

VOICE of the WILD OLYMPICS

Olympic Park Associates

Founded in 1948



Volume 22
Number 3
Fall 2014

Contents:

- OPA Meetings 2
- Locate Your Legislators 2
- Navy Proposes Jet Warfare Range on Olympic Coast 4
- Non-Native Goat Research: A Review 6
- What You Can Do Today for the Environment 7
- Celebration! 50th Anniversary of The Wilderness Act of 1964 8
- Proposed Park Fee Increase 10
- Ice Worm Research and Climate Change 11

BREAKING NEWS

U. S. Navy is planning a Permanent Electromagnetic Warfare Range on the West side of Olympic National Park.

Your comments are needed. Please see Pages 4 and 5.



Adult male mountain goat wallowing in fragile soil at Klahane. Photo by National Park Service ca. 1980.

Olympic National Park Begins Management Plan for Non-native Goats

by Tim McNulty, Vice President, OPA

Olympic National Park has begun early work on a management plan for non-native mountain goats. A growing goat population (five percent increase per year) coupled with increasing impacts on Olympic's alpine plant communities and the implicit danger goats pose to hikers have prompted a return to this issue following a twenty year hiatus. OPA supports the planning effort and will work with the Park Service, other conservation organizations, and interested members of the public to help insure an effective plan for removing non-native goats from the park.

Mountain goats were introduced into the Olympic Mountains by hunting interests in the 1920s before the national ark was established. With the absence of natural preda-

tors and in the mild coastal climate of the Olympics their numbers soared. By the 1980s the population reached more than 1,100 animals. Destructive impacts upon sensitive alpine and subalpine environments from feeding, trampling, and wallowing became both visible and profound. A live-capture and translocation program begun in the 1980s reduced the population significantly. A 1990s planning effort, which proposed to remove remaining goats by aerial shooting, was placed on hold. More recently, with goat numbers and impacts once again increasing, and following the tragic death of Bob Boardman by goat attack in 2010, park managers have once more focused on this serious problem.

Continued on P. 3, Non-Native Goats

OPA Meetings:

Next: 6:00 PM, Tuesday, May 27, 2014

Place: Kingston Community Center

Please join us. OPA members are always welcome at Board meetings.

Regular Meetings: The regular OPA Board meetings are at 6 pm in the Kingston Community Center on the 4th Tuesday of odd-numbered months, except the 3rd Tuesday in November to avoid Thanksgiving, and no meeting in July.

Olympic Park Associates

Board of Trustees

**Executive Committee*

President

*Donna Osseward Seattle

Vice President

*Tim McNulty Sequim

Secretary

*John Bridge Edmonds

Treasurer

*Tom Bihn Port Angeles
 *Paul Crawford Port Angeles
 Lyn De Danaan Oyster Bay
 *Polly Dyer Seattle
 David Friedman Seattle
 Ron Good Port Townsend
 Ben Greuel Seattle
 Daniel Lieberman Port Angeles
 Joe Mentor, Jr. Seattle
 Bruce Moorhead Port Angeles
 *Sally Soest Seattle
 Shelley Spalding Shelton
 *John Woolley Sequim
 Laura Zalesky Mill Creek

Advisory Board Members

Dick Goin Port Angeles
 Randall Payne Renton
 Mary Peck Santa Fe
 Rick Rutz Seattle
 Jim Scarborough Bellingham
 Norman Winn Seattle

Membership Chair

Laura Zalesky 14905 Bothell-Everett Hwy, # 270 Mill Creek, WA 98012

Newsletter Editor

Sally W. Soest 725 9th Ave., #1407 Seattle, WA 98104

OPA's Web Page

www.olympicparkassociates.org

Voice OF THE WILD OLYMPICS

is published three times per year by Olympic Park Associates. Unless specifically copyrighted, articles may be reprinted without permission. However, credit is appreciated.

OPA membership dues are tax-deductible

- \$20 for individuals
- \$25 for families
- \$35 (or more) contributing member
- \$50 for organizations
- \$5 for students & low income individuals
- \$250 for an individual life membership.

Printed by Abracadabra Printing on acid- & chlorine-free FSC-certified paper,

10% recycled, 30% post-consumer waste.



Congressional Contacts: (202) 224-3121 to reach any member of the U.S. Congress

Find your legislators: <http://app.leg.wa.gov/districtfinder/>
 Web site includes a map of congressional & state districts.

