




Welcome!

Thank you for coming
to discuss the
**Draft Mountain Goat
Management Plan/
Environmental
Impact Statement**

Please sign in

NEPA Process and Schedule

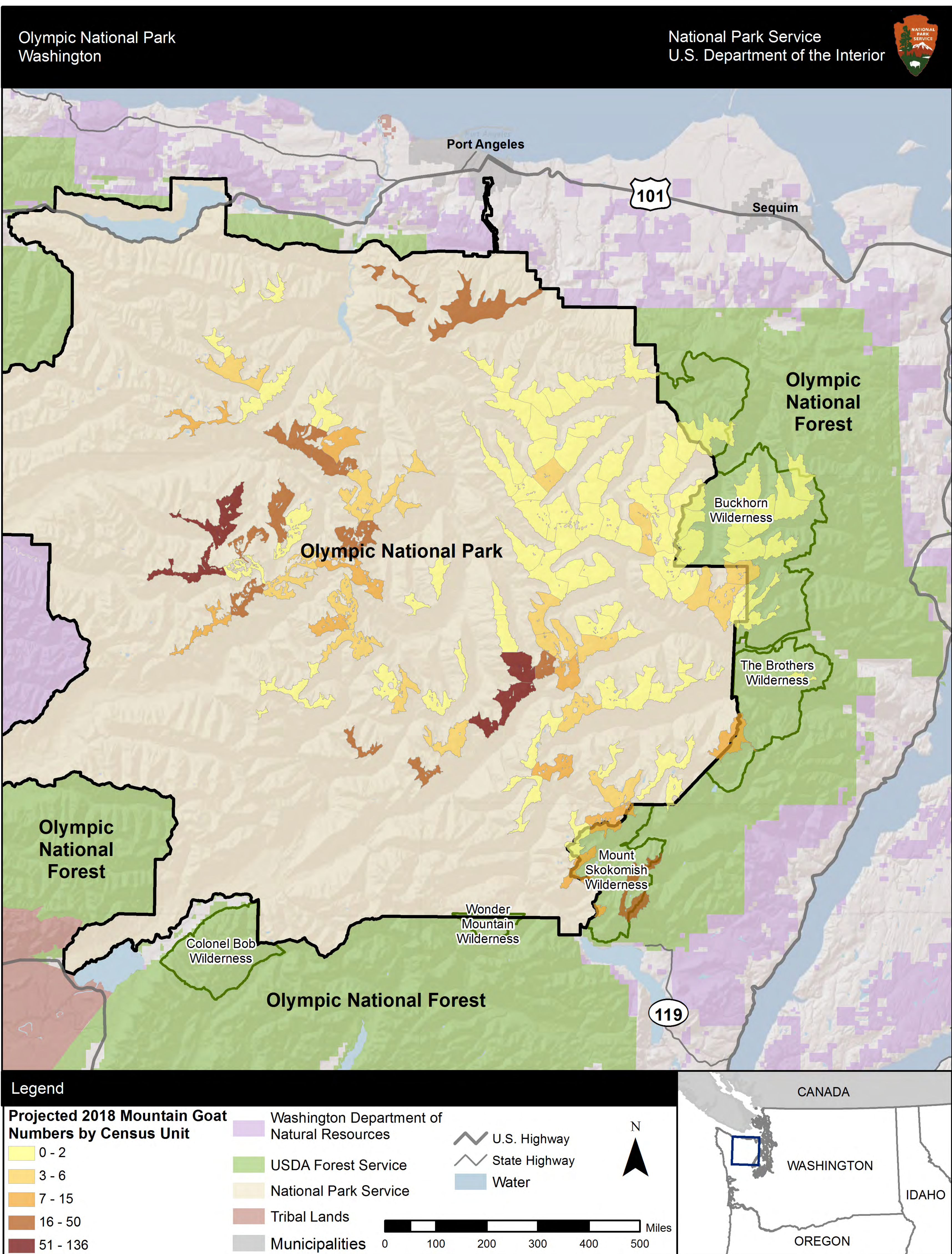
July 2017	Draft EIS Published	
August 14-17, 2017	Public Meetings	 WE ARE HERE
September 26, 2017	Public Comment Period Ends	
Fall 2017	Review of public comments	
Spring 2018	NPS Final Plan / Decision Document	
Summer 2018	Plan Implementation	





