

PEPC 190916

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Olympic National Park Draft General Management Plan

Summer 2006

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



COMMENT SHEET ONP-GMP

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We welcome your comments on this project. The comment period closes on 09/15/2006. Your comments must be delivered or postmarked no later than 09/15/2006.

DSC-P

You may complete this form and provide it to the NPS at one of the open houses, or you may send this form and/or your letter to:

National Park Service
Denver Service Center - Cliff Hawkes, DSC-P
12795 West Alameda Parkway
PO Box 25287
Denver, CO 80225-9901

Is the practice of the NPS to make comments, including names, home addresses, home phone numbers, and email addresses of respondents, available for public review. Individual respondents may request that we withhold their names and/or home addresses, etc., but if you wish us to consider withholding this information you must state this prominently at the beginning of your comments. In addition, you must present a rationale for withholding this information. This rationale must demonstrate that disclosure would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of privacy. Unsupported assertions will not meet this burden. In the absence of exceptional, documentable circumstances, this information will be released. We will always make submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives of or officials of organizations or businesses, available for public inspection in their entirety

* indicates required fields

Personal Information

First Name: [REDACTED] Initial J.

Last Name: [REDACTED]

Organization: [REDACTED]

Address 1: [REDACTED]

Address 2: [REDACTED]

City: * Montesano

State/ Province* Washington

Postal Code: * 98563

E-mail:

☐ Keep my contact information private. Provide justification:

Please use below and the back of the paper for your comments. Attach extra sheets as necessary.
Please print or write clearly.

Comments regarding National Park Service General Management Plan:

Thank you for providing the Aug. 16th public meeting at the Amanda Park Library. It was well attended and the Park Service personnel were knowledgeable, receptive to local input, helpful, and....numerous. More than one person remarked that it would be wonderful to see ranger and maintenance staff even a fraction as numerous in local areas such as Kalaloch and Quinault.

My family and I have enjoyed and supported the National Park Service for many years. We are saddened by the lack of maintenance of trails, campgrounds, the drastic reduction of "line staff"—rangers, naturalists, maintenance workers who meet the public, make the park usable, safe, and presentable, and who are the first line of educational contact for citizens of all ages.

If we want to preserve, use, and cherish all of our magnificent National Park land, it is imperative to reach children and youth, because they are the stewards of the future. I commend ONP's nature program presented on a yearly basis at the Queets-Clearwater School. This could lead to more active partnering with schools, other federal agencies, state, tribal, and county groups. Trail maintenance, campsite refurbishing, restoration of old homesteads, and other projects could all be bolstered by partnering and old-fashioned helping. The Olympians, a local hiking group, already volunteers hours of labor for trail maintenance and other work. Partnering and more active volunteer programs would educate citizens and insure their heart-felt investment and involvement in their National Park. A more open approach, asking for partners and volunteers might also go a long way in repairing the Park's poor relationship with Olympic Peninsula residents.

Boundary adjustments in ONP have frequently meant the purchase of residential real estate in long-established neighborhoods in rural regions. This practice, though no longer forced through condemnations of property to acquire the land, is an unconscionable destruction of communities, through reducing the tax rolls drastically. Rural communities such as exist at Lake Quinault are part of America's vibrant foundation; residents include Native Americans, long-standing pioneer families, a growing Hispanic population, and others who find the close sense of community and the slower pace of life ideal. At Quinault, the Park buying houses and land on the North Shore has adversely affected the school district, small businesses, the clinic, daycare, and has reduced available housing in the area.

The National Park Service cannot maintain what it already has. Acquiring non-wilderness land makes no sense, is a fiscal outrage to all tax-payers, and it is aggressive toward the community in which it occurs. On Quinault's North Shore, if the plan is to eventually squeeze out all inholders, I am convinced that the National Park Service has completely lost sight of its mission, its mandate, and awareness of the Park's true owners.

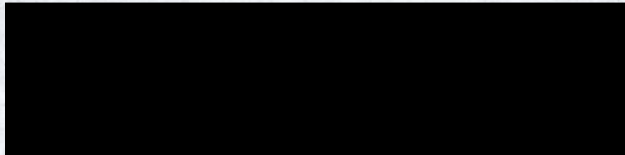
I serve on the Queets-Clearwater School Emergency Planning Team. We have joined with the Quinault Indian Nation, Jefferson County, and local citizens to organize and coordinate services. ONP sent a ranger to one of our gatherings, which was much appreciated; our meetings are another opportunity for ONP to work with local groups. An issue that arose at the meeting attended by the ranger was the incompatibility of the Park Service and Jefferson County law enforcement's radio systems. Re-routing the highway will happen eventually and it is far better that it happen by plan and design, rather than by accident. The network of logging roads or the Clearwater-Hoh Highway may be options.

On the subject of re-routing, I learned at the Aug. 16th meeting that it was being considered to work with Department of Natural Resources to use a road in the Matheny Creek area to reach the upper Queets Campground. I hope that is possible.

In closing, my key points are:

- I love the Park—all my life I've camped, hiked, and loved the beaches, forests, and mountains of ONP. I have visited many other National Parks and I am supportive of the National Park Service in general
- Option D is the most common-sense plan;
- Spend the tax dollars that support the Park on increased staffing, not on acquiring non-wilderness areas in established communities;
- More active partnering with other agencies and individuals can benefit in actual maintenance and project accomplishment, as well as building more positive relationships with local residents.

Thank you again for providing the public meeting in August. It was a hopeful beginning of a new, more cooperative relationship between ONP and local communities.



P.O. Box 371
Montesano, WA 98563