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Bellevue, WA 98006  
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Cliff Hawkes  
Olympic National Park --- GMP  
National Park Service  
Denver Service Center --- Planning  
P.O. Box 25287  
Denver, CO 80225

Subject: Olympic National Park Draft General Management Plan

Mr. Hawkes,

It's the bottom of the ninth inning in a ballgame between the United States Government and The [REDACTED] Family. The government team is at bat with the Olympic National Park Draft General Management Plan player striding to the plate ready to swiftly end the game with a base hit. But before the next pitch is thrown a recap of the game to this point is in order.

In the first inning (January 21, 1892 to be exact) August [REDACTED] nailed a handwritten 'NOTICE' to a tree at the north end of Lake Ozette claiming approximately 160 acres of land to be his under the Homestead Act of 1862. This claim included the entire lakefront property stretching from the mouth of the Ozette River (site of the current park ranger station) and what is now the Lost Resort general store.

August struggled at the plate during the second inning but being a hard working Scandinavian knew he would overcome the remoteness and harsh wilderness to make his new bride Annie Boe comfortable and later, his two sons, Samuel and Albert. A bright spot of the second inning was receipt of Homestead Certificate #7525 dated September 26, 1902 signed by President Theodore Roosevelt (more of this later).

Then in inning three just after August received the Homestead Certificate the government placed the [REDACTED] homestead land in 'forest reserve'. As a result, homesteaders throughout the Ozette area could see no future in remaining and abandoned their claims and in many cases much of their belongings. August and his family were among the last to leave.

During inning number five (the year was 1938) President Franklin D. Roosevelt authorized creation of the Olympic National Park. This included a narrow strip of land incorporating the west shore of Lake Ozette to the Pacific Ocean.

Inning number seven started out on February 4, 1976 with Washington State Senator Don Bonker introducing House Bill H.R. 11706, 'revision of the boundary of Olympic

National Park' which would incorporate the entire perimeter of Lake Ozette into the park. This bill greatly impacted the Palmquist property still remaining from the original homestead and ultimately led to the loss of 15 acres into the park system. The loss included 1000 feet or more of lakefront greatly reducing the land value to the north.

As play resumes in the ninth inning-----

The Olympic National Park team has the winning run in scoring position at second with two outs – the Olympic National Park Draft General Management Plan player hits a fair ball into the right field corner and the Palmquist team can only watch while the winning run crosses home plate – BUT WAIT!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

The home plate umpire is consulting Homestead Certificate #7525 which says,

'.....Now know ye, that there is, therefore granted by the United States unto the said August [REDACTED] the tract of Land above described: To have and to hold the said tract of Land, with the appurtenances thereof, unto the said August [REDACTED] and to his heirs and assigns forever.....'

I ask you this Mr. Hawkes, "What does 'FOREVER' mean"?

August and Annie did not request their land be classified as 'forest reserve' nor did Samuel and Albert want to be encumbered by the restrictions of the 'scenic easement' contained in H.R. 11706 initiated by Mr. Bonker. Now some thirty years later we are again presented another scheme to become 'willing-sellers' so that park boundaries may be expanded.

My suggestion to the National Park Service is to permanently file away their draft plan in the National Archives, forget about boundary expansions and leave the [REDACTED] family alone.

Respectfully,

[REDACTED]

cc:  
US Senator Patti Murray  
US Senator Maria Cantwell  
US Representative Norm Dicks  
The Seattle Times  
The Seattle PI  
The Port Angeles Daily News  
The King County Journal  
The Forks Forum  
The Kitsap Sun