustments to restore the integrity of the Park and its wilderness areas.

--Olympic Park wilderness and its endemic species and unique ecosystems are particularly vulnderable to the effects of climate change. Since visitor use is only likely to grow, I encourage the Park to work with local transit agencies and others to develop and publicize transit-based options for visiting the park. Initial subsidies should be sought until these options are viable and self-sustaining.

--There is nothing like a noisy outboard motor to destroy the sense of peace and tranquility on a wilderness lake. Gasoline and oil leakage also has a deleterious effect on wildlife. I urge the Park Service to prohibit motorized boating on Lake Crescent and Ozette Lake.

--The damage caused by non-native species, particularly mountain goats, to sub alpine plants and soils needs to be reversed. The removal of this species is particularly timely in light of the recent death of a hiker who was gored by an aggressive mountain goat. The stewardship plan should include the goals of restoring extirpated species, such as wolves, and restoring the historical predator-prey balance in the Park.

In short, Olympic National Park is one of our nation's premiere wilderness parks. Every effort should be made to protect and preserve its wilderness character and to educate the public on why intact wilderness is critical in a world of greatly diminished wild places.

Correspondence ID: 173 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual

Received: Mar,12,2013 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Letter
Correspondence: Please consider this letter as our comment on scoping for the new wilderness stewardship plan for Olympic National Park. I (George) am a native of Washington state and visited the park many times before my career brought me to the east coast.

Olympic National Park is a precious remnant of the wild Olympic Peninsula that was intact as recently as 100 years ago. So much was lost before the park was established, it would be a grave mistake to let any of the park land be compromised.

In 1988 Congress wisely designated 95 percent of Olympic NP as wilderness. NPS has the job of managing the wilderness areas under the mandates of the Wilderness Act. The wilderness stewardship plan can help protect the designated wilderness lands by setting standards so the decisions can be made in compliance with the requirements of the Wilderness Act.

Purpose and Goal: We heartily support the proposed purpose of the plan, which bases the plan on the mandates in the Wilderness Act, and the goal "to restore, protect, and enhance overall wilderness character . . ."

Motorized Tools and Transport: The plan should set clear standards for the "minimum requirements" use of motorized and mechanical equipment for management purposes, consistent with section 4(c) of the Wilderness Act. This could address, for example, the exceptional use of chainsaws to clear large blowdowns from trails, use of helicopters to bring in structural pieces for trail bridges or to supply wildlife research projects.

The problem is that the visitors entering Olympic wilderness have a right to expect the sounds of nature, not the sounds of motor vehicles. During a 4-month summer season you only have 120 days. If motor noises are allowed on 40 of those days, you've spoiled people's visits on one-third of hte season. We've seen how this works in the Alps of France, where helicopters are used on a daily basis to resupply the rather elaborate hikers' lodginigs known as refuges. After hiking up a steep Alpine trail, we found the loud noise and the very presence of helicopters jarring, and not at all a wilderness experience. That must be avoided at Olympic.

The plan should set standards so that only the fewest possible days of the summer season would be marred by motorized equipment noises. Trail crews should not be using chainsaws as a default tool. We suggest that the plan set an expected maximum number of "motor noise days." This could be handled by geographic areas so, for instance, the Hoh Valley/High Divide would not exceed 5 motor noise days per summer.

Ecosystems: We favor adding an explicit goal to protect and restore the wilderness's irreplaceable natural ecosystems. The concept of ecosystems was well understood in the sciences in 1964 but had not yet entered the management or legislative vocabularies. It is wise to incorporate it as a fundamental concept of the WSP. It is another way of expressing the Wilderness Act's wording "to preserve its natural conditions."

Climate Change: The WSP should reflect the problem of human-caused global warming and take steps to protect the Olympic native ecosystems with their flexibility, which will help them respond to changing climate.

Native Species: Extirpated species such as the wolf should be reintroduced, as an essential player in the ecosystem with the Olympic elk, deer, and other prey species. Exotic species such as the mountain goat should be eliminated, to end their unnatural impacts on vegetation and their erosive effect on alpine soils. I personally saw the impact of mountain goats in the Klahhane Ridge area.

Cultural Resources: We caution NPS that it is unreasonable to consider up to 50 buildings in the backcountry as "historic" structures that would be repaired or rehabilitated to keep them in service. I (George) am familiar with wilderness areas in many areas of the West and East. I have personally seen the remnants of many old cabins, shelters, and fences in wilderness areas that have been allowed to decay and merge back into the natural landscape. That should be allowed to happen with most manmade structures in the Olympic wilderness. Maintianing shelters, sheds, barns and cabins would damage the wilderness character of the land. Modern lightweight hiking gear has made backcountry shelters unnecessary.

Permits: We favor continuation of the wilderness backpacking permit system. It helps avoid overcrowding in areas such as Seven Lakes Basin and the Ozette Coast, both of which I've visited. The permits and reservation system also helps NPS manage impacts and locate hiking parties that need emergency assistance, as when people stray from the trail.

Group Size: We favor a maximum group size of 12 persons for backpacking. That is comparable to the maximum group size applied in many other wilderness areas, typically ranging between 10 and 15 people.

Camping Sites: The plan should address the types of backcountry camping sites. Will camping be limited to designated sites, or could "dispersed" campsites be allowed, as in Shenandoah NP? The dispersed model may be more suitable in areas where soils and vegetation recover quickly from the modest impacts of short-term camping.

Thank you for considering our thoughts. Please keep us informed of further action on this plan.

Correspondence ID: 174 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Feb,05,2013 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Letter
Correspondence: I am writing in response to the newspaper article "Park Solicits Input for Wilderness Plan." The below ideas are what I would like to enjoy, as well as give for my children. Before I begin, I realize wildlife is part of the park's beauty, and people should be notified that animals approached should be at the person's own risk, and should not blame the park. People need to be reminded to use common sense. Yellowstone used to put out fliers to not feed the bears, many people didn't heed the warning. The park should not be blamed for any problem occurring after a warning has been issued.

These are my suggestions: 1. Scenic Views with walking paths and picnic tables in certain areas by a creek or stream. 2. Bus tours discussing the creation of the park physically and legislatively. Not approaching wildlife, but let wildlife come to the tour bus. (Denali Park has great success with this procedure . . . and it is very enjoyable.) 3. A ski lodge for cross-country and downhill skiers. A ski area might be a good source of income for the park, and fun for the family. 4. I am suggesting dividing the park up in areas that are wilderness friendly and others areas that are scenic and nurturing wildlife.

Thank you for your time.

Correspondence ID: 175 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Feb,10,2013 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: E-mail
Correspondence: I understand this is the time for input from the public to help the Park Service construct a management plan for the Olympic National Park wilderness area.

In this regard I would like to offer my comments. Since I live in the hills of south central Indiana it is a fair statement to say that my visits to ONP have been infrequent, but I am familiar with the Park. However, it is my understanding that input from even infrequent visitors is welcome.

Anyway, there is one growing environmental concern I have had for almost three decades. It is one that seems to fall by the wayside, yet the problem only gets worse with each passing year. And that is the problem with environmental noise pollution. The reason I pay so close attention to this growing problem is that I have been recording bird songs from across North America for over 24 years, and subsequently archiving these recordings with the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology. Hence, I have been seeking out not only the most remote locations in North America, but also the ones that have the least amount of noise pollution. My special attention to finding pristine recording locations results in many of the "cleanest" recordings for numerous North American bird species that can be found in the Cornell archive, and the "clean recordings" are the ones best suited for education and research.

Not surprisingly the biggest offender of true quietness in otherwise remote and pristine locations across our continent is air traffic. I grant you that if I were to make a recording foray to ONP, I would book a flight to Seattle. Therefore I do admit that a fair amount of noise pollution comes with the turf in the 21st century. However, ONP is almost uniquely positioned in that there are relatively few national parks which are on the edge of the continent. Thus, of all the national parks, ONP is one of the few that could even consider making their wilderness area free from jet traffic to become the first national park in the nation with a wilderness area that not only provides beautiful, remote, and pristine vistas, but also provides pristine quietness as well. And pristine quietness is becoming increasingly rare from my 24 year experience of seeking out such locations.

At any rate, I hope you will consider making ONP the first national park in the country to offer a wilderness area that provides the visitor with an example of pristine quietness as well as pristine vistas. After all, ONP is arguably the premier example and showcase for the World's only temperate rain forest. Certainly this unique location at the edge of the continent deserves a bit of special consideration.

Thank you for your time, and I hope you will give my suggestions some thought.

Correspondence ID: 176 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Mar,22,2013 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Letter
Correspondence: Welcome to Olympic National Park and the Peninsula and thank you for soliciting comments about the Wilderness Plan, an important element concerning the stewardship of the area's natural and wild resources.

It is fitting that reviewing and implementation of the Olympic National Park Wilderness Stewardship Plan coincides with the 75th Anniversary of the Park's establishment by Mon C. Wallgren's bill that was enacted on June 29, 1938, the last day of Congress, passed by a majority of one vote. A very close call at for saving and protecting such invaluable scientific, scenic and recreational resources.

The 95% Wilderness core is really what makes the Park worthy of it's establishment and without that protected and managed

roadless interior, Olympic would not have much substance as a national and world treasure.

I completely concur with the recommendations stated in Voice Of The Wild Olympics by Olympic Park Associates. I would also add emphasis for smaller group size for off-trail/cross country camping; maximum of 6 persons per group rather than 12. This restriction would help lessen impact in popular routes such as the Bailey Range Traverse and other similar routes, including the Skyline Trail, between Low Divide and Three Lakes.

Since the late 1960's, Olympic has been progressive in managing backcountry impact and site restoration, by in the field presence of Park personnel - rangers, interpreters, trail crews and volunteers such as Student Conservation Association Park Assistants. Once SCA volunteer is Ruth Scott, a stalwart, early pioneer in site restoration with wilderness perspective, who is now on your staff. Like Ruth, much of Olympic's early backcountry management activity was developed from the ground up at the field level. Wilderness protection and management is a work in progress.

"All conservation of wildness is self-defeating, for to cherish we must see and fondle, and when enough have seen and fondled, there is no wilderness left to cherish." - Aldo Leopold, A Sand County Almanac: With Other Essays on Conservation from Round River

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Correspondence ID: 177 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: Sierra Club - North Olympic Group Non-Governmental
Received: Mar,25,2013 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Letter
Correspondence: Thank you for allowing the North Olympic group of the Washington State Chapter of Sierra Club the opportunity to comment on the Wilderness Stewardship Plan for Olympic National Park.

The presence of Olympic National Park wilderness is one of the key attractions of both visitors and residents to Jefferson County and Clallam Counties. In fact, 24% of Jefferson County's and 14% of Clallam County's total per capita income is attributable to the proximity of protected public lands. People travel here from the Seattle-Tacoma metropolitan area, the continental United States, and the world to experience the grandeur and exceptional wilderness qualities of this park. They are motivated to do so by the integrity of the Park and its unspoiled wilderness.

The existing General Management Plan is a good starting point for protecting this priceless asset of the American people. We do, however, have several concerns and recommendations as the Park Service considers the development of a Wilderness Stewardship Plan:

Our overriding concern is whether the National Park Service will have the resources needed to implement its Wilderness Stewardship Plan:

The Park Service has been chronically under-funded for years and recent across-the-board federal budget cuts will only make matters worse. Protecting wilderness requires careful monitoring of use and the ability to enforce use restrictions, as needed, to allow over-used areas to recover. On the other hand, the Park has invested significant manpower and funds in recent years to repair, reconstruct, and maintain some 40 structures in wilderness areas. while we support the preservation of what are widely valued as cultural resources - Native American archeological sites, artifacts, petroglyphs and shell middens - we do not feel that more recent structures such as barns, homesteads, hunting cabins, sheds and shelters are worthy of the same degree of protection. Reallocating resources that have been used in this regard should be directed to more important monitoring and protection activities critical to maintaining the integrity of the Park's wilderness.

Natural Sound Conservation: Protecting natural soundscapes and minimizing motor noise should include noise from aircraft crossing the Park. We encourage the NPS to work with the military, the airlines and the FAA to reroute existing flight patterns to eliminate this intrusion on the Park's wilderness. Similarly, there is nothing like a noisy outboard motor to destroy the sense of peace and tranquility on a wilderness lake. Gasoline and oil leakage also have a deleterious effect on wildlife.

Motorized Boating: We urge the Park Service to prohibit motorized boating on Lake Crescent and Ozette Lake.

Use Limits: Balancing protection and use is challenging. Americans need to see and experience their wilderness; in fact, support for wilderness preservation depends on these personal experiences. On the other hand, the absence of day use limits places a burden on the Park Service to monitor the use of popular areas and to impose limits, as necessary, for the recovery of damaged areas. We are concerned that limited budgets and resources will make this increasingly difficult to do and, as a result, day use limits may be needed.

The current permit system for wilderness backpackers, campfire restrictions in high country, food storage requirements, and group camp size limits should be maintained and all wilderness fees collected from these activities should be used for wilderness stewardship.

Stock Use: Stock use provides a valuable way to access the wilderness but also introduces invasive, non-native species, and is particularly hard on the fragile ecology of high elevation trails. The Park Service needs to monitor this closely and regulate

stock use accordingly.

Boundary Adjustments: The General Management Plan notes that boundary adjustments are needed in three areas of the Park: Lake Crescent, Queets, and Ozette. We encourage the Park to continue to seek authority and funding to purchase land from willing sellers and to facilitate land exchanges to allow for these boundary adjustments to restore the integrity of the Park and its wilderness areas.

Climate Change: Olympic Park wilderness and its endemic species and unique ecosystems are particularly vulnerable to the effects of climate change. Since visitor use is only likely to grow, we encourage the Park to work with local transit agencies and others to develop and publicize transit-based options for visiting the park. Initial subsidies could be provided until these options are viable and self-sustaining.

Native and Non-Native Species: The damage caused by non-native species, particularly mountain goats, to sub-alpine plants and soils needs to be reversed. The removal of this species is particularly timely in light of the recent death of a hiker who was gored by an aggressive mountain goat. The stewardship plan should include the goals of restoring extirpated species, such as wolves, and restoring the historical predator-prey balance in the Park.

In short, Olympic National Park is one of our nation's premiere wilderness parks. Every effort should be made to protect and preserve its wilderness character and to educate the public on why intact wilderness is critical in a world of greatly diminished wild places.

Correspondence ID: 178 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: Wirta Hospitality Worldwide Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Mar,25,2013 20:10:33
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: ONP is unique because of the combination of its large size and wilderness designation. I especially enjoy backpacking trips of three or more days. Multi-day backpacking allows me to enjoy the solitude and wipe away my hectic urban life in a way that day trips just can?t do. The combination of history and wilderness with its multiple historic structures makes it special too.

Topic Question 2: ? Backpacking and overnight camping is what I enjoy most. ? Viewing wildlife if they want to be viewed ? Fishing especially guided drift boat trips for salmon in the fall. ? Staying in the historic lodges, shelters and ranger stations. ? Bicycle access along the Olympic Discovery Trail

Topic Question 3: ? We need to more youth programs at ONP! We need more kids in the backcountry if we are going to continue this Parks legacy. ? I do not want backcountry users feel a need to carry a gun. We are more likely to be killed by a stray bullet from a boozy camper than a cougar. ? Restore the Dosewallips road and support it with Park and Ride and shuttle system. ? Keep and restore the historic backcountry ranger stations and shelters. They are our link to our Park?s history. ? I think that ONP should be mostly wilderness, but there should be a bit more hospitality and hostelry. Wilderness trails should be designed to loop and end at historic hotels. Bring back the Enchanted Valley Chalet and make it a hostel in the same way the Appalachian Mountain Club administers the century-old stone huts in the White Mountains of New Hampshire. ? Encourage horses or lama usage to backpack users gear into the parks. This will keep older hikers on the trails.

Topic Question 4: In twenty years, I hope that I can show my grandchildren an Olympic National Park that is still wild. I would like to see enough staff to effectively manage the park visitors, including trail maintenance, law enforcement, search and rescue, and fire suppression. There would be vibrant youth programs and we?d see more teenagers in the wilderness than ever before. You would still be able to use the park for day use or backpack deep in to the interior. You could photograph wildflowers by the entrance or sit around a campfire with civilization far away. Glaciers would still exist on Mt. Olympus and other areas in the park. Watersheds have been protected and not logged. All the unique species of flora and fauna of ONP would be healthy and thriving and all seven species of salmon would be spawning all the way up the Elwha River. We?d see a tiny goat population that was carefully managed. The park would still be a leading center of science and research. The entrances and visitor centers would be upgraded to support and reflect the status of Olympic as a National Park, International Biosphere and World Heritage Site. The current confusing entrances and sub-standard visitor?s centers would be a dim memory. The historic hotels that surround the park would be filled with visitors because they would have been maintained and upgraded. The historic structures inside the park, such as the ranger stations and shelters are well cared for and used by park officials and visitors alike and the Enchanted Valley Chalet would be a hostel on everybody?s must visit list. There would be even more visitors throughout the park, but it wouldn?t seem crowed because there would be a more even dispersal. Wilderness permitting would continue to keep popular areas from overuse. Places like Sequim or Quinault would have upgraded entrances that would bring more users into those under-visited areas. There would be a shuttle to all interior areas like Hurricane Ridge, Dosewallips, Sol Duc and the Hoh. There would be more thoughtful management of trail placement throughout the park. Separate trails that were built by explorers, miners, fisherman or hunters were re-examined in view of the total wilderness experience. Careful trail planning and management would have expanded the wilderness experiences with a focus on group camping, loops and trail connections. Federal money for management, upkeep and capital spending would be supplemented by a spectrum of robust corporate partnerships, scientific grants, hiking club memberships, and non-profit endowments that would bring new ideas, research and money to the park. Finally, there would still be no internet, telephone or electronic access in the wilderness. The pressure would have been intense to bring the outside world in, but wise planners resisted. In twenty years the wilderness of Olympic National Park will still be a wild and magnificent place, where my grand-children can forget the mundane, focus on the power of nature and heal and grow.

Comments:

Correspondence ID: 179 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: Hood Canal Environmental Council Non-Governmental
Received: Mar,25,2013 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Letter
Correspondence: Re: Wilderness Stewardship Plan/Environmental Impact Statement

The Hood Canal Environmental Council (HCEC) welcomes the opportunity to comment on the development of the above-named wilderness management plan and environmental impact statement called for in the Olympic National Park (ONP) general management plan. HCEC takes particular interest in ONP management policies impacting natural resources in the Hood Canal watershed. We believe that today's pressures, e.g. increased visitor use and potential impacts from climate change, call for exceptional measures to protect these resources. For this reason, the HCEC stands by its position that ONP should place the highest priority on the protection of the wilderness character of the majority of national park land. Additionally, we recommend:

--The development of a wilderness plan that adheres to the terms of the 1964 Wilderness Act. --That every effort be made to reintroduce extirpated species, including wolves, and removing non-native species in an effort to protect and/or restore natural ecosystem processes. --Continue maintenance of the infrastructure necessary for public enjoyment and safety, including trails and buildings, while removing those that are unnecessary or detract from the wilderness experience. --Full funding of the wilderness stewardship program, with revenue collected from wilderness user fees and other sources.

The Park Service is to be commended for its past work to protect wilderness and the irreplaceable resources it supports. Our work to protect the environmental health of the Hood Canal watershed will only be enhanced by the continued stewardship of ONP land in the headwaters of our west side rivers and streams.

Thank you again for providing the Hood Canal Environmental Council the opportunity to assist in the development of the Olympic National Park's Wilderness Stewardship Plan. In particular, we appreciate the scoping meeting in Shelton where ONP staff went out of their way to provide good information and to encourage public participation. We look forward to following the planning process and reviewing the draft environmental impact statement due next year.

Correspondence ID: 180 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Feb,05,2013 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Park Form
Correspondence: 1. Solitude to walk beaches, mountain trails; backbacking and camping; viewing wildlife; snoeshowing in winter; Love: 1st, 2nd, 3rd, Rialto, Shi, Shi, Toleak, Cape Alava, Sand Pt. - all these beaches, High Divide, Elwha River, walk, Moose Lake, Lillian Ridge, Deer Park***

2. See above; walking, camping

3. Many more people visiting and therefore high use - good of course but there more supervision needed; many people not sensitive to plant life and its needs - they need training; social trails; "me" mentality. Most people I meet are hiking for "personal" goals of how fast, how long, etc. not for what is here to see?

4. Wilderness of today totally preserved; good trail maintenance; good use of outhouses in high camping areas to keep waste under control; education for hikers to understand the park is not the gym.

5. True, yes, we do need a solution to "goat problem." I favor extermination (humane) but only with some consensus.

Correspondence ID: 181 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Feb,05,2013 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Park Form
Correspondence: 1. The wilderness is relatively "untrammeled" as compared to other wilderness areas in the system. As such its baseline condition is also relatively higher and the principle of non-degradation should run through the analysis.

2. Hiking, backpacking - solitude is a critical element of my experience. The acoustic environment, or natural sound quality is a component of solitude that must be acknowledged in the plan.

3. As use increases, and as more emphasis is placed on commercial use, impacts on wilderness quality are inevitable. Climate change will induce impacts that lowers the tolerance of resource values to other external sources of impact.

4. Condition and experiences should be maintained at their present high quality. I would like to see assertive efforts to collect resource and visitor use data to identify trends and departures from baseline contidions - with the ability to distinguish climate induced changes from human-caused changes. In 20 years, other unanticipated sources of human-caused impact are highly

likely to arise. Eg: overflights, motorized intrusions from adjacent lands, political pressure to allow non-conforming uses.

5. I encourage the park to be assertive in considering the natural sound environment as a resource, and to use sounds as an indicator. Other resources, chiefly wildlife, depend on the maintenance of the natural sound environment along with other elements of their habitat.

Correspondence ID: 182 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Feb,05,2013 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Park Form
Correspondence: 1. Peace, quiet, solitude, wilderness

2. Hiking, climbing, camping, just experiencing nature.

3. I think people feel like they are being kept out, either by not maintaining trails and bridges or not building new trails. We still want access in a responsible way.

4. More trails into the backcountry, better bridges. Thoes are the only visitor services I would want to see in the backcountry. I would not want to see designated camp sites.

5. Blank

Correspondence ID: 183 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Feb,05,2013 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Park Form
Correspondence: 1. We are grateful that such a large wilderness exists where access is relatively accessible. It doesn't take days of travel and vacation time to experience. A picnic on the beach or up the Hoh can refresh us.

2. We're mostly day hikers and enjoy high and low country. Giving our grandchildren from LA a taste of this peace and beauty.

3. Being loved to death? Capacities. What/how many aids to accessibility are necessary. Should some places remain hard to get to? What makes management possible but non-intrusive?

4. Not much change

5. Blank

Correspondence ID: 184 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: City of Port Angeles Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Feb,05,2013 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Park Form
Correspondence: 1. "This is our park." The community asked Pres. Roosevelt for our park in 1937. It was established in 1938 for use and preservation for future use. It provides enjoyment of our mountains, lakes and provides jobs and economic stimulus to our community.

2. Snow activities all winter. Campgrounds, good trails and ranger led programs.

3. Being careful not to focus too much on preservation. The park was established for public use and enjoyment. We must have use in order to support it.

4. A good balance of use and preservation. A full range of snow related activities, safe hiking trails and guides - ranger led programs. Campsites are appreciated. Our children must be able to use the park for them to want to support the park financially!

5. ONP is an extremely important partner and economic engine to the surrounding community. This is "our park" and year-round access is important to the community.

Correspondence ID: 185 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Feb,05,2013 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Letter
Correspondence: Thank you for the opportunity to submit our comments regarding the Olympic National Park Wilderness Stewardship Plan. I have organized our comments using the "Questions to Consider" included in the newsletter:

1. What makes the Olympic National Park wilderness area special to you and why? We grew up on the Olympic Peninsula and have backpacked in the ONP since we were children. ONP is one of the reasons we returned to the Peninsula after college. We wanted our children to have the same experiences we did growing up. We took our first child backpacking when he was three months old and we take as many trips as possible with our three children each year. Our family treasures the time we spend in the backcountry and our children look forward to planning trips each year.

2. When you visit the Olympic National Park what activities and experiences are most important to you? We were solely backpackers until the birth of our second child. Two, young children (13 months apart) limited our ability to make overnight trips. We joined the local Backcountry Horsemen chapter to learn how we could use our horses to help get our entire family into the backcountry. Now, we rely on our horses to get us (and our gear) into the backcountry. Without the horses it would be nearly impossible for our 3 children to enjoy overnight trips. Our older children typically hike while our youngest child rides. If we are making a short, 1-night trip we sometimes just lead 1 pack horse. On longer trips we bring a maximum of 3 horses. Because of this safe, accessible stock trails and stock camps are very important to us.

Our sons also like to fish. We have been frustrated by the increasing restrictions on fishing in the backcountry. It seems like the total number of backcountry users that fish would make a very minimal impact on the overall fishery.

3. What do you think the issues are in the ONP wilderness area? Personally, our biggest issue is trail conditions and stock access. Each year we see less and less trails maintained for stock. While there is always a degree of danger when packing in the backcountry, poorly maintained trails often pose a risk too great for us to chance with our children. We feel that there are very few wilderness trails that are safe for us to bring our children on and often struggle to recommend good trails for novice packers. Many of the stock facilities are in disrepair. The roads to access to trailheads are often not suited to trailers.

Parking at many trailheads (open to stock) is non-existent or very risky during hte season of high use. Many times we've arrived at camp and find that backpackers are camped in stock camps. Because of water, forage, and safety requirements for our livestock it is important for us to camp in or near the established stock camps. Better signage and monitoring by backcountry rangers would be helpful in addressing this issue.

4. Imagine you are visiting the ONP 20 years from now. What conditions, experiences, visitor services, and facilities would you like to see? We would like to see a cross-park trail maintained and open to stock use. We would like to see better maintained roads and larger parking areas at trailheads that are popular with stock users. We'd like to see more stock-friendly bridges (safe surfacing) installed (and in some cases replaced) to allow stock users access to trails that were historically stock trails. We would like to see more stock users enjoying the wilderness areas.

We also think that ONP could better support local families who may have an interest in visiting the wilderness but don't know how. Perhaps a series of workshops that would teach interested adults and children how then can safely visit the backcountry would be helpful. We also feel that the popular "high use" areas could improve their visitor facilities, perhaps expanding camp sites and day use areas at some of these locations.

5. Additional Comments/Suggestions: We attended a Leave No Trace training a few years back at Camp Ramblewood on Sequim Bay. This training was very helpful and taught us how we can enjoy the backcountry with stock while minimizing or impact. All of us, including our children, strive to leave a campsite better than we found it. We'd like ONP to continue and/or support future trainings like this.

Thank you for considering our comments. We strongly encourage you to consider and support stock use within the updated Wilderness plan.

Correspondence ID: 186 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Feb,05,2013 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Letter
Correspondence: Please find following my comments with regard to the Olympic National Park Wilderness Stewardship Plan.

The National Park Service's website points out in recounting the origins of the National Park System that when Yosemite Valley was first set aside it was "for public use, resort, and recreation". The Federal laws establishing the National Park System mandates that they be "dedicated and set apart . . . as public pleasuring grounds". A balancing of use by people and preservation is mandated: to emphasize either to the exclusion of the other would run contrary to the basic principles underlying the National Park System.

1. I live with my family about a mile from the Olympic National Park boundary. Olympic National Park was the major reason why we moved here 10 years ago. Its great natural beauty, diversity of scenery and environments (mountains, rain forest, and shoreline), and the accessibility of all of that to us, are what makes this area special to us.

2. We mainly use Olympic National Park for hiking, snowshoeing and snow boarding (on Hurricane Ridge). We have been on

pack trips with horses or mules in other National Parks, and think that is an activitiy both appropriate and worth preserving.

3. I believe the main issues in Olympic National Park are preserving and improving public access. The Park seems to be doing a good job with preservation. However, with limited budgets maintenance of, and repairs to, roads, trails, shelters and other visitor facilities have sometimes taken longer than ideal or not occurred at all. Until the Park can adequately maintain and preserve access to the area it already has it should not look to acquiring additional land.

