



PORT GAMBLE S'KLALLAM TRIBE
31912 Little Boston Road NE • Kingston, WA 98346

PEPC 191102

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September 18, 2006

Olympic National Park General Management Plan
National Park Service
Denver Service Center,
PO Box 25287
Denver, CO 80225

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Olympic National Park Draft General Management Plan / Environmental Impact Statement. The Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe maintains a special interest in the Olympic National Park as it makes up most of the western extent of the tribe's Usual and Accustomed areas. The park is generally treated by the tribe as a fish and wildlife sanctuary that provides critical habitat for many of the species of fish and game that our tribal members depend on as a significant element of their livelihood.

To begin with, The Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe shares the concerns outlined by Quileute Natural Resources Director, Mel Moon Jr. in his letter dated August 30, 2006 and addressed to Olympic National Park General Management Plan, National Park Service, Denver Service Center, PO Box 25287, Denver, CO 80225.

Furthermore, I have noted two elements that I felt were missing from the Draft General Management Plan / Environmental Impact Statement. They are as follows:

1. Any Olympic National Park Management Plan that is adopted by the National Park Service should include a plan for identifying and addressing the impacts of climate change, with particular attention given to species inhabiting areas on the edge of their temporal range. It will be important for the park management to understand the additional stresses that such species will face while they are making decisions on the location and kind of public access the park should provide.

In areas where stressed species exist, such as alpine plant communities, increased effort should be placed on educating the park goers about the potentially devastating impacts unsanctioned activities may have on those species.

2. The Olympic National Park Management has a responsibility to understand and avoid significant environmental impacts associated with maintenance and construction of roads leading to and within park boundaries.

This is of particular concern to our tribe with regard to the Dosewallips River Road washout which occurs outside of park boundaries, but is directly associated with the park

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because the road provided primary access to the park's east side. Currently the Forest Service is identifying plans to reopen the road. All of the current options for reopening the road will have significant negative impacts on fish and or wildlife habitat. It is our belief that the park should engage the National Forest Service in identifying alternatives to reopening the road. For example there may be an opportunity for the National Forest Service to provide parking on the downriver side of the washout and for the National Park Service to maintain a transit / bus (flown in) on the upriver side which could be used to ferry park goers to some of the park attractions to which current access has been reduced.

An alternative to reopening the road, such as a flown in bus, would allow the river to continue to eat away at the feeder bluff located at the washout. That particular bluff is of significant importance to the Dosewallips River system because it is a plentiful source of gravel for the river that is otherwise largely void of such sources. (gravel provides critical habitat to salmonids species). Further if the washout is allowed to continue it will likely provide large woody debris to the Dosewallips River system further enhancing the quality of the river's habitat for fishes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'H. Daubenberger', written over a light background.

Hans Daubenberger
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