

PEPC 191221

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DSC-P

Dear National Park Service,
I understand that the General Management Plan for the Olympic National Park is being revised and that the public has until 9/30/06 to comment.

One of the main reasons I moved to Washington state in 1971 was because of Olympic National Park. I love the park and spend part of every month backpacking and hiking there. This park is one of the only places I have been able to see significant numbers of large mammals such as black bear & elk. Therefore, I believe preserving and restoring wildlife habitat should be the number one goal.

I was shocked to realize that there is only a very narrow band of park land on the Pacific coast. I am pleased that the ONP established intertidal reserves on the Olympic Coast and is recommending a wilderness study of Ozette Lake. I would like to see expanded park boundaries in five areas (Ozette Lake, Lake Crescent, and Hoh, Queets and Quinault watersheds) to protect habitats for salmon and wildlife as proposed in alternative B.


Having witnessed salmon returning to spawn in the rivers of the Olympic Peninsula, I would also like to see all 13 eligible rivers in the ONP be designated as federal Wild and Scenic rivers.

When I hike the Gray Wolf River, I dream of restoring the original native species like the wolf and fisher. Therefore, I recommend that this be undertaken as a goal of the ONP.

When I hike the Spruce Railroad trail along Lake Crescent, I recall that developed areas be kept at their current size as described in alternative A. New recreational developments are best located outside the national park.

Finally, I would like to request that all decisions relating to wilderness wait until a comprehensive wilderness management plan is completed and available for more input from the public.

Thank you for considering my comments as you develop the General Management Plan for our beloved Olympic National Park.


Port Townsend, WA 98368

9/22/06