4. 20 years from now I would ideally like to see in Olympic National Park: -- well maintained access roads, open year round; -- a full range of snow related activities on Hurricane Ridge in the winter, with advance certainy of being open and sufficient availability of cleared parking for all; -- a well maintained and expanded dirt trail network with safe bridges where necessary; -- additional access points into the Park for hikers at various points around the Park's perimeter; -- a Park culture that is friendly to those who want to use the Park for hiking, overnight camping, cross country skiing, snowshoeing, downhill skiing and snowboarding (on Hurricane Ridge), or horse packing trips (this includes availability of camp sites and reasonable and not overly restrictive rules as to campfires and waste management); and -- an expanded ranger led hike program.

I have found in other first tier National Parks I have visited that half day or full day ranger led hikes into the backcountry are a great way to allow first time visitors to safely and responsibly explore the areas of the Park more than a mile or two away from the visitor centers. In more than one instance have those half day or full day ranger led hikes led to my returning with my family to the Park for a full week or more of hiking and other activities, where otherwise I would never have realized what the interior areas of the Park have to offer.

5. I believe that the balance between use and preservation in Olympic National Park already has been tilted somewhat too much away from use and in favor of preservation. We have to be cautious that the Wilderness Stewardship Plan does not increase that imbalance by further, directly or indirectly, decreasing or hindering public access to the Park.

First, this would be contrary to Federal law.

Second, poilicies that could limit visitation would be bad public policy from the National Park Service's perspective, in that its continued existence and public funding depend on public support. If a new generation were to grow up without an appreciation from frequent personal use of what a unique national treasure our National Park system is, in a generation or two the public support that makes possible the National Park Service's preservation mission would whither away.

And finally, Olympic National Park is extremely important to the economic wellbeing of the surrounding communities, which in many respects is closely tied to Park visitation. The National Park Service philosophy of civic engagement requires this important fact to be taken into consideration when balancing use and preservation.

Thank you for your consideration.

Correspondence ID: 187 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: Backcountry Horsemen of Washington Non-Governmental
Received: Feb,07,2013 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Park Form
Correspondence: 1. Blank

2. The ability to ride my horse and mule for wildlife viewing. To volunteer with trails to maintain open trails, to talk to hikers and encourage them to interact with my stock. To experience the preservation of historic structures. To volunteer to train park and others in the care and use of crosscut saws.

3. Maintenance and preservation of historic structures, shelters. Maintenance of trail sand trail structures e.g. bridges. Keep the ability to safely fly items like prefabricated bridges to major stream crossings. Provide management the flexibility to safely maintain trails and structures.

4. I would like to experience world class dining in the front country. Enjoy the trails with my pack string. Interact with other park visitors and share in the enjoyment of stock use on park trails.

5. The current consultant has not shown enough photo of folks recreating with their stock (horses, mules).

Correspondence ID: 188 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Feb,07,2013 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Park Form
Correspondence: 1. Wilderness

2. The displays at the visitor center and Hurricane Ridge center are informative but leave me wishing for further information. A

means of accessing more historical, geological, and biological information would be appreciated.

3. Preserving in a state as near as possible to it's condition before we arrived. The mt. goats don't belong.

4. Glaciers still here. Interactive displays. Safe but narrow trails. Campfires prohibited.

5. Blank

Correspondence ID: 189 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: Sierra Club and Wild Olympics Non-Governmental
Received: Feb,07,2013 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Park Form
Correspondence: 1. It gives us a window on what the world was like before civilization thrived. They are islands and oases.

2. Hiking, smelling the air, hearing sounds in the forest and along rivers, knowing that animals are at home in their habitat. Knowing that the area will be left only to nature.

3. 1) Pressure from commercial industry/development; 2) salmon habitat restoration, 3) finding a balance between recreation and preservation

4. 1) Public transportation and fewer automobiles, 2) [illegible] tours through areas as opposed to hiking impacts e.g. - boardwalks through sensitive areas

5. Please consider adding sections of the National Forest to the Park, namely the Mt. Zion and Mt. townsend areas

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Correspondence ID: 190 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Feb,07,2013 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Park Form
Correspondence: 1. It comforts me to know we have wilderness in our backyard. It's important to society to have protected wilderness areas - sociologically, ecologically, for mental and physical health, and economically!

2. Hiking/backpacking, photography/video, climbing, x-c skiing, sledding with kids <15.

3. Damage to native plants, loss of native wildlife (wolves), picas? Keep it unmotorized, keep the silence of pristine areas protected (no fly zones?), trash/littering esp. beaches.

4. Wolves! Fewer roads (converted to trails), no new structures, chance to see wolves in native habitat, limited visitation to popular areas (quotas), more land added to Park - more wilderness!

5. Multiple choice is nice sometimes . . . or ranking of options . . .

Correspondence ID: 191 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Feb,07,2013 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Park Form
Correspondence: 1. Growing up in Sequim ONP has been a huge asset to my life. It is where I learned to build a fire, put up a tent, carry nessecities in one pack for weeks on end. And mostly how to enjoy beauty, being on the top of a mountain, or hiking the coast, is almost unearthly so natural and peaceful, raw. No human impact.

2. Backpacking, hiking, car camping, surfing, x-country skiing

3. Loss of wildlife (wolves), non-native plants

4. 20 years from now I would like to come back and feel as if I did now. Global impacts I'm sure will be same. I would like to see the amount of education and visitors increase hopefully help awareness of the importance of this park to our world.

5. Bring back wolves! No new structures, more education in schools (especially more in High School).

Correspondence ID: 192 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Feb,07,2013 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Letter

Correspondence: --The Wilderness Act was established in 1964 in order to assure that an increasing population, accompanied by expanding settlement and growing mechanization, does not occupy and modify all areas within the U.S.

--The National Historic Preservation Act in 1966 was established by Congress in the belief that the historical and cultural foundation of the US should be preserved as a living part of our community life.

--The Wilderness Act itself recognizes the importance of preserving historical activities and states the "Wilderness Areas Shall Be Devoted To the Public Purpose Of Recreational And Historical Use."

--The National Park Service has found the use of pack and saddle stock (horses and mules) is still recognized as a traditional, historical and culturally significant, and legitimate activity that will continue in the backcountry. --Therefore-- the historical stock activity in the backcountry is protected by the Wilderness Act. The use of pack and saddle stock is an appropriate and historically accepted recreational activity.

I'm proud to be a member of Back Country Horseman of Wash and friends with Tom Mix and Del Sage that do alot of packing for the Park into the backcountry opening trails, resupplying backcountry ranger stations, helping carry supplies for fire fighting, all from stock. Most would be impossible without stock use. I volunteer through the Adopt-A-Trail program using stock to haul tools for use to help maintain trails for ALL to use.

Correspondence ID: 193 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Feb,07,2013 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Letter
Correspondence: News Release from the State of Washington

OLYMPIA - State officials who monitor marine debris on Washington's ocean beaches say they are seeing an increase in marine debris items this winter such as Styrofoam, plastic bottles and floats, and other portable objects.

While it is unknown whether the latest items arriving on state beaches are related to the March 22, 2011, tsunami that devastated Japan, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) a portion of the debris that washed into the Pacific Ocean has been arriving on U.S. and Canadian shores, including Washington.

To help beach visitors keep our shorelines clean, the Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology) has deployed trash bins at Ocean Shores, Surfside north of Long Beach, Grayland Beach State Park near Westport and the city of Long Beach's Bolstad Beach approach.

Ecology is working with Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission (State Parks) and volunteer groups to assess the need to supply trash bins and litter bags at other beach locations.

The recent increase in debris is coinciding with the next state coastal razor clam season, which starts Thursday Feb. 7.

"While you are out walking on the ocean beach or clam digging, please help us keep our beaches clean. We are encouraging people to pick up and dispose of small, nonhazardous items like Styrofoam and leave the beaches better than they found them, " said Steve Brand, State Parks field operations manager.

Beachgoers are encouraged to bring their own bags to pick up small, nonhazardous debris. For those who forget, bags may also be available during normal business hours at the following locations:

-Ocean Shores - Visitors can get bags at the Ocean Shores Police Department, Ocean Shores Visitor Information Center and from State Parks staff. Visitors should place bags with debris at beach approaches for pickup.

-Long Beach - Beachgoers should call Leanna Reuss, Pacific County Emergency management Agency, at 360-642-4482. Bags may be available at the Bolstad Beach approach near the trash bin set up for marine debris. Place full bags in the bin.

-Grayland Beach State Park - Stop in at the park office to pick up bags and get instructions. Large groups interested in performing cleanups should call the park office at least two weeks in advance at 360-267-4301 to help coordinate the event and ensure proper registration.

Global Diving & Salvage, a Seattle-based private contractor, has donated 2,000 bags to the state to help with beach cleanup efforts.

My response to such a news release and my comment to what is missing by wilderness management:

For the coastal MRC concept and the NPCMRC, this doesn't make sense when the conversation had at both the NPCMRC and OCNMS SAC about the need for repositories along the northcoast was answered the dumpsters aren't a good solution because of them being used for household trash. Where's the likelyhood of that occuring...just read the emailed locations. So when is hte system going to do anything about the north coast? I'll submit this as public comment to the ONP Wilderness Stewardship Plan scoping proces...as failed or at least flawed wilderness management policy. Time to produce...the Feds cannot continue to say the state program is meeting the needs when the state continues to place dumpsters in the south and not a single dumpster is made available at the ONP beaches of the north.

Correspondence ID: 194 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Feb,19,2013 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Letter
Correspondence: [This is a letter written to Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission]

SUBJECT: Olympic National Park Wilderness Stewardship Plan Scoping

Dear Commissioners,

Olympic National Park is currently scoping for the development of a Wilderness Stewardship Plan (WSP), or wilderness management plan, and Environmental Impact Statement.

"Between now and the end of Spring 2013, we are asking you to share your thoughts, concerns, and vision for the future of the Olympic National Park wilderness area. Your input is very important in guiding hte planning team in our work." [http://parkplanning.npg.gov/projectHome.cfm?projectID=29224]

I bring this to your attention for the similar purpose I previously have brought planning efforts of Olympic National Park to your attention, for the purpose of the 3 covenants incorporated in the Governor's Deed 28 July 1988, for a portion of the Washington State coastline; now Olympic National Park designated wilderness and subject to the purpose of the WSP.

1. The property shall continue to be open to fishing and to the taking of shellfish in conformity with the laws and regulations of the state of Washigton.

2. The National Park Service shall consult with the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission prior to the implementation of any regulation of recreational use of the property.

3. The National Park Service shall consult with the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commisison regarding the adoption of any rules or changes in management policies with respect to the property and shall endeavor to accommodate the state's Interest.

To me this is important because I believe, to date, it is probably no consultation with the Commission or its staff has occurred by the Park on earlier related planning efforts affecting this region of our coast. It needs to be expressed that wilderness management is an interest of the State of Washington and the citizens it serves. This is a unique relationship that goes beyond the interest of the citizens of the United States at large.

ONP suggested issues at this scoping point are:

-Day and overnight use -Wilderness permitting -Traditional use -Use of campfires -Proper food storage -Group size -Camping and campsites -Human waste -Stock use -Research activities -Wildlife management in wilderness -Cultural resources management in wilderness -Maintenance of trails, bridges, or other existing or necessary infrastructure -Commercial services in wilderness

These are preliminary ideas.

I advocate the State of Washington, and as its representative in the case of the Governor's Deed: Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission, represent the interest of the citizens of the State regarding these issues and others not specified. At this point I would advocate the State make a concerted effort to identify issues not specified and to draft a preliminary determination on those that are listed. As examples, two interests of the State that I don't see on this list:

-addressing (response to) marine debris -and in what becomes the determined management of the wilderness how it might/or does affect upstream/upland areas of the State of Washington, in the case of the ONP coastal strip and in sync with what is addressed in the Governor's Deed.

Please remember this is a segment of wilderness designation that is outward and downstream of non-wilderness state

jurisdiction; an opposite of the wilderness designation "norm".

Thank you for your time, I look forward to your response and the results of your efforts on this matter.

Correspondence ID: 195 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Feb,20,2013 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Letter
Correspondence: What are the plans for introduced Species? Mountain Goat Red Fox Wild Boar The introduction of the mountain goat seems to be an ecological disaster.

The main danger to the integrity of the site (Olympic National Park) is, oddly, one of its attractions: the mountain goat. Due to the isolation of the site, mountain goats never dispersed naturally to the Olympics, so their introduction in 1925-29 may be causing significant changes in the natural ecosystem. The mountain goats have reduced plant cover, increased erosion, and shifted plant-community dominants towards more resistant or less palatable species; they have been recorded feeding on at least three of the endemic plants, and some concern has been expressed that these species may be endangered by the mountain goat. www. unesco.org/en/list/151

Are there plans to manage the Roosevelt Elk herds in the Park? Olympic National Park projects the largest unmanaged herd of Roosevelt elk in the world. www.nps.gov/olymp/index.htm

In the 1920s, however, ecologists began revising their opinions about predators. Rather than mere varmints, ecologists saw predators as crucial components of the web of life and integral to maintaining ecosystem health. The Grand Canyon played an important role in this change in attitude. The Park Service and Forest Service had succeeded in exterminating most predators from the Kaibab Plateau on the north side of the Grand Canyon by the early 1920s. Ironically intended as a measure to protect deer and other favored animals, it instead had disastrous consequences.

With nothing to restrain their numbers, the native Rocky Mountain mule deer population exploded, consumed all the available browse, and then crashed from starvation, with tens of thousands of deer dying. This infamous event recounted by forester and ecologist Aldo Leopold incited a decades-long program to improve ecological conditions on the Kaibab Plateau and balance deer numbers with available browse. http//grandcanyonhistory.clas.asu.edu/history_science_wildlife.html

Is the lack of management of the elk herds in the park a disaster in the making? The poorly managed herds outside of the park and herds from within the Park that feed outside of the Park are definitely more than just a nuisance. I say poorly manageed herds outside of the Park, and herds that migrate out of the Park to feed, because only bulls are allowed to be taken. Then the hunters go for the big bulls as trophies to show off their prowess. This leaves the spike bulls to breed the cows, their mothers and sisters. The result is serious inbreeding which results in weakening of the offspring and loss of gene pool resources. Allowing, or requiring hunters to take cows or spike bulls and not the mature bulls would alleviate some of this problem and thin out the cows and reduce the size of the herds. Thus reducing the nuisance aspects of the elk herds.

Suggestions

Biological inventories: Inventory to include presence and population of species. Inventory representative 2 plots in 3 or 4 different ecological types throughout the wilderness area. -Ecological type A and repeated for each ecological type. --1 plot in an area with human impact --1 plot with little or no human impact Inventories to include: List of species may be selected to make the process more manageable and cost affordable. A volunteer panel to review list for the inventory. -Plants --Trees --Shrubs --Herbaceous plants --Epiphytes ---Mosses ---Lichens ---Fungi ---Algae ---Etc. -Animals --Mammals including bats --Birds --Reptiles --Amphibians --Fish -Insects, spiders and mites. Inventories to be repeated when there has been a significant change. -Change of ambient temperature -Significant change in apparent human impact -Major earthquake -Volcanic activity -Fire -Etc.

Ecological Types or Characteristics to be considered Alpine Sub-Alpine Mature Forests Second Growth Forests Rain Forests Dry type of forest in the rain shadow areas on the east side of the peninsula. Trees altered by native Americans for cultural reasons -Example: Cedar trees with bark removed. Trees with burls

Stewardship Plan -The plan should have some management protocols for such contingencies as major fires due to climate change from global warming. -Management options if extensive human impact affects specific areas. -Control of invasive foreign species 1. Uninvited species. 2. Introduced species. -Control of over population of native species such as elk. -Maintain cultural rights of the area Indian Tribes according to heritage and tradition. Areas peripheral to wilderness area if not available from other federally controlled land, or from blow down areas. 1. Right to harvest a cedar log for carving of canoes or building a long house. 2. Right to collect cedar bark. 3. Tribes exercising their rights to verify need and use of the proposed tree or bark with loss of rights if they abuse their rights by making improper use of the materials taken, example - selling the product made from the cedar wood or bark for finanacial gain rather than a tradtional, cultural use.

Correspondence ID: 196 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: Eutopos Farm & Gardens Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Mar,28,2013 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: As one of the top biospheres in the world, the Olympic National Park Wilderness is special because of the diversity in the ecosystem. Silence is imperative.

Topic Question 4: The same as what is available today. No more, no less. Please don't increase attendance, this will only destroy the ecosystem for future generations.

Topic Question 5: Please, please consider the quiet, silence and aural quality of our precious park. Limit air traffic, limit exposure to ANY type of noise, NO ATV's, NO chainsaws, NO music !!!

Comments:

Correspondence ID: 197 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Feb,21,2013 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Park Form
Correspondence: 1. I think that the Olympic National Park wilderness area is very special to me because it has many beautiful views to have around without being disturbed.

2. Well the most I do is go on some amazing trails with many beautiful waterfalls.

3. Blank

4. I would most like to see the beauty it has now grown over the years.

5. Blank

Correspondence ID: 198 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Feb,21,2013 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Park Form
Correspondence: 1. Blank

2. Blank

3. Blank

4. Blank

5. Communication with local communities and user populations: Research programs in the wilderness and status State of the wilderness Periodic surveys of wilderness experience satisfaction

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Correspondence ID: 199 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Apr,04,2013 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: The 'untrammeled' nature is what most makes the expanse of wilderness protected in Olympic National Park special to me. I moved to the Olympic Peninsula to be close to and explore the Olympic wilderness. I know that my presence in the wilderness is as a visitor only, and even if I were to never again set foot in the wilderness, I would be content to know that it exists for the species and cycles on which my life as a human depends.

Topic Question 2: Hiking and solitude

Topic Question 3: I believe the biggest issue is human-created structures and non-essential human activities that run counter to the Wilderness Act of 1964. If the concept of wilderness is compromised or allowed to shift with changing personnel or political realities, future generations experience an irretrievable loss. Other issues are overuse of the wilderness, climate change, and global air pollution, all of which degrade the wilderness character of Olympic National Park. Please see my comments in section five with reference to wilderness character and how the interpretation of 'other features of value' that is presented in this document is not in accordance with the Wilderness Act of 1964 (particularly that the line 'other features of value . . . is used to capture elements of a park's wilderness area, such as Olympic's cultural resources, that aren't included in the four qualities and is unique to an individual wilderness' has been and will certainly in the future be used to protect and even build new non-essential and non-historically significant structures in the wilderness).

Topic Question 4: I would like to see basically the same conditions, experiences, visitor services and facilities as are present

now with the following exceptions. Some not historically significant structures should be removed and/or not maintained. More quotas will likely be needed as visitation increases. The washed out Dosewallips Road will be converted into a hiking trail and eventually qualify as wilderness.

Topic Question 5: Thank you very much for writing this wilderness stewardship plan and engaging the public in the process. I have read and thoroughly agree with the comments submitted by Olympic Park Associates, particularly with regard to 'wilderness character' and the dangers of the 'other features of value' wilderness character.

Comments:

Correspondence ID: 200 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Apr,04,2013 16:38:54
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: Hiking. Diversity.

Topic Question 2: Hiking, camping, historic sites.

Topic Question 3: Historic structures. Ethnography.

Topic Question 4: Access: trail and road maintenance. Survival of historic structures.

Comments: Wilderness Overnight Use Limits

Lake Constance no longer requires overnight use limits to manage visitation, due to the dramatic decrease in visitation since the Dosewallips Road has closed. Upper Lena Lake probably does not, as well. The Ozette Coast might not, because of growing adoption of "Leave No Trace" ethics among campers, who are no longer apt to build driftwood bonfires, cut boughs for bedding or establish new campsites.

This WSP should not propose to determine which specific sites shall have use limits - it should leave this determination to the Superintendent in her annual Compendium, so the Park may respond flexibly to changing visitation patterns and impacts over the next 20 years.

Correspondence ID: 201 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Apr,04,2013 17:35:28
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Ozette (Roose and Ahlstrom) Prairies Restoration Management

The Ozette Prairies are part of Olympic Wilderness, managed by the NPS in part in trust for the Makah tribe. It would be appropriate to consider their management as part of this WSP. These prairies, and the endemic species (Makah copper, swamp gentian, and others) which rely upon their existence for their survival, are rapidly being lost to reforestation. Past work summarized by Wray, by Conca (and carbon-14 dating of charcoal layers by Western Washington University) have established that these prairies have been kept open by fire for several millenia (perhaps ever since these prairies were created during the drier, warmer early Holocene climate). The Makah have requested (in their 2006 GMP comments) permission to reintroduce fire management, so these prairie ecosystems may survive. Anderson (USDA, 2009) has now thoroughly documented the management history by indigenous people. http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprdb1045270.pdf

Olympic NP has previously deferred active fire management, due to uncertainties in outcome, or perhaps because it might be controversial. This growing body of evidence suggests that continued inaction may be irresponsible. Inaction is itself an action, which may result in the extinction of endemic species.

Please consider both experimental fire management and mechanical clearing on small plots of these prairies in this current WSP, and not defer it for yet another decade to some hypothetical future plan. Please realize that if NPS does not take action, the Makah would be fully justified in filing suit under the Endangered Species Act, and would almost certainly prevail. This public NEPA process is preferable to a court-imposed plan.

Correspondence ID: 202 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Apr,05,2013 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: Accessable wilderness area.

Topic Question 2: Hiking and seeing the area and it's flora and fauna.

Topic Question 3: Minimizing human impact while allowing access.

Topic Question 4: That far in the future I hope that electric vehicles will have become practical. I would like to see only electric vehicle access on the Hurricane Ridge road so we stop poluting the environment. Further vehicle polution may be minimized by running an electric bus system to bring people to the various trailheads. Hopefully such a system can be made practical with solar powered quick charging stations at each stop. The climb to Hurricane Ridge might stop to recharge at the viewpoint before the tunnels. Such a shuttle system should facilitate more hikes between trailheads and reduce some of the pressure that is currently concentrated at the trailheads.

Topic Question 5: I personally find the permit system an annoyance. However, I suspect it is the best way to keep usage from having more significant negative impacts on the park.

Comments: I've found the displays at the visitor centers informative but limited. I'd like to see them expanded to be able to find how to get further information when desired.

Correspondence ID: 203 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Apr,05,2013 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Other
Correspondence: Complete research, documentation and interpretation is nto finished until there is recognition and delineation of olefactory complexity. Congrats on your continuing natural quiet/aural documentation. Independent naturalist volunteer help?

Correspondence ID: 204 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Feb,27,2013 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Park Form
Correspondence: 1. A wilderness area this biodiverse, unpopulated, pristine, and accessible is extremely rare these days! Each step is like time travel - I keep expecting to see dinosaurs, cavemen, giant dragonflies . . . !

2. Solitude, and very few signs of civilization

3. Accessibility needs to DIMINISH in order to maintain Olympic's wilderness character! If we keep matching the pace of overpopulation, Olympic will be inundated with tourists before long. Let old shelters rot; let broken bridges crumble. Let this park return as much as possible to a primeval state!

4. I hope Olympic is even greener, even less populous, even more biodiverse. I don't think any new facilities or services are necessary - in fact, I advocate LESS.

5. Blank

Correspondence ID: 205 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: BCHA, JEA, Equetesse Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Feb,27,2013 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Park Form
Correspondence: 1. I own 2 horses and trailride extensively. The Olympic Nat. Park is an amazing gorgeous resource that me and I'm sure anyone who lives here wants to keep for future generations. That does not mean you should keep us out of the forest!

2. Horseback riding, hiking, snow shoeing, cross country skiing, camping, fishing, plein aire painting, walking my dog

3. With you posters to me it sounds like you have made your mind up about what is good or bad, allowed or not allowed in the forest. I am offended by the signage. Ruth has explained to me that is not what the signs are really saying, but that is what I am reading. Please adjust the signage to reflect what Ruth was talking about.

4. It would be amazing to have the future generations enjoy the same wilderness I am enjoying now! People coming into the forest need to be held responsible for their behavior and to be sure they respect the forest.

5. Signage that explains the above responsibilities for instance: 1) Pack it in, pack it out 2) Horse trail riders move manure off the trail 3) Dogs on leash 4) Hikers defer to bikers - defer to horsemen These signs in at Anderson and other areas of much appreciated. I think it needs to be made more apparent that everyone is responsible and respectful

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Correspondence ID: 206 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: BCH/Buckhorn Wilderness Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Feb,27,2013 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Park Form
Correspondence: 1. It's accessible, it's unique, it's gorgeous.

2. Hiking, horse riding

3. 1) Impact of usage; 2) Trail maintenance; 3) Keeping stock trails open and add more stock sites to limit impact.

4. Stock trails, more stock facilities (corrals, hitching rails)

5. Stock is an asset! 1) Trail maintenance; 2) Historical preservation of stock use; 3) Revenue for communities; 4) Possible mounted search and rescue

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Correspondence ID: 207 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Feb,27,2013 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Park Form
Correspondence: 1. About the only place left to enjoy nature in solitude

2. Observing nature in a peaceful environment

3. Too many people at one time

4. No expansion of man-made facilities. No additional trails. Limit the number of people on the trails at any one time. Limit size of campsites.

5. Do not allow the Olympic Nat Park to become another Yosemite or Grand Canyon!!

Correspondence ID: 208 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Feb,27,2013 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Park Form
Correspondence: 1. Unspoiled natural beauty (except having to look at clearcuts in the National Forest and Corporate timber land)

2. Hiking and resting in nature - viewing plants and animals

3. Degree of "improvements" - trails, bridges, etc.; campsites; quotas (visitors/day)

4. Probably not much different than now

5. Blank

Correspondence ID: 209 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: Sierra Club Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Feb,27,2013 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Park Form
Correspondence: 1. It's "Wild"erness! and NOT "conserved" or "commodified"!

2. Hiking and skiing

3. Lack of access by people and livestock (horse trails). There used to be 700+ mi. of livestock trails, now 160. We cannot reduce these miles and should restore miles of livestock trails.

4. Areas restricted from any human access and areas w/ some access (like livestock trails) and a few areas (like Hurricane ridge) w/ access by vehicle. May be all vehicle access would be electric busses to ferry riders.

5. Blank

Correspondence ID: 210 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Feb,27,2013 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Park Form
Correspondence: 1. Wilderness is important for a variety of reasons. Cleanses our air, provides spiritual and physical rejuvenation as well as a connection to the fact that we are part of the natural world, which we can forget in cities. They the forest ecosystems have a right to exist, we destroy them at our peril. We need them for the health of the planet and the souls living on the planet.

2. The beauty and tranquility. Restorative to the soul. Walking, sitting, being near unspoiled beauty.

3. Use of spray/herbicides of any kind. Logging that might be allowed. Too many roads, too many people. Restrict access. Be careful where there is access with disturbing only minimally to allow access.

4. As little as possible. A few composting toilets, small trails. As much undisturbed as now, if not less disturbed.

5. Blank

Correspondence ID: 211 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: Olympic Stewardship Foundation Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Feb,27,2013 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Park Form
Correspondence: 1. Special because it is in my backyard. Not special because it is almost inaccessible unless you are a physically fit hiker/backpacker. You can drive all around the perimeter and never really see the mountains and views.

2. I hardly ever visit the park because there is almost no access to see the park. Even the only ADA accessible campground has been closed off for years.

3. There are several groups of elitist outdoor people who want to keep it as their own "special place" - "keep the general public out." We need more roads, campgrounds and access for the general public. It is big enough for all of us.

4. I would like to go into the park and see it! Hurricane Ridge is just about the only place to see the park. At the Hoh Visitor Center all you can see is trees.

5. Rethink your wilderness goals - is this a park to be enjoyed by a select "few" or is it for the general public?

Correspondence ID: 212 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Mar,04,2013 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Letter
Correspondence: Olympic National Park was created in 1938 to protect the Olympic elk and some of the magnificent old growth forests remaining on the Peninsula. In 1981, it was named a World Heritage site because of its natural beauty and the diversity of its ecosystems. In 1988, 95% of the park was designated as part of the Wilderness System.

