

PEPC 190910

Olympic National Park Draft General Management Plan

Summer 2006

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



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DSC-P

COMMENT SHEET ONP-GMP

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.

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

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

COMMENTS ATTACHED

ONP DRAFT GMP - COMMENTS OF THOMAS J. NORTHUP

1. Thank you for providing the opportunity to comment on the Draft GMP. I have lived near Olympic National Park for over 50 years and have on countless occasions enjoyed this world-class treasure, from the beaches to the back-country. I attended the Aug. 16, 2006 public forum at the Amanda Park Library and found the NPS personnel there to be friendly, well-informed, helpful and receptive to suggestions. They were a credit to an agency that has a history of often being aloof, high-handed and disrespectful of local citizens. One can hope that NPS, the steward of this fantastic treasure, has turned a corner and will be more cooperative with the taxpayers who actually own Olympic National Park.

2. I believe that the Preferred Option D is best, but question whether NPS needs to make the proposed boundary adjustments, especially in the Queets area. The Draft GMP offers no specific rationale for the proposed expansion. The Q&A sheet presented at the public forum states that the Queets boundary adjustment is "for the protection of coho spawning and rearing habitat and elk habitat". This rationale could apply to virtually the entire Olympic Peninsula. ONP obviously has far more than it can maintain or patrol. It would be far better to form partnerships with public and private entities to pursue fish, wildlife and habitat goals.

3. Regarding boundary adjustments in general, they always seem to be expansions of ONP. These acquisitions remove valuable lands from state and local tax rolls and have adverse impacts on small communities and a depressed local economy. Why doesn't NPS also explore opportunities to divest the park system of real estate that does not contribute to the quality of ONP or the mission of NPS? The Park Service could be relieved of stewardship burden by returning some lands to state, local or tribal governments. Such transfers could carry a stipulation that such properties be preserved from development or timber harvest, and reserved for public benefit. Specifically, several properties on the north shore of Lake Quinault, including the July Creek Day Use Area and Kamp Kiwanis, could become state or county parks or returned to the Quinault Indian Nation.

4. NPS should pursue more partnerships to provide services such as trail clearing and reclamation, and campground maintenance. For example, Washington Department of Corrections has a large potential labor force in the area. Local high schools have students who are looking for Senior Class projects to fulfill graduation requirements. Boy Scouts are looking for Eagle Scout projects. Local citizens' groups are potential sources of both volunteer labor and public information. Several beach access trails at Kalaloch have been abandoned in recent years. On our last few visits to the Queets Campground we found it to be in a deplorable state of neglect. These conditions, which reflect so poorly on NPS could be alleviated with very reasonable levels of volunteer effort.

5. I support the concept of exploring a re-route of Highway 101 in the Kalaloch area. I consider this to be an urgent matter since coastal erosion is seriously threatening Highway 101 in a number of places. One severe winter storm could bring a washout. One option might be to access and upgrade the network of logging roads that run generally parallel to the beach, from

near Queets to just outside the north boundary or Nolan Creek. Existing logging roads could provide beach access in four locations (near South Beach Campground, near the Ranger Station, at the Kalaloch Campground and at the abandoned Trail #7, a short distance south of Ruby Beach). Another option would be to upgrade the existing paved road from Clearwater to the Hoh.

6. Please pursue an alternate access, from the Forest Service West Boundary Road, to the Queets River above the Matheny Creek slide and refurbish the Queets campground.

7. Several of the unimaginatively-numbered beach trails at Kalaloch should be restored to their historic geographic names: Beach #2 = Ebey Creek; Beach #3 = Brown's Point; Beach #4 = Smelt Beach; Beach #6 (parking lot only at present) = Steamboat Creek. The abandoned trails #5, #5 ½ and #7 should be restored and, along with Beach #1, named for either geographic features or possibly for local historical tribal leaders or pioneers. For example, a beach might be named for Chief Howeattle or the Becker family who established Kalaloch Resort. Further, South Beach Campground might be re-named for Mr. Ashenbrenner who owned a resort adjacent to that site.