US Senate, Washington DC 20510 www.senate.gov

Senator Patty Murray

Phone (DC): 202-224-2621
 Fax: 202-224-0238
 Seattle: 206-553-5545
<http://www.murray.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/contactme>

Senator Maria Cantwell

Phone (DC): 202-224-3441
 Fax: 202-228-0514
 Seattle: 206-220-6400
<http://www.cantwell.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/email-maria>

US House of Representatives, Washington DC 20515

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>1 Rep. Suzan DelBene (D)
 318 Cannon HOB
 P 202-225-6311
 F 202-225-1606
 WA: 425-252-3188
 https://delbene.house.gov/contact-me/email-me</p> | <p>6 Rep. Derek Kilmer (D)
 1429 Longworth HOB
 P 202-225-5916
 F 2253-593-6651
 https://kilmer.house.gov/contact-email-me</p> |
| <p>2 Rep. Rick Larsen (D)
 2113 Rayburn HOB
 P 202-225-2605
 F 202-225-4420
 WA: 425-252-3188
 https://larsen.house.gov/contact-rick/email-rick</p> | <p>7 Rep. Jim McDermott (D)
 1035 Longworth HOB
 P 202-225-3106
 F 202-225-6197
 https://forms.house.gov/mcdermott/webforms/new/contact.shtml</p> |
| <p>3 Rep. Jaime Herrera Beutler (R)
 1130 Longworth HOB
 P 202-225-3536
 F 202-225-3478
 http://herrerabeutel.house.gov/contact/</p> | <p>8 Rep. David G. Reichert
 1127 Longworth HOB
 P 202-225-7761
 F 202-225-4282
 https://reichert.house.gov/contact-me</p> |
| <p>4 Representative Doc Hastings (R)
 1203 Longworth HOB
 P 202-225-5816
 F 202-225-3251
 http://hastings.house.gov/contact/</p> | <p>9 Rep. Adam Smith
 12264 Russell HOB
 P 202-225-8901
 F 202-225-5893
 http://adamsmith.house.gov/contact</p> |
| <p>5 Rep. Cathy McMorris Rodgers
 203 Cannon HOB
 Washington, DC 20515-4705
 P 202-225-2006</p> | <p>10 Rep. Denny Heck
 425 Cannon HOB
 P 202-225-9740
 F 202-225-0129
 https://dennyheck.house.gov/contact/email-me</p> |

Non-Native Goats

Continued from P. 1.

The current planning effort will consider a range of alternatives including: no-action, live-capture and translocation, lethal removal, increased nuisance control, and combinations of the above. The alternatives broadly cover most options available to park managers. OPA has suggested additional actions including coordination with other agencies and efforts to address goats migrating into the park from Olympic National Forest lands. OPA and a number of conservation organizations supported the park's proposed action of lethal removal of remaining goats during the earlier planning process. We remain committed to finding a workable solution through the current planning effort that will result in removal all non-native goats from the park.

Findings from the park's earlier draft EIS and subsequent studies and reviews have confirmed that:

- Goats are not native to the Olympics.
- Even small numbers of goats do measurable damage to alpine plants and soils.
- Goat impacts on Olympic marmots and other endemic and sensitive alpine animals remain unknown.
- Chemical contraception is not a viable means of eliminating goats.

In our scoping letter to the park, OPA stressed the need for viable restored ecosystems in the face of global warming. Olympic's alpine plant and animal communities have survived severe climate fluctuations throughout the Pleistocene and beyond, but these alpine communities have never had to deal with large rocky-outcrop herbivores like mountain goats. For alpine ecosystems to be restored to natural evolutionary processes, non-native goats must be removed.

Precedents have been established by removal of exotic animals from other national parks, such as Hawaii Volcanoes, Haleakala, Channel Islands, Rocky Mountain, Death Valley, Grand Canyon, Great Smoky Mountains, Yellowstone, and Big Bend. Insights and lessons from those removals should help inform park managers as they address this ongoing problem at Olympic.

A draft plan and environmental impact statement is due next summer; a final plan is due in 2016.

Let's help preserve the Olympics' stunning alpine habitats for the native plants and animals that have made it their home for millennia.

- Go to OPA's website olympicparkassociates.org for our scoping letter and analysis of the goat issue.
- Watch future issues of the *Voice* for timely information.
- Participate in the planning process and express your concerns to park planners.
- Urge Olympic National Park to develop a workable scientific approach that will remove all non-native goats from the park.