Olympic is part of a National Park System that includes the national monuments in Washington D.C.; the Statue of Liberty in New York; the historical battle areas of the Civil War; National Recreation Areas; Yellowstone, Grand Canyon, and many other beautiful areas of our country. The point being, we have a number of parks in the National Park System, each unique and valuable for us to preserve according to the purpose for which they were established.

We who live near it must remember Olympic National Park belongs to all Americans. American taxpayers and park visitors provide the budget dollars for this park. Therefore, scoping opportunities should be provided to all. The American Revolution was about "no taxation without representation?." We might still be English if the British had given the Colonies seats in Parliament.

Because Olympic National Park was created to protect its natural values and, later designated as wilderness, most of this park must be protected according to the Wilderness Act of 1964. Does this prohibit access? No, it only prohibits roads, motor vehicles, or activities that would inhibit the other gifts of wilderness to its national owners. Access is available by foot, horse, row boat, canoe, or kayak. The gifts of wilderness include clean air; clean and sustainable water; a viable wildlife habitat; ecosystem preservation which maintains the native gene pool; carbon sequestration; and recreation. These gifts make our earth livable for all.

Olympic National Park wilderness provides a number of economic benefits to our communities, the nation, and the world. Cleaning the air and sequestrating carbon is a local, national, and world gift by reducing carbon dioxide in the air which reduces global warming and ocean acidification. Holding and cleaning water is a local, national, and world gift by providing healthy human, salmon and shellfish habitat -- seafood increases healthy food and jobs, locally and wherever these foods are shipped. These gifts alone make the Olympic Peninsula a healthy place to live and work.

Providing a viable native wildlife habitat preserves a gene pool of plants, fish, and animals -- again a gift to all. Wilderness also provides breeding areas for wildlife that migrate to help populate the areas outside the park. Salmon, steelhead, ocean shellfish, elk, deer, and other wildlife use the park's habitat for propagating the park's and peninsula's populations.

Out of wilderness gene pools come many of our new medicines, provide agricultural and biological genes that can be used to improve agricultural and human products -- world wide gifts. We learn from wilderness. The burrs of burdock inspired the

inventor of Velcro. Much of our pharmaceuticals come from nature. The Yew tree was considered a weed tree until we discovered a compound in it's bark was a cure for some forms of cancer. Aspirin came from the willow tree. A compound found in Eastern red cedar fights MRSA, a new antibiotic resistant infection.

Wilderness provides appropriate recreation, appropriate because it does not inhibit the other gifts. The local and state economies benefit from the three million people that come every year to marvel at this spectacular place.

Wilderness, because of its fragility and our current lack of knowledge, it is unfeasible to restore it. It is far easier and cheaper to save it. Just as you can't reconstruct a chicken from chicken soup, it is impossible for us to recreate a wilderness ecosystem. What is destroyed is lost. The best we can do at Olympic is restore extirpated species (like wolves), and eliminate non-native species (like introduced mountain goats).

We don't expect national monuments in Washington D.C. to be wilderness. We shouldn't expect Olympic National Park to be a rustic Disney Land. The Wilderness Act and subsequent court rulings should be the measure of the management of this park. The remaining non-wilderness 5% should be managed to be the "access" to the park. One service, providing rangers that can educate the public about this amazing resource and prepare them to experience the park while protecting its gifts for us all.

We need the Interpreting Ranger to teach us how to live with Olympic National Park's native species and climate. With knowledge and a few precautions, we can live with and enjoy nature. The public needs to learn to avoid hypothermia; eat and drink healthily for themselves in the natural environment; avoid negative tangling with the park's native plants and animals; and not get lost while enjoying and maintaining the Olympic ecosystems.

Outside the park should be the comforts and "necessities" of human life. Wilderness doesn't need restaurants, barbershops, or cotton candy. In the surrounding towns, hiking, backpacking equipment, appropriate gear, tents, canoes, etc. , and souvenirs can be sold. Resorts, hotels, trailer parks, and campgrounds should be outside the park providing actual and intellectual vistas into the park. These places can provide entertaining, informative lectures and videos about its ecosystems, history, and its splendid beauty caught in the right photographic light.

These would properly prepare us to enter the park's wilderness. It can be the getaway target for the physically fit or a quiet peaceful walk. Providing these amenities would provide many jobs and economic benefits to the communities that surround the park.

The wilderness plan must regulate stock use in the wilderness to protect natural resources and trail infrastructure. Stock needs feed. If stock is not going to eat the native vegetation, then non-native food must be brought in with the stock. Both of these scenarios chance reducing native plants either by their being eaten or introducing invasive species. Therefore, commercial services should be kept at current levels.

Cultural resources, like Wedding Rocks and archeological sites should be protected in wilderness, but reconstruction of historic shelters, sheds, barns, and cabins is prohibited by the Wilderness Act and subsequent court rulings. Current lightweight gear allows us to go into the wilderness without the expectation of finding shelter there. Shelters can be an attractive nuisance for unprepared people expecting to use them in place of a tent or tarp. Unprepared people may not be able to reach these shelters before suffering hypothermia or the shelter may be unable to provide the space necessary for the people in the area at the time. Because they cannot promise safety, they should no longer be there.

It is no longer 1776 or 1876. What we thought we had to conquer we now are finding we must save to provide a comfortable existence for our children and grandchildren on this earth. Olympic National Park has these gifts, especially a gene pool we cannot later provide if we destroy it. For us to lose a wilderness Olympic National Park would be very costly to our children and grandchildren. Our legacy to them needs to be wilderness.

Correspondence ID: 213 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Mar,04,2013 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Park Form
Correspondence: 1. It is the only real wilderness that I have had access to growing up here and also in my adult life, because of its proximity to Seattle. It is a quiet place but I think it's changing as more aircrafts flyovers occur over the Park.

2. The Hoh Rain Forest is most important to me, for walking and hiking to see and experience fully pure and natural forest culture.

3. Disrespect by humans for this amazing place - trash, noise, air pollution and sound pollution, particularly. I think that vehicle access shoudl be limited and aircraft flyovers should be redirected further from the park to preserve the quiet in the forest.

4. Humans could access the park via walking, biking and electric vehicles (quiet) only. Minimum facilities should be provided to limit human intrusions and mechanization.

5. I was surprised that there was no presentation at this outreach meeting. I understand that there are individual employees to

ask, but it's just not the same. It's not clear to me how you are planning to successfully prevent outside influences from ruining this wilderness area.

Correspondence ID: 214 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Mar,04,2013 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Park Form
Correspondence: 1. The opportunity for solitude. Sonic diversity is tops in nation (alpine, rainforest, coastline) and least polluted by aircraft noise.

2. Just taking it all in while backpacking and letting my thoughts think themselves out until I just look, smell, listen, touch, taste - this is true source of my creativity.

3. The NPS needs to make a stand to claim the need to manage airspace above 18k' if it is to meet its mandate to protect natural quiet. This will require new legislation but the EIS should point out this need.

4. I hope that the experience will be as good as I imagine the experience 100 or 200 years ago.

5. Please give serious study of lead in aviation fuels consumed over ONP - where does it go? Please post no-flight zone for all aircraft (including above 18k') in 20 mile radius from Mt. Dana amont the alternatives. Please include noise-detectibility method in EIS.

Correspondence ID: 215 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Mar,04,2013 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Park Form
Correspondence: 1. It preserves habitat for local fuana, provides environmental balance to human activity. Teaches a sense of wonder about our natural world. Provides an escape from urban life to recharge and retain perspective.

2. Seeing nature in an unspoiled state, hearing the sound of wildlife, the wind in the trees, the rushing of the waters, an escape from the intrusion of the modern world. Silence is critically important.

3. Developmental pressures, unsustainable forest practices, habitat loss, overuse pressures, the struggle to balance access with conservation.

4. I'd like to see less human impact: less parking, more wildlife. I want to see it restore to it's original glory.

5. Please include planning around the need for quiet places. One square inch of silence is not enough. One square mile of silence is a start.

Correspondence ID: 216 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: NOLS Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Mar,04,2013 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Park Form
Correspondence: 1. ONP is unique and beautiful. It offers our students opportunities to be isolated and independent for long periods of time. We (NOLS) would like this quality to persist.

2. Depends on the student group, but mostly people love the remoteness and the amazing natural beauty.

3. Please maintain current commercial group size. Please explore the use of electric-fence (portable) use food storage.

4. We love it! It would be amazing to see well maintained trails and trail-heads, an abundance of wildlife, strong evidence of excellent LNT and a continued focus on bio-diversity, cultural resource maintenance and a value of sharing our public land.

5. NOLS is interested in ONP exploring the use of portable electric-fences for food storage. We have successfully used them in USFS, USNPS and BLM and are piloting their use in the Pasayten and NCNP. NOLS does not directly benefit from the use of chain saws for downed tree removal, but the horse-packers we contract do. We would like to see the continued, limited use to help clear large trees from trails into the interior.

Correspondence ID: 217 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: Evergreen Packgoat Club Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Apr,11,2013 14:44:59
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: As packgoat enthusiasts we would like to be able to take our packgoats in and recreate in the wilderness of the ONP. We are currently not accepted as "packstock" and we are looking to change that. Our use would be minimal, cause no mal effects to the area, and would allow those of us who use our packgoats so that we may travel in backcountry areas.

Topic Question 2: We do not visit the ONP as our packgoats are not allowed. We hike with our packgoats only.

Topic Question 3: The main issue is the use of packstock in sensitive areas - packgoats have the least affect, if any affect, on trails and as such should be allowed as "packstock" in the ONP wilderness area. Other packstock which is currently allowed, such as horses and mules, are extremely detrimental to wilderness and sensitive areas.

Topic Question 4: The last time I visited the ONP was 21 years ago (before starting our use of packgoats) and I would hope to see now as well as another 20 years out that stock trails are well cared for, that campsites are well cared for, that we as visitors can experience environments found no where else in the U.S. and that facilities would not have become so predominant as to obscure the true ONP experience. And, I am in hopes that I would be able to use my packgoats to carry my supplies.

Topic Question 5: As packgoat users we use stock trails and stock campgrounds. We have a leave no trace ethic (pamphlet is available and is currently being studied by LNT) that we advise all packgoat enthusiasts to abide by. You would not see huge numbers of packgoat enthusiasts and their packgoats if allowed to use the ONP, just a handful perhaps and not on a consistent basis. You would find that you would never know we used a trail or campground as you would when other stock animals do.

Comments: Our request of you (Evergreen Packgoat Club), is to state that packgoats are indeed a "packstock" animal (as is already in the federal park system description) and allow us to use ONP wilderness areas as well as other stock trails in the park.

Correspondence ID: 218 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: Great Old Broads for Wilderness Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Mar,06,2013 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Park Form
Correspondence: 1. It's pristine beauty, quiet, and areas "untrammeled by man."

2. Seeing unrestricted beauty and wild places - and quiet

3. New trails and reconstruction of historic issues, use power equipment including helicopters - are not consistent with wilderness

4. Please, no more visitor services and facilities within the designated wilderness areas. I hope there will be wolves and fewer mountain goats.

Correspondence ID: 219 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Mar,06,2013 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Park Form
Correspondence: 1. Its majesty

2. hiking, looking at the wilderness from afar, enjoying moments where I glimpse wildlife

3. I substantially agree with Tim McNulty's letter and OPA positions.

4. Wilderness maintain according to 1964 criteria; non native species eliminated; natural ecosystems restored as much as possible; current permitting system sustained and fees used; commercial services no more than current level; historic structures allowed to disintegrate not rebuilt; archeological sites protected as well as traditional resources and sacred landscapes

5. Blank

Correspondence ID: 220 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: Great Old Broads for Wilderness Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Mar,06,2013 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Park Form
Correspondence: Please see the attached points which I totally support and that arouse the following.

1. It is a world heritage site and a biopreserve which is a treasure to all of humanity

2. I love to hike in this Park, especially up to the High Divide out of the Sole Duc area. I appreciate the intact ecosystems - plants and animals and its wildness which I want protected forever.

3. Please see the attached points.

4. I would like to see all the present protections in force and the wilderenss protected as the Wilderness Act intended.

5. I support the Olympic Park Associates' February 13, 2013 letter written by Tim McNulty. It is a wise and well researched letter. We love Tim, and are so fortunate to have him working for this Park and wilderness area.

The attached points (from OPA's newsletter; Vol. 20, Number 2; Fall 2012):

-(Pertains to #1) Olympic is one of our nation's premier wilderness parks. Every effort should be made to protect and preserve its wilderness character.

- (Pertains to #1) Support the Park's stated purpose of the plan, "to guide the preservation, management, and use of the park's wilderness areas as defined by the Wilderness Act of 1964," and its goal, "to restore, protect, and enhance overall wilderness character of the Olympic Wilderness."

-(Pertains to #2, 3, & 4) In light of human-caused global warming and increasing demands on wilderness, request that Park managers protect and restore Olympics natural ecosystems as an inherent part of its wilderness. That means restoring extirpated species (like wolves), and eliminating non-native species (like introduced mountain goats).

-(Pertains to #2, 3, & 4) Support the current permit system for wilderness backpackers; campfire restrictions in high country; food storage requirements; and group size limits. All wilderness fees should be used for wilderness stewardship.

-(Pertains to #2, 3, & 4) Request that the plan regulate stock use in wilderness to protect natural resources and trail infrastructure, and keep commercial services at current levels.

-(Pertains to #2, 3, & 4) Cultural resources, like Wedding Rocks and archeological sites should be protected in wilderness, but reconstruction of historic shelters, sheds, barns, and cabins is prohibited by the Wilderness Act.

Correspondence ID: 221 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Apr,14,2013 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: Because it's there

Topic Question 2: Being out in the woods where there is no development

Topic Question 3: Too much impact from people using it, people building fires when they shouldn't, leaving their sign, building cairns

Topic Question 4: No visitor services, no facilities. People should pack out everything. No signs Only at the entrance should there be information. there needs to be dispersed camping probably a lottery system to get in too. because there will be too many people who want to use it

Topic Question 5: don't advertise the place and then people will have a harder time finding it

Comments:

Correspondence ID: 222 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Apr,14,2013 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: Olympic NP is a peaceful place to backpack/hike with others who are equally respectful of the environment, and without competition from more damaging sports allowed in less restrictive areas (ie ATVs, snowmobiles, mountain bikes?). It is nice to get 'off the grid' once in awhile, and this is one of my favorite places to do that.

Topic Question 2: Backpacking & hiking with all of the wildlife encounters that come with being out of range of the majority of tourists to this park.

Topic Question 3: Managing the volume of tourists in the peak summer season to backcountry areas such that the visitors can experience a true 'wilderness'. Also, managing the ecosystem to preserve or reintroduce native species (ie fishers) and minimize damage from introduced species (ie mountain goats).

Topic Question 4: 1) Provide priority parking for overnight guests at trailheads (ie those who are paying an additional fee for a backpack permit) or else limit access to trailheads for day users if they are used heavily for backpacking. The last time we

backpacked to Moose Lake, the trailhead parking was a disaster. 2) More educational outreach around invasive species up to & including: better displays at Visitor centers, articles in park newspaper, opportunities for involvement in invasive species mitigation work. 3) Much like at the South rim of the Grand Canyon, limit private vehicle access to Hurricane Ridge in the summer by providing shuttle service between Pt Angeles & the park. These shuttles could also help with parking issues at popular trailheads. 4) Healthier offerings at the Hurricane Ridge visitor center cafe - maybe some organic picnic packs so people don't just stop there but perhaps go on a hike!

Topic Question 5: It would be great to create better displays around the disappearance of Olympic marmots in the park. Since my first visit in the late '90's until my most recent ones, the sightings of marmots around the Hurricane Ridge have been in steep decline.

Comments: Thank you for giving the general public the opportunity to provide feedback on the future stewardship of this pristine wilderness area.

Correspondence ID: 223 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: Back Country Horsemen of Washington Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Apr,14,2013 22:42:43
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: Comments provided.

Topic Question 2: Comments provided.

Topic Question 3: Comments provided.

Topic Question 4: Comments provided.

Comments: Representing Back Country Horsemen of Washington (BCHW), I would like to thank Superintendent Creachbaum and ONP staff for this opportunity to comment during the scoping process for the ONP Wilderness Stewardship Plan. We have been anticipating the work on this plan for several years including expectations discussed during the adoption of the General Management Plan (GMP).

I would like to state that we consider saddle and pack stock use within the Olympic National Park to be of utmost importance and do not wish to see any trails closed to stock. Our concerns do date back to the GMP when a new zoning proposal was unveiled (but not adopted) that would result in reducing stock use on the ONP trail system. There is no question that pack and saddle stock use are a key part of the Park's maintenance plan with three mule crews belonging to the Park itself. This is how it is possible to maintain the extensive backcountry trail system without employing a large number of workers. We want to see the Park's current trail maintenance system continue. BCHW itself is a partnering organization to the ONP, and we highly value that partnership. The use of stock remains the only means for aging or handicapped citizens in Washington State to still experience the Wilderness lands of the ONP.

Other matters we find important: The Park should make every effort to maintain the infrastructure in the ONP that serves the public. This includes trail bridges, trail puncheons, shelters, cabins, hitch posts, and other essential amenities which can provide for both access and visitor safety in this very wet and remote part of the United States. As stated, we would like all current trails open to stock remain as such. In fact we would like expanded use such as the full Pacific Northwest National Scenic Trail corridor as well as some wilderness beaches where access by horses is possible. There should be no elimination of use at the horse camp locations. Recreational grazing should continue to be allowed.

Trailhead access outside the Wilderness boundaries should be maintained. This includes the Dosewallips River Corridor where a new stock staging area is needed. Stock users must now utilize the Dosewallips campground since the prior staging area was washed out. Once the road is repaired, this campground will once again be mostly serving non-stock visitors.

We adamantly support continued use of chainsaws as the minimum tool necessary to carry out the administrative functions of the ONP. Logs across trails stop horses. This can result in emergency situations if the trails can't be cleared quickly. Many ONP locations are very remote, and the Park needs to maintain their capacity to manage their trails effectively. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this all important matter.

Jeff Chapman, Public Lands Chair, Back Country Horsemen of Washington

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Correspondence ID: 224 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Apr,15,2013 12:42:07
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: Less than a century ago part of the Olympic Peninsula was saved from the rush of resource exploitation that was consuming the nation. And now the raw outline of the Olympic National Park--once imagined on paper, later marked with ribbons and signs-- can be totally viewed from outer space where this remnant wilderness abuts the plundered lands that surround it.

Olympic is special to me because I grew up nearby the park, played, explored, and worked in its confines. There are favorite places I visit, key memories attached to place and time. And, I fear that the swell of population and the voracious need for resources, be they extractive or recreational, will threaten the integrity of its wildness. Its Wilderness stature and value has grown almost by default as so many other lands surrounding it have gone under to development.

Topic Question 2: I hike the trails and explore places off trail. It is important to me to see things remain the same and yet I find myself marveling at changes that occur naturally. I find it hard to accept the un-natural, man-made changes. By contrast the changes wrought by removing the Elwha dams are a delightful reversal of wilderness fortunes.

Topic Question 3: The big issues are headlined by human use and climate change. Human use from visitors and from administrative work has been constrained by policy and by limited budgets. Pressure will persist on wild areas, pushing to accommodate growing use or different kinds of uses. This is a great opportunity to push back on altering the wild character of Olympic National Park.

Topic Question 4: I would like to see minimal development in the park, especially in the designated wilderness. Primitive campgrounds and limited front-country services should underscore that a visit to the Park is to encounter a wild area. ?Build it and they will come? should not guide trailhead or campground planning. Planning for larger trailhead parking should be tempered by shuttle services. More campgrounds and parking lots should find a home outside the park, managed by the private sector, with commercial service permits to operate in the park. It might be appropriate to establish daily carrying capacities for more popular areas, i.e., starting a lottery for permits to visit certain coastal or alpine places. I prefer to see the wilderness as a great gallery free from teeming hoards of people. It should not be a stadium experience. I support installation and maintenance of these structures in wilderness: Signs to clarify trail junctions; signs warning of man-made perils, i.e., a failing bridge; closures of sites or trails for administrative reasons; fire prohibition notices; animal-human encounter problems. Patrol tents or existing patrol cabins; no new patrol cabins. A few historic structures: Dodger Point lookout; Pyramid Peak lookout; Enchanted Valley chalet; Roose? Homestead; Humes? homestead; Botten cabin; Michaels? cabin; Remann?s cabin; Elkhorn cabin, barn, and shelter; Olympus guard station, and shelter; Canyon Creek shelter. The other existing structures are of lesser importance to me; they serve as conveniences and seem not essential for administering the wilderness. Bridges: some stream or river crossings are perilous year-round and foot-logs and horse fords or bridges should be maintained. Some stream or river crossings are safely crossed at low run-off periods and if they coincide with prime hiking season, then hikers or horse users should be prepared to cross at maintained fords. Rerouting trails to take advantage of windfall tree crossings may be considered. I support using native materials for foot-logs and bridges. Some crossing spans are so great and perilous as to require suspension cables and towers and that might be a consideration. I am opposed to using treated wood, steel, or other man-made materials; man-made fasteners should be allowed.

Topic Question 5: Trail system: There has been a core network of trails that get to the primary places that people are drawn to visit and are part of the administrative tools for the park. Maintain that core network. If trails have been long abandoned or are extraordinarily difficult to maintain, then they should be de-listed and not maintained. Trails should be classified: stock and foot use; foot use only. Stock should not be permitted on foot use only trails. Scientific research: I would like to see a more conservative approach taken when conducting research in the designated wilderness. That means less collaring of wildlife; less handling and tissue sampling of wildlife; no more climate data structures; no more radio towers; no tsunami warning towers; few, if any helicopter flights. Sunset clauses should be part of any permitted structures?when the work is done, or the structure is obsolete, then it should be removed. Wilderness Permits: I think that the permits should be free of charge. A nominal entry fee to the park seems acceptable. Wilderness District: I think that the designated Wilderness should be regarded as a separate district, with a district ranger to oversee management activities in the Olympic Wilderness. It would underscore the central importance of wilderness to Olympic National Park. A wilderness ranger in charge of a wilderness district would be well trained in wilderness stewardship, minimum requirement, and the legal tenants of the Wilderness Act. Human waste management: composting toilets might be a better choice over vault toilets. Vault toilets seem to require more frequent helicopter service and composting toilets require more on-site maintenance. Less frequent flights would result and the costs saved from helicopter work could be applied toward seasonal backcountry staff. I support the continuation of the current regulations for campfires, day and overnight use, proper food storage, group size, camping and campsites, and commercial services in wilderness.

Comments:

Correspondence ID: 225 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Apr,15,2013 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: ONP wilderness is special to me in various ways. First and foremost it is an escape from civilization and a place to seek solitude and a glimpse of the Northwest as it was prior to development. I backpack in various National Forests and National Parks and ONP is my preferred place as it practically guarantees high quality wildlife viewing. The wildlife is an integral part of the wilderness and without it, it just wouldn't be wilderness. I also value ONP wilderness as it is large. Within the park I am free of the sounds of roads etc.

Topic Question 2: Backpacking and wildlife viewing in a pristine environment are the most important. Secondary is the opportunity to experience night free from visible light pollution.

Topic Question 3: The biggest issues to me are: 1. The lack of the original compliment of wildlife species. The return of wolves is needed to bring back the most original sense of the park. I long for the day that I can hear a wolf howl deep in the park.

Secondary, is the removal of the mountain goats. Knowing that they are non-native brings a sense of intrusion everytime I see one in the Olympics. 2. Overcrowding - I understand the need for balance and believe that the park does a great job in managing the backcountry. However, it can seem crowded near trailheads, specifically Obstruction Point. Limiting parking in these areas to backcountry permit holders may help limit the alpine impacts to the immediate Hurricane Ridge area. 3. Access - I truly enjoy backpacking in the park and wonder how I can keep it up as I age. I would love to see expanded options as I age. In particular I would like to see concessionaire opportunities for horse or llama packing and a hike-in chalet. Reopening the Enchanted Valley chalet would definitely serve this purpose. I am concerned about horse and llama impacts and would thus hope that just certain representative areas could be open. Perhaps just one or two rainforest valleys and a sub-alpine area could be open to packing. 4. Connectivity - To truly allow for the wilderness to be sustainable it needs to directly connect the mountains to the sea. Extending the wilderness down the Queets or the Hoh to the wilderness coast would protect wildlife diversity and provide for an extremely rare recreation experience, a transit from a wilderness coast to wilderness peaks. Additionally the opportunity to expand the park on the east side down to Hood Canal region would be an excellent way to protect the east side elk herds. Specifically extending the park down the Dosewallips to the Sound would help preserve connectivity.

Topic Question 4: 1. I want to be able to hear and see a wolf in the ONP wilderness. This would give the ONP a feeling of completeness. Additionally to attain this "completeness" the goats would have to be removed. 2. Better parking management at Obstruction Point. Ideally a shuttle would run from Hurricane Ridge and the visitor center. To make this a reality expanded parking near the visitor center and the lots at Hurricane Ridge could be reduced and decommissioned. 3. The opportunity for horse or llama packing for overnight and multi-day trips. 4. A series or at least one small, eco-friendly hike-in chalet. Perhaps a newly built one on the coast near Cape Alava along with reopening the Enchanted Valley chalet. 5. The mountain wilderness connected to Puget Sound on the east and the wilderness coast on the west. The park wilderness connceted down through the Queets and/or Hoh to the coast wilderness and the wilderness extended down the Dosewallips to the Sound.

Topic Question 5: Olympic is truly the crown jewel of US wilderness with its diversity of habitats. Thanks for managing it so well!

Comments:

Correspondence ID: 226 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Apr,16,2013 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: Wilderness areas preserve nature, but at the same time should be available for citizens to enjoy in a respectful manner.

Topic Question 2: Horseback riding is the best way to view wildlife without disturbing them. Wildlife are far less disturbed with equine sweat masking human smells.

Topic Question 3: Preserve the environment but then yet maintain access for pedestrian, equestrian and other non-motorized uses.

Topic Question 4: Equestrian trail heads.

Comments:

Correspondence ID: 227 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: Back Country Horsemen of WA Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Apr,16,2013 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: It's a beautiful area, being set aside for preservation for all to enjoy! I'm particularly grateful to have some areas outside of national parks where the poor trees will be left undisturbed. The forests provide habitat and refuge for so many creatures, most of whom have no place else to live in safety.

Topic Question 2: Riding my horse, while accompanied by my service dog.

Topic Question 3: Managing human impact. People are sloppy and lazy. I'd think the biggest issue is dealing with trash, followed closely by people hunting when/where they aren't supposed to.

Topic Question 4: Rest rooms, trash cans, parking, and corrals for horses/mules.

Topic Question 5: One of my greatest fears is that like some national parks, wilderness areas will be closed to horses/mules and even dogs. I think that usually, if a person cares enough about their pet to take it with them, they usually care enough to train, leash, and pick up after their pet too. As for horses and mules in wilderness areas, well I can't think of a more environmentally friendly way to get around in the wild. Horses and mules are a wonderful, low impact means of transportation - especially for people who might not have the endurance or physical prowess to get very far on foot. Allowing stock (horses and mules) opens

up opportunity for many who might not be able to see some of the beautiful country side otherwise.

Comments: Thank you for considering my input!

Correspondence ID: 228 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Mar,05,2013 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Park Form
Correspondence: 1. Untramelled wilderness.

2. Solitude, silence, wildlife, climbing.

3. Airplane overflights. Too many commercial flights, too frequently. The noise pollution is disruptive to the wilderness.

4. Much the same as today without the plane noise. Restore the shelters, such as Home Sweet Home.

5. Blank

Correspondence ID: 229 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: Mountaineers Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Mar,05,2013 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Park Form
Correspondence: 1. Remoteness - I like to get away from crowds; Wildlife sightings make all things better.

