

Olympic National Park

Wilderness Project Proposal Form and Minimum Requirements Analysis Worksheet

East Fork Quinault River Trail
and Enchanted Valley - Overcrowding



3-9-22 Version

The Wilderness Act requires agencies to preserve wilderness character, securing for present and future generations the benefits of an enduring resource of wilderness. The minimum requirements analysis (MRA) is a process to help ensure that agencies administer wilderness so as to meet this goal. A minimum requirements analysis (MRA) is required for *all* administrative actions in wilderness that propose a Wilderness Act 4(c) prohibited use or have an effect on wilderness character. The Olympic National Park Wilderness Minimum Requirements Worksheet (MRW) is the park's form for conducting and documenting the MRA process, and for helping inform other compliance processes.

Wilderness Project Proposal Background Information

This section provides background information prior to beginning the two step MRA process. The focus here is on defining the issue that will be addressed in the MRA. Proposed solutions/alternatives are not developed until MRA Step 2 and are not to be included in the background section.

Project Originator(s):	Michael Nordell, Scott Jacobs
Division:	Visitor Resource Protection
MRW Preparer(s):	Michael Nordell, Scott Jacobs
Date:	2/5/2024
PEPC #:	
PMIS #:	

What is the issue or problem to be solved? (attach photos, if helpful)

In many of Olympic National Park's popular wilderness locations, overnight use is subject to an established limitation regarding the maximum number of daily permits issued. This is due to a variety of reasons to include, but not limited to, an area may be able to contain only a certain number of established camp areas based on the type of resources present; there may be sensitive natural or cultural resources within the area; or there may have been past damage to natural or cultural resources from overuse and quotas were issued to alleviate damage and allow these resources to recover naturally. The remaining park wilderness areas remain unrestricted, and some of these areas experience negative impacts to park resources, wilderness character, and visitor experience due to the frequent large number of permitted users.

These impacts include campsite overcrowding, trailhead congestion and limited parking, insufficient holding capacity for human waste in pit toilets, decreased opportunities for visitor solitude, and the expansion of current established, or the creation of new, camp areas by visitors. While bears are frequently in the Enchanted Valley area, to date there have been no issues with human-wildlife interactions and wildlife, in general, obtaining food rewards.

This project's primary focus is the loss of solitude along the East Fork Quinault River Trail and in the Enchanted Valley. Olympic National Park currently does not limit the number of overnight groups or people there, and the wilderness character, specifically opportunities for solitude, may be negatively impacted by the quantity of use that occurs.



(Enchanted Valley-May 2023)

Every person that uses the Daniel J. Evans Wilderness overnight is required to obtain a permit. Daily camper nights are tracked through the park’s reservation system and indicates the total number of permitted users. Overnight use within the East Fork Quinault River Trail and in the Enchanted Valley has greatly increased in recent years.

Campsite	*2019 Daily Camper Nights	*2023 Daily Camper Nights	Increase
Pony Bridge	603	1087	80%
Fire Creek	15	17	13%
O’Neil Creek	1961	4415	125%
Pyrites Creek	1625	2918	79%
Enchanted Valley	5147	10367	101%

**Permits acquired May 1st-September 30th*

Daily camper nights for Enchanted Valley alone exceeded 300 people on one occasion in 2022, and twice in 2023. Camper nights in the valley, ranging between 100 and 299 people, occurred 31 times in 2022, and 34 times in 2023. This level of nightly use results in frequent overcrowding of campsites and a degradation of wilderness character. Parties are forced to camp close to, or within close sight of, numerous other campers. The crowding can be like that of a front-country campground. This contrasts wilderness values of:

- “generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable”
- “outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation”



(July, 2022)

Occasionally, concern about the issue is expressed through correspondence from the public:

Greetings, I just returned from Enchanted Valley this weekend, and while my trip on the whole was lovely and the valley was beautiful, I am reaching out to express my concern about crowds on behalf of the ecosystem. The park ranger staff on-site, estimated that there were 150 people backcountry camping in the valley on Saturday night! Not only did it feel exceptionally crowded as a backpacker, more like a festival, but it was easy to see how this amount of people was damaging the ecosystem. Trampled meadow grass. All of the wood has plucked off the ground to burn in campfires. Smoky, unhealthy air that hangs around all day and night. Tents erected within 10 feet of the Quinault River and not enough durable tent pads. All said and done, I would like to formally submit the following change requests for how my public land is used in Enchanted Valley: Limit permits to less than 100 people in EV per night Create designated campsites and assign them with permits Ban campfires This would do wonders to reinvigorate the health of the valley...

(June 19, 2023)

Hi folks! I spoke to a ranger last week about the fact that O'Neill Creek campground is a 'quota area' meaning you don't monitor how many passes you sell vs the capacity of the campground—this was a glaring issue this weekend. The ranger mentioned to provide feedback to improve the experience, so here it is. ...We arrived late Friday (~9pm) to a jam packed campground. We got a giggle out of the fact that there are 6 'campsites' because there were at least 15 unique groups (each with multiple tents) in the surrounding area. Fortunately, some other campgoers invited us to squeeze into their extra area so we could lay our tents down. We even thought 'why the hell are we paying >\$100 for this reservation—there's nothing here to even reserve!?!' We were not even

the last group to arrive. Just observing other groups, finding a spot was more like "where is a flat area that we can crash for the night" with complete disregard for the vegetation etc. The resounding takeaway from our group and the others we bumped into was 'this place is a zoo and completely mismanaged'. I'll be honest, it seemed odd and irresponsible for a National Park. I don't think this needs to be over engineered by assigning campsites, but there needs to be a limit for how many passes you sell for these campgrounds. Yes, they can hold some overflow if folks can't push to Pyrites Creek that night, but not 3-4x the number of sites needed. It impacted our experience a bit, but we still had a good time.
(June 26, 2023)



(Social trails-Enchanted Valley; Google Earth, 2024)

<p>What is the underlying need for the project?</p>	<p>Although park management has been identifying many of these issues during the scoping process of a Wilderness Stewardship Plan, immediate changes may be necessary to reduce ongoing resource degradation and improve the wilderness experience in the East Fork Quinault River Trail and in the Enchanted Valley.</p>
<p>Location of issue (attach map):</p>	<p>Within the East Fork Quinault River Trail and in the Enchanted Valley (See pink asterisk in figure below from the Final Disposition of the Enchanted Valley Chalet/Draft EA, 2020, for general project location.)</p>
 <p>The map displays the Olympic National Park region, including the Pacific Coast National Marine Sanctuary to the west and the Strait of Juan de Fuca to the north. Key locations marked include Ozette, Mora, Forks, Kalaloch, Queets, Quinault, Staircase, Hoodsport, Sequim, and Port Angeles. Designated wilderness areas are shown in dark green, while non-wilderness areas are in light green. The Enchanted Valley Chalet is indicated by a pink asterisk within the Daniel J Evans Wilderness. Major roads like 101, 112, and 113 are also shown. A legend in the bottom left corner identifies the wilderness status and provides a scale in kilometers and miles.</p> <p>Olympic National Park Map 2/26/2019</p>	
<p>Is resolution of this issue addressed in an approved NEPA document: Categorical Exclusion (CE); Environmental Assessment Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI); or Environmental Impact Statement Record of Decision (ROD)? If so, please name:</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>What would happen if the need were not met?</p>	<p>Continued degradation of wilderness character due to overcrowding, resource damage, need for sanitation development, and increased potential for human-wildlife encounters. Opportunities for solitude would continue to be diminished in desirable camping locations.</p>

MRA STEP 1: Determine if action is necessary and appropriate for administration of the area as wilderness

Any action within wilderness, even an action for preserving or restoring wilderness character, has impacts on wilderness character. The purpose of Step 1 of the MRA is to determine if any action is actually necessary, and appropriate, in order to preserve wilderness character. The worksheet first asks if a prior MRA covers the action. Any related guidance (e.g., laws, policies) is then to be noted, to determine if actions need to be taken to meet legal or agency directives, and to provide direction and the sideboards for decisions about the issue. The next set of questions are used to determine if there is a way to resolve the issue outside of wilderness and/or through education, to help establish if action is truly necessary and appropriate.