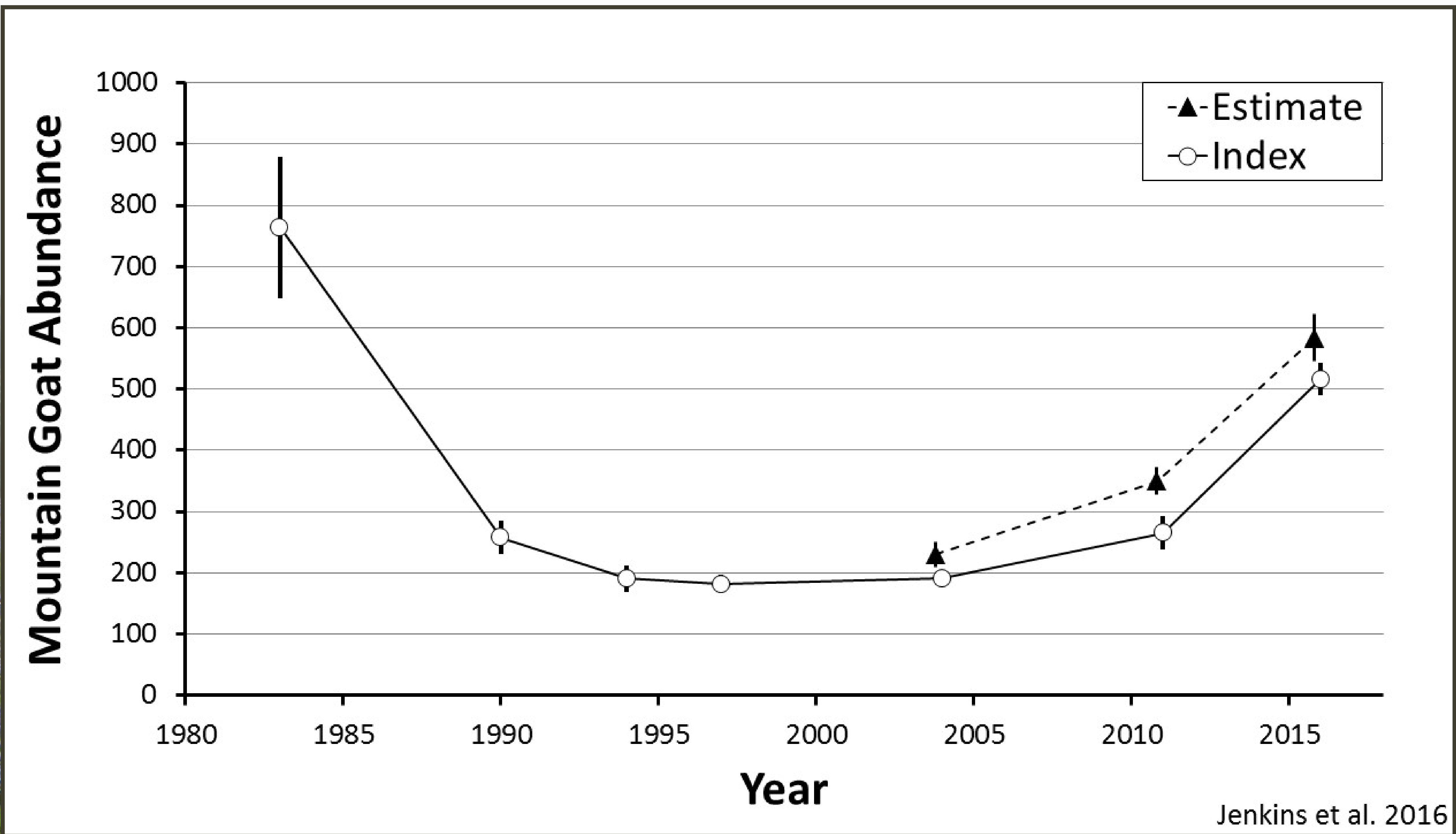
Background

- » Mountain goats are native to the State of Washington, but are not native to the Olympic Peninsula, where they are considered an exotic species.
- » Mountain goats were introduced to the Olympic Peninsula prior to the establishment of Olympic National Park.
- » Mountain goats have impacted the park’s natural resources, particularly sensitive vegetation communities.



Projected 2018 mountain goat density and land ownership on the Olympic Peninsula.

- » In addition to impacts on the park’s natural and cultural resources, an expanding mountain goat population could increase potential mountain goat-human interactions, which presents a safety hazard for park visitors and employees.
- » Olympic National Park implemented a capture and translocation operation of mountain goats in the 1980’s. Since 2004, the population has been increasing at a rate of 8% per year. In 2016, the population was estimated at 625 and it is projected to grow to 725 mountain goats by 2018.





Purpose & Need

What is the purpose of the EIS?

The purpose of taking action is to reduce or eliminate impacts to park resources from exotic mountain goats, while reducing potential public safety issues associated with the presence of mountain goats in Olympic National Park.

What is the need for the EIS?

The need to manage this exotic species stems from ecological concerns about the impacts that mountain goats have on natural resources, particularly sensitive vegetation communities, in Olympic National Park. New concerns were raised in 2010 following a visitor fatality from a mountain goat. As a result of these concerns, and because the goat population in the park and adjoining national forest are connected, an EIS is needed to address the overall management of the mountain goat population on the Olympic Peninsula.

This action would be a cooperative effort between the National Park Service, the USDA Forest Service, and the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife.

- » *NPS would be responsible for the proposed management actions on the Olympic Peninsula, with assistance from WDFW and the Olympic National Forest.*
- » *WDFW would lead any proposed translocation of mountain goats.*
- » *USDA Forest Service would facilitate the proposed translocation of mountain goats to the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie and Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forests.*



Objectives

Objectives are more specific statements of purpose describing the desired outcomes of the EIS.



1. Develop a scientifically based method for the management of exotic mountain goat populations.
2. Reduce or eliminate impacts on sensitive environments and unique natural resources from exotic mountain goats on the Olympic Peninsula.
3. Reduce or eliminate the potential for visitor safety issues associated with mountain goats.
4. Further public understanding of high-elevation ecosystems of the Olympic Mountains.
5. Protect the International Biosphere Reserve and World Heritage Site designations of Olympic National Park.
6. Protect the wilderness character of designated wilderness in the park and Olympic National Forest.
7. Work cooperatively with co-managers of mountain goats or habitats in Washington State, including WDFW, USDA Forest Service, and tribes.
8. Support the wildlife management objectives of the WDFW, USDA Forest Service, and tribes.
9. Provide opportunities to reestablish or augment sustainable native mountain goat populations in suitable mountain goat habitat on USDA Forest Service lands in the North Cascades national forests.



