



Chapter 2:

Alternatives,
Including the
Preferred Alternative

INTRODUCTION

This chapter describes the process used by the planning team to develop the four alternatives that are included in this *Final General Management Plan / Environmental Impact Statement*. Each alternative is fully described on the area-specific maps included in this chapter. This chapter also contains a summary of impacts table (table 6), which is based on the analysis in “Chapter 4: Environmental Consequences.”

FORMULATION OF THE ALTERNATIVES

A planning team composed of NPS staff from Olympic National Park, the Denver Service Center, and the Pacific West Regional Office developed management alternatives for Olympic National Park using public concerns generated through the public participation process.

The first opportunity for public comment, or scoping, was at the beginning of the general management plan process in 2001. The National Park Service solicited input from the public, park staff, government agencies, tribal officials, and other organizations regarding issues and desired conditions for the national park. About 126 comments were received during this first phase of scoping.

The scoping comments helped the park planning team determine the topics to be considered, the framework for the alternatives, and the decisions to be made through the plan.

The framework for the alternatives, or the desired conditions (see chapter 1), was partly based on public comments, but also on the park’s purpose and significance, which were derived from the legislation and Congressional Report (HR 2247) that established Olympic National Park. The

desired conditions also take into account servicewide mandates and policies.

Once the desired conditions were identified, the next step was to develop initial alternatives, and again, the park reached out to the public for assistance.

In January 2002, public workshops were held to help develop alternative visions for protecting and managing Olympic National Park. These meetings were attended by 187 people. Using the public input received during this process, and incorporating laws and policies and recommendations from park staff, the planning team identified potential management zones to consider within the park.

MANAGEMENT ZONES

Management zones define specific desired conditions and management approaches to be achieved and maintained in each area of the park. Eight management zones have been developed for Olympic National Park, and these zones are applied to different areas of the park in each action alternative.

- development
- day-use
- low-use
- river
- intertidal reserve
- wilderness trail
- primitive wilderness
- primeval wilderness

There is currently no management zoning in Olympic National Park that meets current NPS management zoning standards. However, for the purposes of comparison, zoning reflective of the current conditions was included for the no-action alternative.

These zones, described in the following section, form the basis of the plan's alternatives and reflect the range of ideas proposed by the public and by the NPS planning team.

In addition to the management zones, park managers would continue to use the "Superintendent's Compendium" (NPS 2007a) to effect limitations or closures as necessary to protect resources and

wilderness values. The "Superintendent's Compendium" is a list of designations, closures, requirements, and other restrictions imposed under the discretionary authority of the park superintendent as provided for in Title 36 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (CFR).



TABLE 2: MANAGEMENT ZONES

This table presents descriptions of each zone considered in the development of the alternatives. The topics include the general zone concept, desired natural and cultural resource conditions, visitor opportunities, and facilities. The zones are included in the alternatives maps by frontcountry park area. ~~There are separate zoning maps for wilderness.~~ The maps include specific descriptions of the components of each alternative. The alternative maps begin on page 84.

Topic	FRONTCOUNTRY ZONES			SPECIAL ZONES		WILDERNESS ZONES		
	Development Zone	Day-Use Zone	Low-Use Zone	River Zone	Intertidal Reserve Zone	Wilderness Trail Zone	Primitive Wilderness Zone	Primeval Wilderness Zone
ZONE CONCEPT	<p>Concentrated visitor service facilities, overnight lodging, developed campgrounds (with up to 250 campsites, (with basic amenities such as flush toilets, and cold running water) and park operational facilities would be accommodated.</p> <p>Road access is via unpaved or paved road.</p>	<p>High to moderate levels of day use would be accommodated.</p> <p>No campgrounds or overnight lodging would be accommodated.</p> <p>Road access can be via unpaved or paved road.</p>	<p>Low levels of day use and a range of less-developed camping opportunities (generally fewer than 50 sites than in the development zone, no or limited potable water, and vault toilets) in less-developed areas would be accommodated.</p> <p>No overnight lodging would be provided.</p> <p>Some areas would be accessible by paved or unpaved roads, but some may be areas without roads.</p>	<p>Prime fish and wildlife habitat would be protected in naturally sustainable river ecosystems.</p> <p>This zone is considered in alternative B.</p> <p>Nothing in this designation affects tribal treaty rights.</p>	<p>The park's intertidal area reserve zone (the coastal area between high and low tides) is an ecologically critical area that sustains diverse assemblages of plant and animal life, and a rich array of habitats.</p> <p>Selected coastal and intertidal areas within the park would be designated as intertidal reserves zones to protect these highly diverse communities.</p> <p>Protective measures would include mandatory no harvest zones to preserve seed sources.</p> <p>Nothing in this designation affects tribal treaty rights.</p>	<p>Resources would be protected while providing access by trails and related facilities (i.e., bridges, boardwalks) to park wilderness.</p> <p>Camping at designated sites would be accommodated.</p> <p>Many trails would be maintained for pack or riding stock, but stock would not be allowed in some areas.</p>	<p>Resources would be protected and primitive recreational opportunities with fewer maintained trails than in the wilderness trail zone would be provided.</p> <p>This zone would include the less developed and more primitive trails. Camping would be accommodated at designated sites or on durable surfaces.</p> <p>Pack or riding stock would not be allowed.</p>	<p>Primeval wilderness resources and character with Preserving wilderness resources and character would take precedence; large trail-less areas and opportunities for unconfined, primitive recreation would be preserved.</p> <p>There would be no maintained trails and no designated campsites in this zone.</p> <p>Access or use might be restricted or limited along park boundaries, roads, or lake edges for resource protection.</p> <p>Pack or riding stock would not be allowed.</p>
DESIRED NATURAL RESOURCE CONDITIONS	<p>Natural resources might be highly modified for visitor access, services, recreation, and park operations or residential use in portions of this zone in ways that harmonize with park settings.</p>	<p>Natural resources might be highly modified for road corridors providing visitor access, and slightly modified for recreation, and visitor services (i.e. trails, picnic areas, educational facilities), but in ways that harmonize with the natural environment and or park setting.</p>	<p>Natural resources might be modified for visitor access, recreation, and visitor services, but in ways that harmonize with the natural environment.</p>	<p>Natural resources may be minimally but not permanently modified for access purposes, such as through provision of a temporary, narrow gravel road, potentially for seasonal use only. River banks or meanders would not be hardened or altered. Natural flooding and hydrologic processes would be allowed to occur.</p>	<p>Natural resources would not be modified.</p> <p>Wilderness visitation in the intertidal reserves would be managed to ensure resource protection.</p>	<p>Natural resources might be slightly modified for visitor use, administrative use, recreational access, and research. There may be slight disruptions to the natural systems.</p>	<p>Natural resources might be minimally modified for visitor recreational, administrative, research, and access purposes, but in ways that harmonize with natural conditions and processes.</p>	<p>Natural resources would be in as pristine a condition as possible, and would not have irreversible modifications for recreational purposes, research, and administrative use.</p> <p>There would be very little disruption to the natural system.</p>
	<p>Unwanted trails would be removed and rehabilitated or allowed to recover naturally.</p>	<p>Unwanted trails would be removed and rehabilitated or allowed to recover naturally.</p>	<p>Unwanted trails would be removed and rehabilitated or allowed to recover naturally.</p>	<p>Unwanted trails would be removed and rehabilitated or allowed to recover naturally.</p>	<p>Unwanted trails would be removed and rehabilitated or allowed to recover naturally.</p>	<p>Unwanted trails and sites, such as campsites, would be removed and rehabilitated or allowed to recover naturally.</p> <p>Existing trails could be modified or rerouted for resource protection or to maintain access, however, no new trails would be constructed.</p>	<p>Unwanted trails and sites, such as campsites, would be removed and rehabilitated or allowed to recover naturally.</p> <p>Existing trails could be modified or slightly rerouted for resource protection or to maintain access, however, no new trails would be constructed.</p>	<p>Trails and sites, such as campsites, would be removed and rehabilitated, or allowed to recover naturally.</p> <p>No new trails would be constructed.</p>

