

VOICE of the WILD OLYMPICS

Olympic Park Associates

Founded in 1948



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Mt. Deception at Royal Lake. Photograph by Bob Kaune.

Taking the Pulse of the Olympic Ecosystem

by Jerry Freilich

Research and Monitoring Coordinator at Olympic National Park.

In 1998, Congress passed the National Parks Omnibus Management Act authorizing the National Park Service (NPS) to monitor the health of ecosystems in the National Parks and to provide information on long-term trends. Thus was born Vital Signs Monitoring, a new and exciting challenge for the NPS.

The goal of Vital Signs Monitoring at Olympic National Park is to take the heartbeat or pulse of the Olympic ecosystem, the way a doctor might assess a patient. The problem is complicated, however, because the health of human patients has been studied for centuries, but the health of ecosystems is still "bleeding edge" science with few exist-

Continued on P. 3, Pulse of Ecosystem

Next OPA Board Meeting

Date: November 19, 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 US Senate or House of Representatives.

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Seattle: 206-553-5545

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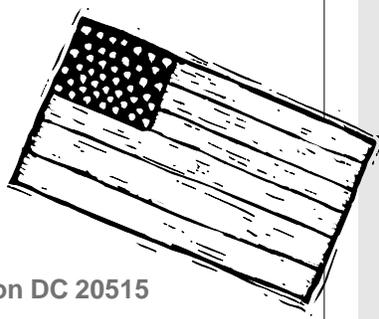
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\$50 for organizations;

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\$250 for an individual life membership.



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Pulse of Ecosystem *(Continued from P. 1.)*

ing models to follow. Each step must be painstakingly worked out, refined, documented and peer-reviewed. Initially many of us in the Service were relieved at being given this mission since we'd long felt a real need for it. But how do you, in fact, accurately take the pulse of an ecosystem?

Moreover, how do you define ecosystem health? In a human patient, health or well-being has certain characteristics; e.g., a healthy person feels good, has freedom of movement, and thinks clearly. But what are equivalent states for an ecosystem? Healthy ecosystems are resilient, they respond to imbalances with self-regulating corrections, they are diverse, and they are sustainable over a long time. Such terms sound reasonable, but there's a devil in the details. How do you measure these variables? Each of them can lead into tortuous scientific puzzles that raise far more questions than answers. So can the question be simplified?

Although a human being is very complicated, we don't need to measure every system to know when a person is sick. A doctor taking our temperature, pulse, and respiration ('vital signs') can tell a great deal with only these few clues. So our challenge is to find sufficiently equivalent vital signs for the park ecosystem. The selection of which things to monitor is now underway through a series of formal "prioritization" workshops.

Olympic is fortunate in having a team of research scientists assigned to it by the U.S. Geological Survey, Biological Resource Division (USGS/BRD). These scientists (Kurt Jenkins, Andrea Woodward, and Ed Schreiner) have worked closely with us to develop and prioritize a workable set of Vital Signs. In 2002, they produced a paper called *A Framework for Long-Term Ecological Monitoring in Olympic National Park*. This important report summarized and synthesized the work of many scientists at more than seven workshops, and presented us with the starting point for selecting what exactly to measure. Dr. Woodward has taken the lead in holding a subsequent series of meetings with

scientists to further refine this list.

Picture a long list of things that you might measure to judge an ecosystem's health. Initially nearly 90 possible subjects were identified at Olympic (birds, frogs, spawning fish, forest composition, nitrogen and carbon dynamics, etc.). Through subsequent meetings we have now whittled that list down to about 35 subjects. Picture, also, the reality that certain projects have been on-going in the park for some time. For example, Spotted Owls have been studied for many years. A small-watersheds study in the Hoh has been under way for 18 years. Should these projects be continued into the future as part of the Vital Signs program? Each scientist has often spent years gaining expertise and compiling data on his or her topic. Should these now be replaced with some other, new monitoring procedures chosen for different reasons?

Another important reality in all this is financial. We've spent an enormous effort already trying to reduce our list of Vital Signs from 90 to 35 or some even smaller number. But the funds we have cannot possibly cover that many. So we face the reality of having to settle on some 15 parameters as absolutely *vital* signs, when in fact we may only be able to afford to study four of them. In 2000, Olympic was granted only half of the funding that the Park Service deemed necessary, so additional funding from Washington, D.C., may be possible. But we will also necessarily need to build bridges with various cooperators, compete for added grants, and find other ways to complete the program.

The Vital Signs Monitoring program is intended to provide reliable, statistically valid information on health and condition trends in U.S. National Parks forever. This long-term effort will give us the best informed hope of protecting our parks over time. How it all will work out, however, remains to be seen. Please call us if you'd like to know more about this new program, or check out the National Park Service's Inventory and Monitoring website: <http://science.nature.nps.gov/im>.

2004 Northwest Wilderness Conference

*Wilderness: The Next 40 Years?
Past Successes, Threats, and Lessons Learned*

April 23-24, 2004
Seattle, Washington

*Celebrating the 40 Anniversary of the 1964 Wilderness Act, and
the 20th Anniversary of the Washington and Oregon Wilderness Acts.*

In conjunction with other regional and national conferences planned for 2004 in Celebration of the Fortieth Anniversary of the Wilderness Act, this conference will build public awareness and citizen support for dramatic expansion of the current wilderness system, for significant advances in wilderness preservation, and for maintenance of existing Wilderness Areas for the next 40 years and beyond.

