

VOICE of the WILD OLYMPICS

Olympic Park Associates

Founded in 1948

Volume 10, No 3
Fall 2002

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Olympic National Park Soon to Release Alternatives For 20-Year Management Plan

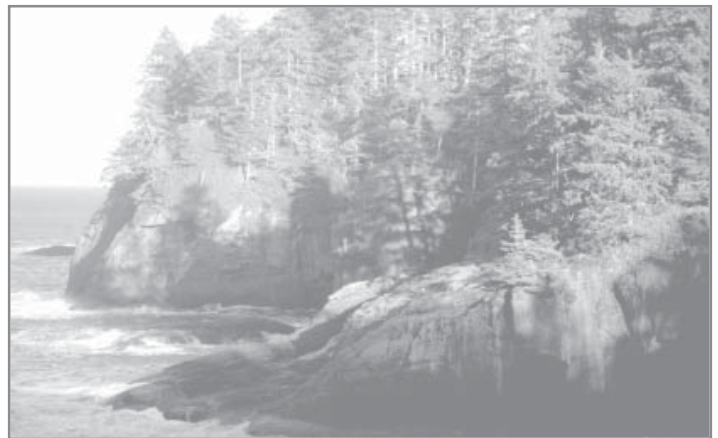
By Tim McNulty

Olympic National Park's General Management Plan (GMP) is taking shape. Park service planner Cliff Hawkes reports that a range of alternatives has been developed and will be presented to the public in a newsletter mailing later this winter. No "preferred alternative" will be chosen at this time; that will wait until the draft environmental impact statement is released a year from now. The alternatives will present a range of management directions for the park. More importantly, they will give citizens another opportunity to share your vision for the park's future.

The resulting plan will guide park management over the next 15 to 20 years.

A number of critical management issues have been deferred to the GMP, making this plan a crucial juncture in the future ecological health of Olympic National Park and the Olympic ecosystem. Unresolved issues that have been of long-term interest to OPA members include a Wilderness plan, Wild and Scenic River protection, wolf reintroduction, "historic" shelter management, no-take intertidal reserves, protection of threatened salmon stocks and increased protection for the Ozette Lake basin. These issues and others will be addressed in the plan. It's our job to insure that park managers make the right decisions.

OPA outlined its vision, issues and concerns for the park in a letter to park planners.*



Olympic National Park rainforest meets marine sanctuary at Cape Flattery. Photo courtesy of Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary

Our vision for Olympic National Park in 20 years is that of a fully restored wilderness ecosystem with its original components and habitat functions intact. Human use would be managed to insure enjoyment of the park while protecting the healthy functioning of its ecosystems into the future.

To accomplish this we have requested an ecosystem study be conducted as part of the planning process. This would provide a baseline inventory of species that use the park, survey critical habitats outside park boundaries, and include process studies to see how species adapt—or fail to adapt—to human-caused changes in habitat. An ecosystem study would provide necessary groundwork for long-term decision-making by park managers.

General Management Plan, continued on P. 3.



Next OPA Board Meeting

Dates: January 22, March 26, 2003.

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Place: Kingston Community Center

A short walk up the hill from the ferry, white building on the right.

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

OPA Board meetings generally are in the Kingston Community Center on the 4th Wednesday of odd-numbered months, except no meeting in July.

How to Reach Your Members of Congress

U.S. Congress Switchboard: (202) 224-3121

From this number you can reach any member of the U S Senate or House of Representatives.