Mountain goat digging, damaging fragile alpine soil. Photo by National Park Service, ca. 1980.

Olympic Park Associates Opposes the Navy's Proposed Warfare Training Range on the Olympic Peninsula



Map courtesy of Peninsula Daily News, Port Angeles, Washington. Used by permission.

The Navy's plan to establish a permanent electromagnetic warfare training range on the western Olympic Peninsula has been a public exercise in frustration for citizens and likely the Navy and Forest Service.

The plan is for Boeing Growler jets flying out of Naval Air Station Whidbey Island to practice locating enemy radar positions on the west side of the Olympic Peninsula. OPA has found some problems with the plan and its effects on people, wildlife, and Olympic National Park.

In September, 2014 before the public was aware of the proposal, the Navy published a Final Environmen-

tal Assessment (EA) declaring the proposal had "no significant effect" on people or wildlife. The Navy then made a request to the Forest Service for a permit to do the training over National Forest and Washington's Department of Natural Resources (DNR) lands on the western side of the Olympic Peninsula. The Forest Service likewise declared the proposal as having "no significant effect" on people or wildlife. OPA became aware of this plan only a few days before the Forest Service first deadline for comments on October 10, 2010.

36 jet airplanes
in groups of 3 per flight
260 days per year
12 to 16 hours per day

The following is a summary of OPA's comments to the Forest Service on the issuing of the permit to the Navy.

With this proposal three enormous problems have emerged:

- A miserable lack of communication with the public.
- Woefully inadequate EAs written first by the Navy and then the Forest Service.
- A painful lack of information provided, such as cited documents not timely available on the website.

The public's discovery of the proposal has been marked by an astonishing lack of communication by the Navy. Consequently, the Navy's EA has progressed with little timely citizen input. Shifting deadlines for comments and public dismay with the process has resulted in hurried and not as productive results in the comments submitted. When finally discovered, the EA has proven to lack the standard NEPA information needed to make a decision that will be good for the Navy, citizens of the Olympic Peninsula, or the country.

It appears that the Navy is asking the Forest Service for a permanent blank check to conduct training operations on and over U.S National Forest lands on the Olympic Peninsula with little meaningful discussion of the long term effects on people or wildlife.

The Navy's EA has included NEPA yardsticks, **yet** has failed, in many instances, to fit the proposal into

Continued on P. 5

Oppose the Navy's Proposed Warfare Training Range on the Olympic Peninsula

Continued from P. 4.

the yardsticks. There are many claims of “no significance” while the Navy provides little creditable proof. Tables are limited in scope. There appear to be many glaring omissions in the EA:

- While there are discussions of noise, none can be found regarding the noise of the aircraft using the training range and the effects of that noise on people and wildlife.
- On the maps of field locations (see map on P.4 courtesy of the *Peninsula Daily News*), it is difficult to believe that Olympic National Park's Bogachel, Queets, and Quinault areas are not going to be impacted by the Navy proposal. It seems impossible that these training flyovers will be contained only on National Forest lands. Private, Tribal, and Olympic National Park lands will be affected by this proposal. The effects on people and wildlife in the Park are not included in the EA.
- The description of the growler aircraft on Boeing's webpage includes the ability of the aircraft to disable enemy radar, etc. BUT there is no discussion in the EA of the training activities needed to accomplish that task OR the effects on people and wildlife. Either the training will be restricted to only finding electromagnetic emissions OR a considerable amount of the project and its results have not been included in the EA. Nevertheless, the Navy asks for “the ability to accommodate growth in future training requirements,”
- OPA's comments cite many NEPA resources that have been arbitrarily omitted from discussion in the EA.
- OPA argues that the proposed warfare training range will violate the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) and Endangered Species Act of 1973.
- While citing laudable benefits for the proposal, the costs to people and wildlife will be significantly greater than “(5) maximization and balance of local unit quality of training with local unit quality of life... and (7) reduction in the use of fossil fuel consumption from transit to and from training sites outside the state of Washington” as provided in the EA.

OPA argues that it is time to stop extending the comment period for two non-functional documents and to start anew with a full EIS, followed by adequate public notice and time for comments. The other alternative is for the Navy to abandon the proposal of a training range on the Olympic Peninsula for the reasons given in OPA's comments.



Growler jet. Source: U. S. Navy.

You can find OPA's full comments to the Forest Service on OPA's website:

olympicparkassociates.org.