Alternatives

The EIS analyzes impacts that could result from a continuation of current mountain goat management (the no-action alternative), and potential impacts that could result from three action alternatives.

Alternative A - No Action

Continuation of current mountain goat management per the park’s *2011 Mountain Goat Action Plan*, which focuses on managing individual mountain goats in visitor use areas. Management methods include visitor education, focused patrols, and hazing, temporary closures, or lethal removal of conditioned or aggressive goats.

Alternative B - Capture and Translocation

Mountain goats would be captured on the Olympic Peninsula, then transferred to WDFW and translocated to areas where they are native in the North Cascades national forests.

Alternative C - Lethal Removal

Mountain goats would be lethally removed from the Olympic Peninsula using shotguns and rifles, via helicopter- and ground-based methods.

Alternative D - Capture and Translocation and Lethal Removal

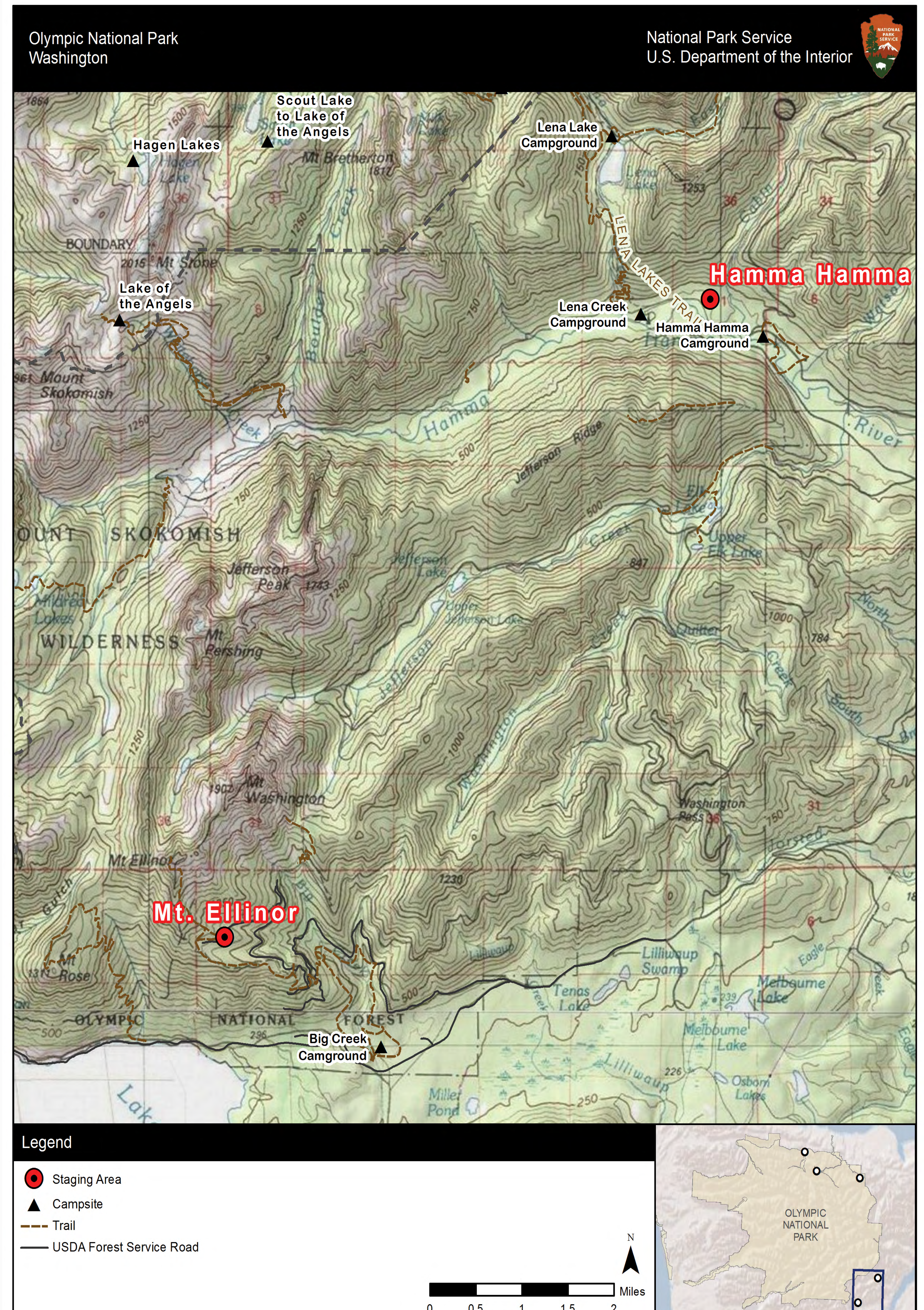
Mountain goats would be captured and translocated, similar to alternative B, followed by lethal removal of additional mountain goats, similar to Alternative C. Alternative D is the NPS preferred alternative.

	Alternative A: No Action	Alternative B: Capture and Translocation	Alternative C: Lethal Removal	Alternative D: Capture and Translocation and Lethal Removal
Number of Mountain Goats Removed	None, unless under current management options.	Approximately 50% of the population.	Approximately 90% of the population.	Approximately 50% of the population would be captured and translocated. 40% of the population would be lethally removed.
Duration	Current management would continue indefinitely.	3 to 5 years. Most mountain goats captured and translocated during years 1 and 2.	3 to 5 years, with most lethal removal of mountain goats in years 1 to 3.	3 to 5 years, with most activity in years 1 to 4. Capture and translocation used during initial years, followed by a switch to lethal removal sometime during years 2 to 4.