2. Hiking and backpacking; Relaxing @ Olympic Hot Springs; Snowshoes

3. Blue bag disposal @ Glacier Meadows/Blue Glacier; Finding money for maintenance; stock overuse tearing up trails; not enough useage of volunteers for trail maintenance; open fires (too many); trash management

4. No or little commercial services; more youth education programs; expanded hours @ ONP WIC; More permanate restrooms @ trailheads (vault)

5. Thanks for taking the time to seek input from the public.

Correspondence ID: 230 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Mar,05,2013 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Park Form
Correspondence: 1. The old growth forest, the mountains, the wildlife, the beauty of a natural eco system, for the most part undisturbed by man. I feel it's a treasure beyond any monitary value, and important for future generations to see.

2. I like to camp and hike and ride my horse. I like quiet activities. I just want to enjoy the serenity of nature. With that said, a good sing along around a campfire is a lot of fun too.

3. Probably noise, litter, poaching, trampling plants off the trails, too many people, among others.

4. I've always enjoyed the ranger talks, I would like that to continue. I would like the facilities maintained, but not expanded too much. I want the wilderness left untouched by progress.

5. I want fees to stay affordable, I want continued access by horses. I want to be able to camp without making a reservation. Thank you for the opportunity to comment, and thank you for your stewardship of the park!

Correspondence ID: 231 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: Public Lands Chair; Backcountry Horsemen of WA Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Mar,05,2013 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Park Form
Correspondence: 1. I have lived and worked on the Olympic Peninsula for almost 40 years. That includes Shelton, Matlock, Hoquiam, Clearwater, Forks, Sapho, Dungeness, Quilcene, and Port Townsend. I have hiked, rode stock, and fixed trails everywhere. The ONP is very special as it has set the backdrop for my life.

2. Pack and saddle stock use. Keeping trails open and in the system. Keeping infrastructure repaired. Opportunities for solitude.

3. Funding for keeping trails open. Access roads washing out and difficulty in getting NEPA processes completed and roads to

trailheads repaired. Fear of downclassing trails.

4. Continued public access and support.

5. Blank

Correspondence ID: 232 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Mar,05,2013 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Park Form
Correspondence: 1. "Rugged Mountains" which are accessbile via a well maintained trail system - safe to access; Extensive "backcountry" portions of the trail system (>10+ miles in from the nearest car accessible roads/trailheads. This assists in providing solitude (thins out the crowds); Interconnectivity between ONP and the ONF Wilderness areas which provides for really great long and varied "wilderness adventures" while also allowing for easy access to the periphery.; Being able to encounter all kinds of critters (birds, bears, marmot, deer, elk, etc)

2. Hiking along trails and climbing the numerous smaller peaks that are off the beaten path (McCartney Peak for example); Getting away from the crowds of people typically found in locations closer to the Seattle urban areas. This park (and the ONF) have a lot of smaller access points, eases congestion.; Being able to view vast tracts of land/mountains/valleys w/ no sign of "man's" presence (ie: no large tracts of cleared forest, no severely eroded trails), I'm ok w/ well maintained narrow hiking trails.

3. Preventing the "easy access" backcountry camps (1-6 miles from popular trailheads) from becoming too worn-out, where lots of native plants are damaged/crushed, unplanned camp fire pits everywhere, accumulation of trash left by campers who don't know or choose to ignore the regulations (Moose Lake for example)

4. Same as it is now!! Easy access areas (a few) for those people not looking for solitude, and the extensive trail system for everyone else.; Wildlife!!

5. A couple of things I really appreciate about things currently in the park: 1) Latrine system @ camps along the trails. This seems to be a good way to limit the impact of human waste. 2) Bridges across the larger creeks/rivers trails (Elwha near Humes Ranch, Graves Creek etc); 3) Limitation of camp fires. I've never been much of a "camp fire person" so I would not mind seeing camp fires prohibited altogether in the non-campground areas.

Correspondence ID: 233 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Mar,05,2013 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Park Form
Correspondence: 1. The vast area of silence with a national park that is not cross crosed by roads.

2. Off trail mountain climbing.

3. 1) Noise from airplanes. 2) Motorized chain saw maintenance of trails. I believe this violates the 1964 wilderness act.

4. I would love to see no recreational flying over the park and I would like to see the "one square inch of silence" concept be a reality to make olympic national park the nations first quiet area.

5. I understand why the park uses chain saws for trail maintenance, but Washington Trails Association would love to cross cut the trails within the park.

Correspondence ID: 234 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: Mountaineers, Meetup, PWC Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Mar,05,2013 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Park Form
Correspondence: 1. Diverse eco-systems, wonderful display of wildlife, fauna, vistas, and un-populated areas. People should not be deprived of the ability to experience the wilderness.

2. getting/accessing remote areas - I backpack, hike, and climb, snowshoe, ski. I like going in all 4 seasons.

3. access is eroding away limiting our ability to gain entrance into the interior of the park/forest. ex: Lake Cushman (restricted), Dose Rd, Hurrican Ridge (restricted hours); I am concerned about the Elwha River Rd (Hot Springs Road) and access to Lake Quinault.

4. I would like to see trails maintained and the historic outdoor shelters put back. Group sizes need to be thought out better.

People on snow should be allowed larger group sizes.

5. Wilderness designation should not take away our right to these areas. People can get to these areas and not necessarily trampel them. It just needs to be managed better.

Correspondence ID: 235 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Mar,05,2013 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Park Form
Correspondence: 1. It's beauty, its diversity, its peacefulness, remoteness

2. Getting into the backcountry. Every visitor to my home is taken there. Hiking, backpacking, snowshoeing. Prefer not to [illegible] into huge crowds - want space (as much as possible) from others - Keep things as pristine as possible.

3. Overuse of the most popular sites. Inconsideration of other visitors - naivity of some people getting far out there who are clueless about being prepared - [illegible] well. Difficult to maintain what's there due to storms, etc. Time consuming and experience to repair.

4. Would like to see no new "construction" of trails, huts, shelters and remove all [illegible] historically important structures - Bridges on most popular trails S/B maintained but don't make it easier for inexperienced visitors. Would love to see a NPS-led hike in certain geologically fragile areas to teach us how to observe, conserve, protect - I don't [illegible] to take on [illegible] on or through such a place but somehow show/tell us what's most fragile. Perhaps more outreach or where you'd like to have volunteers.

5. Blank

Correspondence ID: 236 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Mar,05,2013 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Park Form
Correspondence: 1. The ONP is a special place for me mainly because it's just a fantastic place. Close enough to home, not too crowded (depending on the trail), a perfect mix of climates, variety in experience depending on where you go. It's a magical expanse of wilderness.

2. The hiking and camping areas appeal most to me. I prefer a more secluded trail or area that isn't overly crowded. I enjoy experiencing nature for what it is.

3. I feel that some areas are too "modernized", structures, overly camped areas, too many people in certain areas. When I go to the backcountry I like it to be just that, backcountry wilderness, not a place for every Seattlite that has been to rei to coment about a "quaint" herd of elk.

4. I hope that the park will remain wilderness, even expand the areas it covers to include more land. I would like to see the resort at sol duc gone and hurricane ridge area more of a natural place and less of a tourist attraction.

5. I would like to see the dosewallips road stay closed possibly limit the # of people per popular area even more.

Correspondence ID: 237 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Mar,05,2013 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Park Form
Correspondence: 1. Accessible (to much of west sound); diverse

2. remoteness (minimal human footprint); generally not crowded; plan to do extensive hiking, backpacking in future

3. haven't experienced it enough yet to comment

4. Blank

5. Blank

Correspondence ID: 238 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Apr,01,2013 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Park Form

Correspondence: 1. Preserved area

2. walking/hiking/wildflower walks/mushroom identification

3. Access into trailheads. There should be well maintained roads into the major trailheads, including rebuilding roads and bridges if needed.

4. Good access increase [arrow pointing up]. Preservation of wildflowers, education re endemic wildflowers and other wild flowers. Well maintained and marked trails needed. Camp facilities kept small with group size limited to no more than 12.

5. Traditional use by Native Americans encouraged. No campfires. Educate re human waste. Limit stock use, regulate it well. Research activities encouraged. Wildlife mngmt - continued reintroduction of species like fisher.

Correspondence ID: 239 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Mar,26,2013 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Letter
Correspondence: During the nearly twenty years that I lived on the Peninsula I had the opportunity and pleasure to backpack, hike, and camp in many parts of the park. Those experiences, in all seasons, with varying degrees of joy and suffering, defy description, and were only possible because of the ability to be in a truly wild place, to hike for days with no sign of human impact - and often no sign of other humans - and to witness such an unspoiled place. As a photographer I've traveled extensively throughout the world, and hiked and camped in many different coutnries. Because of the wilderness that makes up the park ONP is unique in this country, and it is also unique in the world. Every effort should be made to protect this wilderness character, and this protection should rise above all other considerations.

To maintain this unique character I consider the following priorities:

1) Follow the guidance and the definition of the 1964 Wilderness Act with its stated goal of restoring, protecting and enhancing wilderness character.

2) Continued restoration and protection of ONP's natural ecosystems should be of primary concern with the increased effects of global warming and climate change. These effects put increasing demands on wilderness and the native plants and animal species that inhabit them. The re-introduction of the fisher has been a great success, and should be followed with restoring wolves and other extirpated species. Protection of wilderness should include removing non-native pants and animals, such as the mountain goat.

3) The current permit system for backpacking in ONP's wilderness should be continued. The campfire restrictions in the high country, food stroage requirements, and the important group size limits all contribute to a lighter impact on the land, and a genuine wilderness experience for the backpacker. Group size limits should be 12, with smaller groups and greater regulation where group sites do not exist or in heavily used areas. Staff should be adequate to insure enforcement and enhance education.

4) The impact of stock in wilderness should be a major concern to the Park. Stock use should be limited and regulated. The impact of these animals to natural resources and trail infrastructure is great.

5) The impact of reconstructing building deemed historic, such as shelters, sheds, barns and cabins is prohibited by the Wilderness Act and cannot be allowed or considered. While cultural resources within wilderness should be protected, the means and equipment used to do this should also follow the guidance of the Wilderness Act.

6) Research by ONP staff and independent researchers should also comply with the Wilderness Act, which gives the following as minimum requirement standards: "no use of motor vehicles, motorized equipment or motorboats, landing of aircraft, and no other form of mechanical transport...except as necessary to meet minimum requirements for the administration of the area for the purpose of the Act."

Finally, I include a paragraph from Wallace Stegner's 1960 letter endorsing the passage of the Wilderness Act. It might be easy to think this protection has been accomplished within Olympic National Park, but a movement toward increased recreation and enhanced facilities alarms me. Unless ONP is fiercely governed by the Wilderness Act and with great attention to the specifics of the Act the stunning piece of earth protected by Olympic National Park might become something other than the awe inspiring and renewing wilderness it is.

"Something will have gone out of us as a people if we ever let the remaining wilderness be destroyed; if we permit the last virgin forests to be turned into comic books and plastic cigarette cases; if we drive the few remaining members of the wild species into zoos or to extinction; if we pollute the last clear air and dirty the last clean streams and push our paved roads through the last of the silence, so that never again will Americans be free in their own country from the noise, the exhausts, the stinks of human and automotive waste. And so that never again can we have the chance to see ourselves single, separate, vertical and individual in the world, part of the environment of trees and rocks and soil, brother to the other animals, part of the natural world and competent to belong in it. Without any remaining wilderness we are committed wholly, without chance for even

momentary reflection and rest, to a headlong drive into our technological termite-life, the Brave New World of completely man-controlled environment. We need wilderness preserved - as much of it as is still left, and as many kinds--because it was the challenge against which our character as a people was formed. The reminder and the reassurance that it is still there is good for our spiritual health even if we never once in ten years set foot in it. It is good for us when we are young, because of the incomparable sanity it can bring briefly, as vacation and rest, into our insane lives. It is important to us when we are old simply because it is there--important, that is, simply as an idea."

He closes his letter:

"We need that wild country available to us, even if we never do more than drive to its edge and look in. For it can be a means of reassuring ourselves of our sanity as creatures, a part of the geography of hope."

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Correspondence ID: 240 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Apr,17,2013 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: * Large wilderness area-- most wilderness areas are compromised by their proximity to roads, development, etc.). The large area facilitates such benefits as: quiet (e.g, http://onesquareinch.org/), dark night skies (less light pollution, excellent wildlife/fish/marine habitat, and especially incredible opportunities for solitude/primitive/unconfined recreation. * Coastal wilderness-- barefoot backpacking, assoc. wildlife, ruggedness, no cars! * Diverse wilderness-- coastline, valleys, rivers, mountains, alpine. * Political history-- see book entitled Olympic Battleground * Cultural history-- e.g., Ozette area

These features and context create an amazing opportunity to experience unparalleled wilderness. And wildlife/plants species have roam to roam, less disturbance, etc.

Topic Question 2: * Long(er) distance backpacking (most wilderness areas are too small) * Solitude during visits to out of the way areas like Ferry Basin

* Flora/fauna observation (e.g., birding) * Solitude in a primitive setting * Quiet * Dark skies (minimal light pollution) * Clean air and water (minimal pollution, no cows)

Topic Question 3: * Removal of introduced mountain goats * Wildlife-visitor conflicts (e.g., mtn goats and bears) * Trail/structure maintenance (and which to designate/declassify/remove) * Species reintroduction (e.g., facilitating the return of wolves) * Visitor use impacts (e.g., vandalism, trash, invasive species, and human waste) * Visitor numbers (maintaining the wilderness experience) * NPS ability to carry out (and enforce) proposed management

Topic Question 4: * Success for the Wild Olympic Campaign plus more additions to the wilderness, such as originally proposed by the WOC. * Minimal number of people in the back country * Minimal visitor services at existing trailhead/campsite locations, except possibly a new trail linking Boulder Creek area to Whiskey Bend area with interpretive info on dam removal, etc. * Solitude * Maintained existing trails/bridges * Wolves * NO introduced salmonids (e.g., Chambers Creek steelhead), no hatchery fish

Topic Question 5: Please remove the mountain goats.

Comments:

Correspondence ID: 241 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Apr,18,2013 16:57:02
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 5: Hello,

I ask that Pack goats be permitted on all Olympic National Park Wilderness trails, both in support of trail maintenance and for recreational use.

We have been packing with goats for 12 years. Both my wife and I have back problems, and my wife has addition health problems which prevent us from going out into the wilderness for overnight or multi-day trips without the help of our goats. Our packgoats allow us to get out and enjoy our National Forest lands. We often visit Olympic National Forest. The packgoats have also allowed us to take grandchildren on multiday trips in Olympic National Forest Wilderness. We would like to be able to go on overnight trips in Olympic National Park. Before we got packgoats, we seriously looked into other types of pack stock such as horses or llamas. That research showed that packgoats would fit much better with what we could manage and handle. And they have a very low impact on the land.

We are depending on the goats for our own welfare, thus we need to insure that they are healthy and stay with us. Our packgoats are very bonded to us and stay quite close to us, and we do tie them up at night. Sincerely, Perry Burkhart

Comments:

Correspondence ID: 242 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Apr,19,2013 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Other
Correspondence: Olympic National Park ? Wilderness Stewardship Plan Public Scoping Meetings Flipchart Comments February-April 2013

February 5, 2013: Port Angeles

?Plan should address (in broad brush) restoring ecological processes. ?Eliminate collaring animals and tagging ears. It is a distraction and doesn't belong here. It doesn't meet the wilderness characteristics. ?Maintain and improve stock trails. Improve currently inaccessible stock trails where bridges and trails not to stock standards. ?Adequate staffing must accompany plan ?Restrict day-hike group size ?Installations should have removal/decommissioning plans for endgame when no long usable/needed. ?(Re #1) Natural beauty & solitude ?(Re #2) Enables my senses to come alive ? sights, sounds, smell, textures, and clean air. ?(Re #3) Park needs more funding ?(Re #3) Topic: Goats ? close park for two days, sell permits to big game hunters for $5000-/each and let them go kill goats. ?Under the primitive and unconfined recreation quality, allow for better 7 day access to park ?Need more trail maintenance ?Maintain frontcountry lodging facilities ?Maintain traditional use ? stock use (mountain bikes are not traditional) ?Commercial uses should be to support a wilderness experience that includes backcountry stock packing, wildlife viewing tours (pack-in only) ?Emphasis on continued trail maintenance with chainsaw use as minimum tool ?No drones in the wilderness ?Unleashed dogs at Rialto and Third Beach should be curtailed/stopped ? more enforcement needed ?Trail to Hurricane Hill being degraded by people walking off trail and eradicating native plants ? should revegetate the area ?High divide trail use is high and therefore needs more patrol ? over a decade of use has changed number of social trails ? particularly at pot holes ?Degradation of bank uphill from sites at Altair Campground ? too much establishment of social trails

February 7, 2013: Sequim

?(Re #1) Inaccessibility and remoteness, freedom and risk/challenges (i.e., recreation) ?(Re #3) Recognizing the intrinsic value of wilderness and wildlife independent of human wants and needs. (Note: re wolves) ?(Re #3) Eliminate mountain goats. It's not their wilderness. They have impacts and don't belong in wilderness. ?Acquire new territory ? More! More! And advertise what's in it. ?Educate public re: change of verbiage in GMP, "wilderness management" to "wilderness stewardship" plan. ?(Re: Ozette) the plan takes historical cultural features into consideration in addressing plans "other features" (i.e., WWII Coastal Watch) ?Homestead gravesites in Queets valley should be considered. ?5 factors in park's wilderness plan, but only 4 in Wilderness Act. Take #5 out. ?Create an annual assessment process to evaluate the plan and adopt changes as needed ?Make research efforts and results in wilderness more easily available to public ?Plan should address impacts from external sources, e.g. pollution (biomass), radioactivity, beach debris, climate change, satellite debris ?Wilderness stewardship plan should address Norwegian Memorial w/regard to long-term preservation/perpetuity of memorial. Is legislation needed? Are agreements and partnerships the solution? ?What are key cultural shipwrecks off the coast? Landward cultural connections. (Investigate links to OCNMS GMP) ?Plan should address a culture of perpetuity, a culture of access, spirituality (not necessarily of solitude) ?Access to wilderness allowed for fulfilling cultural and human emotional needs ?Access to wilderness for fun and promotion of family and friendship ?Identify site-specific areas that designation does not meet current needs of area for example corridors that were created to address "land locking" wilderness areas ?Plan should recommend whether legislative or procedural changes in designation should be made (adaptive management of wilderness) ?(Re #4) Supports interpretive signs in wilderness to explain cultural resources and why they are there. i.e., Roose's Prairie ? a plaque (NH Site), current text at Humes Ranch ?Interpretive service (like signs) in wilderness to explain research and monitoring efforts ? projects ?Feedback from wilderness users on site periodic check-ins with public

February 19, 2013: Sekiu

?Access ? keeping trails open; minimum tool = power saw to maintain stock trails; maintain stock facilities - i.e., hitch rails, stock camps, *need more stock camps ?Need facilities for human waste ? example Stony Point Stock Camp (Elkhorn) ? needs facility ?Forest Service wilderness is restrictive to access to the park ?Future decision on Dose Road/park access ?ODT/Lake Crescent ? need bathroom at end of Phase I/Camp David Jr. Rd. ?Trailheads are not large enough for stock trailers (example, North Fork, Sol Duc) ?Concern about incremental loss of stock use by not providing stock parking at trailheads, not maintaining trails to stock standards, no stock camps, etc.

February 20, 2013: Forks

?Want to see more people able to use/access park. ?Refurbish pre-existing access points. ?Include evaluation of access through adjacent landowners to determine costs and funding sources. ?Consider hardening trailhead parking to access wilderness ie: 3rd Beach ?Kalaloch Lodge could be used as a source for ARFC (animal resistant food containers) distribution (especially during the off-season). ?Keep the wilderness wild ? but allow access ?Most backcountry rangers are positive ? keep it that way ?Human waste management issues in Royal Lake area ?Bring back, repair, restore the south end trail from Lake Ozette to Norwegian Memorial ?North Fork Sol Duc Trail ? keep open for stock, maintain to stock standards (ie. Stock trail capable) ?Sol Duc boneyard for the Aurora Ridge need hitch racks ? good volunteer project. ?Bogachiel Trail needs to be brought up to stock

standards, same for Queets trail ?Trailhead parking needs to be brought up to stock standards ?Both Quinault trailheads need to handle stock trails (trailers?) ?Chainsaw use is critical for clearing and trail maintenance ? need same window for use as helicopters, flights ?Fish limit ? 1 per day/person would be ideal ?Rugged ridge trail ? maintain ?Military fly-overs ? limit ?Reestablish Norwegian trail as "wilderness value" trail "self-discovery" ?Establish Ozette River Coast Guard trail ? historic WWII coast watch; address dispersed visitation; access to unique old growth forest

February 21, 2013: Amanda Park

?Reduce potential poaching in park ?Manage wilderness boundaries to reduce road repair costs, there needs to be the flexibility to move road if needed ?Create no buffer zones ?No wild and scenic river designation needed ?Reduce backlog projects ?Help counties and state pay for road maintenance outside park ?Make sure the park is current in lieu of tax payments ?Improve and maintain big cedar trail ?Open more trails/areas for use so other impacted areas are less busy/impacted ?Wild and scenic river designation should not affect downstream landowners; stream channel maintenance should be allowed ?Make sure in-holding properties are identified on a map ?Permanent access to in-holding must be maintained ?Maintain stock trails better ?Reopen historic trails that are no longer passable ?In 20 years should look how it does today ?No wolves ?Fishing ? keep fish to eat ?Access and protection of areas like Norwegian Memorial ?Manage coastal strip as wilderness not as non-wilderness as currently managed ?Increased access especially for seniors ? Queets Tshletsy Creek ?Monument to recognize Kings Bottom and Evergreen on the Queets ?Maintaining access ? including maintain bridges and trails. Reasonable degree of maintenance ?Maintain traditional use of stock. Keep trails open; remove trees that have fallen across trail ?Increased access to backcountry ?Continue using stock groups to support maintenance of trails, bridges, shelters ?Allow for commercial use guides ?Removal of wildlife posing danger to users such as goats, cougars. Use any means. ?Better placement of wilderness stock camps. i.e., if the stock camp is at mile 4, the distance is too short for stock ?Need to tell the story to park visitors about the pioneers, homesteaders. An entire culture is gone. (Queets, Quinault and other areas). ?Wording in the wilderness plan to adequately repair Finley Creek. ?Expand the trail system parkwide. Spread out the trails/trail system to disperse use.

February 27, 2013: Port Townsend

?Provide for increased stock use ? backcountry and front; increase # of stock camps, maintain existing stock trails, bring back logging trails for stock carriages/wagons ?Maintain stock trails for: A) Pleasure, B) Search and Rescue, C) Historical preservation of usage, D) Trail maintenance, E) Revenue for surrounding communities ?Maintain flexibility to fight fires ?Limit visitor use to levels that protect wilderness character ?Do not create new trails, maintain what you have ?Remove sexist language from "scoping" displays. Ex. "Untrammeled by man." Quotations?? ?Use least invasive, non-toxic, natural and ecological means to deal w/presence of non-indigenous species. (Or do nothing at all) ?Yes to wilderness permitting with lots of education ?No fires ?Pack it out ? including poop; provide biodegradable bags ?Structures ? ie: bridges and shelters ? let them rot ?Value of wilderness to plants, animals and rocks that live there (ie: non-human values) ?Wildlife management: as the area reverts to wilderness through non-intervention policies, wildlife will return. (Leave them alone!) ?Prohibit all aircraft flights over the park (wilderness) ?The less technology, the better. ?Established campgrounds are useful for some visitors but keep dispersed camping also ?Park is doing a great job keeping trails open ?Moose head way trail maintenance ?Wolves should be considered an integral part of the wilderness and should be considered part of this plan. It should be supportive to have this included in state plan. ?Native plants are far more important than goats ?When buildings in wilderness start to deteriorate they should not be rebuilt ?Climate change impacts on wilderness plants related to use how are they being monitored and what changes are needed ?Minimize impacts from maintenance of trails and other facilities considering climate change ?Continue research in the park in wilderness ?Air quality should be maintained to high standards ?Restrict flights (tourism) over designated wilderness ?Bring back native species (plants and animals)(i.e. wolves) with constructive public input to limit human wildlife conflict in effort to preserve the species after reintroduction. ?Keep wilderness permitting for campers. ?Restrict fires in high country ?Limit stock animal use and keep strict restrictions on motorized vehicles ?As the "built environment" degrades in wilderness areas (i.e. Barns/Shacks) please do not reconstruct them ? let wilderness take over ?Maintain restrictions on group sizes ?Limit backcountry campsite use and the number of campsites to maintain the natural state of areas surrounding popular camping areas ?Keep the wilderness untouched by modern invention but let ecological research continue so we can better understand how to heal degraded wilderness

March 4, 2013: Seattle (No flipchart comments given by meeting attendees)

March 5, 2013: Silverdale (No flipchart comments given by meeting attendees)

March 6, 2013: Shelton (No flipchart comments given by meeting attendees)

March 7, 2013: Olympia ?Whatever it takes, would like to see the reintroduction of wolves. ?Restore main Queets River trail to Pelton Creek Shelter @ 16.2 mi. ?Repair/restore structure @ Pelton per previous plans by P. Gleeson. ?Replace sign @ 4.2 mi. @ lower crossing on Queets River trail. ?Replace sign @ 6.0 mi. @ upper crossing on Queets River trail. ?Remove all non-organic material from "Smith Place" site @ 6.0 mi. on Queets River trail. ?Monitor and prevent further encroachment of Rubus ursinus @ Queets ranger station. ?Monitor and develop some reasonable plan to address encroachment of Cirsium arvense @ Andrews Field and other areas of Queets valley.

March 26, 2013: Aberdeen (No flipchart comments given by meeting attendees)

April 1, 2013: Quilcene (No flipchart comments given by meeting attendees)

Correspondence ID: 243 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: National Outdoor Leadership School (NOLS) Non-Governmental
Received: Apr,19,2013 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Letter
Correspondence: Thank you for providing the National Outdoor Leadership School (NOLS) with an opportunity to comment on the Wilderness Stewardship Plan and Environmental Impact Statement for the Olympic National Park. The Park is an invaluable public resource for the region and for NOLS, and we appreciate the efforts of the planning team to engage and involve the public in the planning process.

Overview

The National Outdoor Leadership School has a long history of sustainable use of the backcountry Wilderness in Olympic National Park. We began operating in the park in 1985 and have conducted backpacking courses in the park since that time, and occasional sea kayaking and mountaineering expeditions as well. The dramatic geography of the Olympic Peninsula presents our students with a wilderness classroom unlike any other at the school. Not only do they have the opportunity to learn about Northwest seafaring history and Makah tribal culture while hiking the park's coastline, but our courses summit peaks and explore the unique ecosystem of the park's temperate rainforests as well. Key to our educational offerings are pristine wilderness, expansive views, backcountry access, and a reasonable approach to commercial permitting.

We have done our best in the pages that follow to briefly identify components for examination in the development of the Wilderness Stewardship Plan. First and foremost, we hope that the plan will address the challenges faced by all users of acquiring permits for backcountry travel. Secondly, we hope that the Park will consider alternative measures to those presently available for food storage. Finally, we request that horsepackers responsible for resupplying our courses within Wilderness areas continue to be allowed to carry chainsaws.

There are few wild places in the contiguous United States that are on par with Olympic National Park. We look forward to seeing its wilderness values recognized and preserved through the planning process.

I. Wilderness Permitting Challenges

The Park currently has a wilderness permitting system in place that attempts to serve many users by focusing availability during the peak season and around weekends. As a multi-season commercial outfitter this system poses significant challenges. NOLS currently operates in the Olympic Wilderness during the summer and the fall months. In order to access the Park efficiently and without impacting other visitors, we often choose to enter the Park on weekdays and during other non-peak times. Due to the limited hours of the Backcoutnry Permit Office, and the time constraints added by travel to and around the Olympic Peninsula, our courses are regularly required to spend excessive time and energy picking up their permits.

