

PEPC 190917

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To: National Park Service
Draft General Management Plan
Quinault area

My name is [REDACTED] and I am the 4th generation to some of the original homesteaders to the Quinault Valley. The family still owns large parcels of land in the Quinault area. We have a few comments to make about your alternatives for the Quinault area of the National Park.

Our preference would be to stay with Alternative "A". Our 2nd choice would be Alternative "D" with some modifications. Here are some of our thoughts.

To leave existing Park facilities, roads and access as they are.

Not to re-locate the park boundary - which could remove all private property owners along the South Shore Road.

Not to add Park facilities and camping facilities outside of the Park boundary.

By looking at the maps in the book it makes it look like there are no private property owners along the South Shore Road, but in reality, it is all privately owned.

We also don't see where any of the back country is being opened up for more access.

About 15 years ago, there were 3 distinct elk herds in this area, each ranging in size of 160 plus elk per herd. As of this year, we know of only 2 major elk herds ranging about 45 plus per herd. The USFS has asked the property owners along the length of the South Shore Road to donate 5 acre parcels to have for elk habitat. In all of our years of being in the Guinault Valley, the best elk areas are in the proposed day use only areas along the North Shore Road. We would like to see the herds return to the numbers of 15 years ago and think there would be a great chance of this if the NPS and the USFS work together to develop the designated elk habitats in this area where they would be protected by the NPS rules and no hunting is allowed. Day use parking areas could be developed every mile or so where people would have a chance to take pictures and observe the elk while they are in the protected areas.

We read a statement about the property line changing with the movement of the river. In the State of Washington, the property line stays the property line no matter where the river goes.

There is a strip of land owned by the USFS between the private property owners and the NPS on the North Shore side. It would be nice to see the NPS about the private property. This would give better control for the NPS management plan, the elk, fish and all other wildlife.

If anyone from the Colorado office is ever in the Quinault area and would like a private citizens tour walk of the area concerned, please let us know and we would be happy to meet with you and talk.

We would also like to be added to your mailing list.

Sincerely,

[Redacted signature]

Tumwater, WA 98501

[Redacted address]