Actions on the Olympic Peninsula

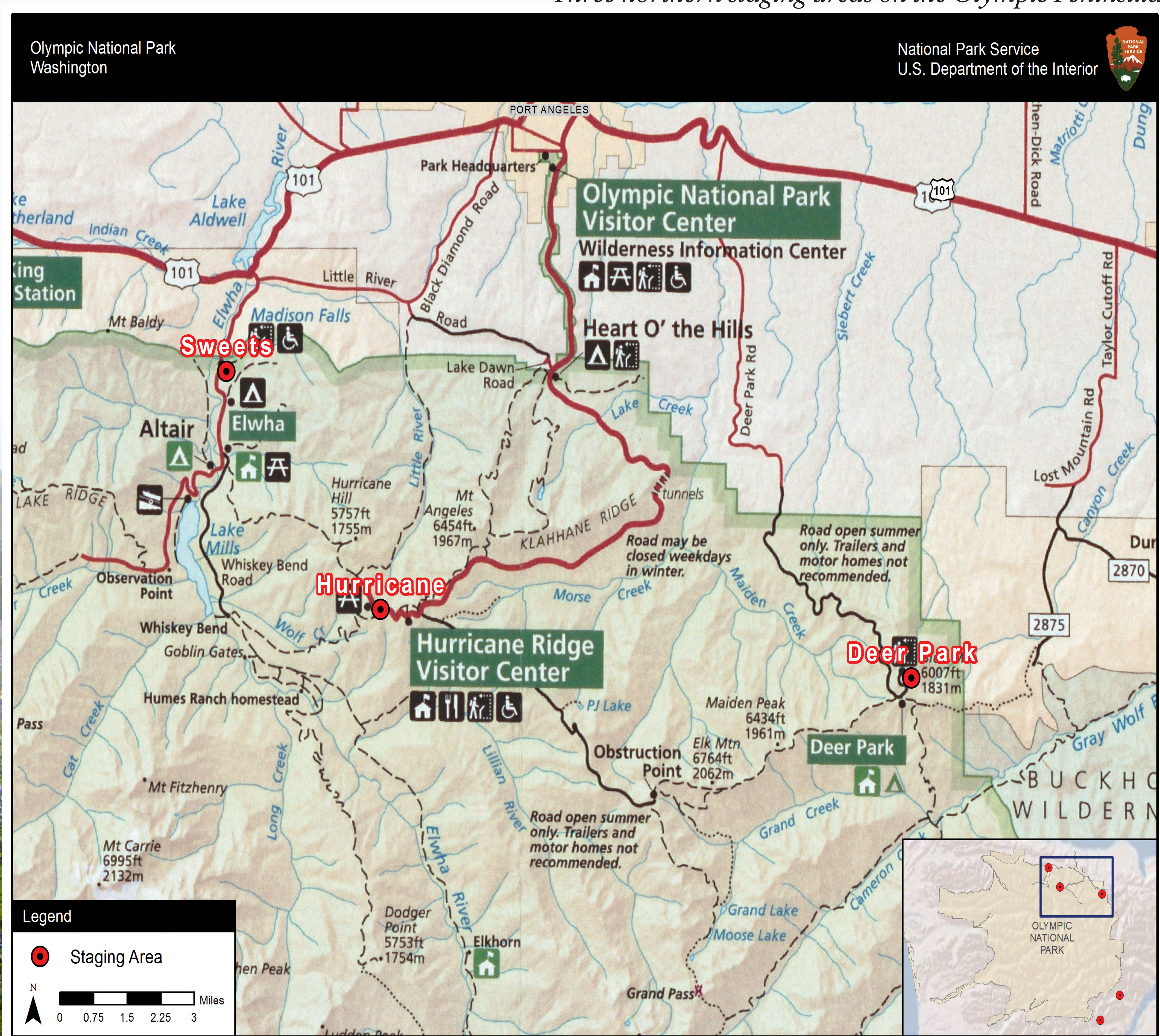
- » Under all three action alternatives, **5 staging areas** are proposed for helicopter mobilization on the Olympic Peninsula:
- Sweets Field (by the Madison Falls Trailhead),
 - Deer Park (by the Ranger Station),
 - Hurricane Hill Trailhead,
 - Hamma Hamma (gravel pit), and
 - Mt. Ellinor Trailhead.



Two southern staging areas on the Olympic Peninsula.

- » Only one of the northern staging areas and one of the southern staging areas would be used during a single operation.
- » To minimize impacts, helicopters would take the most direct route between staging areas and areas where mountain goats are captured (alternative B or D) or lethally removed (alternative C).
- » Mountain goats would be captured with air and ground-based methods, using tranquilizing darts, net guns, drop nets, or clover traps.