What YOU can do:

The Forest Service comment deadline was most recently extended to November 28, 2014.

However, you can make your views known to Senator Murray, Senator Cantwell, and your member of Congress.

Internet is the fastest way, because letters need to be tested for viruses and bacteria before being delivered.

Contact your Congressional representatives:

- Go online with Google, Internet Explorer, or Yahoo, type “US Congress”, or find resources on P. 2 of this newsletter.
 - Type their name into the query line (i.e. Senator Patty Murray, Senator Maria Cantwell, or Congressman Kilmer; Congressman Adam Smith; Congressman McDermott; Congresswoman Suzan DelBene, etc.)
 - Click their “.gov” site\Use their “contact us” tab.
 - Fill in their form – they want to know you are in their state or district
- Your comments don't need to be long.
 - **Just ask the Navy to do a complete EIS on their plan to establish a permanent warfare training range on the Olympic Peninsula. All activities under this permit need to be addressed, including flyover noise.**
 - The Navy and the Forest Service need to start over with this proposal.

Review of Research on Goats in Olympic National Park

By Llyn De Danaan, OPA Trustee

As OPA prepares to comment on Olympic Park's goat management plans, we are revisiting research. A major focus of that research has been whether or not *Oreamnos americanus* was present in the Olympics before their introduction in the 1920s and before the park itself was established in 1938.

What remains as the most thorough investigation of the ethnographic and archaeological evidence for goats in the Olympics is Randall F. Shalk's 1993 *A Review of the Ethnographic and Archaeological Evidence Relating to Mountain Goats in the Olympic Wilderness*. Shalk consulted with the who's who of Northwest archaeologists and anthropologists while writing his report.

Many of these were well known expert witnesses who had testified in treaty cases and who were and are highly respected in their fields. This carefully prepared document concluded that horn spoons and other objects found in Olympic Peninsula archaeological sites or other collections came to the area through long established trade networks with people further east. Dogs in the region were specially bred for their wool and it was that hair, in the absence of goat wool, that was most often used for weaving.

Still, there have been conflicting views regarding the historic presence of mountain goats. The National Park Service published and then republished (2007) natural

history and environmental science historian Susan Schultz's equally comprehensive review of historical and archival sources. There are clearly problematic notes here and there, she concedes, that suggest the possibility of goats, but these are sometimes the result of misheard or misused words, they are seldom if at all eyewitness accounts nor are they supported by "observational data" and "when weighed against the numerous detailed observations provided by skilled wildlife observers who did not find evidence of goats during this same period, such reports are clearly of questionable validity." Schultz found "no convincing evidence that mountain goats actually occurred on the Olympic Peninsula before their introduction in 1925."

Shultz found
"no convincing evidence that
mountain goats actually occurred
on the Olympic Peninsula
before their introduction in 1925."

Schultz published a rejoinder to R. Lee Lyman's criticism of this report. It was published in National Biological Service report under the title, *Response to: Inaccurate Data and the Olympic National Park Mountain Goat Controversy*.

In an article published in the *Journal of Mammalogy*, August 2000, David Nagorsen and Grand Keddie reported the presence of 12,000 year old skeletal remains of *Oreamnos americanus* on Vancouver Island, noted here because of proximity to the Olympic Peninsula. The authors suggest that these may represent either "early postglacial immigrants or relic populations ... from a coastal glacial refugium". *O. americanus*, they say, probably became extinct on Vancouver Island during the early Holocene, beginning about 11,700 B.P.

More current research on mountain goats in the region has tended to focus on genetic diversity and population structure of goat herds, often noting the difficulties faced by goat populations in the Cascade mountains. Though populations in Olympics and Cascades have diverged, individuals reintroduced to the Cascades from the Olympics have been shown to be successful in that range.



16 Pale Mountain Violet (*Viola adunca*)

What You Can Do for the Environment Today

By Donna Osseward, President, Olympic Park Associates

We all can make a difference by checking off some or all of the boxes below:

- Help preserve wilderness and keep its gifts of clean air and water, wildlife refuge, save vital gene pools in their ecosystems, as well as a wonderful place to visit.
- Change our most frequently used light bulbs to new less-wattage bulbs to save electricity, reduce the need for more power plants, and help our personal budgets.
- Keep our tires at proper pressure thereby reducing gas use and helping our personal budgets.
- Consolidate our car trips to reduce car mileage and save money;
- Walk or use a bicycle for short trips and small items, reducing gas use and increasing our good health.
- Caulk our houses to prevent heat leakage in winter and to keep cooler in summer, and save more money.
- Push a lawnmower, reducing gas or electricity use and the waistline, OR...