	FRONTCOUNTRY ZONES			SPECIAL ZONES		WILDERNESS ZONES		
Topic	Development Zone	Day-Use Zone	Low-Use Zone	River Zone	Intertidal Reserve Zone	Wilderness Trail Zone	Primitive Wilderness Zone	Primeval Wilderness Zone
DESIRED NATURAL RESOURCE CONDITIONS (cont.) <i>Note: Nothing in the zoning designation affects tribal treaty rights.</i>	Seasonal access restrictions might occur along some shoreline and lake areas to protect sensitive habitats for rare aquatic plants, as well as spawning, rearing, and feeding areas for fish.	Seasonal access restrictions might occur along some shoreline and lake areas to protect sensitive habitats for rare aquatic plants, as well as spawning, rearing, and feeding areas for fish.	Seasonal access restrictions might occur along some shoreline and lake areas to protect sensitive habitats for rare aquatic plants, as well as spawning, rearing, and feeding areas for fish.	Seasonal access restrictions might occur along some shoreline areas to protect sensitive habitats for rare aquatic plants, as well as spawning, rearing, and feeding areas for fish.	Specific areas might be temporarily closed (e.g. hiking, day use or overnight use) during critical periods to protect organisms.	Some shoreline and lake areas might be closed to protect riparian habitat.	Some shoreline and lake areas might be closed to protect riparian habitat.	Some shoreline and lake areas might be closed to protect riparian habitat.
	Development impacts affecting adjacent zones would be minimized.	Development impacts affecting adjacent zones would be minimized.	Recovered and acquired lands would be intensively restored.	The riparian and floodplain habitats of rivers, streams, and estuaries would be protected. Using proactive measures, including identifying flood-prone areas near facilities and roads, the park staff would develop methods for the protection of riparian and river areas.	Specific areas might be closed for restoration or to achieve desired resource conditions.	Areas might be closed temporarily or permanently for restoration or to achieve desired resource conditions.	Areas might be closed temporarily or permanently for restoration or to achieve desired resource conditions.	Most evidence of modern human presence would be removed and areas would be rehabilitated. Areas might be closed temporarily or permanently for restoration or to achieve desired resource conditions.
DESIRED CULTURAL RESOURCE CONDITIONS	Historic properties (structures, landscapes, or archeological sites) would be readily visible and accessible.	Historic properties (structures, landscapes, or archeological sites) would be visible and accessible.	Historic properties (structures, landscapes, or archeological sites) would be readily visible and accessible.	This zone would not apply to areas with historic structures or districts.	Some historic properties (structures, landscapes, or archeological sites) would be visible and accessible.	Historic properties (structures, landscapes, or archeological sites) would would might be visible and accessible.	Few historic properties (structures, landscapes, or archeological sites) would would might be visible.	Historic structures and cultural landscapes would not be visible. Archeological sites would not be readily visible.
	A full range of interpretive techniques (e.g., kiosks, wayside exhibits, signs, brochures, on-site programs) would be used.	A full range of interpretive techniques (e.g., kiosks, wayside exhibits, signs, brochures, on-site programs) would be used.	A selected range of interpretive techniques (e.g., waysides, signs, brochures, on-site programs) would be used.	NA	A selected range of interpretive techniques (e.g., signs, trailhead kiosks, hand-outs) would be used.	A selected range of interpretive techniques (e.g., signs, trailhead kiosks, hand-outs) would be used.	A limited range of interpretive techniques (e.g., handouts, visitor contacts) would be used.	There would be no interpretation of historic properties.
	Uses would be for public enjoyment and/or administrative use.	Uses would be for public enjoyment and/or administrative use.	Uses would be for public enjoyment and/or administrative use.	NA	NA	Uses of some historic structures would be managed for public and/or administrative use.	Uses of some historic structures would be managed for public and/or administrative use.	There are no historic structures in this zone.
VISITOR OPPORTUNITIES	Many opportunities to visit educational and recreational facilities, stay overnight in park/concession-run lodging or campgrounds, and purchase food/ supplies/gifts within a national park context.	Many opportunities to enjoy park scenery, have educational experiences, and participate in trail/water-based day use recreation.	Opportunities to participate in trail and water-based recreation and choose among a range of less-developed types of camping.	There would be opportunities for river-based recreation, except during closures.	There would be opportunities to participate in primitive recreation in a coastal wilderness.	There would be opportunities to appreciate pristine wilderness resources and character and participate in primitive recreation.	There would be more opportunities to appreciate pristine wilderness resources and character and participate in primitive recreation than in the wilderness trail zone.	This zone would have the most opportunities to appreciate the pristine wilderness resources and character, without trails and related facilities, and participate in primitive recreation.
	There would be minor risk and challenge.	There would be minor risk and challenge.	There would be some risk and challenge.	There would be more opportunities for risk and challenge.	There would be more risk and challenge in proportion to remoteness, terrain, and tides.	There would be increasing risk and challenge in proportion to remoteness, terrain, or tides.	There would be more risk and challenge in proportion to remoteness, terrain, or tides.	This zone would have the most risk and challenge in proportion to remoteness, terrain, or tides.
	There would be few opportunities for solitude, remoteness, and presence of natural sounds.	There would be some opportunities for solitude, remoteness, and presence of natural sounds.	There would be more opportunities for solitude, remoteness and presence of natural sounds.	There would be more opportunities for solitude, remoteness, and presence of natural sounds if current conditions change (i.e., roads and facilities are removed from river zone as a result of natural processes).	There would be more opportunities for solitude, remoteness, and presence of natural sounds.	There would be opportunities for solitude proportional to remoteness and presence of natural sounds.	There would be more opportunities for solitude and remoteness and presence of natural sounds.	This zone would have the most opportunities for solitude and remoteness and presence of natural sounds.