US Senate, Washington DC 20510 <www.senate.gov>

Senator Patty Murray

Phone (DC): 202-224-2621

Fax: 202-224-0238

Seattle: 206-553-5545

E-mail: Senator_Murray@murray.senate.gov

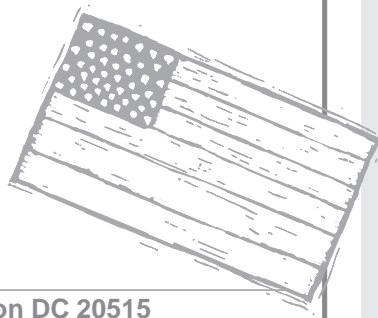
Senator Maria Cantwell

Phone (Washington, DC): 202-224-3441

Fax: 202-228-0514

Seattle 206-220-6400

E-Mail: maria_cantwell@cantwell.senate.gov



US House of Representatives, Washington DC 20515

<www.house.gov>

Representative Jay Inslee, Dist. 1

308 Cannon House Office Building

Phone (D.C.): 202-225-6311

FAX 202-226-1606

WA: 425-640-0233

Web page <www.house.gov/inslee>

Representative Rick Larsen, Dist. 2

1529 Longworth HOB

Phone (D.C.): 202-225-2605

FAX 202-225-4420

WA: 425-252-3188

Web page <www.house.gov/larsen>

Representative Brian Baird, Dist. 3

1721 Longworth HOB

Phone (D.C.): 202-225-3536

FAX 202-225-3478

WA: 360-695-6292

email

<brian.baird@mail.house.gov>

Representative Doc Hastings, Dist. 4

1323 Longworth HOB

Phone (D.C.): 202-225-5816

FAX 202-225-3251

WA: 509-543-1972

Web page <www.house.gov/hastings>

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223 Cannon HOB

Phone (D.C.): 202-225-2006

FAX 202-225-3392

WA: 509-353-2374

Web page <www.house.gov/nethercutt>

Representative Norm Dicks, Dist. 6

2467 Rayburn HOB

Phone (D.C.): 202-225-5916

Fax 202-225-1176

Toll-free 800-947-NORM (947-6676)

Web page <www.house.gov/dicks>

Rep. Jim McDermott, Dist. 7

1035 Longworth HOB

Phone (D.C.): 202-225-3106

FAX 202-225-6197

WA: 206-553-7170

Web page <www.house.gov/mcdermott>

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1501 Longworth HOB

Phone (D.C.): 202-225-7761

WA: 206-275-3438

Web page <www.house.gov/dunn>

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116 Cannon HOB

Phone (D.C.): 202-225-8901

FAX 202-225-5893

Toll free 1-888-smith09 (764-

8409)

Web page

<www.house.gov/adamsmith>

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\$250 for an individual life membership.



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General Management Plan

Continued from P. 1.

While our first priority must be non-degradation of natural systems, it is also important that critical ecosystem functions be restored. Olympic is no longer surrounded by vast areas of undisturbed forest. Roads, logging, cumulative downstream impacts on rivers, residential development, increased recreational use and illegal hunting pressures have fragmented habitats and impaired ecosystem functions. Human use is increasing dramatically, and climate change will likely affect park resources.

A shortcoming of park management over the past decade has been the absence of a wilderness management plan. A plan that addresses levels and types of wilderness use, management guidelines and desired outcomes is badly needed. In the absence of a publicly reviewed plan, decisions are being made each year that frequently have a negative impact upon park wilderness. For example, Olympic's current Draft Fire Management Plan proposes to thin trees and clear brush as far

away as 90 feet around historic cabins, shelters and woodsheds within park wilderness. (See fire plan story, this page.) Claptrap forest service structures are evidently deemed more important than the natural systems they were built to protect.

Much needs to be done to insure that this magnificent wilderness park, a world heritage site for all the earth, retains its biological richness, diversity and splendor for the future. Under the current administration in Washington, D.C., park managers will need lots of encouragement.

To receive the next newsletter and participate in ONP's general management planning process, contact Cliff Hawkes, National Park Service Denver Service Center P.O. Box 25287, Denver, CO 80225-9901 or call Olympic National Park at (360) 565-3001.

* The full text of OPA's scoping letter is available on OPA's web site: <www.drizzle.com/~rdpayne/opa.html>

Park Fire Plan Bears Smoky the Bear's Footprint

By Tim McNulty

Olympic National Park released its Draft Fire Management Plan in September. It is being reviewed as this issue goes to press. But an initial analysis suggests the plan calls for more fire prevention than for allowing fire to play its ecological role in the forest landscape.

Nearly all of the park's forests bear signs of past wildfires. Stand replacement fires have swept through most of Olympic's forests every few centuries. Big fires affected the park's forests around 1300, 1500, and 1700 AD.

