

PEPC 191191

[Redacted]
Silver Spring, MD 20904

September 8, 2006

RECEIVED

SEP 20 2006

DSC-P

Olympic National Park – GMP
Denver Service Center, NPS
PO Box 25287
Denver, CO 80225

Dear NPS:

Please consider the following comments on the draft general management plan for Olympic National Park. We often visit Washington, as our son lives in Bellingham. One of our friends had a summer job in the park.

In 1988 Congress designated 95 percent of Olympic park as wilderness, with the goal of keeping those lands unimpaired for the future. That should not be an excuse for increasing developments in the other 5 percent where the roads are. The draft Alternative D, preferred by the National Park Service, contemplates building more commercial facilities and a threefold increase in campgrounds. This building program would affect Hurricane Ridge, the Elwha valley and the Sol Duc valley. We believe it is a mistake to increase developments inside the park, and we urge you to hold the line against more buildings and campgrounds.

Alternative D also envisions repairing or reconstructing dozens of deteriorated, old cabins and shelters in the wilderness areas, mostly remnants of activities before the national park was established. We think that is unwise. Fundamentally wilderness is a place without buildings, and most wilderness areas have none. We urge you to prepare a wilderness stewardship plan to address the question of whether those structures are needed. They may be doing more harm than good to the wilderness character of Olympic park.

We favor the "intertidal zones" in the draft plan, and we favor the idea of providing optional shuttle vehicles to bring visitors to the most popular sites as a means of relieving traffic congestion – these have worked well at other national parks. Please focus your efforts on better protecting the natural features of the park, rather than on adding more developments.

Thank you for this opportunity to participate.

Sincerely yours,

[Redacted Signature]