1	Is the resolution of this issue covered by an existing Wilderness Stewardship Plan or other NEPA decision document that includes a wilderness minimum requirement analysis of the issue?	Answer: Yes____ No__X__
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>Yes ↓</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: 100px;">Implement action as approved</div> </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>No ↓</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: 100px;">Continue MRA</div> </div> </div>		If "Yes" provide name of document and approval date:
2	Has the Superintendent determined this is an emergency in accordance with law and policy?	Answer: Yes____ No __X__
<div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: 200px; margin-right: 20px;"> <p>An "emergency" is defined in Director's Order #41 as, "a situation that requires immediate action because of imminent danger to the health or safety of people."</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>No ↓</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>Yes ↓</p> </div> </div>		<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p>If yes, follow approved emergency SOPs/management plans that included a minimum requirements analysis. If an MRA does not yet exist for this type emergency, until one is approved respond using the methods and tools that would facilitate a successful emergency response, while minimizing negative impacts on wilderness character including avoiding use of Wilderness Act 4(c) prohibitions if possible.</p> </div>
3	List guidance provided in law, policy, and other directives for resolution of the issue	See Management Policies Chapter 6, Director's Order #41, Reference Manual #41, and other applicable laws, policies, and directives, including related park guidance. Add additional guidance, as appropriate, to that provided in Appendix A.
4	Is resolution of this issue necessary and appropriate to preserve wilderness character, or meet the requirements of other laws, policies, and directives?	<p>Answer: Yes__X__ No____</p> <p>Explain: The current operational model does not place limitations on the number of overnight visitations within the East Fork Quinalt River Trail</p>



	Yes	No	<p>and in the Enchanted Valley. At times, the amount of overnight use negatively impacts wilderness character and prevents opportunities for solitude.</p>
		<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;">Do not proceed with action</div>	
5	Can the issue be resolved through actions outside of wilderness?		Answer: Yes____ No__X__ Explain: The issue cannot be solved outside of wilderness as the East Fork Quinault River corridor is in designated wilderness starting 200' from the Graves Creek Trailhead within ONP, and the Enchanted Valley is located 13 miles into designated wilderness from the Graves Creek Trailhead.
	Yes	No	
	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;">Conduct actions outside wilderness</div>		
6	Can the issue be resolved through visitor education?		Answer: Yes____ No__X__ Explain: Educating visitors of the impacts of excessive visitation may encourage some from usage, but a vast majority may choose to use the wilderness despite the information. Visitors that are using the wilderness are educated to camp in sites already established, but those sites fill up and they are left with no alternative but to create/impact new sites.
	Yes	No	
	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;">Carry out visitor education</div>		Visitor education is part of the solution and would play a key role in providing regulation updates to wilderness visitors. However, this is an issue of a loss of solitude due to high visitation within wilderness areas and may require limiting visitor use.

MRA STEP 1 COMPLETION		
<i>I have reviewed this project proposal and have determined that it meets the overall goals of Olympic National Park and can be included in my divisional work plan. The project coordinator designated below will represent my division and present the proposal to the Compliance Council.</i>		
Project Manager:		
Division Chief Signature:		Date:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contact the Planning & Compliance Office (PCO) to schedule the issue for discussion by the Olympic National Park Compliance Council. Brief the park Wilderness Coordinator on the issue prior to Council. Prepare to present the issue, applicable guidance, and your preliminary alternative considerations to the Compliance Council. Step 2 of the MRA should be completed <i>after</i> Compliance Council. 		

I have reviewed this project proposal and have determined that management action is necessary, and appropriate, for the administration of the area as wilderness in accordance with the Wilderness Act. (MRA Step 1). I recommend that alternatives be developed, to determine the activities (methods and tools) that are the minimum necessary to resolve the issue with the least negative impact to wilderness character. (MRA Step 2).

Deputy Superintendent:

Date:

MRA STEP 2: Determine the minimum activity (methods and tools) necessary to resolve the issue with the least negative impact on wilderness character

In Step 2 of the MRA, alternatives are developed, and impacts of the alternatives are analyzed with emphasis on impacts to the qualities of wilderness character. The alternative action is then selected that would effectively resolve the issue, using the methods and tools that ensure adverse impacts on wilderness resources and character are avoided or are the minimum. Use of any Wilderness Act 4(c) prohibitions will be approved only if they are determined to be the minimum requirement necessary for preserving wilderness character.

7	Describe in detail alternative ways to resolve the issue (include the tools and methods proposed for each alternative)	Describe a range of feasible alternatives, including 1) Continuation of current management, 2) No use of Section 4(c) prohibitions, and 3) Use of some 4(c) prohibitions, as appropriate.
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Alternative 1: Continuation of Current Management

- What is proposed? Describe components of the proposed project under this alternative.
 - Continuation of current management. An unlimited number of overnight use permits would continue to be provided for the East Fork Quinault River Trail and within the Enchanted Valley.
- Where would the action take place?
 - Along the East Fork Quinault River Trail and in the Enchanted Valley
- When would the action take place? Are there environmental timing constraints? How long would it take to complete the action (include # of personnel, for how long)?
 - Reservations for the 2024 summer season open on April 15, 2024; though there would be no action taken within the reservations system to limit permit numbers for this trail corridor and in the EV.
- What design and standards would apply?
 - N/A
- What methods and tools would be used?
 - N/A
- Would transport of gear, materials, or equipment be required? If yes, describe transport type (e.g., on foot, stock, wheelbarrow), what would be transported, their purpose, their sizes and weights, distances involved, and number of trips. (For aerial transport, see next question).
 - No
- Are aerial operations proposed under this alternative? If yes, describe type of aircraft, what would be transported, their purpose, their sizes and weights, routes, number of round-trip flights, locations and number of sling pick-ups/drop-offs, and landings, # days, # hours/day, and total hours of flight time over wilderness, and proposed flight dates.
 - No
- How would staff travel (e.g., hike, riding stock, helicopter, or other mechanized transport)? Describe.
 - Monitoring would continue to take place during regular and routine foot patrols of the East Fork Quinault River Trail and in the Enchanted Valley
- Would wilderness camping take place? If yes, where, for how long, and what size crew and number of stock?

- Wilderness camping occurs by park rangers and wilderness information assistants as a regular part of their job duties. Rangers patrol this area independently or as a pair, and typically for 1-2 nights each trip. Rangers do not patrol with stock, therefore there would be no overnight stock use with ranger patrol staff.
- Does the project involve either new construction, or does it involve repair/rehab to existing structures, installations, or other assets? If yes to either, explain.
 - No
- Does the project take place in a location or footprint used before, or does it take place in a previously undisturbed area? If yes to either, explain.
 - N/A
- Would the project involve ground disturbance (e.g., removing duff or topsoil, hammering in rebar) or excavation of materials? If so, include where the disturbance would take place, and quantify by width, length, depth, and square feet.
 - No
- Where would excavated materials (e.g., soil, gravel, rock) be deposited (both temporarily and permanently)? Would materials be piled near the project site, backfilled into the excavation, spread across the area, or removed entirely from the wilderness?
 - N/A
- Are fill materials needed? If yes, what type of materials, how would they be used, how much is needed (i.e., cubic yards or tons), what would be the source(s), and what time of year would they be delivered? Where would the materials be stored until utilized and for how long (also see next question)? If transported from a different site, has the source passed a weed-free certification inspection within the past 12 months?
 - No
- Would staging area(s) be required? If so, describe location(s) of staging area(s), include what type of materials and/or equipment and for how long? What would be the estimated square footage of the staging area(s)? Would site "improvements" be made, including any alterations of vegetation and soils? Describe.
 - No
- How/where would native construction debris (e.g., logs, shakes, etc.) and non-native construction debris (e.g., metal hardware, treated wood, painted boards, etc.), be disposed?
 - N/A
- Are you aware of cultural resources, such as archeological sites, ethnographic resources, or historic structures, in or near the proposed project area?
 - The Enchanted Valley Chalet is in this area. Archeological sites have been identified within the area where the chalet was previously situated. It is believed by the park's former archeologist that the majority, if not all, of these sites have since been washed away by the river as the cutbank has continued to erode.
- How much ground or understory vegetation would be disturbed, trampled, or removed (quantify by square footage, and species type if known). If any trees (live/dead, standing/down) are to be removed, provide species, and number and DBH of trees?
 - N/A
- Would the project take place in or adjacent to any geologic features (e.g., hydrothermal, other geothermal, caves, paleontological), geological processes (e.g., soil erosion, ridgetop depression expansion), shorelines, or geologic hazards (e.g., avalanche slopes; tsunami zones; post-wildfire slopes; thermal springs; areas of potential landslides, debris flows, rock fall, flooding/flash floods, etc.). Describe.
 - The wilderness in this area is subject to geologic hazards such as cutbank erosion, flooding, avalanches, and debris fans/alluvial deposits from streams on the eastern valley wall.
- Would the project occur in or near hydrologic features (e.g., rivers, permanent or intermittent streams, lakes, littoral zones, riparian areas, seepage sites, springs, or wetlands)? Describe.
 - The project effects the camp areas within the East Fork Quinault River Trail and in the Enchanted Valley; some visitors in the Enchanted Valley camp, at low flow, on gravel bars that have formed in the riverbed.
- Would the proposal involve structures in water (e.g., puncheon, sills, culverts, bridge abutments, riprap, gabion baskets, etc.), fill (e.g., gravel, soil) placed in wet areas, or discharge into water (e.g., water bars). Describe.
 - No

- Would the proposal affect water quality, or quantity (e.g., diversion of, removal from, or filling in water sources)? Describe.
 - No
- What changes would occur in land/facility use?
 - No, though with continued unlimited overnight use, camp areas would persist in being crowded and expanded by users, and other areas would continue to be denuded of vegetation as users create new camp areas due to overcrowding and limited established clearings. However, the type of land use would not change. The area would still be available for appropriate recreational activities.
- Would the proposal alter visitor services, activities, or experiences? Temporarily or permanently? Describe.
 - The proposed action would not directly alter visitor services, activities, or experiences, however, there would likely be an indirect, permanent change to visitor services, activities, or experiences due to continued uncontrolled use in this trail corridor and in the EV and continued overcrowding. This is already impacting visitors' sense of solitude and this quality of wilderness character and experience would continue to degrade.
- What changes would occur in visitor circulation? Temporarily or permanently?
 - There would be no direct changes to visitor circulation under this alternative, however there would likely be permanent indirect changes to visitor circulation. Non-governmental organization (NGO) websites and other user group forums spread the word regarding the high level of use in this area, which may already redirect users from the EV to other wilderness areas in the park.
- What mitigation measures would be taken to minimize impacts on wilderness character from implementing this alternative, including impacts on wilderness resources, values, the visitor wilderness experience, and on other park resources and values?
 - Leave No Trace ethics would be required of all users.
 - Proper food storage requirements would continue to be in place.