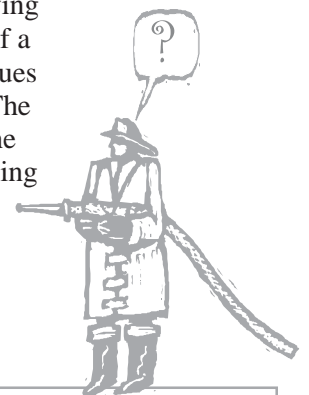
Yet the preferred alternative proposes to suppress all wildfire in a zone around the north, west and south portions of the park, an area encompassing roughly a third of the park and comprising nearly half of the park's forests. Fire is seen as a threat to endangered species whose habitats evolved with wildfire. And "fuel management" activities would send thinning crews into park wilderness.

Particularly objectionable is the park's intent to cut vegetation, including trees up to 16 inches in diameter (or larger, if pre-approved) as far away as 90 feet from shelters, woodsheds and other structures in congressionally designated Wilderness. If approved, a backpacker can expect

to find small clearcuts protecting old forest service structures of questionable historic value.

A major flaw is that the plan makes no distinction between front country and Wilderness in its clearing and fuels management activities. It proposes to mechanically "treat" some 200 acres per year. This is over and above the fire lines, fire camps, helispots, bucked trees and bare soil resulting from repression activities—all allowed in Wilderness

This plan demonstrates the problem of trying to manage a wilderness park in the absence of a wilderness management plan. Wilderness values and natural processes are given short shrift. The current plan should be placed on hold until the park meets its legal responsibility by developing an approved wilderness management plan.



* The full text of OPA's letter on ONP's fire management EA is available on OPA's web site: <www.drizzle.com/~rdpayne/opa.html>

Americans For National Parks: Campaigning For Sufficient Funding For National Parks

By Barbara Wilson, Americans for National Parks

Washington State has some of the finest national parks in the country. Annually, 7.4 million visitors have the chance to hike through the magnificent stands of old growth and temperate rainforest or explore unspoiled beaches and stroll through fields of wildflowers in our state's national parks. They view historical natural and cultural artifacts, which deepen their understanding of our region's history. These majestic places provide powerful experiences that transform us.

Sadly, these majestic places are threatened by insufficient funding. While Congress has regularly increased funding to protect Olympic and all of our national parks, the budget of the National Park Service has failed to keep pace with burgeoning demands. Research conducted by the National Parks Conservation Association and the National Park Service has revealed that on average, our national parks are operating with only two-thirds of the funding needed. As a result, plant and wildlife species are disappearing. Important archaeological sites are not being protected. Educational program requests are not being met. Irreplaceable historic structures are crumbling.

Unless the National Park System as a whole receives greater support, things will get much worse.

To get involved with ANP efforts in Washington State, contact Barbara Wilson, Washington State Field Organizer for Americans for National Parks 206-343-7340 x23 or <bwilson@npca.org>

In September 2001, the National Parks Conservation Association launched the Americans for National Parks campaign to convince Congress and the administration to address these needs, setting a goal of an additional \$280 million in the National Park Service's fiscal year 2003 operating budget, ramping up over five years to a total of \$600 million annually.

Americans for National Parks is building a national parks movement—educating and motivating people to communicate with Congress and the administration about the importance of funding the needs of the national parks—this year and every year. We are doing this through the work of campaign staff and organizers in several states, a Steering Committee, and a diverse coalition of nearly 300 influential organizations such as the Olympic Park Associates, National Trust for Historic Preservation, the Association of National Park Rangers, national park friends groups, private businesses, and tourism and trade associations.

The Olympic Park Associates, in true trailblazing form, was the first group in Washington State to join the campaign. Our recent joint educational forum with campaign representatives for Congressman Norm Dicks and challenger Bob Lawrence was a wonderful success and gave citizens an opportunity to hear from and educate the candidates about important issues affecting our national Park. ANP looks forward to working in partnership with OPA.

The national parks need your help. And they need it now. *Because there's just too much to lose.*

OPA Welcomes New Board Member: Jim Scarborough



Jim's first exposure to deep green forests came at an early age, having been born the son of a coal miner in the remote Appalachians of SW Virginia. Thus Jim is first and foremost a product of the mountains. An internship in Alaska a few years back sharpened his awareness of the concepts of ecosystems, watersheds, and wilderness. Nothing, however, proved quite so resonant with his heart as the first time he laid eyes on the Olympic Mountains in 1994.

