



PEPC 191202  
**BUCKHORN RANGE CHAPTER**  
**BACKCOUNTRY HORSEMEN OF WASHINGTON**  
P.O. Box 845, Chimacum, WA 98325

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**DSC-P**

Cliff Hawkes  
Olympic National Park - GMP  
National Park Service  
Denver Service Center - Planning  
P.O. Box 25287  
Denver, CO 80225

September 17, 2006

RE: General Management Plan - Ability to Adjust Trail Zone Boundaries

When considering the designation of trail zones, it is important that some flexibility exists to adjust zone boundaries due to the need to relocate existing trail locations. It is our experience that natural events, such as those that result from the impacts of snow and water (mud slides, river course changes, erosion), earthquakes, rock fall, and other changes, can cause impacts on existing trails that are prohibitive to repair without relocating trail routes to different more stable areas. There are also failures of man made structures (bridges, puncheons, etc) where the cost effective alternative is to relocate a trail to an area which does not require structures.

The General Management Plan needs to provide for flexibility whereas trail zones can be adjusted or moved through a process which maintains existing uses without a net increase in detrimental environmental impacts.

Additionally, there will occur impacts to trails which may make stock use impassable until repairs can be completed. With funding shortages, the timeframe for repairs may be measured in years rather than in months. The ONP should refrain from changing trail classifications as a way of permanently closing trails to stock in order to reduce trail and trail infrastructure requirements to a lesser and more financially maintainable level. Obstacles and hazards may close a trail to stock - but only until such time that the obstacles can be removed, the hazards can be addressed, and the trail can be restored.

Sincerely,

JEFF CHAPMAN  
Jeff Chapman,  
Director, Buckhorn Range Chapter BCHW