	FRONTCOUNTRY ZONES			SPECIAL ZONES		WILDERNESS ZONES		
Topic	Development Zone	Day-Use Zone	Low-Use Zone	River Zone	Intertidal Reserve Zone	Wilderness Trail Zone	Primitive Wilderness Zone	Primeval Wilderness Zone
VISITOR OPPORTUNITIES (cont.)	Recreational opportunities would include activities such as camping, motorized and nonmotorized boating, walking, swimming, and bicycling.	Appropriate activities would include: scenic driving (provides opportunities for intermediate and distant views of lakes, ocean, and mountains), motorized and nonmotorized boating, hiking, swimming, fishing, and bicycling.	Appropriate activities would include camping, motorized and nonmotorized boating, hiking, swimming, fishing, and bicycling.	Appropriate activities might include: fishing, motorized and nonmotorized boating, rafting, swimming, nature viewing, and wildlife watching.	Appropriate activities include hiking, nature viewing, collecting of shells and wood, and wildlife watching. There would be no harvest of mussels, hard shell clams (butter and little neck), gooseneck barnacles, surf smelt, or Dungeness crabs. Surf fishing would be permitted in accordance with existing regulations.	Appropriate activities would include: hiking, nature viewing, wildlife watching, fishing, mountaineering, nonmotorized/hand-powered boating, stock use, and camping.	Appropriate activities would include: hiking, nature viewing, wildlife watching, fishing, mountaineering, nonmotorized/hand-powered boating, and camping.	Appropriate activities would include: hiking, nature viewing, wildlife watching, fishing, mountaineering, nonmotorized/hand-powered boating, and camping.
	Use areas would be designed to reduce or avoid user conflicts.	Use areas would be designed to reduce or avoid user conflicts.	Use areas would be designed to reduce or avoid user conflicts.	Use areas might be designed to reduce or avoid user conflicts, to ensure the safety of park visitors, or to improve resource conditions. For example, areas might be closed to visitor use seasonally or permanently, or types of use and/or activities might be limited as necessary to protect the floodplain and processes.	Use areas might be designed to reduce visitor conflicts or for resource protection.	Use areas might be designed to reduce visitor conflicts or for resource protection.	Use areas might be designed to reduce visitor conflicts or for resource protection.	Use areas might be designed to reduce visitor conflicts or for resource protection.
Encounter rates	Probability of meeting other visitors on a regular basis would be very high to extremely high.	Probability of meeting other visitors and parties would be high to extremely high, and might vary seasonally.	Probability of meeting other visitors on a regular basis would be low to moderate.	Probability of meeting other visitors on a regular basis would be low to moderate.	The probability of meeting visitors on a regular basis would be low to moderate in these areas.	Probability of meeting other visitors on a regular basis would be low to high.	Probability of meeting other visitors on a regular basis would be low.	Probability of meeting other visitors on a regular basis would be extremely low.
	Areas might be crowded, but use levels might vary seasonally.	Areas might be crowded, but use levels might vary seasonally.	Sometimes visitors would be free of sight and sound of others — they might find quiet or solitude.	Sometimes visitors would be free of sight and sound of others — they might find quiet or solitude.	Sometimes visitors would be free of sight and sound of others — they might find quiet or solitude.	Sometimes visitors would be free of sight and sound of others — they might find quiet or solitude.	Visitors would often be free of sight and sound of others — would likely find quiet or solitude.	Visitors would very often be free of sight and sound of others — they would very likely find quiet or solitude.
	There would be a very high likelihood of encountering park staff.	There would be a moderate to high likelihood of encountering park staff.	There would be a moderate likelihood of encountering park staff.	There would be a low likelihood of encountering park staff in areas with no facilities or after facilities and roads have been removed from the designated river zones.	There would be a low to moderate likelihood of encountering park staff.	There would be a moderate to high likelihood of encountering park staff.	There would be a very low likelihood of encountering park staff.	There would be a very low likelihood of encountering park staff.
Education, Orientation, and Way-finding	Full range of educational services would be provided on site, including personal services, wayside exhibits, visitor centers, and ranger stations.	Full range of educational services would be provided on site, including personal services, wayside exhibits, visitor centers, and ranger stations.	Some educational services might be provided, such as signs.	Some educational services might be provided, such as signs.	NPS staff would work with the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary to enhance education and outreach on and offsite. Education and outreach would focus on the importance of intertidal reserves.	Wilderness education, orientation, and information would be provided on site in some areas.	Wilderness education, orientation, and information might be provided on site, but most would be provided offsite or at trailheads.	Wilderness education would generally not be provided within this zone. It would be provided in other wilderness zones or off-site.
	Orientation and information would be provided at trailheads, along pedestrian and vehicular routes and at parking lots.	Orientation and information might be provided at trailheads, along pedestrian and vehicle routes, and at parking lots.	Orientation and information might be provided at trailheads.	Some orientation and information might be provided at trailheads in other zones.	Orientation and information would be provided at trailheads.	Location/ direction/ mileage signs might be provided at trail junctures.	Location/ direction/ mileage signs would not be provided.	No location, directional, or mileage signs would be provided.