SUMMARY OF WILDERNESS ACT 4(C) PROHIBITIONS - ALTERNATIVE 1

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • temporary road • use of motor vehicles, motorized equipment, or motorboats | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • landing of aircraft • other forms of mechanical transport • structure or installation |
|---|---|

List the Wilderness Act 4(c) prohibited uses proposed in this alternative.
Describe what they are proposed to be used for, and the amount they would be used.

No Wilderness Act 4(c) prohibited uses are proposed in this alternative.

Alternative 2: Limitation Based on 2023 Averages

- What is proposed? Describe components of the proposed project under this alternative.
 - Establish limits on the number of overnight users along the East Fork Quinault River Trail and in the Enchanted Valley. Limitations would be based on the average number of 2023 overnight users at each site from May 1st through Sept. 30th.
 - To arrive at an average, the number of user nights were divided by dates the area had use and rounded up. The days in which no reservations were made were not factored into the average.
 - In 2023, from May 1st-September 30th each site would be limited to:
 - Pony Bridge: 10 overnight users per day (1087 user nights over 118 days)
 - Fire Creek: 5 overnight users per day (76 user nights over 16 days)
 - O'Neil: 33 overnight users per day (4415 user nights over 135 days)
 - Pyrites: 23 overnight users per day users (2918 user nights over 128 days)
 - Enchanted Valley: 75 overnight users per day (10,367 user nights over 140 days)
- Where would the action take place?
 - Along the East Fork Quinault River Trail and in the Enchanted Valley
- When would the action take place? Are there environmental timing constraints? How long would it take to complete the action (include # of personnel, for how long)?

- Reservations for the 2024 summer season open on April 15, 2024. The action would be implemented this calendar year (2024) and could be piloted for up to 3 years, at which point it would be revisited and determined whether the number of permits needs to be adjusted.
 - The only action that would be taken under this alternative would be to update visitor information and setting limits in the reservation system.
- What design and standards would apply?
 - N/A
- What methods and tools would be used?
 - N/A
- Would transport of gear, materials, or equipment be required? If yes, describe transport type (e.g., on foot, stock, wheelbarrow), what would be transported, their purpose, their sizes and weights, distances involved, and number of trips. (For aerial transport, see next question).
 - No
- Are aerial operations proposed under this alternative? If yes, describe type of aircraft, what would be transported, their purpose, their sizes and weights, routes, number of round-trip flights, locations and number of sling pick-ups/drop-offs, and landings, # days, # hours/day, and total hours of flight time over wilderness, and proposed flight dates.
 - No
- How would staff travel (e.g., hike, riding stock, helicopter, or other mechanized transport)? Describe.
 - Monitoring of the action would take place during regular and routine foot patrols of the East Fork Quinault River Trail and the Enchanted Valley
- Would wilderness camping take place? If yes, where, for how long, and what size crew and number of stock?
 - Wilderness camping occurs by park rangers and wilderness information assistants as a regular part of their job duties. Rangers patrol this area independently or as a pair, and typically for 1-2 nights each trip. Rangers do not patrol with stock, therefore there would be no overnight stock use with ranger patrol staff.
- Does the project involve either new construction, or does it involve repair/rehab to existing structures, installations, or other assets? If yes to either, explain.
 - No
- Does the project take place in a location or footprint used before, or does it take place in a previously undisturbed area? If yes to either, explain.
 - N/A
- Would the project involve ground disturbance (e.g., removing duff or topsoil, hammering in rebar) or excavation of materials? If so, include where the disturbance would take place, and quantify by width, length, depth, and square feet.
 - No
- Where would excavated materials (e.g., soil, gravel, rock) be deposited (both temporarily and permanently)? Would materials be piled near the project site, backfilled into the excavation, spread across the area, or removed entirely from the wilderness?
 - N/A
- Are fill materials needed? If yes, what type of materials, how would they be used, how much is needed (i.e., cubic yards or tons), what would be the source(s), and what time of year would they be delivered? Where would the materials be stored until utilized and for how long (also see next question)? If transported from a different site, has the source passed a weed-free certification inspection within the past 12 months?
 - No
- Would staging area(s) be required? If so, describe location(s) of staging area(s), include what type of materials and/or equipment and for how long? What would be the estimated square footage of the staging area(s)? Would site "improvements" be made, including any alterations of vegetation and soils? Describe.
 - No
- How/where would native construction debris (e.g., logs, shakes, etc.) and non-native construction debris (e.g., metal hardware, treated wood, painted boards, etc.), be disposed?
 - N/A
- Are you aware of cultural resources, such as archeological sites, ethnographic resources, or historic structures, in or near the proposed project area?

- The Enchanted Valley Chalet is in this area. Archeological sites have been identified within the area where the chalet was previously situated. It is believed by the park's former archeologist that the majority, if not all, of these have since been washed away by the river as the cutbank has continued to erode.
- How much ground or understory vegetation would be disturbed, trampled, or removed (quantify by square footage, and species type if known). If any trees (live/dead, standing/down) are to be removed, provide species, and number and DBH of trees)?
 - N/A
- Would the project take place in or adjacent to any geologic features (e.g., hydrothermal, other geothermal, caves, paleontological), geological processes (e.g., soil erosion, ridgetop depression expansion), shorelines, or geologic hazards (e.g., avalanche slopes; tsunami zones; post-wildfire slopes; thermal springs; areas of potential landslides, debris flows, rock fall, flooding/flash floods, etc.). Describe.
 - The wilderness in this area is subject to geologic hazards such as cutbank erosion, flooding, avalanches, and debris fans/alluvial deposits from streams on the eastern valley wall.
- Would the project occur in or near hydrologic features (e.g., rivers, permanent or intermittent streams, lakes, littoral zones, riparian areas, seepage sites, springs, or wetlands)? Describe.
 - The project effects the camp areas within the East Fork Quinault River Trail and the Enchanted Valley; some visitors in the Enchanted Valley camp, at low flow, on gravel bars that have formed in the riverbed.
- Would the proposal involve structures in water (e.g., puncheon, sills, culverts, bridge abutments, riprap, gabion baskets, etc.), fill (e.g., gravel, soil) placed in wet areas, or discharge into water (e.g., water bars). Describe.
 - No
- Would the proposal affect water quality, or quantity (e.g., diversion of, removal from, or filling in water sources)? Describe.
 - No
- What changes would occur in land/facility use?
 - Limitations on nightly reservations for wilderness camping would be implemented. The number of overnight users would be limited. However, the type of land use would not change. The area would still be available for appropriate recreational activities.
- Would the proposal alter visitor services, activities, or experiences? Temporarily or permanently? Describe.
 - Limitations on nightly reservations for wilderness camping would be implemented. The number of overnight users would be limited.
 - The alternative could be implemented for a period of three years to assess effect and monitored each year. It could become permanent if a positive effect were observed or adjusted to achieve a desired condition.
 - The reduced number of permits could permanently offset use along the East Fork Quinault River Trail and in the EV, and shift users to another area within the park's wilderness. Users to this trail corridor and the EV would experience more solitude on a permanent basis.
- What changes would occur in visitor circulation? Temporarily or permanently?
 - Limitations on nightly reservations for wilderness camping would be implemented. The number of overnight users would be limited.
 - The alternative could be implemented for a period of three years to assess effect and monitored each year. It could become permanent if a positive effect were observed or adjusted to achieve a desired condition.
 - The reduced number of permits to this area would likely have a permanent, indirect effect of shifting use to other areas of the park's wilderness, therefore changes in visitor circulation patterns would be anticipated.
- What mitigation measures would be taken to minimize impacts on wilderness character from implementing this alternative, including impacts on wilderness resources, values, the visitor wilderness experience, and on other park resources and values?
 - The proposed action is, in and of itself, a mechanism to mitigate the adverse impacts on wilderness character from overuse in the Enchanted Valley and along the East Fork Quinault River Trail
 - Leave No Trace ethics would be required of all users.
 - Proper food storage requirements would continue to be in place.

SUMMARY OF WILDERNESS ACT 4(C) PROHIBITIONS - ALTERNATIVE 1

- temporary road
- use of motor vehicles, motorized equipment, or motorboats
- landing of aircraft
- other forms of mechanical transport
- structure or installation

List the Wilderness Act 4(c) prohibited uses proposed in this alternative.
Describe what they are proposed to be used for, and the amount they would be used.

No Wilderness Act 4(c) prohibited uses are proposed in this alternative.