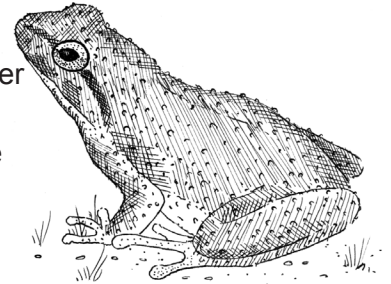
- Replace grassy areas with drought-tolerant plants that don't need weekly cutting.
- Shop for bulk grocery items once a month, freeze meats, bread, cheese, etc. Pick up fresh items on other necessary trips. This will save money & time and make you more creative.

Do the little things. If many do, we can make a big difference in our world.

If we have the financial ability, we can add to the list by:

- Buying more fuel efficient cars or alternatively powered cars;
- Insulating our house to reduce energy loss and save our money;
- Adding solar panels to energize our homes and cars and save money over the longer run.

We've caused it, we can fix it. Will we start fixing it or will we lay all the burden on our children and grandchildren?



East Fork Quinault River Saved

The East Fork Quinault was spared the fate of a teetering log structure collapsing into its waters -- for now. In September, contractor Jeff Monroe and crew moved the Enchanted Valley Chalet to another spot on the unconsolidated floodplain. It was a herculean effort. The move took most of a week, involved nearly two dozen helicopter flights up and down a 30 mile stretch of Quinault valley, and included transport of steel beams, hydraulic pumps, gas-powered generator and pack string -- only the latter is permitted in Wilderness.

Estimated cost to the public: \$164,000, not including NEPA planning or agency compliance. Project proponent Jeff Monroe, of Monroe House Moving, estimated the move could be accomplished for \$40,000, exclusive of helicopter flights. He later signed a non-competitive contract for \$125,000.

The total cost of the move has not yet been calculated and probably never will be. But every dollar for this costly and unnecessary project came directly out of an already-stressed park budget at a time when the funding has been slashed for visitor services, rangers, maintenance staff, interpretive programs, visitor centers, campgrounds, roads and trails. (Please note the story on P. 10 of this issue: proposed fee increases at Olympic National Park.)

End result: The chalet sits boarded-up and on blocks in open meadow 100 feet or so back from the river. The Park Service will conduct a second environmental planning process to determine what to do with it. "We're protecting the river, not necessarily saving the chalet," a park spokesman told the *Peninsula Daily News*.

OPA will once more advocate for taking the building down -- but with the lavish investment in saving the structure already made, that outcome is unlikely. Ultimately, it will be the wild Quinault River that makes the final call on the future of Enchanted Valley Chalet.

50 Years of

The Wilderness Act's 50th Anniversary: Celebrating With Great Old Broads and Friends.

By Shelley Spalding, OPA Trustee and Leader, Polly Dyer Cascadia Broadband, **Great Old Broads for Wilderness**

In September, the Polly Dyer Cascadia Broadband, local chapter of Great Old Broads for Wilderness, celebrated the 50th Anniversary of the Wilderness Act with a splendid Chautauqua-type of event: speakers, singers, poets, and a stunning slide show about Washington's Wilderness entertained about 80 folks, including performers and volunteers. Shelley Spalding, leader of the Broadband, began with a discussion of the word "untrammelled" as used in the Wilderness Act.

The 1964 Wilderness Act contains some of the most lyrical and poetic passages to be found in any federal statute. The Act eloquently defined wilderness as an "area where the earth and its community of life are untrammelled by man, where man is a visitor who does not remain. Many people mistakenly confuse "untrammelled" with "pristine". That can sometimes lead to unreal expectations of wilderness. One way to think of "trammel" is from the industrial application where "trammels" are used to retard the motion of mechanical parts in machines. They are restraints, checks, curbs, controls. A trammel can be a net for catching fish or hobbles for restraining a horse.

Howard Zahniser, credited with crafting much of the language in the Wilderness Act, insisted on retaining the somewhat arcane word "untrammelled" when others suggested more familiar language such as undisturbed or untrampled.

"Untrammelled" is meant to describe a place that is unrestrained, not controlled by man; a place where nature decides what is to happen rather than man, which was exactly the connotations Zahniser sought.