	FRONTCOUNTRY ZONES			SPECIAL ZONES		WILDERNESS ZONES		
Topic	Development Zone	Day-Use Zone	Low-Use Zone	River Zone	Intertidal Reserve Zone	Wilderness Trail Zone	Primitive Wilderness Zone	Primeval Wilderness Zone
Education, Orientation, and Way-finding (cont.)	Way-finding to activities and facilities would be easy and might include elements such as fences and paving to direct use.	Way-finding to activities and facilities would be easy and might include elements such as temporary barriers, fencing, signs and paving to direct use.	Way-finding would be moderately easy. Some trail and directional information would be provided. Where the zone is along a road, there could be temporary barriers, fencing, or signs to direct use. Map-reading skills might be needed.	Directional signs could be provided in this area (e.g. at boat launches).	Directional signs might be provided.	Way-finding would be easy to moderate depending on area. Map-reading, climbing, and orienteering skills might be necessary.	Way-finding would be moderate to very difficult depending on area and remoteness. Skills in map-reading, climbing, and mountaineering and / or orienteering skills would often be necessary.	Way-finding would be moderate to very difficult depending on area and remoteness. Skills in map-reading, climbing and mountaineering and / or orienteering skills would often be necessary.
Stock use <i>Note: Stock would generally be restricted from some trails and sites and from camping above 3,500' elevation. Some stock use might be restricted to protect native species.</i>	Stock use would be allowed in designated areas.	Stock use would be allowed in designated areas.	Stock use would be allowed in designated areas.	Stock use may or may not be allowed.	Stock use would not be allowed.	Stock use would be allowed only on trails and might be restricted from some trails and sites. Stock use would not be allowed on wilderness beaches. Certified weed-free feed would be required. Areas might be closed to stock to protect resources.	Stock use would not be allowed.	Stock use would not be allowed.
	No stock camping would be allowed.	No stock camping would be allowed.	Stock camping would be allowed in designated areas.	No stock camping would be allowed.	NA	Camping with stock might be allowed, but only at designated sites. Stock camping would be allowed at designated sites in certain areas of the park.	NA	NA
	Grazing would not be allowed.	Grazing would not be allowed.	Grazing might be allowed.	Grazing would not be allowed.	NA	Grazing might be allowed in some areas.	NA	NA
Boating <i>Note: Personal watercraft would continue to be prohibited under any scenario.</i>	Motorized and nonmotorized boating would be allowed.	Motorized and nonmotorized boating would be allowed.	Motorized and nonmotorized boating would be allowed.	Motorized and/or nonmotorized boating may be allowed, or it may be restricted for safety or for the protection of park resources.	Landing of watercraft would not be permitted (landing of motorized watercraft is currently not permitted along the entire coastal portion of the park). <i>Note: The islands off the coastal portion of Olympic National Park that make up the Washington Islands National Wildlife Refuge Complex are not included within the intertidal reserve zone. However, public access is currently not permitted on the upland portion of the islands, and landing on the coastal strip islands is currently prohibited through the "Olympic National Park Superintendent's Compendium."</i>	Only nonmotorized/hand-powered boating would be allowed. in portions of the trail zone adjacent to and including waterways.	Only nonmotorized/hand-powered boating would be allowed. in portions of the primitive zone adjacent to and including waterways.	Only nonmotorized/hand-powered boating would be allowed. in the portions of the primeval zone adjacent to and including waterways.