Alternative 3: Establish limitations on the number of permits issued based on the known sites (usual impacted sites)

- What is proposed? Describe components of the proposed project under this alternative.
 - Establish limitations on the number of permits issued based on the known sites (established sites) along the East Fork Quinault River Trail camp sites and within the Enchanted Valley. Current ONP compendium limits party size in this area to no more than twelve individuals per permit.
 - There would be 35 total permits allowed and up to 420 overnight users per night, whichever number is reached first; however, each site is limited to the below:
 - Pony Bridge: 3 permits (3 sites x 12 occupants = 36 maximum occupants)
 - Three small campsites exist, situated just off the trail on the north side of the bridge. There is a privy located at Pony Bridge.
 - Fire Creek: 2 permits (2 sites x 12 occupants = 24 maximum occupants)
 - O'Neil: 6 permits (6 sites x 12 occupants = 72 maximum occupants)
 - At the signed O'Neil Creek Camp junction, a short side-trail descends 100' down to 6 existing campsites situated in brush alongside the Quinault River. There is a privy located at O'Neil Creek Camp.
 - Pyrites: 12 permits (12 sites x 12 occupants = 144 maximum occupants)
 - Pyrites Creek sits in an elegant bigleaf maple grove and has 6 existing campsites (12 total) on each side of the creek.
 - Enchanted Valley: 12 permits (12 sites x 12 occupants = 144 maximum occupants)
 - There are two privies located in Enchanted Valley.
- Where would the action take place?
 - Along the East Fork Quinault River Trail and in the Enchanted Valley
- When would the action take place? Are there environmental timing constraints? How long would it take to complete the action (include # of personnel, for how long)?
 - Reservations for the 2024 summer season open on April 15, 2024; the action would start this calendar year (2024) and could be piloted for up to 3 years, at which point it would be revisited and determined whether the number of permits needs to be adjusted.
 - The only action taken under this alternative would be to update visitor information and setting limits in the reservation system.
- What design and standards would apply?
 - N/A
- What methods and tools would be used?
 - N/A
- Would transport of gear, materials, or equipment be required? If yes, describe transport type (e.g., on foot, stock, wheelbarrow), what would be transported, their purpose, their sizes and weights, distances involved, and number of trips. (For aerial transport, see next question).
 - N/A
- Are aerial operations proposed under this alternative? If yes, describe type of aircraft, what would be transported, their purpose, their sizes and weights, routes, number of round-trip flights, locations and number of sling pick-ups/drop-offs, and landings, # days, # hours/day, and total hours of flight time over wilderness, and proposed flight dates.
 - N/A
- How would staff travel (e.g., hike, riding stock, helicopter, or other mechanized transport)? Describe.
 - Monitoring of the action would take place during regular and routine foot patrols of the East Fork Quinault River Trail and the Enchanted Valley

- Would wilderness camping take place? If yes, where, for how long, and what size crew and number of stock?
 - Wilderness camping occurs by park rangers and wilderness information assistants as a regular part of their job duties. Ranger patrol this area independently or as a pair, and typically for 1-2 nights each trip. Rangers do not patrol with stock, therefore there would be no overnight stock use with ranger patrol staff.
- Does the project involve either new construction, or does it involve repair/rehab to existing structures, installations, or other assets? If yes to either, explain.
 - No
- Does the project take place in a location or footprint used before, or does it take place in a previously undisturbed area? If yes to either, explain.
 - No
- Would the project involve ground disturbance (e.g., removing duff or topsoil, hammering in rebar) or excavation of materials? If so, include where the disturbance would take place, and quantify by width, length, depth, and square feet.
 - No
- Where would excavated materials (e.g., soil, gravel, rock) be deposited (both temporarily and permanently)? Would materials be piled near the project site, backfilled into the excavation, spread across the area, or removed entirely from the wilderness?
 - N/A
- Are fill materials needed? If yes, what type of materials, how would they be used, how much is needed (i.e., cubic yards or tons), what would be the source(s), and what time of year would they be delivered? Where would the materials be stored until utilized and for how long (also see next question)? If transported from a different site, has the source passed a weed-free certification inspection within the past 12 months?
 - N/A
- Would staging area(s) be required? If so, describe location(s) of staging area(s), include what type of materials and/or equipment and for how long? What would be the estimated square footage of the staging area(s)? Would site "improvements" be made, including any alterations of vegetation and soils? Describe.
 - N/A
- How/where would native construction debris (e.g., logs, shakes, etc.) and non-native construction debris (e.g., metal hardware, treated wood, painted boards, etc.), be disposed?
 - N/A
- Are you aware of cultural resources, such as archeological sites, ethnographic resources, or historic structures, in or near the proposed project area?
 - The Enchanted Valley Chalet is in this area. Archeological sites have been identified within the area where the chalet was previously situated. It is believed by the park's former archeologist that the majority, if not all, of these have since been washed away by the river as the cutbank has continued to erode.
- How much ground or understory vegetation would be disturbed, trampled, or removed (quantify by square footage, and species type if known). If any trees (live/dead, standing/down) are to be removed, provide species, and number and DBH of trees)?
 - N/A
- Would the project take place in or adjacent to any geologic features (e.g., hydrothermal, other geothermal, caves, paleontological), geological processes (e.g., soil erosion, ridgetop depression expansion), shorelines, or geologic hazards (e.g., avalanche slopes; tsunami zones; post-wildfire slopes; thermal springs; areas of potential landslides, debris flows, rock fall, flooding/flash floods, etc.). Describe.
 - The wilderness in this area is subject to geologic hazards such as cutbank erosion, flooding, avalanches, and debris fans/alluvial deposits from streams on the eastern valley wall.
- Would the project occur in or near hydrologic features (e.g., rivers, permanent or intermittent streams, lakes, littoral zones, riparian areas, seepage sites, springs, or wetlands)? Describe.
 - The project effects the camp areas within the East Fork Quinault River Trail and in the Enchanted Valley; some visitors in the Enchanted Valley camp, at low flow, on gravel bars that have formed in the riverbed.
- Would the proposal involve structures in water (e.g., puncheon, sills, culverts, bridge abutments, riprap, gabion baskets, etc.), fill (e.g., gravel, soil) placed in wet areas, or discharge into water (e.g., water bars). Describe.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ No • Would the proposal affect water quality, or quantity (e.g., diversion of, removal from, or filling in water sources)? Describe. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ No • What changes would occur in land/facility use? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Limitations on nightly reservations for wilderness camping would be implemented. The number of overnight visitors would be limited. However, the type of land use would not change. The area would still be available for appropriate recreational activities. • Would the proposal alter visitor services, activities, or experiences? Temporarily or permanently? Describe. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Limitations on nightly reservations for wilderness camping would be implemented. The number of overnight visitors would be limited. ○ The alternative could be implemented for a period of three years to assess effect and monitored each year. It could become permanent if a positive effect were observed or adjusted to achieve a desired condition. ○ The reduced number of permits could permanently offset use along the East Fork Quinault River Trail and in the EV, and shift users to other areas within the park's wilderness. Users to this trail corridor and the EV would experience more solitude on a permanent basis. • What changes would occur in visitor circulation? Temporarily or permanently? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Limitations on nightly reservations for wilderness camping would be implemented. The number of overnight visitors would be limited. ○ The alternative could be implemented for a period of three years to assess effect and monitored each year. It could become permanent if a positive effect were observed or adjusted to achieve a desired condition. ○ The reduced number of permits to this area would likely have a permanent, indirect effect of shifting use to other areas of the park's wilderness, therefore changes in visitor circulation patterns would be anticipated. • What mitigation measures would be taken to minimize impacts on wilderness character from implementing this alternative, including impacts on wilderness resources, values, the visitor wilderness experience, and on other park resources and values? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The proposed action is, in and of itself, a mechanism to mitigate the adverse impacts on wilderness character from overuse in the Enchanted Valley and along the East Fork Quinault River Trail corridor. ○ Leave No Trace ethics would be required of all users. ○ Proper food storage requirements would continue to be in place. 			
<p align="center">SUMMARY OF WILDERNESS ACT 4(C) PROHIBITIONS - ALTERNATIVE 2</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • temporary road • use of motor vehicles, motorized equipment, or motorboats </td><td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • landing of aircraft • other forms of mechanical transport • structure or installation </td></tr> </table>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • temporary road • use of motor vehicles, motorized equipment, or motorboats 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • landing of aircraft • other forms of mechanical transport • structure or installation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • temporary road • use of motor vehicles, motorized equipment, or motorboats 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • landing of aircraft • other forms of mechanical transport • structure or installation 		
<p align="center">List the Wilderness Act 4(c) prohibited uses proposed in this alternative. Describe what they are proposed to be used for, and the amount they would be used.</p> <p align="center">No Wilderness Act 4(c) prohibited uses are proposed in this alternative.</p>			

<p>Alternative 4: Establish limitations on the number of permits issued and overnight users</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is proposed? Describe components of the proposed project under this alternative. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ This alternative would establish a limitation dependent upon the number of permits issued or overnight users within the East Fork Quinault River Trail and Enchanted Valley, whichever was first reached. Current ONP compendium limits party size in this area to no more than twelve individuals per permit. Overcrowding at these sites could occur if the maximum number of permits were issued with 12 people in each party. ○ There would be a maximum of 30 permits allowed and up to 208 overnight users per night, whichever number is reached first; however, each site is limited to the below: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Pony Bridge = 3 permits or 18 overnight users <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Three small campsites exist, situated just off the trail on the north side of the bridge. There is a privy located at Pony Bridge. 	