Alternatives that we would like to see the Park explore include increasing hours at the Backcountry Permit Office or the implementation of a virtual permit system. Being able to receive a permit by e-mail would allow our courses to maximize efficiency when traveling to the Park, allowing our students to spend mroe time in the backcountry.

II. Bear Fences

Currently, bear canisters are the only approved canisters for backcountry food storage in Olympic National Park. NOLS operates in bear habitat throughout North America, and has done extensive research regarding the effectiveness of electric fences for protecting food from bears and other smaller creatures. Many other National Parks and Wilderness areas across public land management agencies recognize and approve of the effectiveness and appropriateness of this system. Currently, we are piloting electric fence usages in North Cascades National Park, and we were the first outfitter ever to use electric fences on National Forest Wilderness areas in the Northwest last year. We request that Olympic National Park consider electric fences for food storage to protect animals and minimize infrastructure such as bear wires in the backcountry.

III. Chainsaw Use for Packing Outfitters

During the summer months, NOLS courses spend their time exploring the furthest reaches of the Olympic Wilderness for four weeks. This type of extended backcountry experience within the Park is made possible by food resupply several times during the course. NOLS regularly hires local horsepacking outfitters to resupply our courses, which allows students to focus more of their time away from trails and road heads, thereby improving the backcountry experience for other visitors and distributing impact.

Even though the Wilderness Act prohibits the use of motorized equipment, chainsaws have historically been allowed in the Olympic Wilderness for the purpose of logging out trails. Our courses do not require trails to be logged out in order to travel, but it does become important for commercial packers to be able to carry chainsaws in order to reach the resupply points. We advocate the continued permission for commercial packers to use chainsaws within wilderness.

IV. Importance of Educational Outfitters

The Wilderness Act of 1964, Section 4(b) defines education as a fundamental purpose of Wilderness. Further, Section 45(d)6

states, "Commercial services may be performed within the wilderenss areas designated by the Act to the extent necessary for activities which are proper for realizing the recreational or other wilderness purposes of the areas." As a non-profit educator and permitee, NOLS helps fulfill the purposes of wilderness by teaching visitors how to care for public land--how to appreciate it without harming it. NOLS' programs promote the values of wilderness and instill in our students a set of strong environmental ethics and a sense of stewardship.

We believe that in order to increase stewardship of public lands, people need to have tangible, inspiring experiences with the land. Outdoor recreation is a major gateway for these experiences, and is an effective way to teach and learn environmental ethics. We hope that the Olympic Wilderness will maintain its wild character through consideration of management strategies that do not impair the Park's need to meet its educational mission in Wilderness.

Conclusion

The careful maintenance and deliberate management of Olympic National Park has benefitted local communities, and the wider population, for generations. Within the boundaries are world-class natural resources that will continue to be a draw for generations to come. The staff of Olympic National park have proven to be careful and passionate stewards of this backcountry area, balancing preservation with recreation and industry. Thank you for the careful consideration of our recommendations.

Correspondence ID: 244 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Apr,19,2013 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: The wilderness area is special because it has been protected. It is truly a tribute to the hard work and dedication of Olympic National Park leadership both now and from the past that provide us with the opportunity to experience the wilderness as it has been for centuries. No other place is as untouched as Olympic National Park because no other place is untouched.

Topic Question 2: We enjoy the access without interferring. We like to hike in the late spring to breath the fragrance of the wild flowers and hike in the fall to taste the mountain blueberries.

Topic Question 3: Probably the biggest is visitor use and visitor impacts.

Topic Question 4: I hope to be around in 20 years, but I would like to insure that the experience for my grandchildren is very similar to what I am able to experience today.

Topic Question 5: The National Park system is by far the most important and beneficial opportunity that can be presented to our fellow man. My concern is that the current culture of video games, text messages and cell phones is creating the impression that the outdoors are not important. We need to encourage the "Outdoor Disconnected" movement.

Comments:

Correspondence ID: 245 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: Kitsap Mountaineers Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Apr,21,2013 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: biodiversity (means the forest is healthy and able to support the entire ecosystem; and great for education to identify species and figure out the relationships) and tranquility (it is very rewarding to go to a wild place in fellowship with other hikers and at times, enjoy the silence and the sounds of the forest)

Topic Question 2: Spring - naturalist hikes; Summer & Fall - photography along the ridges and summits; and in Winter - snowshoeing

Topic Question 3: trail maintenance and access safety and communication of issues to visitors

Topic Question 4: Down the road, how about a kiosk for groups to check in or for visitors to purchase/print out day passes (after hours)?

I hope to still see ranger talks and walks; updated route and road information; and trailhead sign-in stations...

Topic Question 5: Thank you for having a meeting in our area. Our group spends a considerable amount of time hiking in the Olympics and look forward to seeing what is next...

Comments:

Correspondence ID: 246 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Apr,21,2013 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: The preservation of nature, particularly old growth forests, pristine streams and rivers, no sounds of civilization, undisturbed vegetation and wildlife.

Topic Question 2: Backpacking and camping

Topic Question 3: Motorized vehicles, namely, off road recreational vehicles. These should be prohibited absolutely, as there are plenty of roads (dirt and paved) throughout washington for motorized vehicles to use. Also, campfires should be absolutely prohibited. "Leave no trace" should be the operant phrase.

Topic Question 4: No visitor services, no facilities other than latrines and bear wires. I would like to see the park even more pristine and undisturbed as it is today.

Topic Question 5: I deeply appreciate the service that Park rangers provide. They are courteous, dedicated, and helpful.

Comments:

Correspondence ID: 247 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Apr,22,2013 10:12:26
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: This is one of the few National Parks that isn't bisected by a road. It's wilderness core and system of radiating rivers is a life supporting system to abundant wildlife and plant species. It provides clean water and air to the Olympic Peninsula. It is an inspirational and recreational resource to people from around the world. It's in my backyard.

Topic Question 2: Visual arts and creative inspiration, solitude, physical exercise, pure sensory input from nature, traveling in a timeless landscape.

Topic Question 3: Increased demand for use, goat removal, reintroduction of gray wolves, Remain true to the intent of the National Wilderness Preservation Act of 1964.

Topic Question 4: No signs of overuse, the privilege of observing gray wolves in their native habitat, the absence of mountain goats, no overhead air traffic, neutral or blending colors of outdoor gear/equipment.

Topic Question 5: During my undergraduate studies at Central Washington University I spent one quarter researching the history of the National Wilderness Preservation Act. In my opinion it is one of the most important federal statutes established by Congress related to environmental quality. It defines our cultural identity as a nation that recognizes the intrinsic value our natural resources for the benefit of all living things. Wilderness areas are genetic pools, timeless places of purity, where pristine landscapes and the sky above join in unity.

Comments: Olympic is one of our nation's premiere wilderness parks. Every effort should be made to protect and preserve its wilderness character.

I support the Park's stated purpose of the plan, "to guide the preservation, management, and use of the park's wilderness areas as defined by the Wilderness Act of 1964," and its goal, "to restore, protect, and enhance overall wilderness character of the Olympic Wilderness."

In light of human-caused global warming and increasing demands on wilderness, Park managers should protect and restore Olympics natural ecosystems as an inherent part of its wilderness. That means restoring extirpated species (like wolves), and eliminating non-native species (like introduced mountain goats). I support the current permit system for wilderness backpackers; campfire restrictions in high country; food storage requirements; and group size limits. All wilderness fees should be used for wilderness stewardship.

I recommend regulation of stock use in wilderness to protect natural resources and trail infrastructure, and keep commercial services at current levels.

Cultural resources, like Wedding Rocks and archeological sites should be protected in wilderness, but reconstruction of historic shelters, sheds, barns, and cabins is prohibited by the Wilderness Act.

Correspondence ID: 248 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Apr,22,2013 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Topic Question 1: I make my enthusiasm, my story and my opinion about the Olympic National Park at the "Comments" section of this form. Thank you.

Topic Question 2: I make my enthusiasm, my story and my opinion about the Olympic National Park at the "Comments" section of this form. Thank you.

Topic Question 3: I make my enthusiasm, my story and my opinion about the Olympic National Park at the "Comments" section of this form. Thank you.

Topic Question 4: I make my enthusiasm, my story and my opinion about the Olympic National Park at the "Comments" section of this form. Thank you.

Topic Question 5: I make my enthusiasm, my story and my opinion about the Olympic National Park at the "Comments" section of this form. Thank you.

Comments: Dear Olympic National Park NPS Team!

I live with my family in Innsbruck, Austria (Europe) - sounds far away from Washington State - but I'm a fan of the Olympic NP. I already had the luck to visit the magnificent Olympic National Park.

In the year 1999, at the age of 21 years, I was the first time at Olympic NP. My visit was during a great summer vacation trip at the westcoast from San Francisco up to Vancouver. At the Olympic NP I was very fascinated of the lush temperate rainforest. In my home country Austria we are also very lucky to have beautiful and varied forests but the temperate rainforest at Olympic NP is a higher league. Of course, also the rugged coast part of the Olympic NP with his seastacks is very cool, wild and impressive.

Meanwhile I'm a little bit older, lucky married and we have two younger children. One of my wishes for future is, that I sometime can show our children and my wife this great places at Olympic NP. Of course it's better to make this journey at the moment our childrens are a little bit older - my desired schedule is summer 2018 :-)

On important thing about Olympic NP for me in recent years is that I'm getting to know the acoustic ecologist Gordon Hempton. I first read about Gordon and his work in an great article of the "Red Bulletin" magazine. Gordon records different sounds around the world and want to advise you to listen to the great sounds of mother earth and the animals. He lives on the Olympic peninsula and he loves the Olympic National Park because there are no roads which crosses the park and due to this fact you have quite places where you can hear many things very clearly - like an elk or waves at Rialto Beach or raindrops at Hoh rainforest. Because of this article I was writing Gordon an email with my enthusiasm of Olympic NP and his work. I was very lucky that Gordon wrote back a nice email and he also invited us for a nature hike together with him, when we are able to come to Olympic NP - very cool :-) And since this correspondence I'm staying in contact with Gordon and his work - especially his Olympic NP Projekt "One Square Inch of Silence". And Gordon send me the tip about your survey.

I wish you the best for your Wilderness Stewardship Plan and I am looking forward to come back to your great Olympic National Park with my family as soon as possible.

Thank you for your very important work.

Kind regards from Innsbruck, Austria

Harald Kamleitner

Dr.-Stumpf-Strasse 24 6020 Innsbruck Austria email: harald_kamleitner@hotmail.com

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Correspondence ID: 249 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933

Outside Organization: Olympic Park Associates Unaffiliated Individual

Received: Apr,22,2013 18:30:37

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Topic Question 1: It is one of our nation's most beautiful parks, in my estimation, offering the lush mountain experience, pristine rivers and creeks, and stunning ocean views.

Topic Question 2: Solitude in the wilderness. Observing wildlife. Enjoying the roar of the rivers and ocean.

Topic Question 3: I do not want to see added commercialization within the Park, nor vehicle access in remote areas.

Topic Question 4: Pretty much the same as we have today, only less commercialization, less structures.

Topic Question 5: I want to welcome the new Park Superintendent, Sarah Creachbaum. Her Parks experience certainly will benefit our ONP. I like her vision and concern for our wilderness. May she be with us for a long time to come!

Comments: I also concur with Olympic Park Associates' scoping letter to fully support the Park's stated purpose of the plan that guides the preservation, management, and use of the Park's wilderness areas as defined by the Wilderness Act of 1964, and its goal, "to restore, protect, and enhance overall wilderness character of the Olympic Wilderness."

In addition:

- Please protect and restore our Olympics natural ecosystems as an inherent part of its wilderness, including the restoration of the wolves, and the elimination of non-native species such as the mountain goats.

- I encourage you to continue the current permit system for wilderness backpackers; campfire restrictions in high country; food storage requirements; and group size limits. All wilderness fees should be used for wilderness stewardship.

- Stock use in wilderness must be regulated. Our natural resources and trails must be protected.

- Do not introduce any more commercial services.

- Do not allow the commercialization of the Park such as what has happened in Yosemite National Park.

- Limit the amount of vendors within the Park. We go to the Park to get away from commercial enterprises and clutter ? we go to enjoy Nature at its fullest.

- Do not allow mechanized access into wilderness areas such as Off-Road Vehicles or helicopters ? unless it is for an absolute emergency.

- The Wilderness Act prohibits the reconstruction of historic shelters or other structures. Please do not include such reconstruction recommendations. The Olympic National Park is one of our treasures. It can only remain so by protecting and preserving its wilderness character.

Thank you for your consideration.

Correspondence ID: 250 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Apr,23,2013 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: The lack of human impact on such beautiful and lush landscape.

Topic Question 2: Hiking with minimal encroachments from other humans. This includes sounds both near (other hikers) and far (airplane noise). It is one of the few places in the United States where one can truly get away.

Topic Question 3: Climate change, increased # of visitors, sound pollution

Topic Question 4: I would like to see the ONP as remote and beautiful as it is now. It should remain a place of true wilderness. We are about to take our children to the ONP for the second time in their lives. They have fond memories of their first memories. My dream of OBP is that any potential grandchildren would be able to make similiar memories.

Comments:

Correspondence ID: 251 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Apr,23,2013 10:18:42
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 4: Trails!

Comments: Pack goats should be permitted on all Olympic NP Wilderness trails, both in support of trail maintenance and for recreational use.

As a volunteer, I have worked on perhaps a hundred trail maintenance projects over the past eight years on USFS, NPS, DNR

and state parks lands involving the use of pack stock, including horses, mules, llamas and pack goats. Pack stock are essential in support of major trail maintenance projects, especially trail bridge construction. They haul heavy grips hoists, cable, chain, blocks, winches and many other tools and provisions required to accomplish these projects. Pack goats have done all these tasks, and also hauled stones for trail curb and gravel for trail tread.

Pack goats have unique advantages over other pack stock. Because of their unique hoof structure, light weight and nimble habits, they have much lower impact on trails than any other pack stock, or than indigenous elk, and perhaps even less than human foot traffic. They can easily traverse rough trails which other pack stock cannot safely use. They have negligible impact on trails and vegetation. They prefer to browse on common trailside brush such as salmonberry and salal, rather than in more sensitive meadows. Because of their smaller size, nimble feet and social nature, they are less apt than any other pack stock to displace hikers from narrow trails traversing steep terrain.

Pack goats have been used on Olympic National Forest and DNR trails adjacent to the Park for years without a single known problem. Because only wethers (neutered males)are used for packing, (1) even in the unlikely event stock escaped or were lost, it is biologically impossible for a feral goat population to be created, and (2) their low odor is probably less likely to attract predators than are other pack stock. Domestic pack goats do not interact with mountain goats, and in fact are genetically more closely related to domestic sheep than they are to mountain goats. I am not aware of any ecological or biological reason not to permit pack goats in Olympic.

Only about half of Olympic NP's wilderness trail mileage is currently open to pack stock. The primary reason is that they are too rough, narrow or steep for horses and mules to safely traverse. In a few cases, trail bridges or puncheon are not capable of supporting the weight of horses, or are too slick when wet for horses to cross safely. Examples include the Big Creek, Elip Creek, Skyline, Finley Peak, Graves Creek, Sundown Lake, South Fork Skokomish, Six Ridge, Upper Lena Lake, Putvin, Lake Constance, O'Neil Pass, and Griff Creek Trails. This makes the maintenance of these trails much more difficult. But pack goats can safely use these trails, so may be of unique value in facilitating their maintenance. Pack goats should be permitted on all these trails.

NPS Management Policies, paragraph 8.2.2.8 "Recreational Pack and Saddle Stock Use" (page 103) was revised in 2006 to explicitly include pack goats. It reads "Equine species such as horses, mules, donkeys and burros, and other types of animals (including llamas, alpacas, goats, oxen, dogs and reindeer) may be employed when it is an appropriate use to support backcountry transport of people and materials and will not result in unacceptable impacts."

NPS policies strongly encourage use of the minimum tool having minimum impact within Wilderness. Pack goats epitomize the minimum tool concept.

In the 2008 General Management Plan (volume 2, page 6), the issue of pack goats was deferred to this wilderness management plan process. I was present at the community outreach meeting held when Karen Gustin was newly appointed Superintendent, at which she promised to get back to members of Evergreen Packgoat Club about this issue (but never did). This was also brought to Acting Sup't Suess many times at Friends of Olympic NP board meetings. It is now time for the Park to fulfill its promise to reach a decision on this issue.

I propose that Olympic NP permit pack goats on all Wilderness trails. To take advantage of the unique ability of pack goats to safely negotiate any trail that humans can walk without requiring handholds, they should not be restricted to the roughly half of Park trails which are safe for other stock. This may facilitate maintenance of many trails on which pack support is not now possible. Reporting of the number of pack goats in each party would be accomplished using the existing Backcountry Permit through the Park Wilderness Information Center. The Park may elect to solicit reports and monitor the interactions and impacts of pack goats for an initial trial period of perhaps five years. If no impacts are found, the policy should become permanent. If impacts are discovered, minimum restrictions necessary to address those impacts should be added to the annual Superintendent's Compendium.

Finally, I'd like to close with a personal perspective. I don't own any pack stock, but feel very fortunate to have been able to work alongside them on trail projects. Those few Park visitors who might be lucky enough to encounter pack goats on a Park trail will, because of their uniquely inquisitive, friendly and social nature, find the experience truly memorable, enriching their Wilderness experience. This is at the very heart of the goal of Olympic Wilderness.

- Rod Farlee, Sequim coordinator, Gray Wolf Trail Crew, participants in the Volunteer-In-Parks program

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Correspondence ID: 252 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: American Mountain Guides Association Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Apr,23,2013 12:23:07
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: It is a spectacular coastal range ecosystem, with diverse and remote mountaineering opportunities.

Topic Question 2: Opportunities for mountaineering and backcountry travel, including skiing.

Topic Question 3: No distinctive issues noted.

Topic Question 4: Maintaining wilderness character. Maintaining opportunities for both guided and self-guided climbers, skiers, and backcountry travelers.

Comments: Re: American Mountain Guides Association Scoping Comments on Olympic National Park's Wilderness Stewardship Plan

Dear Superintendent Creachbaum:

The American Mountain Guides Association (AMGA) would like to thank you for the opportunity to provide scoping comments on the Olympic National Park (OLYM) Wilderness Stewardship Plan (WSP). We are excited to be a partner in the planning process, and look forward to supporting both the mountain guiding profession and OLYM. In general, the AMGA supports a balanced approach to providing for visitor experiences and access, while maintaining wilderness character and protecting the amazing natural resources of the parks.

About the AMGA The American Mountain Guides Association (AMGA) is a national 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that has been supporting mountain professionals for over 30 years. The AMGA inspires an exceptional client experience by being the premier source for training, credentials, resource stewardship and services for professional mountain guides and climbing instructors in the United States. The AMGA is an educational institution, an accrediting body, and a standard setting organization that is our nation's sole representative to the twenty-five member-countries International Federation of Mountain Guides Associations (IFMGA), the international governing body responsible for guiding standards around the world.

Since its genesis in 1979, the AMGA has grown to represent over 2,500 members that are represented in 49 states and 13 countries, over 30 Accredited Guide Services and educational institutions, and 60 Corporate Partners. Each year the training provided by the AMGA reaches over 700,000 people through direct contact between certified guides, climbing instructors, accredited businesses, and their clients.

The AMGA provides education, training and certification in the disciplines of alpine climbing, rock climbing, and ski mountaineering. It also raises the standards of guide services and climbing schools with regard to safety, Leave No Trace practices, client care, education, and wilderness stewardship. The AMGA adheres to the strictest of standards that are rigidly enforced to ensure our certified guides, climbing instructors, and accredited businesses are the nation's preeminent experts on climbing and ski mountaineering best practices.

Specific Comments The AMGA supports the idea of properly maintaining wilderness character. In addition to its inherent value, the uniquely American view of wilderness is the defining element of American mountain guiding. Unlike guiding in Europe, where there is extensive infrastructure to support climbers and mountaineers, American guides excel both in the ability to navigate terrain with minimal or no infrastructure (huts, lifts, etc.), but also in providing education about the value of wilderness and techniques to leave the least impact on this amazing resource.

The specific area to which we would like to direct the AMGA's comments is commercial services in wilderness. We recognize the importance of the Determination of Extent Necessary (DEN), in complying with the Wilderness Act and other applicable legislation. ? Due to the increasing numbers of climbers who, for various reasons are not able to learn all of the skill sets involved in this lifetime sport, there is a corresponding need for professional mentors ? the credentialed mountain guide. It takes year or decades to develop the skills and judgment to independently operate in alpine terrain. Style preferences, risk tolerance, skill level, terrain knowledge and equipment expertise vary widely amongst the public. The AMGA believes the public must have the option to experience the outdoors in a style that is appropriate for them. For some, the use of a non-profit or for-profit guide service is an essential option in order to experience the wilderness safely and responsibly. ? Perhaps due to the language employed by the Wilderness Act regarding "commercial services", there has developed among some land managers an underlying bias against guides and members of the public who choose to utilize a guide. It should be noted that all climbers are recreational members of the public, regardless of whether they are guided or self-guided. Hence, a certain amount of commercial services are necessary for realizing the public purposes of wilderness. ? Guided climbing and mountaineering are necessary and appropriate in OLYM due to the challenges (difficulties, commitment level) of the terrain, the existence of objectives such as Mt. Olympus that provide an attraction unique to OLYM, and the above mentioned factors that lead the public to choose a guided trip. ? Guided climbing and mountaineering fulfill at least two wilderness purposes: recreational and educational. In addition to the obvious recreational purposes realized by conducting appropriate activities, mountain guides fulfill the educational purpose by conducting formal education: advanced skill training, such as rock climbing, mountaineering, backcountry skiing, and avalanche education; wilderness training, such as wilderness values and ethics, and natural and cultural history. ? AMGA credentialed guides promote the preservation of wilderness character. In essence, they are a Resource to the Resource. They facilitate the public's access to opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation. They connect the public with the natural, undeveloped world. They integrate Leave No Trace principles into their teaching and their leadership, setting an example for both the guided and self-guided public. For example, many guides incorporate human waste pack-out solutions even in areas where it is not required. ? Specifically regarding the DEN, the AMGA would like to see the continuation of diverse opportunities for the public to choose a guide. We believe that public demand for guided educational and recreational wilderness use can, in large part, help determine the appropriate levels of commercial and private wilderness use allocations. ? The AMGA supports the use of both non-profit and for-profit commercial services ? provided they are trained and qualified at the industry standard ? as essential options for the public to experience the wilderness. Currently there are seven NPS units that recognize AMGA certification and/or accreditation as important prerequisites for obtaining a Commercial Use Authorization; thus ensuring that their permit holders provide the highest level of safety practices and resource stewardship. While many guides that currently operate in OLYM are AMGA certified, and one company is AMGA accredited, it may be beneficial for the long-term quality of mountain guiding to require appropriate professional credentials as a CUA prerequisite. The AMGA thanks you for the opportunity to comment on the Wilderness Stewardship Plan. We value the time and effort you

put into managing this beautiful part of our public lands, and wish to offer our support in the planning process. Please contact us with any questions, or for further information about our training and certification programs.

Sincerely, Scott Massey Outreach and Advocacy Director

Correspondence ID: 253 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: National Parks Conservation Association Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Apr,23,2013 12:50:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Sarah Creachbaum, Superintendent Attn: Wilderness Stewardship Plan Olympic National Park 600 E. Park Avenue Port Angeles, WA 98362 http://parkplanning.nps.gov/OLYMWildNews1

Dear Superintendent Creachbaum,

On behalf of the National Parks Conservation Association (NPCA) and our more than 750,000 members and supporters, I respectfully submit the following scoping comments on the Olympic Wilderness Stewardship Plan.

NPCA is pleased to learn of the NPS proposal to develop a Wilderness Stewardship Plan. With nearly 40,000 overnight wilderness visitors each year and a park that is 95% designated wilderness, this plan will be invaluable in protecting and enhancing the wilderness qualities of the park for future generations.

One of the most important aspects of implementing this plan will be its ability to monitor current conditions and recognize use levels or activities that could cause unacceptable impacts or impairment and take immediate action. The large portion of the park that is designated wilderness requires a robust strategy to monitor the landscape in order to reach desired future conditions. Such a strategy will need to describe a course of action to be taken if conditions in the landscape have been degraded. What management actions will be taken to reverse or mitigate impacts to areas that have fallen below a certain threshold level? Will access to the area be limited? Will this area be closed? A dynamic and sustainable monitoring and mitigation program must be discussed and included in the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) of the Wilderness Stewardship Plan.

NPCA also supports, in part to support a strong monitoring program, the establishment of a separate wilderness district and wilderness ranger that would focus on wilderness stewardship, minimum requirements and the legal tenants of the Wilderness Act. This ranger would have different skills and responsibilities than other front country rangers who focus on law enforcement activities.

NPCA supports much of the current management of the designated wilderness within Olympic National Park. Nonetheless, NPCA would like provide scoping comments on the following issues:

Day and Overnight Use ? Day and overnight use are two of the most important activities of designated wilderness areas. Part of the purpose of wilderness is to provide "outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation." This utility of wilderness areas is only achieved by continuing appropriate day and overnight use. Of course, this use should not degrade the other wilderness values, such as the "untrammeled" character of the area. NPCA supports evaluating certain restrictions on overnight use in the EIS, and discussed further on, with a preference for fewer restrictions on day use, i.e., no permit requirements for day uses such as hiking.

Wilderness Permitting ? Wilderness permitting allows the park to monitor and regulate the number and uses of the park's wilderness area. NPCA supports continuing the current permit procedure at Olympic National Park because it allows visitors easy access to the wilderness while allowing the park to continue protecting the wilderness qualities of untrammeled, natural, and undeveloped areas. We would like the EIS to explore options for allowing travel cross country off trail, but managed in a way as to protect wilderness values. While NPCA supports the current nominal fees for wilderness permits and variety of options, such as the annual wilderness permit, NPCA encourages the evaluation of different fee structures in the EIS that may increase revenue.

Traditional Use ? By definition, wilderness is non-motorized. As such, the EIS should identify and incorporate those traditional non-motorized uses in the wilderness areas such as hiking and backpacking, and focus on protecting and promoting this type of use while defending the qualities for which the wilderness area was designated. Special attention should be made to those activities that include cultural use by native peoples. The EIS should provide for traditional cultural uses but also provide for regulation to the extent necessary to prevent undue degradation of the wilderness quality of the area.

Use of Campfires ? The existing regulations regarding campfires by limiting them in certain elevations and to existing campfire locations are sufficient. Expanding the regulation to allow more campfires in the wilderness should not be permitted. Further campfires may disturb the area in which they are set, leaving the site "trammeled." Furthermore, the collection of wood for the purpose of a campfire in certain areas, especially at higher elevations, may degrade the natural quality of the area. NPCA hopes the EIS will identify the desired future conditions for existing campfire locations and set the standards by which to measure degradation. The plan should be clear that if those standards are exceeded by excessive degradation, then action to restrict campfires would need to be implemented.

Proper Food Storage ? While food hanging systems are easier for wilderness area visitors to use, the danger of installing these

systems, the difficulty in maintaining them and the damage they cause to trees make them less desirable than requiring the use of bear canisters. NPCA supports these canisters because they provide the same safety from wildlife access to food that the hanging systems do without a permanent structure being placed in the wilderness. Also, in areas where food hanging is impractical, such as above tree line, canisters are the only alternative. In addition, in areas of designated campsites NPCA asks that the EIS evaluate the use of bear-proof storage lockers. NPCA does not necessarily endorse the use of lockers or the impacts caused by installation, but in the larger discussion about designating campsites and building latrines in the wilderness, permanent on-site food storage should also be discussed and evaluated. Backcountry visitors may safely store food by hanging food, using bear canisters or by the use of permanent food storage lockers. Different parts of the wilderness require different approaches to food storage. The EIS should evaluate which method fits the character and the usage levels of the diverse areas of the wilderness to determine which system works best in each location.