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Topic	Development Zone	Day-Use Zone	Low-Use Zone	River Zone	Intertidal Reserve Zone	Wilderness Trail Zone	Primitive Wilderness Zone	Primeval Wilderness Zone
	Use areas might be restricted or limited based on safety, visitor conflicts, resources protection, etc.	Use areas might be restricted or limited based on safety, visitor conflicts, resources protection, etc.	Use areas might be restricted or limited based on safety, visitor conflicts, resources protection, etc.	Use areas might be restricted or limited based on safety, visitor conflicts, resources protection, etc.	NA	Use areas might be restricted or limited based on safety, visitor conflicts, resources protection, etc.	Use areas might be restricted or limited based on safety, visitor conflicts, resources protection, etc.	Use areas might be restricted or limited based on safety, visitor conflicts, resources protection, etc.
APPROPRIATE FACILITIES General Description	Primarily, paved and unpaved roads/parking areas, visitor services facilities, and park operational facilities would be allowed. The majority of park operational and concession facilities would be in this zone. Various types of development would be separated to provide desired experience, safety, fire protection, and ability to work.	Primarily day use educational/recreational facilities and services, paved and unpaved roads/parking, with some related park operational facilities would be allowed.	Primarily small-scale recreational facilities, limited visitor services, paved and unpaved roads, parking, and some minor park operational facilities would be allowed.	In areas where roads and or facilities were removed due to the river meander or flooding, NPS staff would assess options to provide access, including, but not limited to the construction of narrow, temporary, and/or seasonal-use gravel roads, boat ramps, trailheads, or other facilities, as long as desired natural resource conditions could be met.	Some designated campsites and facilities (e.g. toilets) might be allowed adjacent to the intertidal reserve zone. Limited research and monitoring equipment and resource signs might be present.	Trails with some designated campsites and facilities (e.g., trail shelters, toilets, boardwalks / puncheon, and trail bridges/foot logs) would be allowed. Limited administrative facilities (e.g. ranger stations and associated facilities), research/monitoring/radio facilities and equipment and boundary and resource signs might be present.	Fewer facilities and maintained trails (e.g., very few toilets, boardwalks / puncheon, or other water crossings bridges, or foot logs) would be present in this zone. Limited research/monitoring/radio facilities and equipment and boundary and other signs related to resource protection might be present.	Trail-less zone. Areas would be largely free of evidence of human presence. Limited research/monitoring/radio facilities and equipment and boundary and resource signs might be present.
Trails <i>Note: See subsequent glossary of terms for trail types.</i>	Maintained trail types would include nature, all-purpose, multipurpose bicycle, secondary, foot, and primitive trails. Some trails would be universally accessible.	Maintained trail types would include nature, all-purpose, multipurpose bicycle, secondary, foot, and primitive trails. Some trails would be universally accessible.	Maintained trail types would include nature, all-purpose, multipurpose bicycle, secondary, foot, and primitive trails. Some trails would be universally accessible.	Some trails would be maintained, while unwanted trails would be removed. Some trails may be removed as a result of allowing natural processes to occur.	There are no maintained trails in intertidal reserve zones. There are trailways nearby, and some maintained overland and headland trails that provide access between coastal areas. Routes could be established to protect resources. Some directional signs might be in place to direct visitors away from critical resource areas or for safety reasons.	Maintained trail types would include nature, all-purpose, secondary (open to hikers and stock), secondary, foot, and primitive trails. Portions of some trails could be universally accessible, balancing the intent of access and wilderness laws to find a way of providing the highest level of protection to the wilderness resource. Other trails, not part of the maintained trail system (e.g., way trails, social trails, routes, and beach routes) might be present.	Maintained trail types would include only primitive trails. Other trails, not part of the maintained trail system (e.g., way trails, social trails, routes, and beach routes) might be present.	No trails.
Roads and Parking	Access is by paved or unpaved two-lane roads. Pullouts, scenic overlooks, viewpoints, parking areas, and access to park attractions and trailheads would be provided. Most parking areas would be paved with defined edges.	Access is by paved or unpaved one or two-lane roads. Pull-outs, scenic overlooks, viewpoints, parking areas, and access to park attractions and trailheads would be provided. Some paved and unpaved parking areas with defined edges would be provided.	Access is by paved or unpaved roads. Some roads might be less than two lanes wide and have pullouts for passing. Parking areas and access to park attractions and trailheads would be provided. Smaller parking areas might not be paved and might be defined by natural elements (e.g., logs and rocks).	Roads may or may not be provided depending on river processes.	There would be no roads and no parking.	NA	NA	NA
	Vehicular bridges would be provided.	Vehicular bridges would be provided.	Vehicular bridges or low water crossings might be provided.	Low-water crossings and bridges may be provided if it can be accomplished in such as way as to meet the desired resource conditions.	NA	NA	NA	NA

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Campgrounds and Campsites	Developed campgrounds would include well-defined individual or group campsites.	There would be no camping in day-use zones.	Camping opportunities in low-use zone areas include smaller campgrounds with less developed individual sites and group campsites.	NA	Camping would only be allowed in designated sites outside or adjacent to the intertidal reserve zone.	Sites for camping would be designated along the trail system, on wilderness beaches, and on some gravel bars.	Camping would be at designated sites or on durable surfaces.	No established campsites would exist in this zone. Camping would be on durable surfaces.
	Developed campgrounds with up to 250 sites limited amenities would offer a range of car camping experiences from tent to RV. Campgrounds in the development zone would have flush toilets and cold running water.	NA	Campgrounds in the low use zone would generally contain less than 50 fewer sites and have vault toilets and no potable water.	NA	NA	NA	Recognizable campsites might exist, but they are small and occur infrequently.	Camping impacts are not evident.
	Campgrounds would generally be maintained at current levels, but sites and facilities might be adjusted or modified for resource or visitor protection.	NA	Campgrounds would generally be maintained at current levels, but sites and facilities might be adjusted or modified for resource or visitor protection.	NA	Limits on campers might be established in areas adjacent to the intertidal reserve zones, with some areas closed to camping for resource protection.	Limits on campers might be established with some areas closed to camping for resource protection.	Limits on campers might be established with some areas closed to camping for resource protection.	Limits on campers might be established with some areas closed to camping for resource protection.



THE ALTERNATIVES

This *Final General Management Plan / Environmental Impact Statement* presents four alternatives: the no-action alternative (alternative A, continuation of existing management and trends); alternative B (emphasizing resource protection); alternative C (emphasizing visitor opportunities), and alternative D, the National Park Service management preferred alternative (a combination of the other action alternatives.).

Each of the action alternatives consists of the following elements:

- an overall management concept and general management strategies
- a description of how zones would be applied to the different areas of the national park under each alternative
- potential boundary adjustments, land purchases, and easements

The no-action alternative is included as a baseline for comparing the environmental consequences of implementing each alternative.

The goal of the four alternatives is to express the range of what the public and National Park Service want to see accomplished within the categories of natural resource conditions, wilderness resource character conditions, cultural resource conditions, visitor use and experience, visitor access, activities, and facilities at Olympic National Park. All of the alternatives considered reflect the park's desired conditions, but components of each alternative may meet the desired conditions to a lesser or greater extent.