- Fire Creek = 2 permits or 12 overnight users
- O'Neil = 6 permits or 36 overnight users
 - At the signed O'Neil Creek Camp junction, a short side-trail descends 100' down to 6 existing campsites situated in brush alongside the Quinault River. There is a privy located at O'Neil Creek Camp.
- Pyrites = 7 permits or 42 overnight users
 - Pyrites Creek sits in an elegant bigleaf maple grove and has 6 existing campsites (12 total) on each side of the creek.
- Enchanted Valley = 12 permits or 100 overnight users
 - There are two privies located in Enchanted Valley.
- Where would the action take place?
 - Within the East Fork Quinault River Trail and in the Enchanted Valley
- When would the action take place? Are there environmental timing constraints? How long would it take to complete the action (include # of personnel, for how long)?
 - Reservations for the 2024 summer season open on April 15, 2024; the action would start this calendar year (2024) and could be piloted for up to 3 years, at which point it would be revisited and determined whether the number of permits needs to be adjusted.
 - Action can be taken by one person, setting limits within the reservation system
- What design and standards would apply?
 - N/A
- What methods and tools would be used?
 - N/A
- Would transport of gear, materials, or equipment be required? If yes, describe transport type (e.g., on foot, stock, wheelbarrow), what would be transported, their purpose, their sizes and weights, distances involved, and number of trips. (For aerial transport, see next question).
 - N/A
- Are aerial operations proposed under this alternative? If yes, describe type of aircraft, what would be transported, their purpose, their sizes and weights, routes, number of round-trip flights, locations and number of sling pick-ups/drop-offs, and landings, # days, # hours/day, and total hours of flight time over wilderness, and proposed flight dates.
 - N/A
- How would staff travel (e.g., hike, riding stock, helicopter, or other mechanized transport)? Describe.
 - Monitoring of the action would take place during regular and routine foot patrols of the East Fork Quinault River Trail and the Enchanted Valley
- Would wilderness camping take place? If yes, where, for how long, and what size crew and number of stock?
 - Wilderness camping occurs by park rangers and wilderness information assistants as a regular part of their job duties. Rangers patrol this area independently or as a pair, and typically for 1-2 nights each trip. Rangers do not patrol with stock, therefore there would be no overnight stock use with ranger patrol staff.
- Does the project involve either new construction, or does it involve repair/rehab to existing structures, installations, or other assets? If yes to either, explain.
 - No
- Does the project take place in a location or footprint used before, or does it take place in a previously undisturbed area? If yes to either, explain.
 - No
- Would the project involve ground disturbance (e.g., removing duff or topsoil, hammering in rebar) or excavation of materials? If so, include where the disturbance would take place, and quantify by width, length, depth, and square feet.
 - No
- Where would excavated materials (e.g., soil, gravel, rock) be deposited (both temporarily and permanently)? Would materials be piled near the project site, backfilled into the excavation, spread across the area, or removed entirely from the wilderness?
 - N/A
- Are fill materials needed? If yes, what type of materials, how would they be used, how much is needed (i.e., cubic yards or tons), what would be the source(s), and what time of year would they be delivered? Where would the materials be stored until utilized and for how long (also see next question)? If

transported from a different site, has the source passed a weed-free certification inspection within the past 12 months?

- N/A

- Would staging area(s) be required? If so, describe location(s) of staging area(s), include what type of materials and/or equipment and for how long? What would be the estimated square footage of the staging area(s)? Would site “improvements” be made, including any alterations of vegetation and soils? Describe.

- N/A

- How/where would native construction debris (e.g., logs, shakes, etc.) and non-native construction debris (e.g., metal hardware, treated wood, painted boards, etc.), be disposed?

- N/A

- Are you aware of cultural resources, such as archeological sites, ethnographic resources, or historic structures, in or near the proposed project area?

- The Enchanted Valley Chalet is in this area. Archeological sites have been identified within the area where the chalet was previously situated. It is believed by the park’s former archeologist that the majority, if not all, of these have since been washed away by the river as the cutbank has continued to erode.

- How much ground or understory vegetation would be disturbed, trampled, or removed (quantify by square footage, and species type if known). If any trees (live/dead, standing/down) are to be removed, provide species, and number and DBH of trees)?

- N/A

- Would the project take place in or adjacent to any geologic features (e.g., hydrothermal, other geothermal, caves, paleontological), geological processes (e.g., soil erosion, ridgetop depression expansion), shorelines, or geologic hazards (e.g., avalanche slopes; tsunami zones; post-wildfire slopes; thermal springs; areas of potential landslides, debris flows, rock fall, flooding/flash floods, etc.). Describe.

- The wilderness in this area is subject to geologic hazards such as cutbank erosion, flooding, avalanches, and debris fans/alluvial deposits from streams on the eastern valley wall.

- Would the project occur in or near hydrologic features (e.g., rivers, permanent or intermittent streams, lakes, littoral zones, riparian areas, seepage sites, springs, or wetlands)? Describe.

- The project effects the camp areas along the East Fork Quinault River Trail and in the Enchanted Valley; some visitors in the Enchanted Valley camp, at low flow, on gravel bars that have formed in the riverbed.

- Would the proposal involve structures in water (e.g., puncheon, sills, culverts, bridge abutments, riprap, gabion baskets, etc.), fill (e.g., gravel, soil) placed in wet areas, or discharge into water (e.g., water bars). Describe.

- No

- Would the proposal affect water quality, or quantity (e.g., diversion of, removal from, or filling in water sources)? Describe.

- No

- What changes would occur in land/facility use?

- Limitations on nightly reservations for wilderness camping would be implemented. The number of overnight visitors would be limited. However, the type of land use would not change. The area would still be available for appropriate recreational activities.

- Would the proposal alter visitor services, activities, or experiences? Temporarily or permanently? Describe.

- Limitations on nightly reservations for wilderness camping would be implemented. The number of overnight visitors would be limited.

- The alternative could be implemented for a period of three years to assess effect and monitored each year. It could become permanent if a positive effect were observed or adjusted to achieve a desired condition.

- The reduced number of permits could permanently offset use along the East Fork Quinault River Trail and in the EV, and shift users to another area within the park’s wilderness. Users to this trail corridor and the EV would experience more solitude on a permanent basis.

- What changes would occur in visitor circulation? Temporarily or permanently?

- Limitations on nightly reservations for wilderness camping would be implemented. The number of overnight visitors would be limited.

<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ The alternative could be implemented for a period of three years to assess effect and monitored each year. It could become permanent if a positive effect were observed or adjusted to achieve a desired condition.○ The reduced number of permits to this area would likely have a permanent, indirect effect of shifting use to other areas of the park's wilderness, therefore changes in visitor circulation patterns would be anticipated.● What mitigation measures would be taken to minimize impacts on wilderness character from implementing this alternative, including impacts on wilderness resources, values, the visitor wilderness experience, and on other park resources and values?<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ The proposed action is, in and of itself, a mechanism to mitigate the adverse impacts on wilderness character from overuse in the Enchanted Valley and along the East Fork Quinault River Trail corridor.○ Leave No Trace ethics would be required of all users.○ Proper food storage requirements would continue to be in place.
<div><div>SUMMARY OF WILDERNESS ACT 4(C) PROHIBITIONS - ALTERNATIVE 3</div><div><div><ul style="list-style-type: none">● temporary road● use of motor vehicles, motorized equipment, or motorboats</div><div><ul style="list-style-type: none">● landing of aircraft● other forms of mechanical transport● structure or installation</div></div></div>
<div><div>List the Wilderness Act 4(c) prohibited uses proposed in this alternative. Describe what they are proposed to be used for, and the amount they would be used.</div><div>No Wilderness Act 4(c) prohibited uses are proposed in this alternative.</div></div>

<div style="background-color: black; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center; width: 40px; float: left;">8</div> <div style="margin-left: 10px; padding: 5px;">Evaluate the impacts of each alternative</div>	<p>Potential impacts to evaluate under <u>each</u> alternative:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wilderness character effects • Cultural resources considerations • Visitor use and experience effects • Societal and political effects • Health and safety concerns (visitors and staff) • Sustainability, timing, and economic considerations
<p>Alternative 1: Continuation of current management</p>	
<p>Wilderness character effects (untrammled, natural, undeveloped, solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation, and other features of value)</p> <p><i>Positive effects:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Untrammled (without intentional human manipulation of the biological or physical environment):</u> None • <u>Natural (positive effects on natural resources):</u> None • <u>Undeveloped (without structures/installations, and without use of motorized equipment, mechanical transport, or motorized vehicles):</u> There would be no construction/development, or use of motorized equipment, mechanical transport, or motorized vehicles used under this alternative. • <u>Solitude (remoteness from human sights and sounds), Primitive Recreation (without facilities that decrease self-reliant recreation), and Unconfined Recreation (without management restrictions on human behavior):</u> No positive impacts on solitude, however there would be positive impacts on unconfined recreation as under this alternative, permits would not be limited. • <u>Other Features of Value (i.e., positive effects on Olympic NP's wilderness archeological and ethnographic resources):</u> None <p><i>Negative effects:</i></p>	