Since then, Jim has been driven to explore and learn about the nooks, crannies, secrets, and possibilities of the Olympics at a near-obsessive pace. Along the way, he volunteered three years of time and energy to the Wild Washington Campaign, prior to turning his focus to the Olympic Forest Coalition (OFCO -- see story on page 9). In his free time, Jim is forced to submit to the regular schedule of a public school employee. He is presently a member of OFCO's board of directors.

Chairlift Proposed for Hurricane Ridge Ski Area

At a time when downhill ski developments are being phased out of national parks as inappropriate uses (Olympic and Yosemite are the last two we know of), the Hurricane Ridge Public Development Authority would like to turn the tide.

In September, the authority's president Steve Oliver wrote Olympic National Park Superintendent David Morris with a proposal to construct a permanent two-chair ski lift at the downhill ski operation at Hurricane Ridge. Oliver told the Peninsula Daily News "We want very much to upgrade our facility up there."

The chairlift would replace the existing poma lift and rope tow that currently operate in the winter. Both are removed for the summer visiting season. The proposed chairlift would be permanent. The authority suggested the chair lift would be available in the summer to provide access for the disabled (or disinclined) to the top of the hill above the visitors center.

Chuck Fagan of the National Park Service's D.C. office is quoted in the Peninsula Daily News as saying, "In general, ski facilities are no longer considered appropriate for national park areas." Olympic Park Associates president Tim McNulty told the Seattle Times that OPA opposed the expansion of

commercial operations in the park, "This clearly would be an expansion," he said. "We'd be opposed to that."

At present, downhill skiing represents a small part of total winter use of Hurricane Ridge. Most visitors cross-country ski, snowshoe, sled, attend winter naturalist programs, or simply enjoy the snowy winter silence.

On the positive side, the authority has purchased three propane-powered buses to run a shuttle service to Hurricane Ridge from Port Angeles this winter. That should help considerably in reducing parking congestion and pollution at the ridge. Round-trip cost will be \$5.

The chairlift issue will be one of many to be addressed in the park's upcoming General Management Plan (GMP, see story, page 1). Alternatives for the plan will be released this winter. This is one more reason why you should contact Olympic National Park to be placed on the GMP newsletter mailing list—and let your voice be heard.

To get on the mailing list for the GMP newsletter call Olympic National Park at 360-565-3001

Organizations Call for Gray Wolf Restoration in Western WA

Defenders of Wildlife and the Northwest Ecosystem Alliance (NWEA) are calling on the federal government today to restore gray wolves to the vast stretch of their historical range in the forests of western Washington.

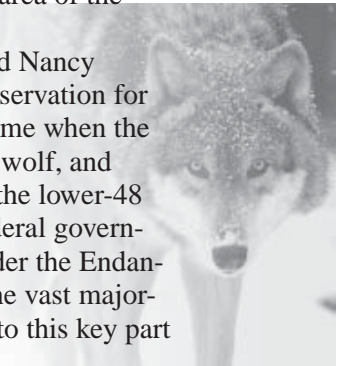
The organizations released a petition urging the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to establish what is known in the Endangered Species Act as a Distinct Population Segment for gray wolves in Washington State. This could require USFWS to develop and implement a plan for restoration and protection of gray wolves in suitable habitat in 9 million acres of federally managed lands—including 4 million acres of designated wilderness areas.

The Endangered Species Act requires the federal government to work for the recovery of an endangered species in suitable habitats throughout its historic range, where appropriate habitat remains. Habitat surveys have confirmed that the Blue Mountains of eastern Washington, the Cascades Mountains, and the Olympic Peninsula are ideal places for wolves, with substantial expanses of remote public land and large numbers of wild prey species.

"The wolf and the Pacific Northwest co-evolved. It is as much a thread in the fabric of our ecosystems as the salmon and the grizzly. We must seek to recover wolves wherever suitable habitat exists for the sake of the species and these ecosystems", said Joe Scott, Conservation Director of the Northwest Ecosystem Alliance.