The **frontcountry** management zones are incorporated into the alternatives. Each of the alternatives would apply the zones differently, but all would support the park's purpose and significance, address issues of concern, avoid unacceptable resource impacts, meet the

park's long-term goals, and respond to differing public concerns.

The implementation of any alternative will depend on future funding and in some cases a more detailed environmental analysis. The approved plan establishes a vision of the future that will guide daily and yearly management of the national park, but full implementation could take many years.

The overall wilderness desired conditions, preliminary strategies, and zone descriptions have been established through this planning process. However, mapping and on-ground designation of the wilderness zones will not occur in this plan. This would be accomplished through the wilderness management plan process that would be initiated following the adoption of the *Final General Management Plan*.

IDENTIFICATION OF THE NPS MANAGEMENT PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE

The development of a management preferred alternative was accomplished between 2003 and 2004 and involved evaluating the alternatives with the use of an objective analysis called "choosing by advantages." This process determines the benefits and disadvantages of each alternative relative to the following factors:

- protecting natural resources and processes
- protecting cultural resources
- protecting wilderness resources and character
- providing orientation and education for visitors
- providing visitor access and recreational opportunities
- protecting the health, safety, and welfare of the public and park employees
- improving park operational efficiency and sustainability

- ensuring compatibility of the park’s actions with its neighbors and the surrounding ecosystem

This comparison helped the park planning team to determine the actions that would be most advantageous to the resources and the public.

The costs of implementing the alternatives were also considered. For the purposes of cost estimating, general assumptions were made regarding the amounts and size of development or restoration. These assumptions are then carried across all alternatives so that comparable costs can be considered for each alternative. Costs identified in the general management plan are not intended to replace more detailed consideration of needs, sizes, and amounts of future development. They should not be used as a basis for funding

requests or budgeting. Cost information is summarized in table 3. These costs only relate to NPS capital development and do not include costs by other public or private entities for items of work that support the alternatives.

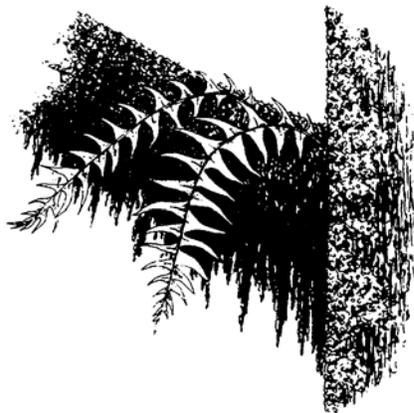
The National Park Service recognizes that this is a long-term plan, and in the framework of the plan, park managers would take incremental steps to reach park management goals and objectives. Although some of the actions can be accomplished with little or no funding, some actions would require more detailed implementation plans, site-specific compliance, and additional funds. The park would actively seek alternative sources of funding, but there is no guarantee that all components of the plan would be implemented.

TABLE 3: SUMMARY OF COMPARATIVE COSTS

Note: An NPS policy change in September 2007 mandated that the park change the format of the comparative costs table for the Final General Management Plan from what appears in the Draft General Management Plan. The new format includes new information, including deferred maintenance for facilities and roads, and updated information derived from ongoing NPS condition assessments. It does not include the life cycle costs that appear in the Draft General Management Plan. The below information is estimated and is for comparison purposes only.

	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D (NPS Preferred)
Annual Operating Costs ⁽¹⁾	\$17,384,261	\$17,874,669	\$19,007,970	\$18,709,381
Staffing - FTE ⁽²⁾	122	141.5	153.5	147.5
One Time Costs				
Deferred Maintenance Facilities ⁽³⁾	\$27,705,224	\$26,319,962	\$29,090,485	\$28,397,855
Deferred Maintenance Roads ⁽³⁾	\$45,820,266	\$43,529,252	\$48,111,279	\$46,965,773
Initial Construction ⁽⁴⁾	\$13,028,144	\$37,128,144	\$26,528,144	\$24,548,144
Boundary Adjustment ⁽⁵⁾	\$500,000	\$30,000,000	\$20,000,000	\$24,000,000
Total One Time Costs ⁽⁶⁾	\$87,053,634	\$136,977,358	\$123,729,908	\$123,911,772

- (1) Reoccurring costs plus annual cyclic maintenance costs and staffing based on 2005 figures.
- (2) Total full-time equivalents (FTE) are the number of staff required to reach the goals of each alternative and includes both full time and seasonal staff based on a GS-07 at 2005 costs. No action reflects 2005 conditions. These numbers do not reflect the reduction of 30 FTEs that has occurred in the park since 2001.
- (3) Deferred maintenance estimates for both roads and facilities are based on ongoing ONP condition assessments. These numbers will continue to be updated periodically as conditions change.
- (4) Initial Construction Costs include facilities and non-facility related costs related to natural and cultural resources management and visitor use projects. No action reflects costs from various funding sources of those projects already planned and approved from 2005 to 2008. Figures for alternatives B, C, and D include the no action amount and are based on 2005 estimates.
- (5) There are a number of elements (e.g., details of potential land exchange with the state of Washington and types of exchange, whether easement, fee, and/or other land protection strategies would be used) that will change in the future. After the General Management Plan is finalized, a Legislative Cost Estimate will be prepared to provide a more accurate and detailed estimate of land acquisition costs according to the final approved plan, and this information will be provided to Congress before any legislation as appropriate.
- (6) The presentation of costs within a General Management Plan is applied to the types and general intensities of development in a comparative format. The costs presented within this GMP are estimates and allow for flexibility in application of components. These costs are not appropriate for budgeting purposes and have been developed using industry standards to the extent available. Actual costs will be determined at a later date, considering the design of facilities, identification of detailed resource protection needs and changing visitor expectations. The approval of the plan does not guarantee funding or staffing for proposed actions. The cost estimates presented represent the total costs of projects. Potential cost sharing opportunities with partners could reduce the overall costs. Full implementation of the GMP may be many years in the future.



GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE ALTERNATIVES

The alternatives in this *Final General Management Plan / Environmental Impact Statement* are closely related because they all meet the park's purpose and significance and they were developed using the desired conditions. Some components of each alternative may meet the desired conditions more successfully than another alternative. For example, alternative B may better meet the desired condition of protecting floodplains due to road closures and restoring the natural river processes, but it may not fully meet the desired conditions for visitor access and opportunities.

This section describes the basic concept of each alternative and provides a summary of differences between alternatives. A detailed discussion of each alternative for each park area ~~and for wilderness~~ is included on the alternative maps later in this section.

ALTERNATIVE A — NO ACTION

The no-action alternative, alternative A, is required by the National Environmental Policy Act and provides the baseline from which to compare other alternatives. Under this alternative current management practices would continue. The park would be managed in accordance with approved management documents.

Park resources would continue to be protected while educational and recreational opportunities are provided in superlative natural settings. No changes in current management strategies would occur.

Natural resources would be managed in conformance with existing laws, policies, and resource management plans. Cultural resources would be managed according to existing laws, policies, and ongoing treatment programs. Structures or cultural landscapes

listed or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places would be managed in accordance with the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards*, which set forth standards for the treatment of historic properties and contain standards for preservation, rehabilitation, restoration, and reconstruction, in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act.

Cultural resources such as archeological sites, historic trails, routes, cultural landscapes, and structures that have been included within wilderness ~~will be protected and maintained using methods that are consistent with preservation of wilderness character and values and cultural resource requirements.~~ would be protected and maintained according to the pertinent laws and policies governing cultural resources using management methods that are consistent with the preservation of wilderness character and values.

(The Wilderness Act specifies that the designation of any area of the park system as wilderness "shall in no manner lower the standards evolved for the use and preservation of" such unit of the park system under the various laws applicable to that unit (16 USC Section 1133(a)(3)). Thus, the laws pertaining to historic preservation also remain applicable within wilderness but must generally be administered to preserve the area's wilderness character. The responsible decision maker will include appropriate consideration of the application of these provisions of the Wilderness Act in analyses and decision-making concerning cultural resources.)

~~No change in the visitor's wilderness recreation experiences would occur.~~

Wilderness would continue to be managed in accordance with the Wilderness Act and NPS policies.

A variety of educational opportunities on a limited basis would continue to be provided in

the park. There would also continue to be outreach programs for school and community groups to improve general understanding of park resources and research. Education and interpretive facilities would continue to be located at existing sites in the frontcountry.

Roads, trails, and park facilities would remain at approximately their current levels.

No boundary adjustments would be considered under this alternative.

For the purposes of the analysis, zoning reflective of the current conditions was included on the no-action alternative maps. The current zoning is a combination of frontcountry zones (day use, development, and low use zones) and wilderness zones (wilderness trail, primitive, and primeval zones).

ALTERNATIVE B

Alternative B emphasizes cultural and natural resource protection. Natural processes would take priority over visitor access in certain areas of the park. In general, the park would be managed as a large ecosystem preserve emphasizing wilderness management for resource conservation and protection, with a reduced number of facilities to support visitation.

Natural resources protection would receive increased emphasis, and some previously disturbed areas would undergo restoration. Greater emphasis would be placed on identifying, evaluating, and preserving historic properties. Structures or cultural landscapes listed or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places would be managed in accordance with the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards*. Cultural resources that have been included within wilderness would be protected and maintained according to the pertinent laws and policies governing cultural resources using management methods that are

consistent with the preservation of wilderness character and values. Laws pertaining to historic preservation remain applicable within wilderness, but must generally be administered to preserve the area's wilderness character 16 USC 1133(a)(3). The responsible decision-maker will include appropriate consideration of the application of the provisions of the Wilderness Act in analyses and decision-making concerning cultural resources.

~~Where these resources have been included within wilderness, they will be protected and maintained using methods that are consistent with preservation of wilderness character and values and cultural resource requirements.~~

~~Some wilderness recreation experiences would be enhanced from the reduction of trails and related facilities, and there would be more opportunities for solitude in the wilderness.~~

Wilderness would continue to be managed in accordance with the Wilderness Act and NPS policies. Wilderness zones, as described in table 2, would be established; however, on-ground designations would occur through the wilderness management plan process. Wilderness suitability eligibility studies would be conducted for nonwilderness areas near Lake Crescent and Ozette Lake. In addition, all lands not evaluated yet for wilderness eligibility (those lands acquired after 1974) would be studied for wilderness eligibility.

A variety of educational opportunities would be provided in the park with more emphasis on personal guided activities, off-site programs, and web-based education. There would be increased outreach with the area communities, focusing on improving the general understanding of park resources, research, and the protection of resources and natural processes.

Some roads might be moved or closed to protect the natural processes. Some roads might be converted to trails. Some trails might be closed and rehabilitated to protect resources. Transit systems would be explored to provide access to some frontcountry areas. Facilities such as campgrounds and visitor

centers might be modified, closed, or moved to protect natural processes. Visitor access and services in sensitive areas would be reduced.

Boundary adjustments for the purposes of resource protection would be considered adjacent to the park in the Ozette, Lake Crescent, Hoh, Queets, and Quinault areas.

When compared with the other alternatives, this alternative would have less frontcountry acreage designated as development, and more acreage designated as low-use and day-use zones. This alternative includes a river zone and an intertidal reserve zone. ~~Within the wilderness, this alternative includes a larger primeval zone and a reduced wilderness trail zone when compared with the other alternatives.~~

ALTERNATIVE C

Under alternative C, increased visitor opportunities, recreation, and tourism would be emphasized. The natural, cultural, and recreational resources at Olympic National Park would be important regional attractions. Partnerships would be sought to improve park and regional facilities. Access would be retained to all existing frontcountry areas, and increased access would be provided by improving park roads to extend the season of use.