- **Untrammeled (intentional human manipulation of the biological or physical environment):** None.
- **Natural (negative effects on natural resources):** There would continue to be no limits on the number of overnight uses along the East Fork Quinault River Trail and in the EV, therefore, as more and more users come to the area, more ground may be cleared of vegetation from users creating new, or expanding currently established, camp areas.
- **Undeveloped (presence of structures/installations, and with use of motorized equipment, mechanical transport, or motorized vehicles):** There would be no construction/development, or use of motorized equipment, mechanical transport, or motorized vehicles used under this alternative.
- **Solitude (decrease in remoteness from human sights and sounds), Primitive Recreation (presence of facilities that decrease self-reliant recreation), and Unconfined Recreation (management restrictions on human behavior):** Without use limits placed on the amount of overnight use at the EV, opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation would continue to decline as the number of users continues to increase. **Other Features of Value (i.e., negative effects on Olympic NP's wilderness archeological and ethnographic resources):** Overnight use would likely continue to increase, which could lead to users creating new bare ground areas to pitch tents, establish fire rings, etc. Previously known or unknown archeological resources could be inadvertently unearthed if/when users clear areas for camping.

Alternative 2: Limitation Based on 2023 Averages

Wilderness character effects (untrammeled, natural, undeveloped, solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation, and other features of value)

Positive effects:

- **Untrammeled (without intentional human manipulation of the biological or physical environment):** None
- **Natural (positive effects on natural resources):** Under this alternative, the number of permits would be limited to a maximum of 146 per night for up to 146 total overnight users per night, whichever number comes first. Compared to Alternative 1, this would decrease the number of overnight use and crowding and subsequently the expansion of currently established camp areas, or the development of additional user-created camp areas along the East Fork Quinault River Trail and in the Enchanted Valley. Also, with limited permits there would be less opportunity for human-wildlife encounters.
- **Undeveloped (without structures/installations, and without use of motorized equipment, mechanical transport, or motorized vehicles):** There would be no construction/development, or use of motorized equipment, mechanical transport, or motorized vehicles used under this alternative. Additionally, with a decrease in the number of permits for overnight use, there would be less crowding and therefore less establishment of user-created camp areas or less users expanding currently established camp areas.
- **Solitude (remoteness from human sights and sounds), Primitive Recreation (without facilities that decrease self-reliant recreation), and Unconfined Recreation (without management restrictions on human behavior):** This alternative would have positive impacts and solitude and primitive recreation due to a reduced number of overnight permits allowed within the trail corridor and in the Enchanted Valley.
- **Other Features of Value (i.e., positive effects on Olympic NP's wilderness archeological and ethnographic resources):** Under this alternative, the number of overnight permits issued would be reduced and therefore would likely help protect previously known or unknown archeological resources as less overnight use would lead to less ground disturbance due to less widening of current camp areas and less user-created bare ground for new camp areas.

Negative effects:

- **Untrammeled (intentional human manipulation of the biological or physical environment):** None
- **Natural (negative effects on natural resources):** None
- **Undeveloped (presence of structures/installations, and with use of motorized equipment, mechanical transport, or motorized vehicles):** None

- **Solitude (decrease in remoteness from human sights and sounds), Primitive Recreation (presence of facilities that decrease self-reliant recreation), and Unconfined Recreation (management restrictions on human behavior)**: This alternative would have negative impacts on unconfined recreation as it would place a limit on the number of overnight use permits that would be allowed within the trail corridor and in the Enchanted Valley.
- **Other Features of Value (i.e., negative effects on Olympic NP's wilderness archeological and ethnographic resources)**: None

Alternative 3: Establish limitations on the number of permits issued based on the known sites (usual impacted sites)

Wilderness character effects (untrammelled, natural, undeveloped, solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation, and other features of value)

Positive effects:

- **Untrammelled (without intentional human manipulation of the biological or physical environment)**: None
- **Natural (positive effects on natural resources)**: Under this alternative, the number of permits would be limited to a maximum of 35 per night for up to 420 total overnight users per night along the East Fork Quinault River Trail and in the Enchanted Valley, whichever number comes first. Compared to Alternative 1, this would decrease the number of overnight use and crowding and subsequently the widening of currently established camp areas by users, or the establishment of additional user-created camp areas along the East Fork Quinault River Trail and in the Enchanted Valley. Also, with limited permits there would be less opportunity for human-wildlife encounters.
- **Undeveloped (without structures/installations, and without use of motorized equipment, mechanical transport, or motorized vehicles)**: There would be no construction/development, or use of motorized equipment, mechanical transport, or motorized vehicles used under this alternative. Additionally, with a decrease in the number of permits for overnight use, there would be less crowding and therefore less establishment of user-created camp areas or less users expanding currently established camp areas.
- **Solitude (remoteness from human sights and sounds), Primitive Recreation (without facilities that decrease self-reliant recreation), and Unconfined Recreation (without management restrictions on human behavior)**: This alternative would have positive impacts and solitude and primitive recreation due to a reduced number of overnight permits allowed within the trail corridor and in the Enchanted Valley.
- **Other Features of Value (i.e., positive effects on Olympic NP's wilderness archeological and ethnographic resources)**: Under this alternative, the number of overnight permits issued would be reduced and therefore would likely help protect previously known or unknown archeological resources as less overnight use would lead to less ground disturbance due to less widening of current camp areas and less user-created bare ground for new camp areas.

Negative effects:

- **Untrammelled (intentional human manipulation of the biological or physical environment)**: None
- **Natural (negative effects on natural resources)**: None
- **Undeveloped (presence of structures/installations, and with use of motorized equipment, mechanical transport, or motorized vehicles)**: None
- **Solitude (decrease in remoteness from human sights and sounds), Primitive Recreation (presence of facilities that decrease self-reliant recreation), and Unconfined Recreation (management restrictions on human behavior)**: This alternative would have negative impacts on unconfined recreation as it would place a limit on the number of overnight use permits that would be allowed within the trail corridor and in the Enchanted Valley.
- **Other Features of Value (i.e., negative effects on Olympic NP's wilderness archeological and ethnographic resources)**: None

Alternative 4: Establish limitations on the number of permits issued and overnight users

Wilderness character effects (untrammled, natural, undeveloped, solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation, and other features of value)

Positive effects:

- **Untrammled (without intentional human manipulation of the biological or physical environment):** None
- **Natural (positive effects on natural resources):** Under this alternative, the number of permits would be limited to a maximum of 30 per night for up to 208 total overnight users per night along the East Fork Quinault River Trail and in the Enchanted Valley, whichever number is reached first. Compared to Alternative 1, this would decrease the number of overnight use and crowding and subsequently the widening of currently established camp areas (by visitors) and establishment of additional user-created camp areas along the East Fork Quinault River Trail and in the Enchanted Valley. Also, with limited permits there would be less opportunity for human-wildlife encounters.
- **Undeveloped (without structures/installations, and without use of motorized equipment, mechanical transport, or motorized vehicles):** There would be no construction/development, or use of motorized equipment, mechanical transport, or motorized vehicles used under this alternative. Additionally, with a decrease in the number of permits for overnight use, there would be less crowding and therefore less establishment of user-created camp areas or less users expanding currently established camp areas.
- **Solitude (remoteness from human sights and sounds), Primitive Recreation (without facilities that decrease self-reliant recreation), and Unconfined Recreation (without management restrictions on human behavior):** This alternative would have positive impacts and solitude and primitive recreation due to a reduced number of overnight permits allowed within the trail corridor and in the Enchanted Valley.
- **Other Features of Value (i.e., positive effects on Olympic NP's wilderness archeological and ethnographic resources):** Under this alternative, the number of overnight permits issued would be reduced and therefore would likely help protect previously known or unknown archeological resources as less overnight use would lead to less ground disturbance due to less widening of current camp areas and less user-created bare ground for new camp areas.