The gray wolf is currently listed as "endangered" in all lower 48 states except Minnesota, where it is listed as "threatened." The species has been successfully reintroduced in Yellowstone National Park and re-established in the Northern Rockies. The Mexican wolf has been reintroduced in the area of the U.S.-Mexico border.

"Wolves belong in this region," said Nancy Weiss, western director of species conservation for Defenders of Wildlife. "There was a time when the federal government waged war on the wolf, and pushed it to the brink of extinction in the lower-48 states. That time is over. Now the federal government must live up to its obligation under the Endangered Species Act and the wishes of the vast majority of Americans and restore the wolf to this key part of its former habitat."



The Trout of Lake Crescent

By Dick Goin

Lake Crescent is probably the most interesting and least understood body of water in Olympic National Park. The fishery in particular poses far more questions than it answers. This article is based on fishery information and my own observations and opinions on this fishery, stock by stock.

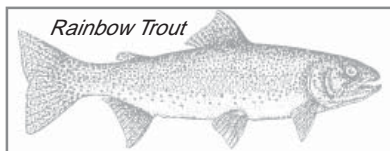
Lyre River Cutthroat

This stock is mentioned vaguely in a few old documents. However, no specifics were gathered on species, numbers, spawning area, and spawning times until 1994. It was not until 1995 that the correct spawn timing and areas were discovered.

This large cutthroat (up to 12 lbs.) spawns from the Lyre bridge down the river to the mouth of Boundary Creek. A few of these trout went up Boundary Creek in past years, but have not been seen there for some time. The spawn timing is between mid-November and early February. The numbers of redds vary between 30 and 90. Nothing is known about the juvenile years of this stock.

The three major spawning areas in the Lyre are very fragile. Two of them are logjams that have stopped gravel in a very gravel-poor system. All the logjams are deteriorating. So vital for gravel retention, these logjams were formed by large trees falling across the creek. There are no more large trees in this area, and not likely to be for several centuries, if ever. If these jams continue to deteriorate, they will one day

(probably soon) collapse, and the immediate loss of the gravel will spell the end of most of the Lyre River trout.



Rainbow Trout

Beardslee Trout

The Beardslee is a large rainbow (up to 20 lbs.) that has recently been adjudged by a scientific panel to be genetically unique and totally irreplaceable.

The Beardslee spawns in only one place, a 400-foot stretch above the Lyre bridge. This spawning area is slowly being covered with silt and, in some years, thick algae, both of which are very detrimental to this stock.

More than 60% of the Beardslee spawning area has been lost in the last three decades. Photo-

graphic evidence shows that at least part of the problem is human-caused, from logging on Piedmont Creek, and from boating and human activity in that long channel above the Lyre. As the siltation moves downstream, the Beardslee move into the only remaining small area of clean gravel. Space there is so limited that there is over-spawning (spawning on top of other redds), with serious egg loss. It needs to be understood that this stock does not go below the Lyre bridge.

The number of spawners typically varies from 30 to over 100; however, some years have had no spawners. The most recent year with no spawners was 1982. The spawning time is from late January to Mid-April.

Juvenile Beardslees are thought to move immediately into the lake, but there is little actual data on their movements.

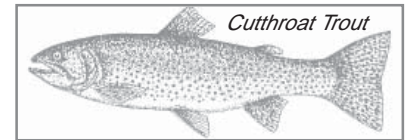
Barnes Creek Cutthroat

This is the most abundant of the stocks. The size appears to be consistent with the Lyre River cutthroat (up to 12 lbs.) but the spawn time is totally different (mid-February to mid-June). Their two to three mile spawning area in Barnes Creek is in pristine condition.

Very little is known about the life history of the Barnes Creek trout.

The Shore Spawning Cutthroat

It is remarkable that a stock of fish could go undocumented in



Cutthroat Trout

Lake Crescent until 2002. Though large cutthroat have been seen along the shore for some years, they were first reported actually digging in 2001. Then in 2002 fishery biologists observed redds in at least a half-mile wide area.

We still have no idea of the numbers of trout, the size range (they appear to be quite large), the area and timing of spawning; nor do we have any idea of their life history from hatching to maturity.