Natural resources would be protected through management actions and resource education programs; however, maintaining access to existing facilities would be a priority in this alternative. Structures and cultural landscapes listed or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places would be managed in accordance with the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards*. Some historic structures may be adaptively reused to achieve preservation and/or administrative objectives. ~~Where these resources have been included within wilderness, they will be protected and maintained using methods that are consistent~~

~~with preservation of wilderness character and values and cultural resource requirements.~~ Cultural resources that have been included within wilderness would be protected and maintained according to the pertinent laws and policies governing cultural resources using management methods consistent with the preservation of wilderness character and values. Laws pertaining to historic preservation remain applicable within wilderness but must generally be administered to preserve the area's wilderness character (16 USC 1133(a)(3)). The responsible decision-maker would include appropriate consideration of the application of the provisions of the Wilderness Act in analyses and decision-making concerning cultural resources.

This alternative would accommodate increases in frontcountry visitation and improve access to the wilderness. ~~Wilderness would continue to be managed in accordance with the Wilderness Act and NPS policies. Wilderness zones, as described in table 2, would be established; however, on-ground designations would occur through the wilderness management plan process. Fewer opportunities for solitude would be provided.~~ Wilderness suitability eligibility studies would be conducted for nonwilderness areas at Ozette Lake. In addition, all lands not evaluated yet for wilderness eligibility (those lands acquired after 1974) would be studied for wilderness eligibility.

Educational opportunities would be expanded and could include regional learning centers. There would be increased outreach programs focusing on improving the general understanding and protection of park resources, research, and visitor opportunities.

New or expanded interpretation and education facilities might be constructed within or outside the park. The National Park Service would partner with agencies, area communities, and tribes to develop these facilities.

Roads might be modified or relocated for resource protection, and seasonal transit systems would be studied to provide improved access to existing frontcountry areas. Trails, campgrounds, and related facilities would be improved and/or increased where appropriate and feasible. Some frontcountry trails would be modified for universal accessibility.

This alternative would include a boundary adjustment in the Ozette area.

When compared with the other alternatives, this alternative would have increased acreages zoned as development and day use and decreased acreages of low-use zone areas. This alternative would include an intertidal reserve zone; there would be no river zone. ~~The amount of wilderness designated as wilderness trail would increase, but the most wilderness would be designated as primeval.~~

ALTERNATIVE D — MANAGEMENT PREFERRED

Alternative D is the management preferred alternative. It was developed using components of the no-action alternative and alternatives B and C using the factors in the “Identification of Management Preferred Alternative” section described previously in this chapter. Under alternative D, management emphasis would be on protecting resources while improving visitor experiences. This would be accomplished by accommodating visitor use, providing sustainable access through mass transit, and concentrating improved educational and recreational opportunities in the developed areas of the park.

Natural processes would be promoted, and some previously disturbed areas would be restored. Management activities would use methods that minimize adverse effects on park resources to the extent possible.

Structures and cultural landscapes listed or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places would be preserved and rehabilitated to retain a high degree of integrity and would be managed in accordance with the *Secretary of the Interior’s Standards*. Some historic structures might be adaptively reused to achieve preservation and/or administrative objectives. The park staff would develop a strategy for the maintenance and preservation of historic structures using the existing list of classified structures (see appendix E) and ongoing cultural resource assessments of condition and history. ~~Where historic structures or cultural landscapes have been included within wilderness, they would be protected and maintained using methods that are consistent with preservation of wilderness character and values and cultural resource requirements.~~ Cultural resources that have been included within wilderness would be protected and maintained according to the pertinent laws and policies governing cultural resources using management methods consistent with the preservation of wilderness character and values. Laws pertaining to historic preservation remain applicable within wilderness but must generally be administered to preserve the area’s wilderness character. 16 USC 1133(a)(3). The responsible decision-maker would include appropriate consideration of the application of the provisions of the Wilderness Act in analyses and decision-making concerning cultural resources.

Wilderness would continue to be managed in accordance with the Wilderness Act and NPS policies. Wilderness zones, as described in table 2, would be established; however, on-ground designations would occur through the wilderness management plan process. Wilderness eligibility studies would be conducted for nonwilderness areas near Lake Crescent and Ozette Lake. In addition, all lands not evaluated yet for wilderness eligibility (those lands acquired after 1974) would be studied for wilderness eligibility.

A variety of educational opportunities would be provided in the park with facility-based contacts and personal guided activities. More web-based education would be provided. Education programs would be coordinated with partners and focus on improving understanding of the park's natural and cultural resources, biodiversity, research, wilderness, and recreational and visitor opportunities.

Visitor education and interpretation facilities would be retained, but might be relocated, reconstructed, or moved to areas within or outside the park to protect resources and provide improved visitor opportunities. The National Park Service would partner with outside agencies and tribes to develop opportunities for regional education and interpretation.

Roads might be modified or relocated for resource protection and/or to maintain vehicular access; seasonal transit systems would be studied to provide improved access to existing frontcountry areas. Trails, campgrounds, and related facilities would be kept at approximately their current levels or might be modified for resource protection, restoration, or visitor experience or to address increased visitation. Some frontcountry trails would be modified for universal accessibility.

This alternative includes boundary adjustments in adjacent lands in the Lake Crescent, Ozette, and Queets areas.

This alternative includes slightly more development zone acreage in the frontcountry when compared with alternative B, and slightly less than alternative C. This alternative has more day-use zone acreage than alternative B, and more low-use zone acreage than alternative C. This alternative does not include a river zone, but does include an intertidal reserve zone. ~~This alternative includes slightly more wilderness trail zone and slightly less primitive zone than alternative B, but more primeval zone than alternative C.~~

The following alternative maps show different zoning based on the overall intent (concept) of each alternative. The maps show the alternative zoning in the frontcountry areas of the park. The maps are graphic interpretations of the zones and have not been verified by surveys. The no-action alternative includes zoning based on current park management to make it easier for the reader to compare the alternatives. The zones for each alternative are approximate and have not been verified by surveys. ~~These maps are followed by maps showing the wilderness zone for each alternative.~~