Negative effects:

- **Untrammled (intentional human manipulation of the biological or physical environment):** None.
- **Natural (negative effects on natural resources):** None
- **Undeveloped (presence of structures/installations, and with use of motorized equipment, mechanical transport, or motorized vehicles):** None
- **Solitude (decrease in remoteness from human sights and sounds), Primitive Recreation (presence of facilities that decrease self-reliant recreation), and Unconfined Recreation (management restrictions on human behavior):** This alternative would have negative impacts on unconfined recreation as it would place a limit and the number of overnight use permits that would be allowed within the trail corridor and in the Enchanted Valley.
- **Other Features of Value (i.e., negative effects on Olympic NP's wilderness archeological and ethnographic resources):** None

9	Select the alternative that would most effectively resolve the issue while having the <u>least</u> overall adverse impact on wilderness resources, character, and values.	<p><i>Note:</i> When selecting the preferred alternative for actions in wilderness, the potential disruption of wilderness character and resources will be considered before, and given significantly more weight than, economic efficiency and convenience. If a compromise of wilderness resources or character is unavoidable, only those actions that preserve wilderness character and/or have localized, short-term adverse impacts will be acceptable.</p> <p>NPS Management Policies 6.3.5</p>
<p>Preferred alternative: <u>4</u> Title of alternative: Establish limitations on the number of permits issued and overnight users</p>		
<p><i>Describe the rationale for selecting this alternative; how it, of all the alternatives, would have the least overall negative impact to wilderness character while successfully resolving the issue.</i></p> <p>While all three action alternatives (2-4) would have mostly positive impacts on the overall wilderness character within the East Fork Quinault River Trail and in the Enchanted Valley, alternative 4 would have the most positive impacts due to the limitation of a maximum of 30 permits per night for up to 208 total overnight users per night, less opportunity for human-wildlife encounters, increased opportunity for solitude and primitive recreation due to a reduced number of overnight permits, and less ground disturbance due to less widening of established camp areas and less user-created bare ground for new camp areas.</p> <p>Alternative 2 would have the least amount of overall use as well as the least overall impacts on wilderness character but would have the greatest negative impact to the quality of unconfined recreation. This alternative would establish a limitation dependent upon the number of permits issued or overnight users within the East Fork Quinault River Trail and in the Enchanted Valley (EV), whichever was first reached. The current ONP Superintendent's Compendium limits party size in this area to no more than twelve individuals per permit. Overcrowding at these sites could occur if the maximum number of permits were issued with 12 people in each party. Therefore, there would be a maximum of 30 permits allowed and up to 208 overnight users per night, whichever number is reached first and each site would be limited as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pony Bridge = 3 permits or 18 maximum overnight users • Fire Creek = 2 permits or 12 maximum overnight users • O'Neil = 6 permits or 36 maximum overnight users • Pyrites = 7 permits or 42 maximum overnight users • Enchanted Valley = 12 permits or 100 maximum overnight users <p>Alternative 4 provides park managers a baseline from which to begin to assess whether there would need to be any additional quotas established for any of the 5 camp areas along the East Fork Quinault River Trail) and the EV or whether this newly proposed level of use is sustainable. The goal is not to restrict use, but to address user complaints regarding overcrowding within this trail corridor and in the EV and impacts to opportunities for primitive recreation and solitude.</p>		
<p><i>List the Wilderness Act 4(c) prohibited uses proposed in this alternative, what they are proposed to be used for, and the amount they would be used. The use of any Wilderness Act 4(c) prohibitions may be approved only if they are determined to be the minimum requirement necessary for administering the area for the purpose of preserving wilderness character. Proposals for their use must therefore be satisfactorily justified, with a clear explanation provided here of why these prohibited methods and tools are the minimum requirement necessary.</i></p> <p>There are no Wilderness Act section 4(c) prohibitions proposed under the preferred alternative.</p>		

List and describe mitigations that would minimize impacts on wilderness character during and following project implementation. Include any reporting requirements.

- Leave No Trace principles would be required practice by all users in the wilderness.
- Food storage requirements would be practiced (the use of ARFCs (Animal Resistant Food Containers) and bear wires).

Describe the safety risks and the preventive safety measures that would be implemented.

There are no safety risks nor preventive safety measures necessary under the preferred alternative.

Provide an electronic copy of the draft MRW to the park's Wilderness Coordinator for review/editing. Comments and suggested edits to be addressed will then be provided to the preparer for their considered adoption.

Wilderness Specialist Comments:

Initial Draft Review: _____ **Date** _____
Wilderness Specialist

Following the preparer's revision in response to the Wilderness Coordinator's comments, send the updated MRW back to the Wilderness Coordinator for review of changes. The Wilderness Coordinator will send an updated draft to the PCO to initiate park internal review and comment.

Compliance Pathway Determination:

Categorical Exclusion: _____ **EA:** _____ **EIS:** _____

Recommended by Env. Protection Specialist: _____ **Date:** _____

Once the park internal review period is ended, comments received will be considered, and agreed-upon changes will be made by the project coordinator and Wilderness Coordinator, with PCO input. The final draft MRW is then submitted by the Wilderness Coordinator to the PCO for compliance completion.

Wilderness Specialist Final Draft Review:

Reviewed by: _____ **Date** _____
Wilderness Specialist

Division Chiefs and Section 106 Advisor comments on Preferred Alternative (recommendation to Superintendent for final MRW approval, and mitigations)

<p>Administration Division comments/recommended mitigations:</p> <p>Reviewed by Administrative Officer: _____ Date _____</p>
<p>Cultural Resources comments/recommended mitigations (include next steps for compliance with NHPA, other applicable cultural resource law/policy):</p> <p>Reviewed by Section 106 Advisor: _____ Date _____</p>
<p>Interpretation Division comments/recommended mitigations:</p> <p>Reviewed by Chief of Interpretation: _____ Date _____</p>
<p>Facilities Management Division comments/recommended mitigations:</p> <p>Reviewed by Chief of Facilities Mgmt: _____ Date _____</p>
<p>Natural Resources comments/recommended mitigations:</p> <p>T & E Species Determination of Effect (No Effect (NE), Not Likely to Adversely Affect (NLAA), Likely to Adversely Affect (LAA):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bull Trout: _____ • Marbled Murrelet: _____ • Northern spotted owl: _____ • Other: _____ <p>Reviewed by Chief of RM: _____ Date _____</p>
<p>Visitor and Resource Protection Division comments/recommended mitigations:</p> <p>Reviewed by Chief Ranger: _____ Date _____</p>

Approved by: _____

Superintendent



Date

Following Superintendent final approval, a memorandum, called the Notice to Proceed (NTP), will be sent to the project coordinator and Division Chief, with required mitigations listed. Implementation of the project, as per the description in the approved alternative, may begin only when the NTP memorandum is received by the project coordinator.

APPENDIX A: LAWS, POLICIES, GUIDANCE

ORGANIC ACT OF 1916

The service thus established shall promote and regulate the use of the Federal areas known as national parks, monuments, and reservations hereinafter specified by such means and measures as conform to the fundamental purposes of the said parks, monuments, and reservations, which purpose is to conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wild life therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations.

WILDERNESS ACT OF 1964

Wilderness System Established Statement of Policy, Section 2(a)

In order to assure that an increasing population, accompanied by expanding settlement and growing mechanization, does not occupy and modify all areas within the United States and its possessions, leaving no lands designated for preservation and protection in their natural condition, it is hereby declared to be the policy of the Congress to secure for the American people of present and future generations the benefits of an enduring resource of wilderness. For this purpose there is hereby established a National Wilderness Preservation System to be composed of federally owned areas designated by the Congress as "wilderness areas," and these shall be administered for the use and enjoyment of the American people in such manner as will leave them unimpaired for future use and enjoyment as wilderness, and so as to provide for the protection of these areas, the preservation of their wilderness character, and for the gathering and dissemination of information regarding their use and enjoyment as wilderness; and no Federal lands shall be designated as "wilderness areas" except as provided for in this Act or by a subsequent Act.

Definition of Wilderness, Section 2(c) A wilderness, in contrast with those areas where man and his works dominate the landscape, is hereby recognized as an area where the earth and its community of life are untrammelled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain. An area of wilderness is further defined to mean in this Act an area of undeveloped Federal land retaining its primeval character and influence, without permanent improvements or human habitation, which is protected and managed so as to preserve its natural conditions and which (1) generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable; (2) has outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation; (3) has at least five thousand acres of land or is of sufficient size as to make practicable its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition; and (4) may also contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value.

WILDERNESS MINIMUM REQUIREMENT

Wilderness Act of 1964 - Prohibition of Certain Uses, Section 4(c)

Except as specifically provided for in this Act, and subject to existing private rights, there shall be no commercial enterprise and no permanent road within any wilderness area designated by this Act and except as necessary to meet minimum requirements for the administration of the area for the purpose of this Act (including measures required in emergencies involving the health and safety of persons within the area), there shall be no temporary road, no use of motor vehicles, motorized equipment or motorboats, no landing of aircraft, no other form of mechanical transport, and no structure or installation within any such area.

NPS Management Policies 2006, § 6.3.5 Minimum Requirement

All management decisions affecting wilderness must be consistent with the minimum requirement concept. This concept is a documented process used to determine if administrative actions, projects, or programs undertaken by the Service or its agents and affecting wilderness character, resources, or the visitor experience are necessary, and if so how to minimize impacts. The minimum requirement concept will be applied as a two-step process that determines whether the proposed management action is appropriate or necessary for administration of the area as wilderness and does not cause a significant impact to wilderness resources and character, in accordance with the Wilderness Act; and the techniques

and types of equipment needed to ensure that impacts on wilderness resources and character are minimized.

In accordance with this policy, superintendents will apply the minimum requirement concept in the context of wilderness stewardship planning, as well as to all other administrative practices, proposed special uses, scientific activities, and equipment use in wilderness. The only exception to the minimum requirement policy is for eligible areas that the Service has not proposed for wilderness designation. However, those lands will still be managed to preserve their eligibility.