Apparently Zahniser chose the word after hearing his friend and long-time wilderness preservation advocate, Polly Dyer, use it in 1956 to describe an Olympic National Park beach.

I love that that word 'untrammelled' was chosen as it really does reflect the intent of wilderness to be a place "that has primarily been affected by the forces of nature with imprint of humans substantially unnoticeable...." We humans have managed to affect everything on earth with climate change and pollution. Hopefully we won't use that as an excuse to start tinkering or meddling with our designated wildernesses. Once we consciously begin to meddle in order to "fix" things that are changing in wilderness, we are going down the slippery slope we already know too well of unintended consequences.

Just as Shelley was finishing her discussion on "untrammelled", Olympia poet Bill Yake, channeling H.D. Thoreau, arrived on the scene and read from the essay on Walking.

As folks pondered those inspiring words, Clem Starck read more of the poetical and lyrical sections of the Wilderness Act.

Kids in Concert, led by Troy Fisher, next gave us the opportunity to listen to the voices of four amazing young women who sang, both solo and as a group, songs of love, ending with a song of love for wild places and wild animals.

Four of the Broads' favorite poets shared the stage and read from their recent and not so recent works. We heard from Lucia Perillo, Tim McNulty, Barbara Gibson, and Robert Michael Pyle.

During the break, folks had several choices: they were able to view the slide show Pat McLachlan had put together highlighting Washington's 31 Wilderness areas, or to learn about the Great Old Broads for Wilderness and our other sponsors, Olympic National Forest, Olympic Forest Coalition, and Olympic Park Associates, or to buy poetry books from the Orca Book table. All of this while enjoying light refreshments furnished by the Broads.

OPA, Olympic Forest Coalition, and Olympic National Forest were all sponsors of this event.



Wilderness !

OPA Celebrates 50 Years of Wilderness with Several Events

Fifty years ago this past September the Wilderness Act was signed into law. Since then over 100 million acres of American wildlands have become part of the National Wilderness Preservation System, including the Olympic Wilderness of Olympic National Park and the Buckhorn, Brothers, Mt. Skokomish, Wonder Mountain, and Colonel Bob wilderness areas in Olympic National Forest.

OPA partnered with our sister conservation groups and federal agencies on a series of events to celebrate the occasion. We cooperated with Olympic National Park on three events during the park's celebration on September 5 through 7.

On Friday OPA vice president Tim McNulty took part in a panel discussion with conservationists, tribal members, and park professionals on the next 50 years of wilderness held at Peninsula College.

The following Sunday OPA sponsored two wilderness hikes open to the public. Elwha historian and long-time OPA member Russ Dalton led an interpretive hike to Humes Ranch on the Elwha River, and OPA trustees John Bridge and Tim McNulty led a hike on Grand Ridge from Obstruction Point to Deer Park. Trailhead transportation was provided by All Points Charters.

Then on September 20, OPA partnered with Great Old Broads for Wilderness and Olympic National Forest for a Chautauqua-type event in Olympia. Biologist and Great Old Broads activist Shelley Spalding presented a talk on the "untrammelled" nature of wilderness -- and honored OPA's Polly Dyer for her work in helping shape that visionary Act. Poet Clem Starck read from the Act; Henry David Thoreau made an appearance in the person of poet and biologist Bill Yake; and Olympia's **Kids in Concert** sang beautifully of love, wild places, and wild animals. The event concluded with four noted Northwest poets reading from their work: Lucia Perillo, Tim McNulty, Barbara Gibson, and Robert Michael Pyle. About 80 people attended the event, and 50 years of Wilderness received a rousing celebration.

Thanks to everyone who participated and to our members whose ongoing support helped make these events possible. With the Wild Olympics bill in Congress, we look forward to another 50 years of Wilderness preservation -- in the Olympics and beyond.



Noted Northwest poets Lucia Perillo, Tim McNulty, Barbara Gibson, and Robert Michael Pyle read from their work at the Great Old Broads' 50th Anniversary Wilderness Celebration. Photo by Shelley Spalding.

The Wind in Lost Basin

All night long
the wind honed the slate
and sandstone boulders -- a late
September wind,
just beginning to cut its teeth.

It whittled at the talused ridge,
moaned softly in the spindled trees,
rattled the slender seed stalks
to their knees.

All the flapping tent-fly night--
like wind in the sails of a small lost boat,
a ruffle
in the marmot's thickening coat,
sheen of ice in the shallows
that one day soon won't melt away,
the balance tipped to dark
from day.