Piedmont Creek (a.k.a. Log Cabin Creek) Cutthroat

Very sketchy redd counts for these trout indicate some spawning from early February to well into June. We have no information on size or numbers. There is an impassable culvert at River Mile 0.4, with a substantial amount of good habitat above Piedmont Road.

If you would like to help with fishery restoration, please contact Dick Goin in Port Angeles 360-457-4352

Fish, continued on P. 7.

Trail to Point of Arches & Shi Shi Beach Opened

By Phil Zalesky

Olympic Park Associates initiated the acquisition by Olympic National Park of the coastal strip of Shi Shi Beach and Point of Arches but, along with hikers and campers, have bemoaned the lack of legal parking for the trail to this most picturesque beach. The U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs advised that, without legal approval obtained by the National Park Service, access through the reservation for tribe members and other individuals would be denied.

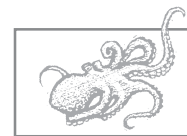
The only available parking has been on private lands of Makah tribal members at the south end of the Makah Reservation, for \$5.00 per day fee paid to the landowners. This in essence has meant that the area was closed to the public, for entry from the south meant crossing the Ozette River, not a desirable or safe prospect.

However, a trail and a 16-space parking area are planned for completion by the end of this October. In 1997 the Makah Tribe looked at rerouting the existing road and trail. To fund the project the tribe applied for a grant of \$167,000 from the Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account of the Department of Agriculture. The Forest Service granted an additional \$50,000.



Point of Arches, Olympic National Park. Photo courtesy of Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary.

This road, trail, and parking area re-routed around private land and onto reservation land will now be available year-round for day use only. Those wishing to stay longer will still need to utilize the private \$5-per-day parking.



Fish, continued from P. 6.

Kokanee (Land-Locked Sockeye)



These fish are the most important food source for all of the Lake Crescent trout that reach a length of about 16 inches. At this time we have virtually no idea of their numbers, the status of their food source, or the location and magnitude of spawning areas.

Action Needed

The Beardslee trout in Lake Crescent is truly endemic, having become genetically distinct enough to survive in this lake. It is also the rarest in number of any known salmonids in Olympic National Park.

The cutthroat have likewise undergone radical adaptations to this specialized environment. For practical purposes, such genetic changes make these stocks impossible to replace, should they be lost.

The most immediate problems are:

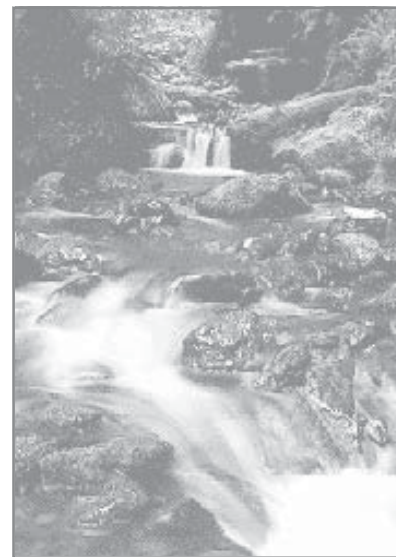
* **Loss of Beardslee spawning areas to siltation.** The Park Service has been aware of this loss of habitat for half a century: fishery managers documented it in the 1950s. *Finally*, the Park Service has

set up transects to *look at* the problem for 4 years. We wonder whether they will actually *do* something before it is too late.

* **Weakening of the old logjams** that are crucial for recruiting gravel for the Lyre River Cutthroat spawning. There is every reason to believe that those old logjams could be strengthened or enhanced to insure the future of these narrowly adapted cutthroat. We should be building and enhancing logjams all over western Washington in the name of salmon restoration.

It is frustrating that the Park Service finds funding for preservation of questionably historic structures and cultural resources, while doing almost nothing to protect fisheries, most of which are genuinely irreplaceable.

*Barnes Creek.
Photo by David Akeson.*



BOOKS BOOKS BOOKS BOOKS BOOKS BOOKS BOOKS

Olympic National Park Nature Guide:
A Field Guide to The Natural History of the Olympic Peninsula

by Larry and Nancy Cherry Eifert. Published by Estuary Press, Port Townsend WA, 2001. 80 pages, illustrated with line drawings. \$6.95, paperback.

