



**National Park Service**  
**U.S. Department of the Interior**

Olympic National Park

600 East Park Avenue  
Port Angeles, WA  
98362

360-565-3005 phone  
360-565-3015 fax

---

## Olympic National Park News Release

February 26, 2009

For Immediate Release

Barb Maynes 360-565-3005

### **Public Input Sought on Proposed Culvert Replacement Along Griff Creek in Olympic National Park's Elwha Valley Another Important Step Towards Elwha Ecosystem Restoration**

Olympic National Park is seeking public input regarding a proposal to restore access for bull trout and other fish to Griff Creek through the replacement of a fish-blocking culvert under the Olympic Hot Springs Road. Park staff proposes to replace the existing culvert with a bridge or culvert that is properly sized to allow fish passage and restore natural river processes.

The steel culvert now in use is approximately five feet in diameter and creates a complete barrier to upstream migration of bull trout (a threatened species), rainbow trout, cutthroat trout and other resident species in the Elwha watershed.

"Replacing this culvert is an important step that needs to be taken before dam removal can begin on the Elwha River," said Olympic National Park Superintendent Karen Gustin. "By restoring fish access to Griff Creek, we will provide native fish with additional high quality habitat and a clear-water refuge during dam removal, when the river itself will carry high sediment loads."

Griff Creek is a sizable tributary to the Elwha River, with nearly a half-mile of high quality spawning and rearing habitat above the culvert. A new fish-friendly culvert or bridge will allow upstream migration for a variety of native fish, including anadromous fish that will be restored to the Elwha once the dams are removed. The creek passes under the Olympic Hot Springs Road near the Olympic National Park Elwha Ranger Station.

The National Park Service is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) that will evaluate the environmental effects of this proposal. Interested members of the public are invited to provide input on the proposed projects. Comments received during this initial scoping period will be used to help define the issues and concerns to be addressed in the EA.

Comments should be submitted on-line by visiting <http://parkplanning.nps.gov>, the website for the National Park Service's Planning Environment and Public Comment system.

(more)

---

**EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA**

The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

Comments may also be sent to the following address no later than April 1, 2009. The EA will be released later this year.

Superintendent – Griff Creek Culvert Replacement  
Olympic National Park  
600 East Park Avenue  
Port Angeles, WA 98362

Fax: 360-565-3015

Website: <http://parkplanning.nps.gov>

Commenters should be aware that their entire comment – including personal identifying information – may be made publicly available at any time. While commenters can ask that their personal identifying information be withheld from public review, the NPS cannot guarantee that this will be possible.

For more information about this project, people may visit National Park Service's Planning Environment and Public Comment website at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov> or call the park at 360-565-3004.

--NPS--