

# Guide to Commenting

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior



Olympic National Park

Each person has an important perspective on the management of Olympic National Park and can make a unique contribution that will help the National Park Service produce better planning documents. The type of comment that is most useful in evaluating a plan or project depends on how far along the agency is in the planning process. The park's project team solicits comments during what is referred to as scoping, as well as upon release of an environmental assessment or impact statement. The public is also encouraged to send in general comments for consideration by park staff at any time.

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## Scoping Comments

The primary goal of scoping for a project is to determine the range of issues and alternatives to be addressed. At the time of scoping, the park generally provides a description of the project proposal, including a statement of the purpose of and need for the project and a list of project goals. The public is asked to submit comments, concerns, and suggestions related to these goals.

The most useful types of scoping comments consider the following:

- Alternative approaches and ideas for accomplishing the project goals
  - Potential environmental and socioeconomic issues that need to be considered
  - Other projects in the area that might affect or be affected by the proposal
  - Information that needs to be considered (such as related research) and why
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## Comments on Environmental Assessments/Impact Statements

Ideally, comments on an environmental assessment or environmental impact statement assess the adequacy of the document in disclosing and evaluating a project's effect on the environment. Comments are most useful if they are as specific as possible and do the following:

- Discuss a particular plan element or alternative
  - Identify incomplete or incorrect information
  - Offer reasons why a particular alternative or plan element would or would not work
  - Offer a reasonable, new plan element or completely new alternative that could accomplish the stated goals
  - Point out discrepancies between legal mandates and proposals
  - Highlight deficiencies in the analysis of environmental consequences
  - Provide information on how you use the park and how particular proposals in the planning document would affect that use
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## General Comments

Even outside of a formal planning effort, park staff would like to hear your thoughts and ideas relating to planning and management issues at Olympic National Park. All comments received will be read and directed to the appropriate

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## How to Stay Involved

- Visit the park's website regularly
- Submit comments on the NPS Planning, Environment, and Public Comment website  
<http://parkplanning.nps.gov/olymwild>
- Get on the parks' mailing list by writing: Superintendent, Project Mailing List, Olympic National Park, 600 E. Park Avenue, Port Angeles, WA 98362

# Guide to Using PEPC

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## What is PEPC?

The Planning, Environment, and Public Comment (PEPC) system is a web-based system that is used by the National Park Service (NPS) nationwide to allow people to gain access to current plans and related documents that are available for review and/or open for comment. The public can also access schedules for particular projects as well as information about public meetings.

The PEPC system is used by Olympic National Park to provide information to the public on park plans, projects, and proposals. It is the primary vehicle to submit and review comments; however, the parks will continue to accept comments from the public as it always by mail and e-mail.

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## How do people access PEPC and what will they see?

Anyone with an internet connection can access the site to find out what projects are available for public review and to submit comments. The website for the Olympic National Park project is <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/olymwild> where you will find a listing of the projects that are either proposed or that have been approved within the park.

From the main PEPC navigational menu, you will find the following:

**Home:** Provides access to all projects and parks.

**Parks:** Find projects by park.

**Plans/Documents:** Select listed plans/documents on this page to get more information. To limit the list to only those that are currently available for public comment, select “Only Plans/Documents Open for Public Comment.” To further narrow the list, select a project type, park, or state. After making your selection, click “Show Plans/Documents.”

**Policy:** Provides information on policies and reference materials related to the NPS.

**Links:** Provides links to additional information about NPS planning and environmental policies.

**Search:** Search publicly available plans and environmental documents for the entire NPS.

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## How do people submit comments?

To submit comments through PEPC, go through the following steps:

- Click on the name of the particular project or plan that you are interested in
- Click on “Documents and Links”
- At this point, you will find general information about the plan or project
- To comment, click on “Comment on Document” in the far left column or top right

Each person has an important perspective on the management of Olympic National Park and can make a unique contribution to the planning process that will help the NPS produce better planning documents. The PEPC system is a web-based tool for informing the public about projects and plans that are being considered or developed.

If you wish to be included on the park’s mailing list for projects or park planning, please submit your name and email/ mailing address to Superintendent, Project Mailing List, Olympic National Park, 600 E. Park Avenue, Port Angeles, WA 98362.

Thank you for your interest in Olympic National Park.