Reviewed by Bruce Moorhead, OPA board member and retired wildlife biologist formerly at Olympic National Park



This small book, or booklet, is a recent offering in the authors' Nature Guide Series on various national parks. It packs a wide array of information about Olympic National Park and its ecological diversity into one compact, low-cost volume. The Eiferts are to be commended for attempting to cover such a variety of plants and animals across a wide range of mountain, forest and oceanside habitats.

The central feature of the book is a series of two-inch high pen and ink drawings of some 400 plant and animal species found on the Olympic Peninsula, with a four to six sentence physical description and a comment or two about habitat and behavior.

If your interest in natural history of the Olympics is fairly casual, you are likely to find the book useful. Those with an appetite to know more probably will want a more scientific approach.

The physical descriptions and other information generally are adequate. Many of the plant drawings are quite good and useful, as are the mushrooms, small mammals, reptiles, and rocky shore and intertidal organisms.

Problems of unevenness and quality control are inevitable in covering such diverse subject matter. There are a few typographical errors; e.g., Cape

Alava was misspelled "Avala" and the Pacific Slope Flycatcher (*Empidonax difficilis*) was misspelled "dirricilis." A number of the birds and larger animal drawings are misleading. For example, the Bonaparte's Gull is shown mainly in breeding (summer) plumage, although it occurs on the Peninsula almost entirely while in winter plumage. Its head then is no longer a solid black helmet, as in summer, but retains a diagnostic black spot behind each eye, which is not emphasized adequately in the drawing provided. However, to be fair, gulls are among the most difficult of birds to identify, and some 13 species may occur on the Peninsula in the winter.

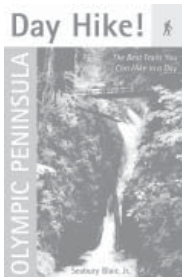
Despite these limitations, you can use this book to recognize many of the most common plants, birds, and other animals that you are likely to encounter. The book fits easily into a pocket or backpack and is probably the least expensive portable reference now available on a wide range of the creatures found in the park.

In summary, this book probably is best suited for those who are either first-time, one-time, or occasional visitors. As a biologist, I'd prefer to carry something more substantial.

Day Hike! Olympic Peninsula

by Seabury Blair, Jr. Published by Sasquatch Books, Seattle. 2002. 229 pages.

Reviewed by Jim Scarborough



The ever-increasing velocity of our lives is something to lament, and perhaps even rebel against, though this viewpoint is certainly not universal. Some accept the hectic pace begrudgingly, while others subscribe wholeheartedly to its brutal rigors.

Somewhere in this gray zone between reluctant acquiescence and devil-may-care adaptability lies the apparent motivation for *Day Hike! Olympic Peninsula*, a new book by Seabury Blair, Jr., outdoor columnist for the Bremerton Sun.

In this brave new world of speed-hiking and ambitions of mileage, the relaxed and reflective backpacker becomes an anachronism.

The Olympic Peninsula, of course, is not ex-

actly lacking for adequate trail guides. Bob Wood's classic *Olympic Mountains Trail Guide* is probably the finest of the genre. But Mr. Blair is obviously well aware of his target audience—that being the harried workaholic, the "Type A" over-achiever. *Day Hike!*, with its 70 trail descriptions, plus three suggested off-trail excursions, seems to have accomplished what it set out to do.

Less clear is whether this achievement is an admirable one.

Day Hike! organizes its trail descriptions by geographic area, stretching from Bremerton's own Green Mountain to the east (not exactly on the

Continued on P. 9.

Olympic Forest Coalition: QUAFCO Begets OFCO

By Jim Scarborough, Board of Directors, Olympic Forest Coalition

Olympic National Forest (ONF) has never benefited from an ally as comprehensively focused on its natural welfare as Olympic Park Associates has been for Olympic National Park.

ONF is much less known to both the global and even regional communities. It is a peculiar hodgepodge of old growth and tree plantations, genuine wildlands, and watersheds decimated by grotesquely excessive roading and logging perhaps. However its 630,000 acres are critical to the health of Olympic's magnificent, benevolent, and simultaneously fragile ecosystem. Yet never has any one conservation group focused exclusively on the entirety of Olympic National Forest.