When determining minimum requirements, the potential disruption of wilderness character and resources will be considered before, and given significantly more weight than, economic efficiency and convenience. If a compromise of wilderness resources or character is unavoidable, only those actions that preserve wilderness character and/or have localized, short-term adverse impacts will be acceptable.

Although park managers have flexibility in identifying the method used to determine minimum requirement, the method used must clearly weigh the benefits and impacts of the proposal, document the decision-making process, and be supported by an appropriate environmental compliance document. Parks must develop a process to determine minimum requirement until the plan is finally approved. Parks will complete a minimum requirement analysis on those administrative practices and equipment uses that have the potential to impact wilderness resources or values. The minimum requirement concept cannot be used to rationalize permanent roads or inappropriate or unlawful uses in wilderness.

Administrative use of motorized equipment or mechanical transport will be authorized only

- if determined by the superintendent to be the minimum requirement needed by management to achieve the purposes of the area, including the preservation of wilderness character and values, in accordance with the Wilderness Act; or
- in emergency situations (for example, search and rescue, homeland security, law enforcement) involving the health or safety of persons actually within the area.

Such management activities will also be conducted in accordance with all applicable regulations, policies, and guidelines and, where practicable, will be scheduled to avoid creating adverse resource impacts or conflicts with visitor use.

While actions taken to address search and rescue, homeland security and law enforcement issues are subject to the minimum requirement concept, preplanning or programmatic planning should be undertaken whenever possible to facilitate a fast and effective response and reduce paperwork.

For more detailed guidance, see Director's Order #41 and the National Wilderness Steering Committee Guidance Paper #3: "What Constitutes the Minimum Requirements in Wilderness?"

NPS Management Policies 2006, § 6.3.4.3 Environmental Compliance

Managers contemplating the use of aircraft or other motorized equipment or mechanical transportation within wilderness must consider impacts to the character, esthetics, and traditions of wilderness before considering the costs and efficiency of the equipment.

ADDITIONAL GUIDANCE:

NPS Management Policies 2006, § 6.4.3 Recreational Use Management In Wilderness

Recreational uses of wilderness will be of a type and nature that ensures that its use and enjoyment (1) will leave it unimpaired for future use and enjoyment as wilderness, (2) provides for the protection of the area as wilderness, and (3) provides for the preservation of wilderness character. Recreational uses in NPS wilderness areas will be of a nature that

- enables the areas to retain their primeval character and influence;
- protects and preserves natural conditions;
- leaves the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable;
- provides outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined types of recreation;
- and

- preserves wilderness in an unimpaired condition.

NPS Management Policies 2006, § 6.4.3.1 Recreation Use Evaluation

Significant changes in patterns or increased levels of use will not be authorized by special permit, administrative discretion, or authorities under the superintendents' compendia, except in cases where sufficient information exists to adequately determine there is no significant impact on wilderness resources and values, including visitor experiences. These increased levels of use and changes in patterns of existing use will normally not qualify for a categorical exclusion under the National Environmental Policy Act [NEPA]. Decisions regarding significant changes in patterns and new levels of use will require environmental analysis and review, including opportunity for public comment, in accordance with the NEPA requirements.

NPS Management Policies 2006, § 8.2.1 Visitor Carrying Capacity

Visitor carrying capacity is the type and level of visitor use that can be accommodated while sustaining the desired resource and visitor experience conditions in the park. By identifying and staying within carrying capacities, superintendents can manage park uses that may unacceptably impact the resources and values for which the parks were established. Superintendents will identify visitor carrying capacities for managing public use. Superintendents will also identify ways to monitor for and address unacceptable impacts on park resources and visitor experience.

When making decisions about carrying capacity, superintendents must use the best available natural and social science and other information, and maintain a comprehensive administrative record relating to their decisions. The decision-making process should be based on desired resource conditions and visitor experiences for the area, quality indicators and standards that define the desired resource conditions and visitor experiences, and other factors that will lead to logical conclusions and the protection of park resources and values.

The planning process will determine the desired resource and visitor experience conditions that are the foundation for carrying capacity analysis and decision-making. If the time frame for making decisions is insufficient to allow the application of a carrying capacity planning process, superintendents must make decisions based on the best available science, public input, and other information.

As park use changes over time, superintendents must continue to decide if management actions are needed to keep use at sustainable levels and prevent unacceptable impacts. If indicators and standards have been prescribed for an impact, the acceptable level is the prescribed standard. If indicators and standards do not exist, the superintendent must determine how much impact is acceptable before management intervention is required.

Olympic National Park General Management Plan, 2008

- **Desired Conditions (pages 17-40)**
 - **Natural Soundscapes:**
 - The NPS preserves the natural ambient soundscapes, restores degraded soundscapes to the natural ambient condition wherever possible, and protects natural soundscapes from unacceptable impacts.
 - Noise from management or recreational uses is minimized to provide a high-quality visitor experience and protect biological resources and processes that involve natural sounds.
 - **Ecosystem Management:**
 - Natural processes of ecosystem disturbance and change function unimpeded, and are altered only as needed to provide for visitor and staff safety and access, to protect park facilities in developed areas, and to maintain cultural landscapes.
 - Ecosystems and habitats damaged by human activities or nonnative species are restored. Future development avoids sensitive habitats and dynamic areas prone to natural disturbances, if possible.
 - **Geologic and Soil Resources:**
 - The NPS actively seeks to understand and preserve the soil resources of the park, and to prevent, to the extent possible, the unnatural erosion, physical removal, or contamination of the soil, or the soil's contamination of other resources.

- Natural soil resources and processes function in as natural a condition as possible, except where special considerations are allowable under policy.
- **Wilderness:**
 - The NPS will manage wilderness areas including those proposed for wilderness designation for the use and enjoyment of the American people in such a manner as will leave them unimpaired for future use and enjoyment as wilderness.
 - The park ensures that the land's primeval character and influence is retained and protected, that visitors continue to find opportunities for solitude and primitive, unconfined recreation, and that the landscapes generally appear to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable.
 - The Wilderness Act specifies that each agency administering any areas designated as wilderness shall be responsible for preserving the wilderness character of the areas and shall so administer such area for such other purposes for which it may have been established as also to preserve its wilderness character.
 - Natural processes, native components, and the interrelationships among them are protected, maintained, and/or restored to the extent possible, while providing opportunities for their enjoyment as wilderness.
 - Present and future visitors enjoy the unique qualities offered in wilderness. These include the experiences of solitude, remoteness, risk, challenge, self-sufficiency, discovery, and observation of an untrammelled ecosystem.
 - Wilderness management is based on the minimum requirement concept, allowing only those actions necessary and appropriate for administration of the area as wilderness and that do not cause a significant impact to wilderness resources and character. Implementation of such actions is done using techniques and types of equipment necessary to ensure that impacts on wilderness resources and character are minimized.
 - Park operations and wilderness functions are coordinated in the park to manage and protect natural and cultural resources in wilderness and preserve wilderness character. Management is coordinated with the U.S. Forest Service to provide consistency in regulations, standards, and guidelines to the extent feasible. The park will continue to work with other local and regional groups, communities, agencies, and tribal governments to preserve wilderness values.
 - **STRATEGIES (to reach the desired conditions for wilderness):**
 - Define a range of desired conditions for wilderness resources, visitor wilderness experiences, wilderness character, and management and operational techniques.
 - Develop and implement a program to restore conditions that are outside the range of desired conditions for wilderness resources, visitor wilderness experiences, and wilderness character.
 - Manage activities to maintain and restore resource conditions, to protect visitor experiences, and to protect and restore wilderness character.
 - Monitor the wilderness resources and incorporate the results of monitoring to refine management programs.
- **Visitor Use and Experience, Education, and Outreach:**
 - Park resources are conserved unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations. Visitors have opportunities for forms of enjoyment that are uniquely suited and appropriate to the superlative natural and cultural resources found in the park. No activities occur that would cause derogation of the values and purposes for which the park has been established.
 - For all zones or districts in the park, the types and levels of visitor use are consistent with the desired resource and visitor experience conditions prescribed for those areas.
 - **STRATEGIES (to reach the desired conditions for VUE):**
 - For all zones, districts, or other logical management divisions in a park, identify visitor carrying capacities for managing public use and ways to monitor for and address unacceptable impacts on park resources and visitor experiences.
 - Monitor visitor comments on issues such as crowding, encounters with other visitors in the backcountry [wilderness], availability of campsites at busy times of the year, and availability of parking .
- **Wilderness Trail Zone Desired Conditions (pages 69-74)**
 - **Visitor Opportunities:**

- There would be opportunities to appreciate pristine wilderness resources and character and participate in primitive recreation.
- There would be more opportunities for solitude proportional to remoteness and presence of natural sounds.
- Use areas might be designed to reduce visitor conflicts or for resource protection.
- Use areas might be restricted or limited based on safety, visitor conflicts, resources protection, etc.
- **Encounter Rates:**
 - Probability of meeting other visitors on a regular basis would be low to high.
 - Sometimes visitors would be free of sight and sound of others – they might find quiet or solitude.
 - There would be a moderate to high likelihood of encountering park staff.
- **Campgrounds and Campsites:**
 - Limits on campers might be established with some areas closed to camping for resource protection.