Group Size ? Group size limits for day use should be explored. NPCA's preference is no day use limits, however this needs to be evaluated and discussed in the EIS recognizing that any popular trails have many people every day and attempting to regulate group size would be difficult. Overnight groups should be restricted based on the size of existing backcountry sites and/or the existence of group camp sites.

Camping and Campsites ? The range of alternatives for backcountry or wilderness camping should include camping allowed only in existing, designated campsites as well as exploring opportunities to provide for off-trail travel. Off-trail camping for climbers should be discussed in the EIS to determine ways that degradation by this necessity can be limited. Off-trail camping at different times of the year also needs to be discussed. For example, dispersed camping should not be allowed in the summer months, except for limited circumstances, such as by mountaineers and climbers. Winter camping, however, may be less restricted due to the lower disturbance caused by camping on top of snow. The EIS should look at the range of options for backcountry campsites from the more maintained with designated tent pads, designated cooking areas, food storage areas, and pit toilets, as well as those with less permanent amenities. The EIS should also assess the option of designating single areas for food preparation and food storage which would minimize impacts to the area and limit exposure to wildlife. Establishing clear desired future conditions for campsites will undoubtedly be one of the most important issues in the EIS. NPCA encourages the park service to take the time to discuss these issues thoroughly with all impacted user groups, similar to the extensive public scoping meetings conducted, as they develop the range of alternatives for camping and campsites.

Human Waste Management ? The EIS should explore pit toilets or solar powered composting toilets in the backcountry, especially at designated campsites. NPCA supports these toilets not only in backcountry campsites, but also limited numbers of pit or composting toilets near the end of the most popular trails in the park, such as the Humes Ranch loop. While this may degrade the primitive nature of the area, it will protect the natural character of these areas. The existence of these toilets is more convenient for the wilderness visitor and limits degradation by limiting the disturbance caused by the use of "cat holes." However, to best avoid impacts from human waste, the use of sanitary or "blue bags" should be used in areas where pit or composting toilets are not feasible, such as by mountaineers and climbers. Though not preferred by many visitors, this best maintains the untrammeled state of the wilderness area.

Stock Use ? Stock use in the wilderness should be closely monitored. It is possible for stock animals to cause heavy disturbance in wilderness areas by spreading invasive and noxious weeds through their waste, which is difficult if not impossible to contain. Also, stock animals may cause an inconvenience to other visitors to wilderness areas which may lead to these users leaving the main trail and creating "social trails." Damaged trails from soil compaction and erosion, as well as increased trail maintenance costs, may also be results of stock use in wilderness area. Horse travel in delicate watersheds of Olympic National Park may lead to heavy degradation of water quality as well. Maintaining trails to stock use requirements is expensive and may degrade the untrammeled (wide and tall trails), natural (soil erosion and reduced water quality), undeveloped (hitching posts and heavy bridges), and primitive recreation (reduces people's self-reliance) sought by most other users in wilderness areas. The EIS must discuss the monitoring of trails that currently authorize stock use and identify desired future conditions. If degradation of these trails surpasses selected conditions, certain restrictions of stock use should be considered. For example, restrictions on manure release and grazing should be enforced and commercial services levels should be reduced if desired future conditions are not met.

Research Activities ? Research activities should be allowed in wilderness areas, but the EIS should evaluate if research in wilderness areas should only be allowed if the wilderness is used as a control area where natural processes are allowed to continue and compared to experimental areas outside of the wilderness.

Wildlife Management in Wilderness ? Wildlife should be managed to support natural and healthy populations with as little human intervention as possible in wilderness areas. However, NPCA strongly supports the EIS exploring the reintroduction or restoration of missing native species (such as gray wolves) as a strategy to help restore natural processes to equilibrium within the wilderness area. Similarly, NPCA would like to see the EIS explore the eradication of invasive and non-indigenous wildlife, such as mountain goats. NPCA would also like the EIS evaluate the continued monitoring and support for endemic species, such as the Olympic marmot which has experienced population declines in the past.

Cultural Resources Management in Wilderness ? NPCA supports the protection of archeological sites, Native American sites, and petroglyphs in wilderness, but not the reconstruction of historic sheds, barns and other structures in wilderness areas that are no longer present. The EIS needs to make clear under what conditions historic structures could be reconstructed. The EIS also needs to make clear that any construction or repair work will be done with the minimal tools necessary.

Maintenance of Trails, Bridges, or Other Existing or Necessary Infrastructure ? The EIS should explore a range of maintenance strategies for these manmade structures. This includes a discussion of helicopter use within the minimal tool requirement for wilderness management. NPCA would like the EIS to explore the limited use of helicopters to install bridges that may last

longer in wilderness areas, as opposed to bridges that often need to be replaced due to high water events or regular use. The EIS also needs to discuss and evaluate the impacts to wilderness that would result if the existing structures were not in place and maintained. NPCA is concerned that dangerous conditions and the creation of more "social trails" would result if this infrastructure is not maintained. NPCA feels the protection of the natural character outweighs the protection of the undeveloped quality.

Commercial Services in Wilderness ? Guided hiking and backpacking trips in wilderness areas should be allowed as long as they follow group size limits and regulations that apply to all wilderness visitors. Additional permit fees should be required of these groups, however. Other commercial services that cause impacts beyond those of normal visitors should not be allowed in wilderness or greatly restricted and regulated. One of the standards you should consider when evaluating commercial services is the potential to disturb the natural quiet of Olympic's soundscape. Any groups that degrade the natural soundscape should be prohibited. The EIS needs to discuss the existing commercial uses and how these uses are managed.

In conclusion, NPCA supports many of the current regulations and activities allowed in wilderness areas by the park service. We would like to see most of these protocols maintained. However, anticipating that the EIS will identify desired future conditions across the range of issues discussed in this letter, a vigorous monitoring program must be put in place in order to detect degradation of resources when they occur and take actions necessary to prevent further impacts. This program should be explored in the EIS. Finally, in most cases NPCA believes the natural character of a wilderness area should be protected even if it leads to minor degradation of the other characteristics of wilderness, such as the need for hardened campsites.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment and we look forward to reviewing a wide range of alternatives.

Sincerely,

David G. Graves Northwest Program Manager Northwest Regional Office

National Parks Conservation Association 1200 5th Ave, Suite 1925 Seattle, WA 98101 PH: 206-903-1645 Cell: 206-462-0821 FX: 206-903-1448 dgraves@npca.org www.npca.org

Protecting Our National Parks for Future Generations

Correspondence ID: 254 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Apr,23,2013 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: I've visited the park about 300 times in the past 30 years.

Topic Question 2: Tent camping, hiking trails.

Topic Question 3: Preserving more land from development.

Topic Question 4: Keep the area as undeveloped as possible. Please no big resort complexes.

Topic Question 5: I support all efforts to preserve more land.

Comments:

Correspondence ID: 255 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: National Coast Trail Association Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Apr,23,2013 13:58:03
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: RE: Olympic National Park Wilderness Stewardship Plan

Hello:

This letter represents the National Coast Trails Association's comments and input during the current scoping period for the Olympic National Park Wilderness Stewardship Plan. We believe they are consistent with the National Park Service policy that directs wilderness stewardship plans to include "desired future conditions, as well as establish indicators, standards, conditions, and thresholds beyond which management actions will be taken to reduce human impacts to wilderness resources." They are also consistent not only with the Wilderness Act and current General Management Plan, but also with our past input to the park in other opportunities to provide comment. The comments provided focus on our organization's goals of trail development, enhancement, management and maintenance; and the protection of land and sea within the trail corridor relative to both the "Olympic Coastal Strip" portion of our envisioned "Washington Coast Trail" and the developing "Olympic Discovery Trail"

within and adjacent to the boundaries of Olympic National Park.

Vision and Relevant Goals of the National Coast Trail Association The National Coast Trail Association's vision is developing a "National Coast Trail," a continuous land and water-based trail system around the United States providing non-motorized recreational opportunities to experience the natural, historic and cultural resources along its length. Our priority goal focuses on America's 1,800-mile "West Coast Trail," a hiking trail from Cape Flattery, WA to the Mexican border in California, comprised of the developing California Coastal Trail and Oregon Coast Trail systems plus our envisioned Washington Coast Trail concept.

The proposed Washington Coast Trail would be a continuously linked hiking/backpacking recreational trail along the Pacific coast of Washington from the northwest corner of Cape Flattery to the Columbia River at Cape Disappointment. It would traverse 4 jurisdictions, specifically from north to south, the Makah Indian Nation, Olympic National Park, the Quinault Indian Nation, and Washington State Parks. It's approximate length would be 175 miles, and with the exception of a relatively small number of crucial linkages ? some at major river crossings and walking Highway 101 within Olympic National Park ? the trail already essentially exists. In fact, a planning document completed by the National Coast Trail Association in December 2008 and submitted to all the various jurisdictions including Olympic National Park early in 2009, details linkages and comments, provides conservation input and lists the primary partners towards creating opportunities for discussion and action with governments and landowners to develop the trail along the entire length of the envisioned Washington Coast Trail. The "Washington Coast Trail" represents the northern 175-mile section of the West Coast Trail, and the Olympic Coastal Strip is a significant segment through Olympic National Park. Therefore, our first comment is that the Olympic Coastal Strip, although a combination of headland and forest trails and beach walking is for all practical purposes a walking pathway serving as a nearly completed connected trail system. Therefore, the beach section, as is the case in both Oregon and California coastal trail systems, should also be duly designated as a "trail" as well, and so treated as such in mapping, showing it as a trail on National Park Service documents, media and other information about it, and so regarded in terms of its management as any other trail in the park.

NOTE: The "Pacific Northwest National Scenic Trail" represents the westernmost section along the entire northern route section of our National Coast Trail vision from the Atlantic to the Pacific Ocean. Since the westernmost terminus of this trail actually utilizes the Olympic Coast Strip hiking trail from Oil City to Cape Alava, our comments regarding this stretch would also therefore also apparently apply to serving the users of this officially designated scenic trail. Finally, given the federal designation and the Pacific Northwest Trail Association's (PNTA) dedication "to the construction, preservation and management of the Pacific Northwest National Scenic Trail in a manner that makes a lasting contribution to the recreation, education, and enjoyment of present and future generations," we would further expect the National Park Service and the PNTA to work cooperatively to achieve mutually-shared objectives within the scope of the developing Wilderness Stewardship Plan relative to areas both along the coast and further inland within the more mountainous areas of the park itself. (The above map only shows the western portion of the trail, it begins further east in Glacier National Park.)

In keeping with our vision of a continuous hiking trail along the coast from Shi Shi Beach to South Campground the input, comments and proposals (in bold) are organized according to the various connections from north to south as follows:

Makah-Shi Shi Beach Connection

Maintain this trail connection in cooperation with the Makah Indian Nation, and also enhance access to the Shi Shi Beach trailhead by working in cooperation with the Makah tribe's public bus transportation to optimally provide a daily early morning and late afternoon bus stop from Neah Bay to the Shi Shi Beach Trailhead during the summer season, June 1 to October 1 annually.

Shi Shi Beach to Rialto Beach

Maintain existing trails, ropes, ladders, bridges, primitive pit toilets, emergency shelters, and maintain and develop any other trails, facilities and structures to continue to provide recreational access and connectivity along this stretch of the Olympic Coastal Strip.

Rialto Beach/Mora to LaPush/Third Beach Trailhead Connection

Develop a daily shuttle bus at least during the high usage season for hikers (June through Sept), at least from Mora Campground to Third Beach Trailhead, preferably from Rialto Beach to the LaPush Marina so hikers can effectively "get across" the Quillayute River. Also, work with the Quileute Tribe or other business to offer water transportation services from the existing boat launch on the north side of the river to the marina in LaPush.

NOTE: Given the existence of the Olympic Coastal Strip and towards ensuring recreational access along its entire length, developing a parkwide Olympic National Park bus shuttle system that would also include at the very least a stop at Lake Ozette, potentially to Shi Shi Beach, Ruby Beach, Kalaloch Lodge, South Beach Campground, and Queets. In serving the needs of other hikers and backpackers throughout the park, the inclusion of a stop at Lake Quinault would also seem appropriate, too, though our interest is only relative to the Olympic Coastal Strip.

"Second-to-Third Beach Trail" Connection

Develop an inland trail connecting the Quileute Second Beach Trail with the NPS Third Beach Trail to enhance the experience by getting the hiker off the roadway, thereby also enhancing pedestrian safety.

Oil City to Hoh Tribal Lands Connection

Develop a daily shuttle bus stop at least during the high usage season for hikers (June through Sept) at the minimum from the Oil City trailhead to the Ruby Beach parking area, preferably from Oil City Trailhead with the addition of a stop to the end of the Hoh Tribal road at the south side of the Hoh River.

Cable car crossing at mouth of the Hoh River. This is a proposal which our organization has provided input on in the past relative to the revision of the park's general management plan. However, there are various things to consider and address if this option were to potentially be implemented.

First, there's the fact that the area north of the Hoh River is designated wilderness, and there are specific policies regarding wilderness areas and the potential impacts of man-made structures. We realize such policies in themselves, beyond others, may present a challenge to implementing this, however, bridges for hikers, cable ladders, and other structures do already exist along the Olympic Coastal Strip area to make the area logistically possible in terms of providing access for recreation and apparently to address potential safety issues as well. Also, from an international perspective, Parks Canada along their West Coast Trail in Pacific Rim National Park uses a cable car along one section to provide a connection across a deep canyon in addition to many ladders and bridges along the 45-mile route, apparently designated wilderness, too. The question again, though, to be consistent with our past input, is to keep the wilderness nature of the area as intact as possible, everything from soundscapes to lightscapes, and obviously the visual landscape as well, and a cable car crossing brings up potential visual impacts in that regard. Access to the cable car, given it is in an area easily accessible by motor vehicle, has the potential for vandalism to the cable car, the cable itself or any structure that would support it all. Therefore, though possible, the practicality of it's feasibility given a variety of factors makes solving all the associated issues necessary to make this a viable solution.

Fording the river here is not a safe option, given the potential for strong currents, the long distance across, the depth of the water, and its very cold temperatures.

Walking the Oil City Road to Highway 101, crossing the highway bridge, walking along the highway to the Hoh Tribal lands and then down their road to the south side of the mouth of the Hoh River is also not a viable option given the miles of walking it would involve, plus the fact that the highway bridge is long, narrow and has no pedestrian access and anyone crossing the highway bridge on foot would pose a serious and potentially deadly safety issue for hiker and motor vehicles alike.

A ferry service might also be provided across the river, though US Coast Guard and other boating regulations in the state would also potentially need to be addressed to do so safely and legally, as well as landing sites on both sides of the Hoh River.

Again, it would therefore seem given the above considerations, the most viable option for making this connection in the near future would apparently be to either develop a daily park bus shuttle system or to develop an agreement or contract with other providers such as with the existing county transit system to offer bus transportation with bus stops at primary locations both along and providing access to the Olympic Coastal Strip.

Hoh Tribal Lands to Ruby Beach Connection

Our only proposal relative to a hiker/backpacker being able to continue their journey down the coast south of the south side of the Hoh River would be to work with the Hoh Tribe to ensure that existing public access down the beach to Ruby Beach is continued. A simple interpretive sign about the Hoh Tribe and its history, plus a basic map of the trail south to Ruby Beach somewhere nearby the turn-around loop at the end of the paved road on Hoh Tribal lands would also be a welcome addition to this section of the Olympic Coastal Strip.

Ruby Beach to South Campground Connection

This is a complex section and area, especially given the basic guidelines developed in the park's revised General Management Plan (GMP) relative to maintaining vehicle access to various areas and also pedestrian and bicycle access and recreational opportunities. Achieving these objectives as set forth in the GMP combined with the geological realities of future major earthquakes and tsunamis and potentially unstable subsurface rock strata and faults will most likely involve the relocation of Highway 101. Given existing secondary roadways inland and to the east of the present Highway 101, considering GMP objectives for this area, and our focus of maintaining and enhancing a continuous connection of the Olympic Coast Strip hiking trail in this area, we've proposed a hypothetical major inland re-route of Highway 101 as a primary way to accomplish all these objectives. NOTE: Although the generalized re-route shown may not be feasible due to geological, civil engineering, or other factors, we are suggesting that to simply relocate small sections of the existing Highway 101 corridor would not be an appropriate course of action and that a major re-routing, though extensive and expensive would also potentially mean less impact to existing wilderness areas within the existing park boundaries and most likely also meet overall transportation objectives for a state highway.

Ruby Beach Vehicle Access, Parking and Alternate Recreational Trail

Relocating Highway 101 to the east of the current access to Hoh Tribal lands would mean no more general highway traffic to either Hoh Tribal lands or Ruby Beach. No longer serving as a state highway, this stretch of roadway could now have lower speed limits and decreased traffic and thereby be potentially safer for motor vehicle traffic as well, both in terms of travel and turning to and from the Hoh Tribal lands area.

Hoh Tribal members access to their community south of the Hoh River would remain intact and unaffected, and visitors to Olympic National Park would also have continued access to Ruby Beach by vehicle and the existing parking facilities found there.

The current Highway 101 section south of the Ruby Beach access and parking area would be closed to vehicle traffic and dedicated as a new bicycle and pedestrian trail all the way south to Kalaloch Campground. With the relocation of Highway 101 inland to the east of the existing park boundaries this simple proposal would not only essentially maintain but also enhance both visitor experiences in terms of recreation and access and resource protection associated with wilderness and habitat. One obvious benefit for wildlife "crossing the road" since there would no longer be vehicle traffic would be decreased mortality. Drainage of toxics from vehicular traffic into the nearby soil would also be mitigated, for example. The current highway essentially cuts existing habitat into two sections, and again, no traffic would potentially increase the ability of wildlife to migrate safely from one area to the other.

One important observation about making a connection down the coast specifically along the beach south of Ruby Beach is that even at low tides one may still find themselves water in water along the beach. This upper recreation-only route along the current Highway 101 would thereby provide hikers/backpackers especially with a high-tide alternate route option to continue south to eventually access the beach again or continue all the way to the Kalaloch Campground area.

Continuing south from the Ruby Beach Parking lot, the new trail only access would also connect to an existing roadway traveling inland to the east. The proposal would be for this roadway to also be closed to vehicular traffic and simply used as a trail access via the future relocation of Hwy 101, with the added proposal that this simply be a bus shuttle stop for access to the coast here.

Another proposal along this specific stretch would be to make the existing access road east to the Big Cedar Tree closed to vehicle traffic to simply be a trail access to the tree. As one can see in the related map, vehicles would still have access via the future relocation of Highway 101 to the west of the Big Cedar Tree.

Kalaloch Campground and Lodge Area

Since the proposed closure of the current Highway 101 from Ruby Beach to Kalaloch Campground and its use as a recreation-only trail would extend all the way to current entrance to the campground itself, what happens regarding further access south for hikers or cyclists also needs to be addressed to maintain the integrity of the continuous connection south through the Kalaloch area. Therefore, we propose that when arriving at the campground area itself that a dedicated pathway for pedestrian and bicycle use be planned and developed such that one may continue relatively unimpeded south to reconnect with another recreation-only stretch of current Hwy 101 at Second Beach.

Given the potential relocation of Kalaloch Campground and the Lodge, we propose that it should all take place in an integrated approach such that one important design element in developing a comprehensive plan for the entire Kalaloch area would be including a continuous north-south pedestrian/bicycle access trail.

Kalaloch Area to South Campground Connection

Again, with the suggested future relocation of Highway 101 to the east of the existing park boundaries along the Olympic Coastal Strip, the current highway south of Kalaloch Lodge would be dedicated as a recreation-only trail, and as an alternate high-tide route versus using the beach. In fact, such a trail-only route, as would be a recreation-only trail north of Kalaloch, would provide a safer and more sheltered from wind recreational opportunity along the coast for people staying at Kalaloch Lodge and Campground, especially during more stormy and wet weather, especially more typical in the fall, winter and spring seasons.

Primitive Wilderness Camping from the Hoh River south to South Campground

Also, given that the last official area to camp overnight for backpackers was north of the Hoh River, and that one value sometimes sought as part of the recreational experience by backpackers is relative solitude, the existing campsites and seasonal situation at Kalaloch Campground does not appropriately meet this need, especially given the associated noise, light, vehicle exhaust and sheer number of people. Also, from a park management approach, especially to mitigate any potential impacts, environmental or otherwise from camping in unauthorized areas, developing or designating official primitive camping areas would appear to be appropriate.

Therefore, we also propose developing or establishing such designated primitive wilderness camping areas/sites, as has already

been done north of the Hoh River in certain areas south of the Hoh River all the way south to South Campground. These primitive camping areas could be reservable as is already the case north of the Hoh River, or perhaps simply as walk-in areas. The user group served by such campsites would be only for long-distance backpackers as opposed to simple day-hikers accessing the area by vehicles or cyclists traveling the Pacific Coast Bike Route, the rationale being that these latter users have the logistic ability to plan and continue on to existing camping opportunities or to utilize the existing Kalaloch campground or lodge. Perhaps at the very least a special "hiker-camp" area could be established in the long-term at the northern edge of a relocated Kalaloch Campground and in the short-term such an area could be developed to meet the recreational needs of long-distance backpackers within the existing Kalaloch Campground or some other area between Ruby Beach and Kalaloch Campground. Finally, other potential areas for consideration of locating primitive camping could possibly include areas south of Kalaloch Lodge to South Campground, or the secluded day-use picnic area with a toilet in the vegetation to the south as one enters South Campground.

Rising Sea Levels, Geologic Events and Maintaining Access along the Olympic Coastal Strip

Sea level continues to rise with the probable impact of minimizing access directly along the coastal wilderness beaches of Olympic National Park. Winter storms combined with high tides will also continue to erode coastal areas.

Geologic events ranging from relatively minor landslides to catastrophic earthquakes and tsunamis will cause major damage to coastal areas and potentially block access directly along the coast.

If recreational access is to be maintained along the Olympic Coastal Strip, then proactively planning to address these environmental impacts is crucial.

In essence, this would most likely mean developing trail connections inland between existing higher elevation trail segments through forests and and over headlands and eventually abandoning existing beach sections of the trail. Of course, to maintain and continue to provide recreational access may also mean re-interpreting, reconsidering or changing some existing NPS policies as they pertain to coastal wilderness areas.

It is our hope and intention, especially regarding our comments and proposals relative to relocating Highway 101 inland starting east of Hoh Tribal lands to the current Highway 101 bridge over the Queets River, that this represents a beginning step towards resolving the challenges to recreational access posed by rising sea levels and future catastrophic geological events.

Our last comment here is that the National Park Service continue to seek a balance in this regard to best provide for both visitor experiences and resource protection in designated wilderness areas directly along the coast, namely along the Olympic Coastal Strip.

Wildlife Corridors and Animal Road Crossings

A primary goal of both protecting the existing coastal wilderness ecosystem and restoring it, especially where disturbed by human activities, the isolation of the Olympic Coastal Strip from the main area of the park to the east, and the presence of Highway 101 itself, is providing connections for wildlife. Therefore, a final but significant comment regarding the restoration and viability of the existing wilderness ecosystem immediately along the coast we offer the following proposals for the park's consideration.

Since the coastal strip is a relatively small protected area, the survival of wildlife and biodiversity are potentially at risk because these areas could potentially be too small to adequately support and sustain viable species populations and the ecosystem/habitat they need. Therefore, perhaps one management strategy would be to work with the US Forest Service and corporate timber managers to negotiate protected migratory wildlife corridors, for example, not allowing general vehicle access, logging, or hunting within certain boundaries, such that species are able to safely migrate unimpeded to and from nearby areas and between the national park boundaries of the coast and those further inland. These migratory wildlife corridors could actually be relocated as needed through a flexible and adaptive boundary approach that would still allow timber managers to manage their resources for their purposes while at the same time meeting the resource protection mission and goals of the National Park Service in terms of wilderness stewardship.

Also, the developing innovative approaches and materials relative to Animal Road Crossings (ARC's) could also be applied not only when Highway 101 is relocated either in sections or as a major overall re-route from the Hoh River to the Queets River, but also further north and south along Highway 101.

According to the website, ARC-Solutions.org . . .

"ARC-Animal Road Crossing-is an interdisciplinary partnership working to facilitate new thinking, new methods, new materials and new solutions for wildlife crossing structures.

Our primary goal is to ensure safe passage for both humans and animals on and across our roads. We do this through supporting

the study, design and construction of wildlife crossing structures throughout North America.

ARC builds bridges in other important ways: We reconnect landscapes and wildlife habitats that have been split apart by our road systems; we reacquaint people and wildlife, helping drivers to be aware of the habitats our roads interrupt and the animals that use these places; and through these strategies, we reaffirm the need for humans and animals to coexist in the landscapes we call home.

Situated at the intersection of science and design, ARC is a forum for creative collaborations and surprising synergies."

We would therefore propose both relative to the goals of wilderness stewardship and highway safety for people and animals, that the Olympic National Park work in cooperation with highway departments to develop such animal road crossings in relation to existing park boundaries to best maximize outcomes regarding wilderness protection and highway safety.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide our comments, input and proposals regarding the Olympic National Park Wilderness Stewardship Plan as it relates to our mutually-shared objectives for access, recreational trail /visitor experiences, and coastal wilderness preservation along the Olympic Coastal Strip.

Respectfully,

Al LePage, Executive Director

cc: Board of Directors

Correspondence ID: 256 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: Backcountry Horsemen Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Apr,23,2013 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: I have enjoyed getting into the beautiful wilderness areas of ONP for v0er 35 years and I appreciate it more now than even my first hikes back in the mid 1970's. this area in my own back yard surpasses the beauty of parks I have seen on many international travels in Asia and South America. The fact that there is access, good trail maintenance, true undeveloped wilderness areas, and a balance of access for all makes this a great treasure to our home.

Topic Question 2: I have hiked the back country and shared some of the easier access areas with friends visiting for just a day. Now I am developing the skills to get further into the wilderness areas by horseback, and am planning to take Leave No Trace classes so that we can preserve these areas and enjoy them for many years to come. We all must take responsibility to steward this magnificent wilderness. My adult children are kayaking, hiking and gaining appreciation for the wilderness also. They are gaining life skills which will be passed down so the park can be kept and cared for by generations to come.

Topic Question 3: I believe that teaching LNT and safe camping skills we can all improve our lives by the time spent in the wilderness. Hikers, campers, and horsemen need to share the trails, maintain and improve the areas they visit, and under the pressure of decreasing funding, take responsibility to volunteer on trail maintenance and skill promotion so that we can keep the park open. The wilderness teaches us all, and feeds our soul.

Topic Question 4: I would hope that when my legs will no longer take me far into the wilderness that I can still go in by horseback. My grandchildren will need time in the peace and quiet of the wild places, perhaps even more than we do today.

Allowing me to ride in means I will be able to enjoy the ONP for many more years to come.

Topic Question 5: I attended the Mule Day and learned more key concepts for caring for the trails I use. Perhaps more promotion of such learning opportunities and classes in the local schools by park employees, or at WIC would teach the community how to LNT and report trail maintenance needs. Every person can set a good example to others who are using these facilities , and every one on the trail is an ambassador to encourage proper care of ONP as our resource.

Comments:

Correspondence ID: 257 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: Wilderness Watch Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Apr,23,2013 15:50:33
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Wilderness Watch PO Box 9175 Missoula, MT 59807 www.wildernesswatch.org April 23, 2013 Sarah Creachbaum, Superintendent ATTN: Wilderness Stewardship Plan Olympic National Park 600 E. Park Avenue Port Angeles, WA 98362 sent via US Mail and the Internet

Dear Superintendent Creachbaum:

These are Wilderness Watch's comments on the scoping letter for your Wilderness planning effort. Wilderness Watch is a national nonprofit wilderness conservation organization dedicated to the protection and proper stewardship of the National Wilderness Preservation System. The extraordinary Olympic Wilderness provides the staff at Olympic National Park a unique opportunity in the lower 48 states to set the standard in wilderness administration and stewardship for the National Park Service (NPS) in keeping wilderness wild. We have some suggestions for the upcoming plan.

