

PEPC 191168

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To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in regards to the Olympic National Park General Management Plan in Washington State. I strongly disagree with options B, C, and D. I feel that Plan A—the no action alternative is the best choice. Plan A would keep the management plan as is, which I feel best suites all of the people who utilize Lake Ozette.

The lake is big enough for all to enjoy. Keeping the current plan allows everyone the space to do so. For those who want a quiet, secluded camping experience there are various locations dotted around the lake, many accessible only by boat. Swan Bay and Rainer Landing both provide a place to launch a boat, a place to camp and picnic.

My family was some of the first settlers in the Hoko area. They've been in the area since the 1800's. Lake Ozette is my favorite place in the world. The thought of my children, grandchildren, etc. not being able to camp, boat, swim and enjoy the lake like I did, absolutely breaks my heart.

I grew up hearing stories from my Grand-mums about the "good ole days" on the Hoko/Ozette. I read their diaries, which captivated me with tales of treks through the forest, carrying in all their supplies and the hope of someday there being a road to the lake. Every single thing from food, building supplies to clothes had to be brought in. These people were really starting from scratch! These homesteaders built their own homes, planted their own gardens and lived off the land.

An excerpt from my great, great, Grandfathers diary tells about their first livestock they brought in. In late June, 1891, my Grandfather, Ole decided he'd had enough of the "tin cow." Ole and three others hiked to La Push and purchased six cattle. They didn't get all the cows home until fall! That expedition would make for a tasty glass of milk after what they went through to get it. I have such an appreciation for my ancestors.

I am also concerned with how a change in the management plan would affect social aspects in the community of Clallam Bay. There are not a lot of activities for kids to participate in. During the school year they are busy with academics, sports and other extra-curricular activities. In the summer Lake Ozette is a popular spot, Swan Bay in particular. A lot of people enjoy camping, boating and fishing. Many of the kids spend their time wakeboarding, water-skiing and inner-tubing. Not only are these activities fun but they provide good exercise as well. I worry that if Lake Ozette is not an option that kids may turn to other alternatives for entertainment such as drugs and alcohol. It's important for kids and adults to have access to positive, fun activities to occupy their time and Lake Ozette is one of those leisurely activities for all to enjoy.

Another issue that I would like to address is that of the Norwegian Memorial and the trail to it. I realize the trail is in desperate need of repair and has not been maintained for some time. To lose this historical landmark would be a tragedy. How many of us today sailed in on a ship to a foreign land to start a new life from scratch? How many of us know someone who has braved the high seas and died tragically in a shipwreck? Those people who died on that ship on January 2nd, 1903 deserve to have a memorial that is maintained: a memorial that honors their bravery. I would like to take part in the preservation of the trail and of the memorial. Lets get a grant and get some volunteers together and repair what needs to be repaired. It would be an honor to take part in rebuilding such a historical site.

If the park expands its boundaries many families-including my own, will loose their homes and land. I'm reminded of one of the old-timers that resides there-Amil Person. Since I was a little girl Amil has been a permanent fixture in the Hoko scenery. He has a farm there and has been there for years. The land his farm is on used to be part of my family homestead in the 1890's. Amil and Evelyn are the sweetest couple you'll ever meet. Now if the park gets approval to expand the boundaries they will have to head to Amil and Evelyn's farm and tell them "sorry-this is the parks land now. Looks like we are going to buy your land for next to nothing and you'll have to move." How will you be able to sleep at night knowing you've done this to someone? That's what I'd like to know.

I came across an excerpt in my Great Great Grandfather's dairy that really struck a chord in me:

The national government did us a grave  
injustice when they put us in forest  
reserve after we had spent much  
money and countless hard labor here.  
The county government did us an  
even greater injustice by not building  
a road until most of the first  
settlers were dead or moved away

It's quite interesting that this battle over the land in the Hoko/Ozette area is still rearing its ugly head. To this day we are still fighting for our land that we call home.

Last night I sat down to write this letter, with pen, paper and the inch-thick park statement I began to write the rough draft. The severity of it all hit me like a ton of bricks and I began to cry. Lake Ozette is my home. It's where my roots are. It is the most beautiful, amazing place in the world. A great disservice will be done to the public if options B, C or D are implemented. As a very concerned citizen I mail this letter.

Sincerely,

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area.