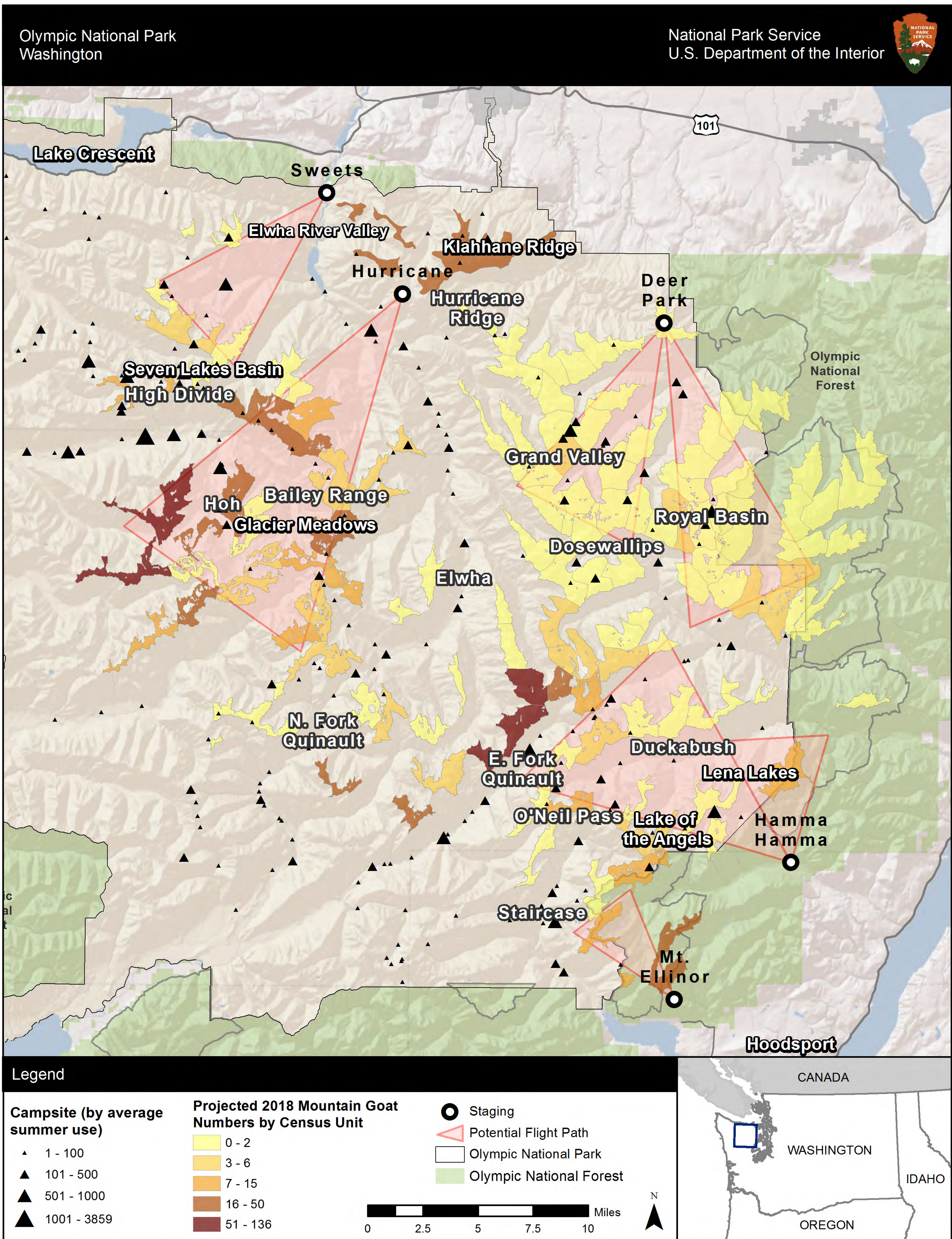
Three northern staging areas on the Olympic Peninsula.





