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Public Comment Regarding GMP/EIS  
of Olympic National Park

To Whom It May Concern:

I have been thinking about this plan in the past months and have browsed the Draft GMP/EIS. I declined to go to any of the meetings. Some did go and found that there would be no comments allowed at the meetings, so that seemed unproductive use of my time. Another person attended one and found she was the only citizen in a room full of uniforms. I'm really glad I missed that one. I'm disappointed that I didn't go to one of the ones in Port Angeles, because I found out later that Jeff Jeffarian attended that one and I really wanted to meet him.

My entire family worked for the NPS at ONP at one time or another. I remember when the decision was made to arm rangers, which was a huge change from resource protection and oversight of interpretation activities to busting bad guys. Most of us "old school" were not wildly excited by that change, and it was probably inevitable, since criminal elements did creep in, which created a potentially dangerous situation for innocent visitors in campgrounds and the backcountry.

I am a descendent of a pioneer family at Lake Ozette – Alfred and Johanna Nylund. I have much agreement with Jim Palmquist, a descendent of August and Annie Palmquist, who were good friends with our family through the years, about the Park's activities over time, which is the most interesting view of all. My grandparents left Lake Ozette because of the no road and the increasing pressure from the Park's creation. My brother relates that the Park caused Ahlstrom to leave his prairie when he was old to live out the end of his days in the Port Angeles nursing home on the Mt. Angeles Road. I have many fond memories of Ahlstrom, from my childhood, and I remember sitting in his lap at about 3-4 years old at that nursing home, although I needed my older brother to explain to me who he was, since I was unable to connect Ahlstrom at the nursing home with the Ahlstrom I knew at his prairie home. I mourned the loss of the last Indian A-frame at Cape Alava. I have happy memories of our trips to those beaches and staying in that shelter. The "Lake" as we have always referred to it, is my psychological home. I occasionally have those Jungian dreams of our entire family hiking along the beaches and hiking through Ahlstrom's Prairie. The smell of the sweet gale around the "Lake" evokes many many childhood memories, as well.

I am in favor of keeping the prairies clear. As far as I know, burning of the prairies had been done for years. As kids, we were told that the Indians did that first. I strongly

disagree with Tim McNulty in this matter. The historical significance of these settlers cannot be denied. There are many places in the park that may be kept in an entirely natural condition to climax and burn from lightning, however nature decides. Let this be a place where the pioneer grit and determination and the friendly trading with the neighboring Indian Tribe, the Ozettes and the Makahs can be remembered. Interesting to me that the Park is in favor of keeping the prairies open at Roose's and Ahlstrom's. I support that.

For the most part, I am the most in favor of Plan A for the GMP for the next 25-50 years. I also agree that much of the Park has become a "windshield" experience. I don't know if I agree that that is what kept the parks alive with funding I probably don't know enough to be able to reasonably or logically have an opinion about that. I hate the toll booths and the reservation system. Until last year I had never returned to the Ozette beaches, because of it. I think the Parks may need a kind of reservation system to keep visitation to a non-confrontational level, lest they be "loved to death." However, I also think they should be free, as I believe was the original plan we were sold on at their creation. I do know, when we were kids and our family was very poor, we no doubt at one time or another hiked every trail, except the year-round glacier covered ones. Wonderful experiences for children. I'm glad I got it. I do not know how accessible the Park seems to poor people in the present time. One of the good things when I was a child, was that we could just decide when a hike worked for our family and go. Those days are gone.

I have mixed feelings about the shelters. I haven't had a lot of time to research those current issues. I'm leaning toward thinking that the Park should recreate and maintain specific shelters, as they were in the old days. CCC comes to mind. CCC was once a great experience for unemployed young men to be proud of their whole lives. Maybe that's not possible. People (that is hiker/visitors) do not seem to be as respectful, as they once were, to the resources of the Park. I do know that in the heavy rains, real shelter and the opportunity to build a fire can be a lifesaver. My husband and I went on a trip like that, around the Skyline trail and out the Quinault. It rained hard nearly every day and we were soaked and cold, because our tent leaked for some reason. Every single shelter on the return from Mt. Seattle and out the Quinault was full of Boy Scouts. We ended up hiking 35 miles out in one day. My husband walked the last mile in the dark to find the truck and a good flashlight, came back and found me so we could head home in the relative comfort of a dry and heated vehicle. The next three days we spent in bed with a down quilt, recovering from exhaustion and wet sox blisters.

I have mixed feelings about concessions, being aware of what that is like in Mt. McKinley and Yellowstone. Sometimes I think the big concessioner's should be paying a lot more rent than they currently do, for their privileged niche in the Parks.

I have the strongest feelings about the GMP at Ozette. I want it to remain open to the people who live there. I think they should be allowed to live there and their heirs. I wish I was one of them. Your Plan A is the only plan that accommodates real people living at Lake Ozette that I can see.

I don't want to see Kalaoch campground moved inland away from the beach. It's there. Leave it there. When the climate change or the tsunami comes, then it may have to be moved. Wait until that happens.

There is a tsunami watch zone at Mora campground that indicates that a tsunami would go so far as James Pond. I'm no tsunami expert, however, I have a hard time believing that a tsunami, such as the ones they have had recently in Indonesia, would only go 3 miles inland and then stop. I wonder what's to stop a tsunami from going much further up the river basin in the relatively flat mouth delta.

Please let us try to appreciate and love the Park as our friend and partner in protecting the vast resources of our nation's parks. "If you have come to help me, you are wasting your time. But if you have come because your liberation is bound up with mine, then let us struggle together." Lila Watson, Aboriginal Activist.

I will continue to ponder your tome GMP/EIS in the future. Today I must get my comments to you, or apparently I will have no opportunity to protest in the future.

Sincerely,

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature of the letter.

Forks, WA 98331