

PEPC 191195

September 28, 2006

Olympic National Park General Management Plan
National Park Service
Denver Service Center
P.O. Box 25287
Denver, Colorado 80225

RECEIVED

OCT - 2 2006

DSC-P

Re: Mora and Rialto Beach

Dear Planners:

I write in support of Options C or D with respect to Mora Campground and Rialto Beach. I have loved and visited these park facilities for nearly 30 years.

Mora Campground: This campground is a jewel. The peace and beauty of this second growth forest campground draws me into its heart. I have camped there in all seasons of the year. I advocate maintaining and/or upgrading it and keeping it open year-round.

Rialto Beach: This beach is special to many who live in Clallam County, where the majority of ONP is situated. I have visited a number of beaches - Kalaloch, Second Beach, the Norwegian Memorial, and I have hiked from Third Beach to Tokeak Point. In my estimation Rialto is unique - both physically and spiritually. It is also a highly accessible beach for persons with limited mobility. I advocate maintaining vehicle access to the beach if at all possible. I am concerned about potential discrepancies in language in the Draft Management Plan concerning a catastrophic event taking out the road to the beach. Let us be very clear that after such an event the road would be rebuilt unless engineers determine that it is absolutely not feasible. A temporary lack of funds, other priorities, etc. should not be reasons to fail to rebuild the road.

Intertidal Reserves. I am sympathetic to the need to protect the ecological balance on the coastal strip. I appreciate that the heavy use of this area may present a threat to intertidal organisms. I strongly urge that the entire strip remain open to backpackers. I hope this can be accomplished by limiting the number of hikers on the strip rather than closing portions or the strip. The draft management plan is unclear on this point.

I am very, very fortunate to live on the outskirts of Olympic National Park. I treasure it. I believe it is important to ensure continued access to those portions of the Park most loved by the local population. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to comment on one of my favorite spots.

Sincerely,



Port Angeles, WA 98362-6530