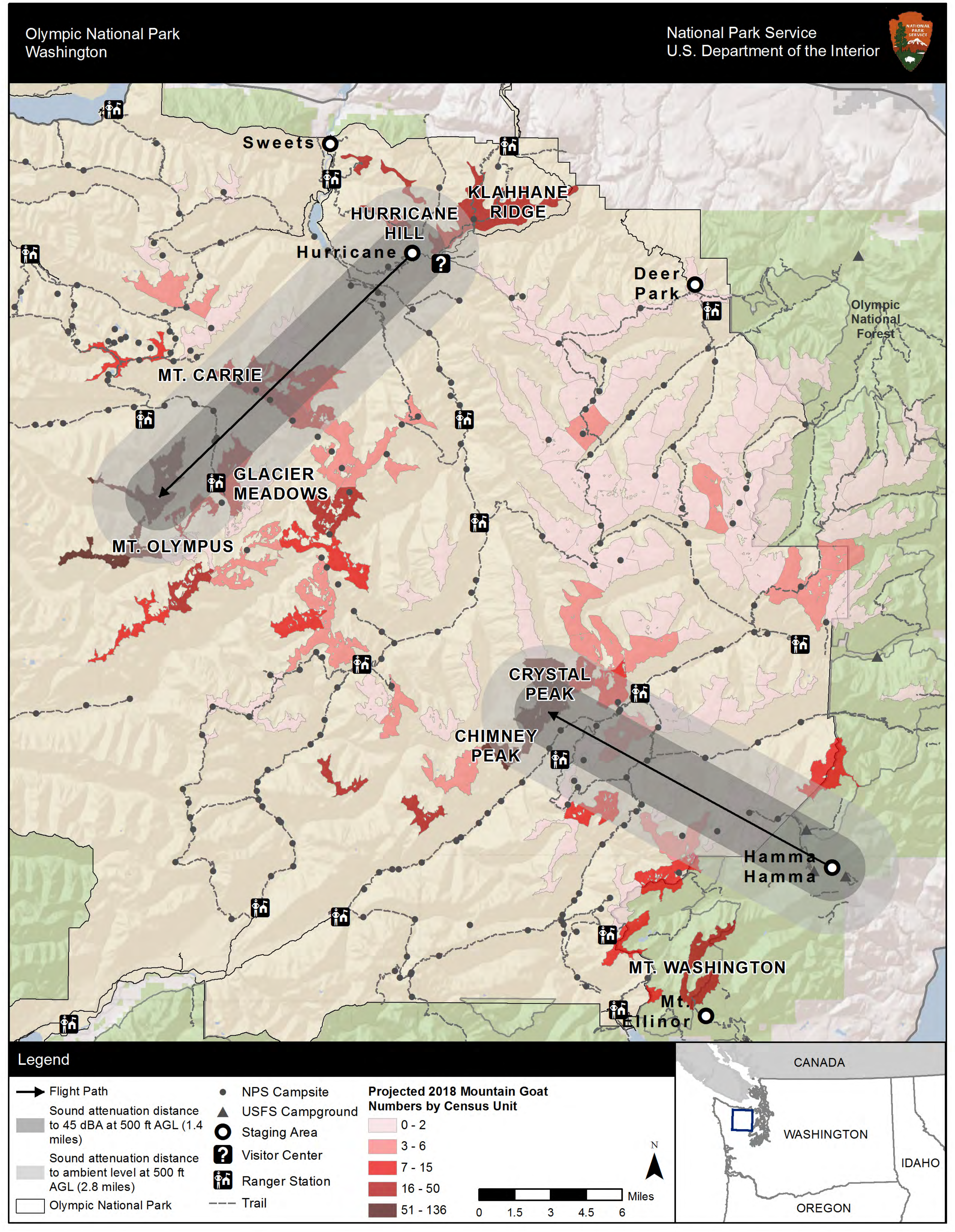
Actions on the Olympic Peninsula

- » All aerial operations would be limited to two 2-week management periods per year: one in mid- to late July, and the second in late August to mid-September.
- » Captured mountain goats would be subdued, placed in a sling, and transported to a staging area by helicopter, where they would be safely prepared for translocation by WDFW.



Representative helicopter flight cones.

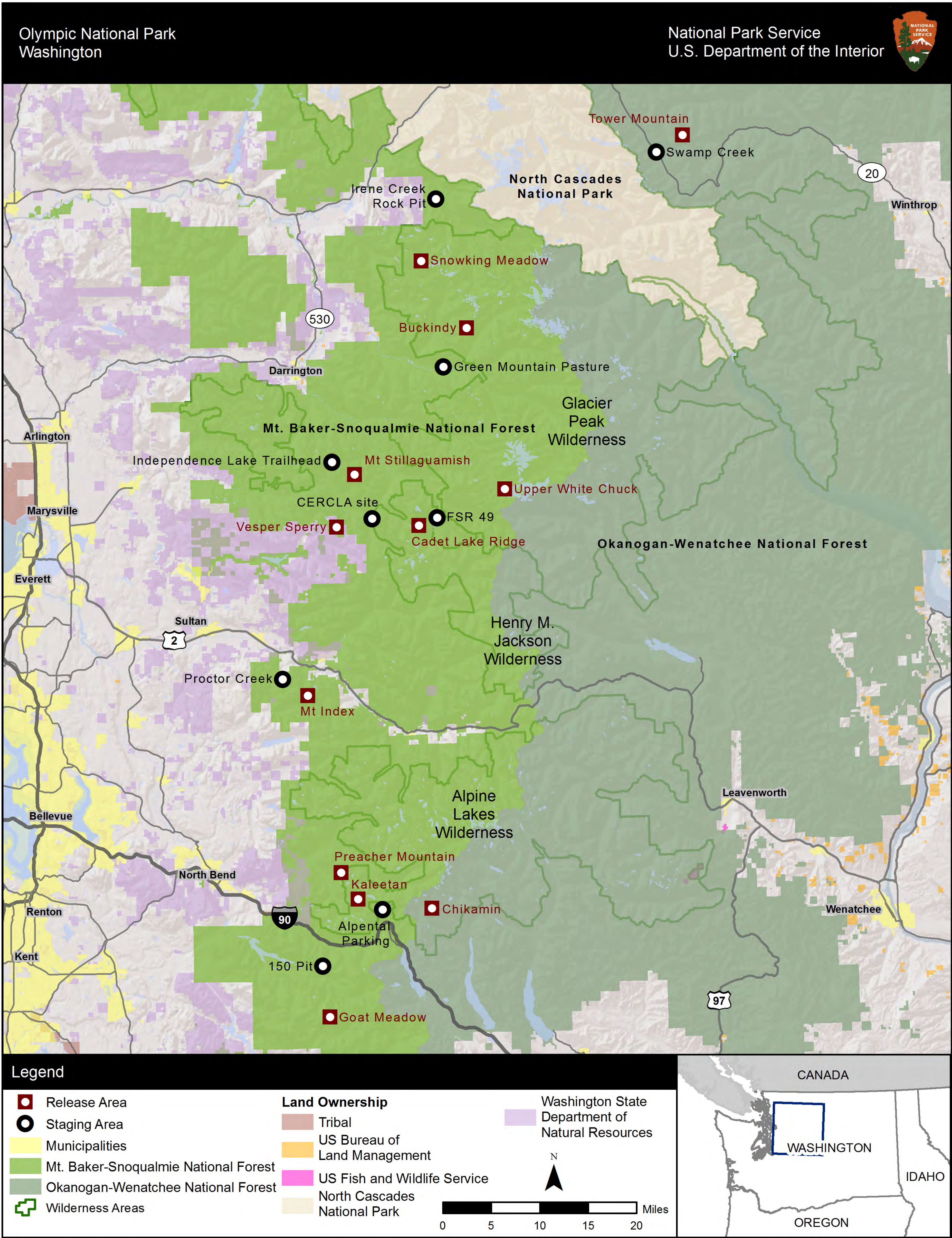
Representative helicopter flight paths and associated sound attenuation.