Questions and the Scoping Information/Newsletter

The questions the NPS has asked the public to respond to, though perhaps well-intended, contain errors and give a false perception of what wilderness is. The worst question is number four, which asks what "visitor services and facilities" visitors want "to see" in the Olympic National Park Wilderness in twenty years. Wilderness is special precisely because it is a place in contrast to our civilization without facilitates or structures, as noted in Section 4(c) of the Wilderness Act. The context of the questions suggests the kind of amenities--facilities and services like eating establishments, lodges or even information centers--that are prohibited in wilderness. The context of those questions would be akin to the NPS asking citizens whose statue they would like to see occupy the Lincoln Memorial next time they visit or what advertising slogans would be appropriate for the Washington Monument. Regardless of the intent, that question is improper.

The Park Service's own policies suggest that providing visitor facilities and services for is inappropriate in Wilderness:

Park visitors need to accept wilderness on its own unique terms. Accordingly, the National Park Service will promote education programs that encourage wilderness users to understand and be aware of certain risks, including possible dangers arising from wildlife, weather conditions, physical features, and other natural phenomena that are inherent in the various conditions that comprise a wilderness experience and primitive methods of travel. The National Park Service will not modify the wilderness area to eliminate risks that are normally associated with wilderness, but it will strive to provide users with general information concerning possible risks, any recommended precautions, related user responsibilities, and applicable restrictions and regulations, including those associated with ethnographic and cultural resources. (NPS Management Policies 6.4.1)

The rationale for accepting wilderness "on its own terms" goes beyond the absence of structures; it strikes at the heart of our relationship to Wilderness. By yielding our uses and demands we learn one of the most important lessons from Wilderness-the need for restraint. The ability to accept places as they are, and to let them be. This is the message the NPS should embrace in its stewardship of the Olympic Wilderness.

Similarly, another serious problem with the scoping letter is the, "Other Features of Value," section, which is inconsistent with the Wilderness Act. Given the plain language of the Wilderness Act, which prohibits structures, the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals decision in Wilderness Watch v. Mainella, and the U.S. District Court decision in Olympic Park Associates v. Mainella, it is quite remarkable that the park service, in its GMP, would continue to suggest that maintaining these structures is consistent with federal law. The Wilderness plan should explain how each of these structures meet the Wilderness Act section 4(c) prohibition on structures and how maintaining them complies with the Act and the court decisions mentioned above. Question 1 states, "What makes the Olympic National Park wilderness area special to you and why?" It should more properly read, "What makes the Olympic Wilderness special to you and why?"

Alternatives

One of the biggest corners is with the range of alternatives. All alternatives should ensure that the wilderness character of these areas is maintained and even improved. Improvement of wilderness character would rarely, if ever, be from active restoration activities. Rather, such improvement would come from two main areas. The first is careful stewardship of recreation and other allowable uses. The second would be an agency management paradigm that recognizes the necessary restraint in administering wilderness and minimizes the impact from any nonconforming uses. In other words, allowing wilderness to be wild and self-willed.

Alternatives that live up to the intent of the Wilderness Act should be developed. Such alternatives would: a) include a strong wilderness character monitoring program. This would include monitoring of agency-authorized use of motorized equipment, which should be extremely rare to nonexistent;

b) allow natural processes to define the character of the wildernesses; prohibit the use of motorized equipment and permanent structures for wildlife, cultural resource, or scientific purposes;

c) require that all public uses of wilderness listed in section 4b of the Wilderness Act be conducted in a manner consistent with wilderness preservation. For example, this means no motorized use and no installations or structures;

d) ensure that any outfitting and guiding, if and where allowed, be both necessary and proper for wilderness;

e) insist that in any extremely rare case where exceptions are allowed for management {see section 4(c) and discussion below}, that those exceptions be for the singular purpose of preservation of wilderness and that they be the minimum necessary;

f) review policies about party size, numbers of stock, and backcountry allocations to ensure those policies meet the intent of the Wilderness Act.

Shelters/Buildings/Structures

Again, the issues that keep coming up revolve around the shelters and other structures the NPS keeps maintaining, illegally, in the Olympic National Park Wilderness. In spite of the court cases to the contrary, the NPS was rebuilding one of those structures last year. As noted above, the scoping letter and the posters both mislead about buildings in wilderness by showing pictures of shelters and cabins in context of positive wilderness values.

The plan should decide to remove the shelters and other buildings not necessary for management of the area as wilderness, or, truly old structures (as opposed to the rebuilt structures) should be allowed to naturally fade away. Any other structures need to go through an analysis to determine if they are the minimum necessary. Most wildernesses don't need structures like toilets in the wilderness. If the NPS thinks they are needed, it may be because the area is being over-used and the NPS needs to rethink the allocation. Forty thousand overnight visitors are considerable and that large number may make it impossible for visitors to find solitude.

Wilderness, Wilderness Character, and Wilderness Stewardship Section 4(b) of the Wilderness Act states:

"Except as otherwise provided in this Act, each agency administering any area designated as wilderness shall be responsible for preserving the wilderness character of the area and shall so administer such area for such other purposes for which it may have been established as also to preserve its wilderness character. " The mandate is to administer all activities so that this Wilderness will remain "unimpaired for future use and enjoyment as wilderness". It is also clear that this mandate applies to the setting rather than to any particular use or recreational experience. The wilderness character will not be preserved if one or more element(s) of character is allowed to degrade. For example, wilderness character is degraded if structures are present. This is why in the Wilderness Act Congress set a high bar for justifying any structure in Wilderness:

. . . except as necessary to meet minimum requirements for the administration of the area for the purpose of this Act (including measures required in emergencies involving the health and safety of persons within the area, there shall be no temporary road, no use of motor vehicles, motorized equipment or motorboats, no landing of aircraft, no other form of mechanical transport, and no structure or installation within any such area."

Purpose is singular in Section 4(c), and that is crucial to understanding the Act. Thus, a clear direction is established in law. The benefits of an enduring resource of wilderness through the establishment of the National Wilderness Preservation System which is to be administered to protect its wilderness character for the American people now and in the future is the singular and overriding purpose for the Wilderness Act.

Thus, the Wilderness Act clearly requires the federal land management agencies not manipulate or dominate the wilderness. Rather, federal agencies are required by the Wilderness Act to preserve the wilderness character of the Olympic Wilderness. This mandate is reflected in the epigram written by the drafter of the Wilderness Act, Howard Zahniser, who wrote, "With regard to areas of wilderness, we should be guardians not gardeners."

This fundamental tenet of wilderness stewardship was reiterated in a program review initiated by the four federal agencies and conducted by the Pinchot Institute for Conservation in 2001. The purpose of the study was to examine the critical management issues facing Wilderness. One of the eight "fundamental principles" for stewardship emphasized the need to preserve the wildness in Wilderness. As the Pinchot report stated, "Protection of the natural wild, where nature is not controlled, is critical in ensuring that a place is wilderness?.Since wild is a fundamental characteristic of wilderness that is not attainable elsewhere, if there is a choice between emphasizing naturalness and wildness, stewards should err on the side of wildness." In the case of structures and buildings, it is clear that wildness is the fundamental tenet. Summary

The Olympic Wilderness could be one of the wildest in the lower 48 states, as noted by the agency's own website. The rugged nature of much of the wilderness makes cross-country travel a challenging experience, requiring stamina and in some instances skills in traversing snow and ice fields. The Park Service has a unique opportunity here to live up to the ideals in the Wilderness Act by producing a plan that commits to fulfilling the letter, spirit, and intent of the Wilderness Act by allowing the wilderness to be wild. While that may be a change from current operations in the Olympic Wilderness, the NPS has the opportunity, the duty and one would hope the vision to come up with a fine plan for this remarkable area. Sincerely,

Gary Macfarlane Board Member

Correspondence ID: 258 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Apr,23,2013 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: E-mail
Correspondence: Background:

My father first visited the Queets in 1933 or 1934. My first trip up the Queets was in 1958. I was four years old. My older brother Rhett carried me across the river. We stayed in Spruce Bottom Shelter. My father taught me how to catch trout with a 9-foot bamboo fly rod with a single-egg.

A backpack trip up the Queets was our annual family vacation until my father was unable to haul his old Trapper Nelson up the trail anymore. His last trip was in 1971.

I distracted myself with other things until returning to the Queets in July 1988. I have gone up nearly every year since (with a couple years off here and there.)

My trip last October makes 54 years I've been hiking the Queets.

I have visited other areas of the Park as well: Kalaloch, Ozette, Bogachiel, Quinault, Duckabush, and Hurricane Ridge, but the Queets is the area I am most familiar with, and will be my primary focus in my comments below, although the issues I wish to raise would most certainly be applicable to other areas of the Park, particulary the coastal valleys of the Quinault, the Bogachiel, and the Hoh.

From an NPS online document:

"The National Park Service mission is to preserve unimpaired natural and cultural resources and values of the national park system for the enjoyment, education, and inspiration of this and future generations."

It is unfortunate that both we, the public, and the National Park Service, have unwittingly and miserably failed to achieve the stated mission of the National Park Service, as well as the objectives stated in the Park's own mission statement: the unimpaired preservation of the natural landscape.

From freedictionary.com:

Unimpaired: Adj. 1. unimpaired - not damaged or diminished in any respect; "his speech remained unimpaired"

Concern #1 - The Natural Landscape

Written records, oral histories, and anecdotal reports from the late 1800s and early 1900s indicate the landscape looked much different than it does today. A common theme was that "the streambanks were choked with underbrush."

Today, the gravel bars and banks along the Queets are anything but "choked with underbrush". They are mostly wide open areas where one can make relatively easy progress on foot.

Additionally, the understory growth back away from the river, to the toes of the ridges, has been radically altered during the last century.

There exists an almost total lack of young Black Cottonwood (Populus Tricocarpha) in the upper valley, although there remain huge specimens scattered up and down the river. Ironically, although Robert Van Pelt (considered the definitive source on "Big Trees") placed the world's largest Black Cottonwood in the Queets Campground, finding small specimens of the species requires some real searching. Two years ago I found two down in the ditch at Coal Creek, both about 1-1/2" DBH and about 10-12 feet in height.

By no stretch of the imagination can the Queets Valley be considered a "natural landscape". In my last trip report posted at nwhikers.net (http://www.nwhikers.net/forums/viewtopic.php?p=833791#833791), I noted that the areas along the upper trail appeared to have been manicured, and that it looked "just like a little park."

The cause of this alteration of the landscape is the Roosevelt Elk. This symbiotic relationship between the elk and the landscape is noted in Ruth Kirk's book "The Olympic Rainforest", and is clearly evident from careful observation on the ground.

The alteration of the natural landscape by the elk is not only in direct opposition to the NPS mission statement, it is a detriment to the overall ecosystem, particularly riparian habitat. The works by Robert Naiman and others from the University of Washington Fisheries Department have shown that the unimpeded continual browsing of willow and cottonwood along streambanks by large ungulates has resulted in streambank failures, habitat degradation, and channel braiding.

The solution, as was related to me by John Meyer, former Fisheries Biologist at ONP, was realized in Yellowstone National Park when the Gray Wolf was reintroduced. The wolves harried the elk, who were then deprived their former luxury of lolling about in the sun calmly chewing up all the young willow and cottonwood, the willow rebounded, the streambanks stopped

caving in, and the trout population rebounded.

The extirpation of the apex predator, the Gray Wolf (or Olympic Wolf, as Robert L. Wood claims), has had the direct result of allowing elk populations to exceed their historical levels, allowed the elk to become a detriment to riparian habitat, and created the unnatural landscape that presently exists.

Solution to Problem outlined in Concern #1:

To quote the late Harry Cody, District Ranger, Randle Ranger District, Gifford Pinchot National Forest, a man "who played his cards pretty close to the vest" (according to Buddy Rose): "Sometimes the best course of action is no action at all."

Olympic National Park, nor the National Park Service, should take any hand in, make any statement about, or make any indiction of intent one way or another, regarding "reintroduction" or "translocation" of the Gray Wolf into Olympic National Park.

Oregon's "OR-7", a collard lone male, left his pack near the Eagle Cap area (in northeast Oregon) and wandered over 700 miles looking for a girlfriend. He was last spotted somewhere near Medford the last I heard.

If that solo male could make it across a four-lane Interstate freeway, and all the way across that Oregon high desert and central Cascades, what could possibly slow down the migration of two or three breeding pairs here in Washington? According to Washington State's own wildlife agency, currently there are breeding pairs and packs in the Teanaway Valley, just north of Cle Elum. A cursory glance at a good topographical map of Washington shows a clear and easy route: south across I90, down the Green River, southwest past Enumclaw and Orting, skirting along the hills down to Chehalis, northwest to the gap west of the Black Hills, and up the Wynoochee. And from there up and into the Park.

So just sit back and wait. Keep in touch with State and Provincial wildlife management agencies in Washington, Oregon, Idaho, and British Columbia. Know where the nearest documented packs are. Do not enter into the fracas of debating "wolf vs. no wolf". Do not waste energy, time, and resources when it is not necessary to do so. Sit back and wait. The wolf will come to you. Plan for it.

Concern #2 - Non-Indigenous Species and the Natural Landscape

"Dotting the lush bottom land of the Queets Valley are clearings having the appearance of natural meadows, but a closer look shows they have had direct influence by man. Orchard and ornamental trees, not native to the area, are prominent features. Building foundations, broken machines, and old garbage pits can be found, and, in some of the clearings, barns, cabins, and pump houses still stand. These are the remains of a once thriving community." (source: "A Survey of Abandoned Homestead Clearings in the Queets Valley" 1975 S. Williams)

At present, the only visible remains of previous human habitation in the Queets Valley are:

Remains of the original homestead cabin of George Shaube (Smith Place) - structure collapsed a couple years ago.

Remains of cement foundation of barn at Andrews Field - now mostly overgrown with Himalaya and Cut-Leaf Blackberry.

Cement gate posts in NE corner of Andrews Field - originally sited in front of 'big house' on Andrews Homestead.

Remains of barb-wire fencing and posts on southern edge of what previously was "Andrews Upper Field", approx. 500 feet down-trail from the "Big Fir" trail junction.

Remains of structure (origin unknown) on north side of road in lower valley. (It's been several years since I've been to that one- it may well be collapsed by now. May have been a pump house?)

Remains of grave sites of original homesteaders at Matheny Creek and Streator's Field.

Shelter structure at Pelton Creek collapsed within last few years. (Not part of original settlement- constructed by NFS in 1930)

Fruit trees and ornamental trees in various locations. (Cowan Field, in the southeast portion of Sams Loop Trail is probably one of the most visible examples.)

The "broken machines" Williams refers to are probably no longer extant: There used to be two 55-gallon steel drums in Andrews Field, but over the years I've watched them assimilate into the landscape. My guess would be that any other artifacts of

iron have probably gone the same route, although there are still pieces of iron machinery on the Roose homestead at Ozette.

Ironically, in spite of the original intent and purpose for incorporating the Queets Corridor into Olympic National Park "... to preserve one river, from the mountains to the sea...", the imprint left on the landscape from the short-lived attempt to settle the valley is not in the form of buildings, but rather the non-native invasive species which were introduced by the original homesteaders.

Canadian Thistle (Cirsium Arvense) and Himalaya Blackberry (Rubus Procerus), both of which were exclusive to Andrews Field in 1975 (per S. Williams), have become established far up the valley.

Cut-Leaf (or Evergreen) Blackberry (Rubus Laciniatus), planted on several early homesteads, has become established far up the valley.

Foxglove (Digitalis Purpurea) has become established and is prolific in the lower valley.

Solution to Problem Outlined in Concern #2

Over the last several years there have been concerted efforts to contain and/or eliminate the non-indigenous plant species from the Park. Last fall a spraying operation was conducted along the Sams Loop Trail targeting the Cut-Leaf Blackberry (Rubus Laciniatus).

I encourage ONP to formulate long-term goals and plans to address the issue of non-indigenous plant species. Please endeavor to err on the side of caution, in an effort to minimize the possibility of unforseen detrimental effects of human intervention, but also please endeavor to be effective, prior to the problem becoming one which can no longer be contained.

Concern #3 - Non-Indigenous Species and the Natural Landscape

Recently the non-indigenous Mountain Goat population in ONP has become a subject of focus among the public, unfortunately as a result of the Boardman incident.

For decades prior to Mr. Boardman's death, some have urged the Park to remove the non-indigenous Mountain Goats.

Many hours and dollars were spent conducting exhaustive and comprehensive studies, and formulating plans of action.

It has been clearly established that the Mountain Goat is not native to the Olympic Peninsula.

It has been clearly established that the existence of the non-indigenous Mountain Goat is a detriment to unique species of flora found only in Olympic National Park.

It has been clearly established that the existence of the non-indigenous Mountain Goat poses a threat to human life.

It has been clearly established that the existence of the non-indigenous Mountain Goat poses a danger to hikers and Park visitors.

The Boardman family sought legal recourse after the death of Robert Boardman.

Since the Boardman incident, there have been several documented cases of hikers and Park visitors being directly confronted by non-indigenous Mountain Goats.

Solution to Problem Outlined in Concern #3

Kill the Mountain Goats. If NPS is not capable of eliminating the population of non-indigenous Mountain Goats, contract the job out to professional hunters and guides.

They are not, by any stretch of the imagination, fuzzy dewy-eyed "sentient" creatures. They are wild animals who act instinctively, and they do not belong on the Olympic Peninsula.

And now that NPS and ONP are aware they have within their Park a non-indigenous species which has clearly demonstrated its ability and willingness to injure and/or kill humans, and NPS and ONP have previously studied the Mountain Goat and formulated a plan to remove the Mountain Goat from the Park but so far have failed to accomplish that task, it can be considered no less than reckless negligence on the part of NPS and ONP to continue to allow the non-indigenous Mountain Goat to exist

within the Park.

Kill them! Let their blood be nutrients for the soil and those rare endemic plants they've almost wiped out. (Or, as the French would say in "La Marsellaise": "Let their impure blood Water our furrows.")

Concern #4 - Cultural Resources

Cultural Resources, according to the Park, includes structures and signs.

At present, the only "structure" remaining in the Queets Valley is the Pelton Creek Shelter, which collapsed a few years ago. My understanding from my last conversation with Paul Gleeson was that the Park had intentions to retain the shelter.

After the fiasco that ensued over the attempt to replace the shelters at Home Sweet Home and Low Divide, I've become more ambivalent about the retention and reconstruction of the structures within the Park.

While I abhor the idea of deliberately destroying or removing those old trail shelters, it seems somewhat incongruent with the NPS stated mission to reconstruct replicas, as was the case with the Home Sweet Home and Low Divide shelters.

Duck Houck (to my knowlege) never made it up to Pelton to put his eyeballs on the shelter after it collapsed. The structure was still standing when I last saw it, but I noted the lower support beams were in the advanced stages of decay, and the duff sliding down the slope behind the structure was piled up against the back (north) wall about 3 feet deep.

If the resources are available, and if the structures can be repaired on site (even if this requires hauling in materials via heavy-lift helicopter), and if they can be restored and maintained in such a manner as to preserve their original design, then I'm all in favor of it.

But if, as is the case with the remains of the structure at Smith Place (the Shaube Homestead), there exists a compromised structure which has been altered, added onto, and reconstructed to the degree where it no longer retains its original design, it should be removed. I urge the Park to remove the remaining non-biodegradable material from the site at Smith Place, and any others within the Park which would fall into that same category.

Years ago, there were signs all up and down the Queets Valley, from the trailhead all the way up to Kilkelly Creek (according to oral reports by Gary Patton, presently of Alaska.)

On my last visit up the Queets in October 2012, I noticed all the signs along the trail have now been removed.

I've enquired several times as to the reason for their removal, and gotten different and confusing answers.

I've encountered many hikers along the trail during the last few years who were unable to find their destinations directly as a result of the lack of those signs along the trail, one of them an NPS employee who had a GPS unit in his shirt pocket and had wandered off the trail.

I've sent you many photographs which Gay Hunter has stashed in your archives: old photos my father took during the 1930s, 40s, and 50s.

One of them shows three young boys carrying packs, standing in front of a huge trail sign along the Skokomish.

I've taken many photographs of people posing in front of trail signs.

I've looked at countless photographs taken by other people of people standing in front of trail signs all around the world. Look at any trip report on nwhikers.net and invariably you'll find that obligatory trail sign photo in the report.

The trail signs are a cultural and historical resource, and removing all of them was a silly idea, especially when it prevents people from finding what they're looking for, be it the collapsed and rotting remains of an old homestead, or a 221-foot tall Douglas Fir that might well fall down tomorrow (if it's even still standing.)

Replace the signs along the Queets River Trail at the "Big Fir" trail junction (2.5 miles), the "Lower Crossing Trail Junction" (4.2 miles), and the "Upper Crossing" (6.0 miles).

Concern #5 - Reduction of Trail Miles within Olympic National Park

From ONP GMP (May 2006) : "By 1935 the Forest Service had completed 962 miles of trails and associated facilities including

campgrounds and overnight shelters." (page 126)

From ONP GMP (May 2006) : "There are approximately 611 miles of maintained trail within the wilderness." (page 118)

From 962 to 611 is a 37% net reduction in trail miles between 1935 and 2006.

The net decrease in trail miles in the Queets Valley is even more disturbing:

Sams River Trail (first 4.5 miles within ONP, remaining 7.5 miles was in Olympic National Forest. 12 miles total) (abandoned)

Kloochman Rock Trail (3.4 miles) (abandoned)

Lower Crossing Way Trail (formerly Lower Crossing Trail) (0.8 miles) (no longer maintained) (last cleared 2008 ?)

Upper Crossing Way Trail (formerly first 0.8 mile of Tshletshy Creek Trail) (no longer maintained) (last cleared 2008 ?)

Tshletshy Creek Trail (16.2 miles) (last cleared 1969 - subsequently abandoned by NPS)

Original length of Queets River Trail (trailhead to Pelton Creek Shelter) 16.2 miles

Length of Queets River Trail shown as "no longer maintained" on ONP visitor map of 1996 (Paradise Creek to Pelton Creek) approx. 3.5 miles. (More recent editions of the map have shown the Queets River Trail ending below Paradise Creek, or continuing as maintained trail to Pelton Creek.)

Total length of trail miles originally within ONP in Queets Valley: 41.9

Total ONP trail miles in Queets Valley abandoned or no longer maintained: 25.7 (excluding the last 3.5 miles of Queets River Trail)

From 41.9 to 16.2 is a 62% net reduction in trail miles between 1935 and 2011

At the current rate, there will be almost no trails at all in Olympic National Park 50 years from now.

And now ONP wants to abandon that upper stretch of the Queets River Trail above Paradise Creek? Seriously? After I was told over and over and over again that the intent was to restore it?

Really?

It's action like that that makes me wonder why I invest myself in this process at all.

Fix that trail. Punch it out to Pelton. You managed to fix the trail on the upper North Fork Quinault. Fix the trail on the Queets.

Stop reducing trail miles!

Thank you all very much for your time and consideration.

re: Addendum to Wilderness Management Plan Scoping Comment

In my previous email, on the issue concerning elk, wolves, and Black Cottonwood, I mentioned papers written by Naiman et al at UW Fisheries. Should have been papers written by Beshta-Ripple at Oregon State University.

Correspondence ID: 259 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Apr,23,2013 17:46:05
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Wilderness Zoning and Trail Zone issues

Zoning is an appropriate tool to focus on resource management of different areas within Olympic Wilderness. Its adoption in the GMP elicited philosophical objections (that zoning "creates second-class wilderness") which is unjustified, but should be addressed in this plan by describing the purposes of zoning and citing examples of its successful use in recent wilderness plans

by several other major national parks.

Another major misunderstanding is that "no permanent structures are allowed within designated Wilderness"... EXCEPT for those necessary for the purposes of the Wilderness Act. These exceptions are concentrated within the Trails Zone. The GMP only mentions "767 trail bridges in approximately 600 miles of trail". This WSP should include an inventory of trail structures (Gary Vogt's 2000 inventory H:\Reveg\Trail Inventory\Summary\Trail Facilities Summary.doc or update, if available) so readers better appreciate the extent of permanent structures and maintenance necessary for recreation and administration of Olympic Wilderness. The Wilderness trail system includes ~12,000 permanent structures, each requiring maintenance.

The future of the Wilderness trail system must be a key focus of this WSP. With increased scrutiny of helicopter use and motorized equipment within Wilderness, stock use may become increasingly essential over the next 20 years. Only 356 of the ~612 miles of Park trails are designated for stock use, and the lack of campsites at which stock are allowed is a further great restriction on their use. This needs to be re-examined in this WSP. Are stock restrictions necessary and justified for "resource protection" or "visitor safety" on each one of these trails: Barnes Creek, Aurora Creek, O'Neil Pass, Sundown Lake, Elip Creek, Upper Lena Lake? All these trails were built by and for stock use.

Stock use on certain less-used trails in the Park should be clarified in this plan. For example, Cedar Lake "way trail" is not a designated stock trail, but stock use is not prohibited (Sup't Compendium, pp. 11-12), so is allowed... except that the trail is blocked by windfall and unusable unless can be maintained, and its maintenance can't be authorized without a prior "compliance survey" which the Park does not have the resources to accomplish. The result is a defacto closure, contrary to Park policy. It is nonsensical to require "compliance" for routine trail maintenance on a route that was built for and used by stock for 90 years.

It is similarly nonsensical to require archaeological "compliance survey" prior to digging replacement post holes for route and informational signs at sites where they have existed for 50 to 70 years.

Finally, I'd like to ask that the NPS policy discouraging informational signs within Wilderness be explicitly reconsidered within this plan. Hundreds of informational signs, naming stream crossings, viewpoints for peaks, glaciers, waterfalls and canyons which hikers might otherwise pass without noticing, naming camp and former historical shelter or cabin sites, have been removed or lost since the 1970s. Their loss materially diminishes visitors' ability to appreciate the varied natural and historic resources of Olympic Wilderness. They also serve as practical aids to location and navigation of the trail system. The loss of these signs is mourned by long-time visitors. These signs themselves are viewed by many as having intrinsic cultural and historical value. The NPS wilderness policy of relegating this information to trailhead signboards 10 or 20 miles distant from the sites is a material loss of their inherent value to Olympic Wilderness.

Correspondence ID: 260 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: Rain Forest Horse Rides Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Apr,29,2013 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: E-mail
Correspondence: 1. What makes the Olympic National Park wilderness area special to you and why?

The ONP is special to me because we live here and it is our backyard. It is where my husband and I spend most of our summers doing commercial packing and horse rides for tourists and recreational enthusiasts from all over the world. It is where we take our relatives and grand kids to make special memories, both in the rain forest and on the beaches. It is where we go to meditate, restore our souls, and bask the beauty of a place unlike any other on earth. This Park is one of the most pure, pristine, unblemished, beautiful places on earth. We consider it a great treasure. The opportunity to explore nature in such a pure, unspoiled Park is something we don't take for granted.

2. When you visit the Olympic National Park wilderness area, what activities and experiences are most important to you?

We spend time on the beaches and forests of the Olympic Peninsula coastline, hiking, riding horses, fishing, camping and doing lots of volunteer trail work. These activities are a vital part of our life and livelihood as we are licensed to pack commercially with horses and mules in the ONP. We also spend many summer days at the Solduc Hot Springs with our kids and grand kids and local friends. We ride and walk the Olympic Discovery Trail on Lake Crescent.

3. What do you think the issues are in the Olympic National Park wilderness area? ACCESS and MAINTENANCE:

One of the greatest issues that concern us most is ACCESS, especially by horses and pack stock.

For nearly 20 years we have volunteered hundreds of hours in packing and trail work for the ONP in conjunction with our commercial packing work. We pack chainsaws and trail tools on our mules and clear trails in every part of the Park. Fifty years ago there were hundreds of miles of stock accessible trails. That number has dwindled down to just a few trails that provide access to stock. This has resulted in trails that can no longer be maintained because stock are needed to pack in the trail tools and supplies and there are only a few stock camps that we are allowed to stay in.