No moon.
Arcturus low,
and the Hunter slowly picking his way
up the glacier.

--Tim McNulty

Proposed Fee Increases at Olympic National Park

by John Bridge, Secretary, OPA

Last summer Park Service Director Jon Jarvis approved the concept of fee increases for the nation's national parks. Park directors were notified. The proposed fee increases would allow parks to enhance visitor facilities and services as the Park Service's 2016 centennial celebration approaches.

The proposed price of a seven-day vehicle pass at Olympic National Park would go from \$15 to \$25, and the cost of an annual pass would climb from \$30 to \$50. Campground fees, currently \$10 to \$18, would range from \$15 to \$25. Ranger-guided snowshoe walks at Hurricane Ridge would double, from \$5 to \$10. Children 15 and younger are admitted free. If approved, the new fees could be in place by next summer, though Superintendent Sarah Creachbaum recently said they could also be phased in over a few years..

Mount Rainier National Park may also require a \$25 fee for vehicles. Park-specific fees do not apply to those who have an interagency pass such as the \$80-per-year America the Beautiful pass, a \$10 lifetime senior pass, a free military pass or a free access pass for those with disabilities.

Fee revenue is used to pay for improvements to facilities and visitor services, rather than day-to-day expenses, national park officials have said. Since 2010, Olympic National Park has used entrance fees to repair 90 miles of trail, the Quinault North Shore and East Beach roads, and the electrical system at the Kalaloch visitor area. Fees have also been used to restore campsites at Olympic Hot Springs and Lake Angeles, replace a bridge at Staircase Rapids, install interpretative exhibits and provide wilderness information, provide new exhibits at the Hoh Visitor Center, create accessible parking spaces and walkways at the Hoh and Quinault visitor centers, make trail repairs in the Hoh and Sol Duc valleys and south Pacific coast route, and provide wilderness information for hikers and backpackers.

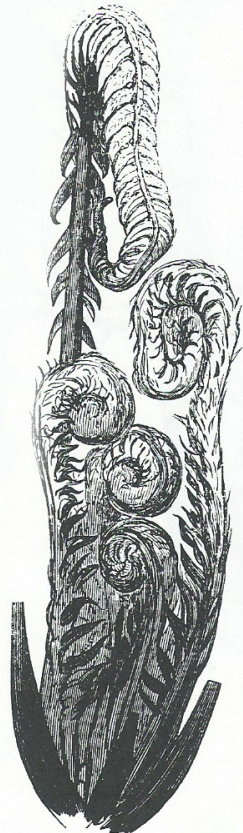
Eighty percent of the fees collected at Olympic National Park stays at Olympic. The rest is used to fund projects in the 270 national parks that do not collect entrance fees.

The real problem is that our National Parks are not funded at the necessary level. In 2013, federal cuts sliced Olympic National Park's budget by 5 percent, or \$639,000 of the \$12.8 million operating budget. The park cut back on landscaping and interpretive programs, delayed opening of some seasonal roads and closed some of the smaller campgrounds.

On October, 18th of this year, the National Parks Conservation Association (NPCA) facilitated a meeting with a group of local Olympic Peninsula conservation organizations and Rep. Derek Kilmer, who represents the area in Congress. We thanked him for supporting the Wild Olympics campaign and impressed upon him that lack of funding was hurting Olympic National Park.

NPCA's position on fee increases is that the national parks need a renewed investment after years of chronic underfunding to prepare them for their next 100 years. Fee increases would directly benefit park visitor experiences, but Congress must do its fair share by providing the funding needed to operate and maintain our national parks. Funding national park operations remains the sole responsibility of Congress through annual appropriations. Fees should never replace the core funding needs of the National Park Service. However, entrance and recreation fees support and improve visitor park experiences, and some fee increases could be part of the solution to more adequately fund our parks to benefit the visitors. Increased fees should not reduce visitation or the ability of families to visit.

While I share the National Parks Conservation Association's concern that increased fees will lead to reduced visitation, I am aware that the admission charge for my local movie theater is \$11 for adults and \$8 for children under 12. One week in the park would be less expensive.



Ice Worm Research: A Window into the History of Climate Change in the Olympics

By Llyn De Danaan, OPA Trustee

The Olympic National Park is listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in recognition of the biodiversity contained within its boundaries. Life is so abundant in the park that some of the taxa there and in surrounding forests have not yet been catalogued or studied. The geologic history of the Olympic Peninsula begins in the Cenozoic age. The peninsula we know today with its grand forests, vegetation and fauna, however, is largely the result of post glacial changes after the last glacial maximum (21,000 years BP).