Actions in the North Cascades

- » Under alternatives B and D, mountain goats would be translocated by WDFW in refrigerated trucks to staging areas in the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie and Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forests (the North Cascades national forests).
- » Nine staging areas are proposed in the North Cascades national forests for receiving captured mountain goats and preparing them for transport by helicopter to release sites.
- » Mountain goats would be transported in crates, kept overnight at the staging areas, and airlifted by helicopter the following morning to release sites.
- » Approximately 6 to 12 mountain goats would be released together at a time (nannies first), allowing subsequent animals to see and smell previously released animals.
- » All operations would be limited to two 2-week management periods per year: one in mid- to late July, and the second in late August to mid-September.



Staging areas and release sites in the North Cascades national forests.

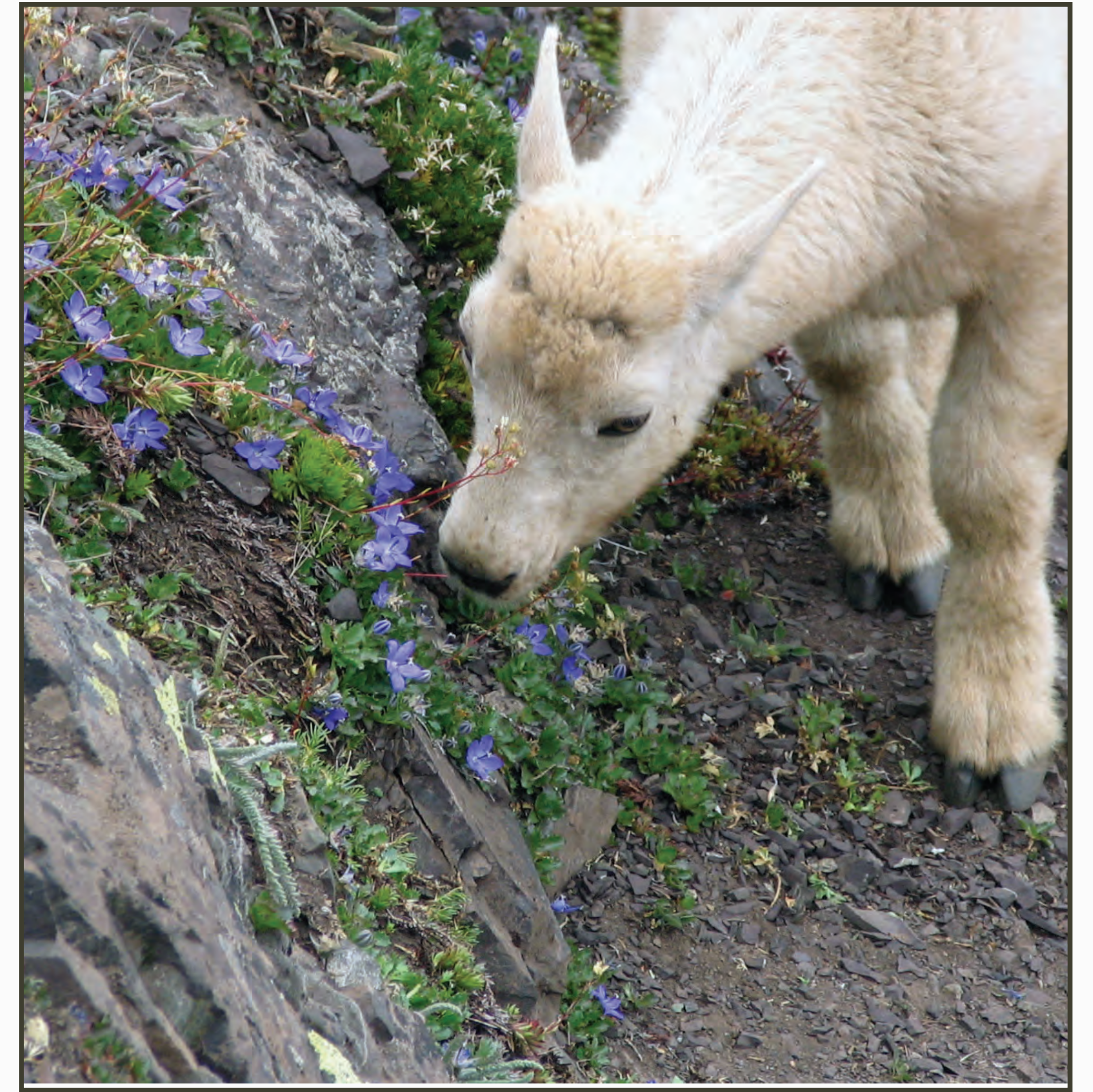




Issues Analyzed

Mountain goats on the Olympic Peninsula negatively affect the visitor experience by influencing visitor use and threatening human safety.