Stock access ties right in with maintenance of backcountry facilities, such as bridges, shelters, outhouses. We believe that the Park needs to provide infrastructure and maintenance of existing infrastructure for backcountry recreation especially toilet facilities. We find that where there are no outhouses for people to use, that people leave toilet paper and human waste in heavily

traveled areas, especially 10 or more miles into the backcountry and on the ocean beaches. Our paying clients have commented on the fact that outhouses are lacking, even in areas where backcountry camping is permitted, such as Stony Point, which is a horse camp area. Because of the amount of hypothermic rain, we believe the Park should stop destroying the backcountry shelters and do a better job of maintaining them.

We strongly believe that chainsaws should continue to be the tool for clearing our humungous old growth windfalls. Cross cut saws will never work to keep our trails open where we so many large windfalls.

There should be more designated backcountry camping areas so that people aren't making such a huge impact so few areas. We have nearly a million acres here to spread out in. Part of the impact that has happened is because of the restrictions in allowing people to spread out. People tell me that one reason they don't go into the back country anymore is because they have to camp in the same area with a bunch of other people and that is not why they go to the wilderness.

4. Imagine you are visiting the Olympic National Park wilderness area 20 years from now. What conditions, experiences, visitor services, and facilities would you like to see?

I would hope that the general appearance of the natural habitat of this Park would not change much. I would like to see way less debris, especially plastic, on the ocean beaches. I hope the Park never gets as commercialized as Yellowstone/Glacier and some other hugely visited Parks. I would like to see Lake Crescent Lodge/Restaurant open year round.

5. Please share any additional comments or suggestions.

LEAVE NO TRACE Perhaps the Parks can assist in schools with Leave NO Trace programs like happened with Smokey the Bear, so that young people will grow up with the knowledge of preserving the natural beauty of our forests and not littering the trails and campgrounds.

LISTEN TO LOCALS/NOT POLITICAL GROUPS It would be good if the Park listened to the local people and paid less attention to extreme political or environmental pressures that make little sense. The Elwha dam removal experiment is a good example of this. Technology was available to build fish ladders and get salmon back into the river without creating an environmental disaster.

We need more camps suitable for horses and mules so that we can continue to volunteer our services. Many trails cannot be maintained because there are no camping facilities for us.

ONP should work with the communities to promote employment for local students rather than importing students from the E Coast who know nothing about our area. There is so little employment here, especially for young people.

SIGNAGE/WEBSITE INFO We feel the ONP could do a better job of putting up signs so people don't get lost or confused in the backcountry. We would like to see signs on every trailhead letting people know that horses/mules are keeping these trails maintained by packing heavy equipment for the Park. This would really reduce negativity regarding horses/mules on the trail. People just don't know that without stock, trails can't be maintained here. Having a picture or two on the ONP website of ONP mules strings would help too.

I would like to see the Parks management people getting out of their offices and actually enjoying the Park themselves. Many Park employees never get out to see the rain forests or backcountry areas that we enjoy.

Correspondence ID: 261 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: Olympic Forest Coalition Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Apr,23,2013 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Letter
Correspondence: Dear Ms. Creachbaun:

"Wilderness is the one place we don't have to change." I recall writing this after listening to Bill Worf a few years ago, retired Forest Service, who drafted the document outlining the "ministering" of the Wilderness Act of 1964. The document has seldom been fully implemented.

The 95% Wilderness classification is what makes the Park truly special, giving us the opportunity to further protect the roadless nature of the Olympic interior. As Bob Marshall was intrigued with unmapped interior of Alaska's Brooks Range, modern adventurers should have the opportunity to imagine a roadless core of Wilderness on the Olympic Peninsula. It is the stuff that dreams are made of.

Olympic Forest Coalition (OFCO) completely concures with the recommendations stated in "Voice of the Wild Olympics" by our sister group Olympic Park Associates. Points of emphasis include:

-Compatibility with the management of Olympic National Forest Wilderness Areas. -This includes proposed Wilderness

Additions outlined by OFCO and the Wild Olympics campaign. -A common Fire Policy. -Minimum impact user guidance, coupled with stock camp concerns. -Mechanized transport and tool use should be minimized. -Focus on native materials maintenance. -Group size should be limited to six. -Focus on promoting a Wilderness Ethic.

A wilderness ethic puts emphasis on Solitude and preserving a Natural Museum, an untrammeled experience. Development is not wilderness. Please de-emphasize historical preservation. We should seek the untrammeled experience. It's what makes the Olympic special.

The wisest use in this case is to strive to do nothing. Recalling the words of Aldo Leopold, "All conservation of wildness is self-defeating."

Correspondence ID: 262 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: Buckhorn Range Chapter - Back Country Horsemen of Washington Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Apr,23,2013 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Letter
Correspondence: Dear Ms. Creachbaum:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Olympic National Park Wilderness Stewardship Plan. We appreciate your efforts to gather public comment during the scoping phase of the project.

The Buckhorn Range Chapter of Back Country Horsemen of Washington represents equestrian interests for east Jefferson County, and as such we have a stake in the future planning and administration of the vast backcountry and wilderness areas within Olympic National Park, most of which lies within Jefferson County. Our membership is diverse and our experience and use of the Park varies with the individual members, but we all share a commitment to ensuring that the heritage and tradition of riding horses and using pack stock on our public lands and the trails that access them continue into the future for ourselves and the generations to follow. Most of the trails in our wilderness areas were created using stock, and to this day the ONP mule-packing crew is an essential part of the maintenance of the hundreds of miles of trail within the Park boundaries.

What makes the wilderness areas special to us, and the activities and experiences that we find important may vary with the individuals that comprise our membership, but central to all is the ability to safely ride the trails that grant access to those areas.

Some of the issues we see in the ONP wilderness area are the ongoing maintenance of trails to stock standards, the ongoing upkeep and maintenance of other infrastructure such as bridges, fords and stock camps, and the ability to use mechanized means to maintain trails and infrastructure when it is deemed necessary and appropriate. In the uncertain financial climate government agencies such as the National Park Service find themselves, funding sources and finding alternative resources, such as volunteer organizations like Back Country Horsemen of Washington, are also key issues.

We look forward to continuing to work with Olympic National Park as it moves forward in this important process for planning the future stewardship of the wilderness areas that mean so much for us all.

Thank you.

Correspondence ID: 263 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Apr,23,2013 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Letter
Correspondence: I submit these comments for the purpose of scoping the Wilderness Stewardship Plan for Olympic National Park. Please note as per public disclosure (318 Department Manual 4 app.2.11), I request that this information not be released. I further request my name and/or address not be released. I am an individual and no attempt is made to represent any organization or business, whether ad hoc or formally.

These comments have for the most part been submitted during the public scoping workshops held around the Olympic Peninsula; submitted for the most part at this time to verify you received them and request to address them in your process:

1. Monuments in designated wilderness: the plan needs to address the management of designated monuments and cemeteries within the wilderness. Specifically, the caretaking and long term protection of the Norwegian Memorial (Prince Arthur crew gravesites). Other shipwrecks along the coastal strip need to be addressed also, to include how designated memorials will be managed and taken care of.

2. Wilderness trails: Re-establish the Allens Bay-Norwegian Memorial Trail (2.8 miles). It was discussed at the meetings how wilderness values can actually be incorporated in to this trail while at the same time improving significantly access to this region of the coast. Additionally, the coastal strip has an inherent issue of concentrating hiking/backcountry use in select areas. Re-establishing trails such as this would meet a wilderness impact need to spread the use out in a more environmentally manageable way.

3. Cultural Trail and History: Lake Ozette and its adjacent coastline have been involved in significant events this country has

faced, i.e. potential for invasion during WWII, the epitome of the homestead era and struggles, traditional land and resource use. Establish a trail that parallels the Ozette River throughout its run; one that would incorporate current historical landmarks, the values of the old growth forest that isn't currently accessible, and the safety/response such a trail would afford being north of the mouth of the river (currently requiring fording during periods of high water if relying solely on beach hiking).

4. The coastal strip wilderness is "downriver" from both non-wilderness Park and the State of Washington. This creates a conflict with current administrative rules in practice when addressing impacts to those areas "upstream". The norm for wilderness designated areas and the original wilderness act has the tendency to set aside for protection areas in the headwaters/upstream of frontcountry and other resource uses. The conflict created has not been addressed in the legislative designations. I advocate suggested language be included in the plan that will address these conflicts, for both the purpose of recommending solutions to Congress and also for administrative/policy directives created within the Department of Interior.

5. Communication about the wilderness: the plan needs to address how the Park's activities will be transmitted to the public and adjacent communities/landowners. Research projects have taken a back seat in communicating those activities, whereas in the past one tool that was available was the IAR process that provided the application, permit, and annual reporting by projects. This isn't available anymore, limted to the possible annual reporting that provides only subjective limited details. The state of the wilderness is a resource that has to be open and discussed; or the wilderness serves no resource purpose.

6. It would really be nice to address how the adjacent communities and landowners to wilderness will be included in the evaluation of non-wilderness areas for possible designation. Wilderness for purpose of being a resource is mostly a single use concept; how well that meshes in to the multi-use needs of the people is dependent on how these same people are included in the evaluation.

Thank you for this scoping process, I look forward to your findings in response to these comments and the draft Wilderness Stewardship Plan. Please engage and feel free to contact me on any clarity to my request.

Correspondence ID: 264 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: Friends of Lake Ozette Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Apr,24,2013 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Letter
Correspondence: Dear Superintendent Creachbaum,

The Friends of Lake Ozette respectfully submit the following response and information for the purpose of the scoping phase of developing the Olympic National Park Wilderness Stewardship Plan. In meeting your request to select the best question to respond to, please consider these two best meet our desires:

3. What do you think the issues are in the Olympic National Park wilderness area?

5. Please share any additional comments or suggestions.

The designated wilderness area of the Lake Ozette area (and what is commonly referred to as the "coastal strip") contains the terminus (downstream end) of the Ozette watershed. The non-wilderness designated area of the lake and also upstream into 300-plus tributaries outside the Park are affected by how the single outflow to the ocean of the watershed is managed: the Ozette River. A vast majority of this river is in wilderness designation. Our issue of concern is this: management of the Ozette River impacts lake water levels and related effects on our private properties.

It is our response that the plan should include a management section addressing the Ozette River, given this unique relationship to the effects on upstream non-wilderness. Secondly, it is our understanding from the ONP General Management Plan that a wilderness character study will be conducted for those areas of the Park that are not currently designated as wilderness; specifically Lake Ozette itself, the eastern boundary of the lake, and the islands existing within the lake. If the Wilderness Stewardship Plan will be conducting such a study, we would request that we be kept actively informed and engaged during all aspects of the study as it pertains to the Ozette area.

Please keep us in the discussion as the plan develops.

Correspondence ID: 265 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: North Olympic Timber Action Committee Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Apr,26,2013 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Letter
Correspondence: Dear Superintendent Creachbaum;

The Olympic National Park is a neighbor to many adjoining properties that are impacted by the management of Olympic National Park. The North Olympic Timber Action Committee would like to comment on the impacts that ONP has on industrial landowner's management and access to their private timberlands.

Peninsula residents have a history of resource management that is very different from the preservation goals of ONP. As

different as these goals many seem, resource management provides many valuable benefits to ONP including clean water, clean air and habitat for wildlife and fish. The difference between the two is that industrial landowners must be profitable to stay in business and the National Park is funded by tax dollars paid by citizens and the profitable businesses. The ONP has an impact on profitability when they make it difficult for adjoining landowners or in-holders to access their land and manage the property.

A primary issue of shared ownership is the many miles of forest roads that pass thru multiple ownerships. Your wilderness stewardship plan needs to clearly deal with a streamlined method of granting road access thru national park property on shared road accesses.

Your preservation goals may not always be compatible with other residents that adjoin ONP. Your plan needs to have flexibility to accommodate those differences.

Correspondence ID: 266 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Apr,26,2013 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Letter
Correspondence: Dear Superintendent Creachbaum;

As a youth, I spent a lot of time in Olympic National Park skiing at Hurricane Ridge, riding my horse in the backcountry and camping with my family. In nearly 6 decades, I have experienced many changes in the uses of ONP and the past 40 years the changes are dramatic. The National Park has not been a good neighbor! Olympic National Park has not been overdeveloped with roads and resort facilities unlike many other Parks and National Monuments and the Wilderness designation seems unecessary.

The definition of wilderness: land of primeval character without permanent improvements or human habitation; an area where the earth and its community of life are untrammeled by man. This most restrictive classification removes the incentive for ONP to maintain backcountry infrastructure, like trails, and usuage is restricted. Let me give you some examples from my institutional memory.

Park campgrounds were great places for family outings. Today, campgrounds are closed, there are no campfire programs, permanent and seasonal rangers are not present, rules, regulations and fees discourage use. The problem is lack of budget to maintain facilities and a lack of will thanks to a strong environmental movement.

I rode my horse in the backcountry as a kid. There might be a group of 6 to 8 kids, with no adult supervision, cell phones, water treatment, tents or the many rules and regulations of today. Then it was the experience of a lifetime and a cherished memory! How has this changed? Today there are entrance fees, permits, limits on number of stock in a group, reservation requirements, campfire restrictions, stock cannot graze in meadows, feed must be certified, not as many trails are maintained for livestock use, river crossings are more difficult due to lack of bridges and some areas prohibit stock altogether.

During the past 40 years, the park has experienced a steady decline in their ability to maintain facilities, repair or fix damage from storms and maintain road access. Wilderness designation prohibits any mechanized tools growing the problem of added costs to maintain access to backcountry areas or available to only the most hardy of outdoorsman!

ONP removed a great shelter system. These shelters were not only great structures but they provided a safe haven for the outdoorsman who happened to be caught in a wet, cold storm during a hike. The shelters were a part of the backcountry experience. The shelters were removed because of the wilderness designation. There was public dissent over the shelter removal but that did not matter to ONP.

The Olympic is not an overused park and is certainly not over developed! The Wilderness Stewardship Plan is just another opportunity for more restrictions and constraints on the use of a park that should be available to the citizens of the United States and thanks to the United Nations World Heritage designation!

Long time residents of the Olympic Peninsula are used to being pushed off the land. The Olympic National Park Stewardship Wilderness Plan is just your way of making more of the ONP unavailable to more of the citizens it is supposed to serve while appeasing the UN.

Correspondence ID: 267 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: American Whitewater Unaffiliated Individual
Received: May,09,2013 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Letter
Correspondence: Dear Superintendent Creachbaum,

American Whitewater appreciates having the opportunity to participate in the Olympic National Park Wilderness Stewardship Plan and Environmental Impact Statement ("WSP/EIS") planning process. As the Park considers alternative strategies for the future management of the Olympic Wilderness, we write to highlight the importance of human-powered boating opportunities on the rivers within the Park and Wilderness Area.

American Whitewater is a national non-profit 501(c)(3) river conservation organization founded in 1954. We have over 5,500 individual members and 100 locally-based affiliate clubs, and represent the conservation interests of tens of thousands of whitewater enthusiasts across the nation. American Whitewater's mission is to conserve and restore America's whitewater resources and to enhance opportunities to enjoy them safely. Founding principles of our organization include protecting the wilderness character of waterways and promoting the recreational value of wilderness rivers.

A significant percentage of American Whitewater members reside in Washington and the Pacific Northwest and regularly take advantage of the opportunities for wilderness exploration that the Olympic National Park and its Wilderness Area offer. The rivers of the Olympic Peninsula provide thrilling and technically challenging whitewater recreation opportunities for advanced boaters. While these recreational opportunities are important, we place a high value on protecting naturally functioning river ecosystems, including their fish and wildlife, geomorphic processes, and incredible riparian forests, where natural successional processes dominate. Our members highly value sustaining and restoring endangered, threatened or rare species, biological diversity, and self-regulating ecosystems.

Our members regularly enjoy a number of rivers within the Park and Wilderness Area, described below. Unlike nearby rivers in the Olympic National Forest, the rivers in the Park offer unparalleled and unique opportunities for wilderness exploration. These rivers allow for primitive and unconfined recreation, where individuals have freedom to explore the landscape and find solitude, seek personal challenge and self-discovery, practice self-sufficiency, and engage in a direct experience with the natural environment free from the constraints of culture. The paddling experience on each one of these rivers offers a unique experience and opportunity for boaters to develop a strong connection with Olympic National Park and Wilderness Area. The following includes the primary rivers that provide these experiences.

? Elwha River: The Elwha is perhaps one of the most visible expert whitewater runs in the Park, attracting visitors from across the country that come to experience wilderness opportunities on the Grand Canyon of the Elwha and Rica Canyon. While paddlers of intermediate skill level and commercial outfitters experience the front country paddling opportunities below Glines Canyon, the backcountry accessible from the Whiskey Bend trailhead offers world-class expert whitewater through a stunning canyon setting. The headwaters of the river reach into the interior of the Olympic Peninsula and the river cuts a path through the major geologic strata of the Olympics on its path to the sea. Paddlers can access alternative put-ins at Goblin Gates marking the start of Rica Canyon (a standard day trip) or Elkhorn near the start of the Grand Canyon of the Elwha (a standard overnight trip). Traveling down this river, one has a unique opportunity to experience the geologic history of the Olympic Peninsula.

? Gray Wolf River: River trips begin in the Park at Three Forks, which is accessed from Deer Park by trail, and continue through the Buckhorn Wilderness to Dungeness Forks in Olympic National Forest. The river sees relatively low use but offers unique opportunities for wilderness exploration.

? Dosewallips River: The Elkhorn Canyon run on the Dosewallips begins at the base of Dosewallips Falls and continues downstream past the Park boundary. This river challenges regional experts who currently hike in past the road washout on Forest Service land to access this run. While the road provides convenient access, the river itself provides a wilderness quality experience.

? North Fork Skokomish: The North Fork Skokomish provides opportunities for expert paddlers who hike six miles up the Skokomish Trail and paddle back down to Staircase. The river offers spectacular opportunities for wilderness adventure along sections of the river inaccessible by trail.

? Quinault: The Quinault River offers opportunities for paddling adventures on an intermediate river in the front country areas of the Park. Hike-in wilderness boating opportunities are available upstream of Graves Creek. The Quinault Gorge is a day trip for expert paddlers that begins at the Pony Bridge and ends at Graves Creek.

? North Fork Quinault: The gorge on the North Fork Quinault is well known as one of the most scenic wilderness sections of river in Olympic National Park. Every summer when flows drop to suitable levels, experienced paddlers hike in 12 miles on the North Fork Trail to a put-in at Geoduck Creek.

? Tshletshy: This creek in the Queets River drainage is accessed by hiking up Big Creek Trail out of the Quinault drainage. This creek offers unique opportunities for wilderness exploration through a remote river canyon that passes through some of the Park's most impressive old-growth forest. No trails pass through this remote region of the Park, providing a unique opportunity to explore the Park's primeval wilderness areas and utilize advanced cross-country navigation skills.

? Sams: The river is one of the more accessible rivers in the Park because the put-in can be accessed from Forest Road 2180 and the first few miles of river are on National Forest lands. The river ends by skirting the boundary of the Park before joining the Queets at the Queets Campground in the Park.

? Queets: The Queets Trail heads 16 miles up river from the Queets Campground to Pelton Creek. Wilderness paddling opportunities suitable for intermediates are available on this section of river for those willing to hike in. Some individuals have explored the section upstream of Pelton Creek. The section from the Queets Campground to Hartzell boat launch provides roadside access in the front country zone and is popular for those who enjoy the fishing opportunities the Queets offers.

? South Fork Hoh: Individuals can hike in on the South Fork Hoh Trail and run a section of river that continues past the Park

boundary. This is an easy day trip for paddlers through a short segment of wilderness.

? Hoh: The majority of paddling opportunities on the Hoh begin at the boat launch located just inside the Park boundary. Some individuals have hiked up the Hoh Trail to experience wilderness paddling opportunities available on upstream reaches.

? Bogachiel: The Bogachiel offers one of the most spectacular multi-day wilderness paddling opportunities on a west side river. Access is available by hiking up over the ridge from the Sol Duc and taking a cross-country route from the drainage divide down into the Bogachiel drainage. Paddlers can explore the remote reaches of the upper Bogachiel where the river cuts through a stunning gorge that is inaccessible except by boat.

? South Fork Calawah: Access is available from Rugged Ridge on Forest Service land, providing convenient hike-in access by trail. The South Fork Calawah provides a wilderness boating opportunity suitable for intermediate paddlers that can be enjoyed as a day trip.

? Sol Duc: While not a wilderness trip, this river provides one of the more popular intermediate paddling opportunities in the Park. Paddlers typically begin at Salmon Cascade and can continue out past the Park boundary onto Forest Service land. The fact that this river is in the front country zone makes it accessible as an easy day trip. With the exception of the section just downstream of Salmon Cascade, the road is largely hidden from the river, providing a high quality aesthetic experience for those on the water.

? North Fork Sol Duc: An easy hike on a well-maintained low-elevation trail makes this river accessible as a day trip through wilderness for intermediate paddlers that can be enjoyed during the winter rainy season.

Our organization and individual members participated in the development of Olympic National Park's General Management Plan, which recognizes boating (rafting or kayaking) as a form of river-based recreation appropriate within the Park. The Plan identifies three different wilderness zones: wilderness trail zone, primitive wilderness zone, and primeval wilderness zone. These zones span a range of experiences, with increasing opportunities to appreciate wilderness character, risk and challenge, and solitude. Non-motorized/hand-powered boating is recognized as an appropriate means of experiencing all three of these zones. In the response to comments section on recreation, the Plan specifically states that for the life of the Plan, "within the frontcountry and wilderness zones, non-motorized/hand-powered boating including kayaking will continue to be an approved activity." We support the Park in incorporating these values into the Wilderness Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement.

The Wilderness Act describes "wilderness" as an area that has "outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation." Paddling is a form of recreation that is a core part of the Act, and the founders of the Wilderness concept, including Olaus Murie, Bob Marshall and Aldo Leopold, wrote specifically of the unique perspective and adventure that paddling in Wilderness areas offer. Exploring the wilderness areas in our National Parks by hand-powered craft affords visitors with a unique opportunity to experience park resources, enjoy the river and riparian landscape, and provides inspirational opportunities to experience wild rivers. Many of our nation's National Parks are known for their wilderness whitewater paddling opportunities, and American Whitewater works to protect the quality of this experience in National Parks across the country.

In reviewing the management of paddling opportunities in National Parks, we believe the language guiding management of whitewater paddling in Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park is relevant to the nature of paddling opportunities available in Olympic National Park. The General Management Plan for Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park specifically recognizes whitewater paddling and describes the River Resource Opportunity Area, noting that some "are challenged by the river's extremes choosing the kayak as the vehicle to propel themselves through and along its wild turbulence." The Plan further notes that "wilderness solitude is part of this experience" and specifically identifies kayaking as an activity appropriate for the "primitive" area where "challenge and adventure for visitors are high" and one is isolated from the sights and sounds of man and feels a closeness to nature; experiences solitude, tranquility, and quiet; and is required to use outdoor survival and wilderness skills. We believe similar management language would be appropriate for wilderness paddling opportunities in Olympic National Park. We appreciate sound management of Wilderness visitors aimed at protecting the Wilderness characteristics of the landscape and the experiences it offers. We request that existing management practices be continued where paddlers are managed as hikers who simply choose to travel by boat rather than foot for a portion of their trip. In other words, permits, limits, leave-no-trace requirements, and other backcountry regulations should apply to Wilderness visitors regardless of whether they travel by boat or foot or a mixture of both. This is typical of management on similar rivers in other National Park Service units that offer hike-in wilderness boating opportunities and we feel it fits well with the use patterns of rivers in Olympic National Park.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment on the Olympic Wilderness Stewardship Plan and Environmental Impact Statement. We look forward to the Draft Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement, and we would like to remain on the mailing list for any future updates or opportunities for public input. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions regarding public use of rivers in the Park. We would welcome any opportunity to meet with your staff to share additional information on how our community utilizes the wilderness rivers of Olympic National Park for backcountry recreation.

Correspondence ID: 268 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: The Mountaineers Unaffiliated Individual

Received: May,16,2013 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Letter
Correspondence: Dear Superintendent Creachbaum,

On behalf of The Mountaineers, thank you for the opportunity to weigh in on the development of the Olympic National Park Wilderness Stewardship Plan. Founded in 1906, The Mountaineers mission is to enrich the community by helping people explore, conserve, learn about and enjoy the lands and waters of the Pacific Northwest and beyond. We engage in the planning and management decisions that affect public lands on behalf of our 10,000 members in Washington State.

The Mountaineers has a long history of exploration, recreation and conservation on the Olympic Peninsula. The Mountaineers were among the first recreational groups to explore the interior of the Olympic Mountains, achieving several first ascents and documenting the natural splendors of the range. Inspired by the Olympic wilderness, our members worked to establish the National Monument that preceded the park's creation and were integral in opposing the highways proposed in the 1950's and 60's that would have bisected and destroyed Olympic National Park's incredible wilderness coast. We continue to support the preservation of the Park's wilderness character today.

The Olympic National Park wilderness provides year-round destinations for Mountaineers members who enjoy hiking and backpacking, mountaineering, scrambling, nature study, photography, backcountry skiing and snowshoeing. The Park's wilderness provides exceptional opportunities for challenge, self-reliance, unconfined recreation, observation of unique flora and fauna and enjoyment of natural sounds and sights.

The Mountaineers would like to see these qualities protected for future generations and appreciate the Park's leadership in drafting a long-term plan to manage the Olympic Wilderness for the decades to come. We support the concept of wilderness management zones (Wilderness Trail, Primitive Wilderness and Primeval Wilderness) as described in the 2008 General Management Plan to manage for a spectrum of visitation and facilities.

Olympic National Park offers incredible access to wilderness through popular access points such as the Hoh rainforest, Lake Ozzette, Sol Duc Hot Springs and Hurricane Ridge, to name a few. It is important that trails emanating from the Olympic's most popular attractions are managed to protect natural resources while providing quality opportunities for day and overnight use.

With non-motorized winter recreation on the rise nationally and within our own state, we feel that the Park plays a critical role in maintaining the sole access to snow play areas, snowshoeing destinations and cross-country and backcountry ski opportunities on the Olympic Peninsula. We feel that winter access to the wilderness by way of Hurricane Ridge should be made available beyond the current limited weekend schedule as resources and weather allows.

We encourage the Park to be proactive in addressing recreation-related impacts, especially in areas where there is a heavy concentration of use, and suggest a strong visitor education program which emphasizes Leave No Trace principles and practices. Where reasonable, composting or pit toilets should be provided and maintained in heavily used areas. Alternately, a blue bag system should be provided for visitors to zones where privys are not feasible or compatible with the wilderness character. The Mountaineers supports and encourages the use of bear canisters and applauds the park for providing affordable canister rentals to visitors. Where bear canisters are not required, we hope that the park will provide "minimum tools" for preventing future wildlife conflicts at popular campsites, such as poles for cables for hanging food. Meanwhile, campfires should be restricted to front-country campgrounds, where firewood can be provided and resource damage contained.

With millions of annual visitors and an incredibly rich and sensitive environment to manage, Olympic National Park should prioritize limited resources on the protection of natural resources and the maintenance of existing recreational infrastructure (trails, bridges, campgrounds, etc.) instead of prioritizing investments in the repair or replacement of historic structures in wilderness. Overall, we applaud the Park's work to steward incredible wilderness resources and we look forward to staying involved as the Wilderness Stewardship Plan develops.

Correspondence ID: 269 **Project:** 29224 **Document:** 50933
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: May,17,2013 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Park Form
Correspondence: 1. It preserves native wildlife

2. Fishing, camping

3. Shoot the mountain goats. Then the rest will be afraid of humans. Shoot some every 5 years. It will control the population. Donate the meat. Maybe open a short hunting season goats only, charge hunters a license fee.

4. The same - no guns, except no pets - allow us to keep a fish

5. Burning backcountry shelters in the 70's was dumb, if they were in good shape. Thanks for taking the dams on the Elwha. Hope it's finished soon. The park mows too much. The city waters grass too much.