There were many events that impacted the flora and fauna of the peninsula. Indeed, some of the features of the biodiversity are consistent with long-term isolation during the warmer cycles of the Pleistocene, the "Ice Age." (2.5 million-11,700 B.P.) During warmer periods, the highest of the Olympic peaks retained glaciers and snowfields. Creatures that could live in those extreme environments survived. Others did not. Those that survived did so over thousands of years of isolation. This isolation resulted in genetic drift and species that are unique to the Olympic Peninsula. This includes the Olympic Marmot. There are many other species in the Olympics that are distinct from their closest relatives and unique to the peninsula because of their isolation over time.

Among these unique species are ice worms. *Mesenchytraeus solifugus rainierensis* is the only known oligochaete adapted to life in ice. Though they are annelids, in the same group as earthworms, they are among those fascinating creatures that live in extreme environments. In fact, they can survive only in temperature ranges from -0.8 degrees C to $+5.0$ degrees C. They are among the beings that are called "extremophiles" by biologists. Ice worms are usually no more than an inch long and not much bigger round than a hair. They feed on glacial algae and other organic debris" on the ice.

University of Puget Sound's evolution and conservation biologist, Peter Wimberger has been directing research on ices worms

for several years. His student Ben Lee's senior thesis research, conducted under Wimberger, analyzed the DNA of the Olympic populations and then described the relationships between the Alaskan worms and the Cascade worms and the differences. This kind of research helps us to understand how taxa respond to fluctuations in the environment. They probably originated on the "ice sheets of Alaska" and were carried south along with Cordilleran Ice Sheet 40,000 years ago to the Olympics and Cascades. As the sheet subsequently withdrew and the southern glaciers were isolated, and so were the ice worms. Subsequently, genetic drift did its work.

Research on these exceptional inhabitants helps to write the story of the Olympic Peninsula and the National Park and contributes to an understanding climate change's impact on living species and in general adds to an understanding of evolutionary development and evolutionary theory.

Wimberger's work on ice worms has taken a hiatus, but he is planning to "start it up again this year." His work and that of his students in the Olympics and the National Park contributes to our ever-growing understanding of its history and the importance of the Park's wilderness where biodiversity is protected and appreciated.

Some further reading:

Paleoenvironmental Change on the Olympic Peninsula, Washington Forests and Climate from the Last Glaciations to the Present, Gavin et. al. *Final Report to Olympic National Park March 13, 2013.* http://www.cfr.washington.edu/research.cesu/reports/J8W07100028_Final_Report.pdf

Elwha River Valley Biodiversity Project <http://www.elwhabiodiversity.org/project/>

Phylogeography of the ice worm, *Mesenchytraeus solifugus rainierensis*, in the Olympic Mountains: population structure within the Olympics and between the Olympics and the Cascades. Ben Lee, *Biology Senior Thesis.*

Northwest Nature Notes: A Blog of the Slater Museum of Natural History, slatermuseum.blogspot.com



Ice Worms. From the Slater Museum of Natural History, slatermuseum.blogspot.com.

Photo by N. Takeuchi.



VOICE of the WILD OLYMPICS

Sally W. Soest, Editor

Olympic Park Associates

14905 Bothell-Everett Highway
Apartment 270
Mill Creek, WA 98012

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Olympic Park Associates

Dues and gifts are 100% tax-deductible.

OPA is a 501(c)3 organization.

Membership includes subscription to the
Voice of the Wild Olympics.

- \$250 Individual Life
- \$50 Associate Organization
- \$35 Contributing
- \$25 Family
- \$20 Individual Member
- \$5 Student / Low Income
- \$__ Gift (tax-deductible)

*The value of an organization endeavoring to promote
the protection and integrity of a World Heritage Site
and its wilderness is infinite.*

Name _____ Date _____

e-Mail _____

Street _____

City _____ State _____

ZIP _____

Mail Laura Zalesky, Membership Chair
to: 14905 Bothell-Everett Hwy, #270
Mill Creek, WA 98012

BREAKING NEWS!

U.S. Navy is planning a
**Permanent
Electronic Warfare Range**
on west side of
Olympic National Park.

**Your Comments are Needed !
See Page 4**