Mountain goats cause soil disturbance and erosion, and alter subalpine and alpine plant community composition by wallowing, trailing, and trampling.



Exotic mountain goats in the Olympic Mountains negatively impact the character of designated wilderness areas on the Olympic Peninsula.

The natural soundscape in the Olympic Mountains is a special resource and is one of the best examples found anywhere in the national park system.

Mountain goat wallowing behavior has the potential to degrade or destroy archaeological resources in the park and Olympic National Forest.



Mountain goat translocation to the North Cascades national forests would further mountain goat conservation efforts in Washington by improving genetic diversity and enhancing demographic vigor of depleted populations.





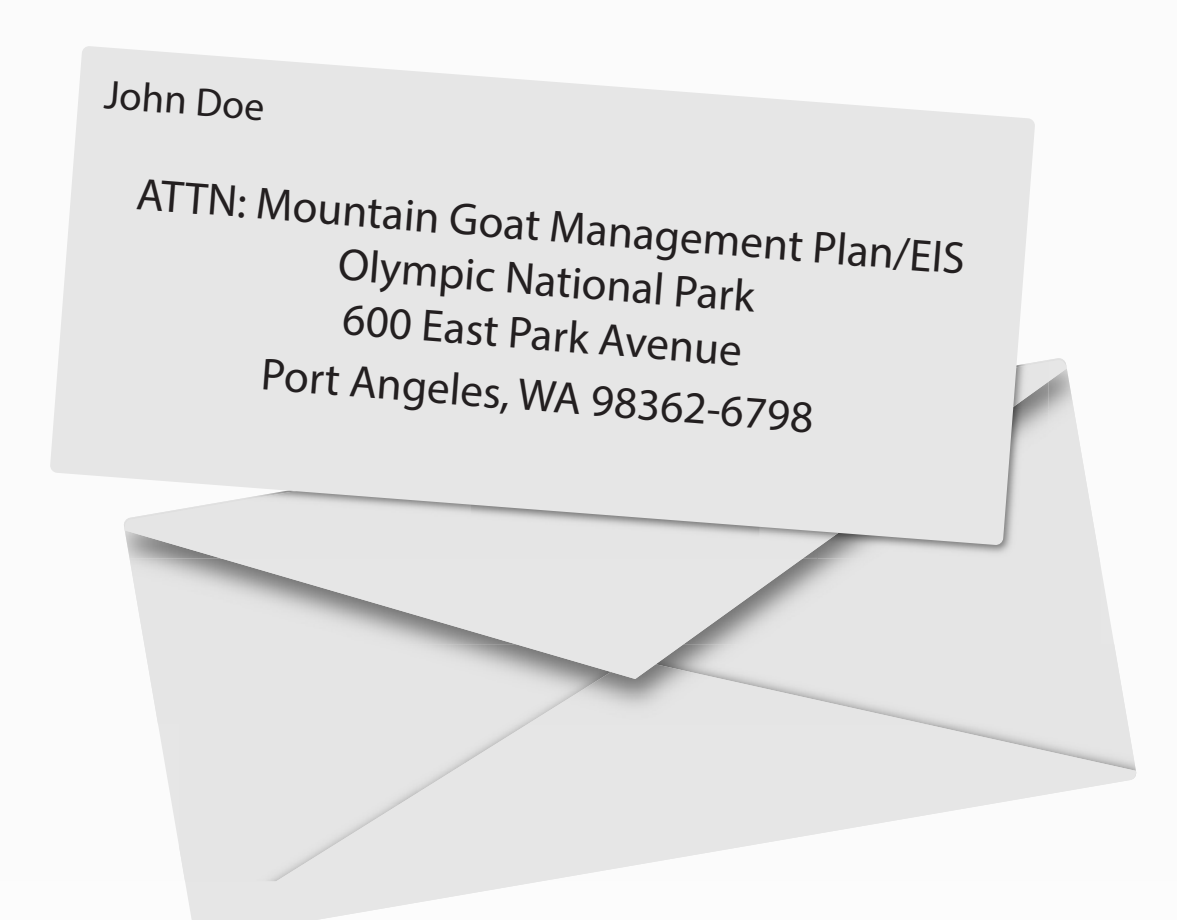
How to Comment

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) regulations require federal agencies to involve the public when making decisions with the potential for significant environmental impacts. Your comments will assist the NPS in revising and finalizing this EIS.

- 1 Submit comments electronically at:
<http://parkplanning.nps.gov/olyngoat>



- 2 Mail or hand deliver comments to:
ATTN: Mountain Goat Management Plan/EIS
Olympic National Park
600 East Park Avenue
Port Angeles, WA 98362-6798



- 3 Submit written comments in person at this meeting on the comment forms provided.



All comments must be submitted by **September 26, 2017.**

Response to Comments

We will review every comment submitted and prepare responses to **substantive comments**. Some responses may be reflected as edits to the text of the final EIS if needed to clarify existing information or add new information. The final EIS will contain summaries of the substantive comments and responses to those comments in an appendix.

Substantive comments are defined as those that do one or more of the following:

- » Question, with reasonable basis, the **accuracy** of information in the draft EIS;
- » Question, with reasonable basis, the **adequacy** of the analysis;
- » **Present reasonable alternatives** other than those presented in the draft EIS; or
- » **Cause changes or revisions** to the management actions proposed in the alternatives.