Enter the Olympic Forest Coalition (OFCO). Not a new organization, per se, OFCO represents a rejuvenation of the venerable Quilcene Ancient Forest

Coalition (QUAFCO), which first began making waves in 1989. QUAFCO, best known for its impassioned defense of old growth in the wake of the nefarious, mid-nineties "salvage rider," probably is largely responsible for the progressive forestry approaches currently characterizing the management of Olympic National Forest.

Dialogue begun earlier this year between Alexandra Bradley, leader of QUAFCO, and Bonnie Phillips, longtime veteran of Northwest forest issues, was the impetus for OFCO's origin. Given both the seemingly daily threats from the Bush administration, and the opportunity for effective collaboration with the Forest Service and

other involved parties, the time was ripe for a group that would speak for all of Olympic National forest. OFCO, recently incorporated as a non-profit, has formed a board of directors, is seeking new members and volunteers, and is busily developing programs to educate relevant agencies, political leaders, and the public in regard to the importance of a robust ecosystem. In its efforts to protect, conserve, and restore, while building ever-stronger relationships along the way, OFCO intends to be that committed ally so very needed for Olympic National Forest.

To contact or learn more about OFCO:

Email <info@olympicforest.org>

Snail mail to P.O. Box 1813, Port Townsend

Or visit our website at <<http://www.olympicforest.org>>

New Group Formed: *Friends of Olympic National Park*

By Harry Lydiard

Olympic Park Associates welcomes the Port Angeles-based Friends of Olympic National Park as a helper in the effort to better understand and appreciate the importance of Olympic National Park (ONP).

Formed to aid the flow of information about park policies, this group's role specifically avoids the political evaluations of park management, leaving that work to groups such as our Olympic Park Associates, the Na-

tional Parks and Conservation Association, and others.

Brad Collin, Port Angeles City Planner and the first president, stated, "We are a group of people who care about the ONP and desire to act as a pass-through for information from the park administration. We wish to enhance understanding of the park." The group plans to publish a quarterly newsletter.

Originally the idea of ONP Supervi-

sor David Morris, the organization duplicates groups associated with several other national parks.

The Friends' organizational meeting was in March, 2002. The group has elected officers and nine directors and is incorporated. Their public meeting in September featured talks by Jim Whittaker and ONP Ranger Jon Preston. More than 100 people enjoyed the program.

Books, Continued from P. 8.

Olympic Peninsula), to the far western reaches of the Ozette triangle, and much of the high country in between. Each entry describes the trip's distance, hiking time, elevation gain, difficulty level, necessary permits, and subjective "rating." Very handy topo maps and a few attractive photos accompany the text, as well. Mr. Blair, known for his liberal use of witticisms, piles it on with abandon, including no less than three ibuprofen-

related knee-slappers scattered about the book.

Less enthralling is *Day Hike!*'s complete apoliticism and almost-total exclusion of relevant conservation issues from its content. Mr. Blair limits his treatment of etiquette and ethics to a single paragraph, then merrily sends the inexperienced yet potentially educable suburbanite on his or her way. True, facilitating recreation is the sole stated intent of the book, and new hik-

ers may by default develop a relationship with the wild country that furthers important conservation goals over the long run. Yet, as Harvey Manning and Ira Spring taught long ago, the user of our public land is simultaneously obligated to act as its devoted protector. It's a shame Mr. Blair felt this moral imperative too banal to mention.





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Park Decision Favors Ancient Trees at July Creek

The Park Service made the right decision in converting the July Creek Campground into a day-use area.

July Creek has been a tent-only, walk-in campground, and is situated in one of the last remaining old growth forest stands on the north shore of Lake Quinault. Over the years, camping has caused soil compaction, which has begun to damage roots and weaken the centuries-old trees, making them vulnerable to blowdown.

Superintendent Dave Morris explained the choice: "Either remove the diseased trees and allow camping, or convert the area to day use. We have chosen to convert July Creek to a picnic area, maintaining safe visitor access to this beautiful site, without sacrificing its magnificent trees."