For more information:

- Conference Web Site: <<http://www.speakeasy.org/~nwwpc/>>.
- Polly Dyer, Executive Committee, 206-364-3933.
- The Northwest Wilderness and Parks Association, 13245 40th Ave. NE, Seattle, WA 98125-4617.
- David Brubaker, Associate Professor, Seattle University, 206-296-5485.
- Bob Aegerter, Vice President, Northwest Wilderness and Parks Association, <bobaegerter@comcast.net>.
- Lisa Syravong, PR Chair 425-379-6272 (evenings).

The Bush Administration: Waging Relentless War. . . Bush Administration Blocks National Park Wilderness Plans

In September, Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility (PEER) issued a press release charging the Bush Administration with blocking National Park wilderness plans. PEER contends that:

“The Bush Administration has quietly smothered efforts to place almost a quarter million acres of national park lands in protected wilderness status, according to documents obtained by Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility (PEER). During the past several months, top Department of Interior officials have pocketed wilderness designations proposed by park officials for Florida’s Big Cypress National Preserve (128,000 acres), California’s Channel Islands National Park (68,000 acres), Texas’s Guadalupe National Park (38,000 acres) and Michigan’s Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore (7,700 acres).”

To read the complete press release or for more information, including a copy of correspondence from the Department of Interior to PEER on this issue, go to: <http://www.peer.org/press/388.html>.

Contacts:

- **Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility:** Jennifer Reed, 202-265-7337, <http://www.peer.org>.
- **The Wilderness Society:** Sue Gunn, 202-833-2300, mailto:sue_gunn@twso.org, <http://www.wilderness.org>.

Outsourcing Jobs In National Parks: Legislative Language Finalized

As we go to press, the National Parks and Conservation Association is reporting that the final Interior appropriations bill may be on the floor as soon as the first of November.

The final negotiated language mandates that the National Park Service’s privatization process be more transparent, with extensive reporting requirements, and that the Park Service spend no more than \$2.5 million on all ongoing studies and those that might be completed in 2004.

The jobs of many park staff are threatened: for example, more than 100 at Golden Gate Recreation

Area. [We are not aware of any specific cuts at Olympic at this writing.]

Nevertheless, National Park Service staff will still be spending scarce time and scarce resources on outsourcing studies in FY04, but Congress has expressed serious reservations, and is demanding greater oversight, for national park staff outsourcing.

Special kudos to...

Congressman Norm Dicks and Senator Patty Murray for their aggressive work in committee to protect National Park Service staff jobs.

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... Against America's Public Land Legacy

House of Representatives

Scales Back Bush's RS 2477 Rights-of-Way Policy...

But Still Leaves Millions of Acres Vulnerable to Development

In January 2003, the Bush administration resurrected a civil-war era statute referred to as Revised Statute 2477 (R.S.2477) to allow special interests and local jurisdictions to convert thousands of miles of primitive rights-of-way that cross federal land -- including old mining and live-stock trails, footpaths, even streambeds -- into damaging paved roads and highways, recklessly endangering the very places Americans care most about. These roads could be built without any consideration of congressional designations (Wilderness, National Parks, etc.), environmental degradation, conflicts with federal and community planning, or actual need for additional road construction.

Update: In an effort to block the Bush Administration, Congressman Mark Udall offered an amendment to the Interior appropriations bill that would have prohibited the Department of the Interior from using funds appropriated for fiscal year 2004 to implement this new "disclaimer of interest" rule.

After it became clear that Udall had the votes to pass his amendment, the anti-wilderness House leadership crafted a substitute amendment offered by Rep. Charles Taylor (R-NC). The Taylor substitute amendment significantly weakened Udall's original amendment and *left 400 million acres of federally owned wild lands unprotected from the Bush Administrations pro-development policies and bogus road claims.*

The Taylor substitute passed on July 17 by a vote of 226 to 194.

Specifically, the Taylor substitute limited the ability to file disclaimers only within areas that are designated as a National Monument, Wilderness Study Area, National Park System unit, National Wildlife Refuge System unit or designated Wilderness Area. It did not address millions of acres of Wild and Scenic River corridors, National Forests, National Conservation Areas, or millions of acres of BLM lands being considered in Congress for potential wilderness designation.

Nonetheless, the Taylor amendment put the House on record as scaling back the Bush Administration's attack on America's public lands by limiting the administration's "disclaimer of interest" rule and recognizing the threat that RS 2477 claims indeed pose to America's natural heritage.

To see how individual members voted

on this important amendment, go to:

<http://capwiz.com/awc/issues/votes?votenum=388&chamber=H&congress=1081>.

For more information, contact:

- Marcia Argust
Campaign for America's Wilderness
202-266-0434, <mailto:margust@leaveitwild.org>.
- Dave Alberswerth or Kristen Brengel
The Wilderness Society, (202) 833-2300,
mailto:dave_alberswerth@tw.org
or mailto:kristen_brengel@tw.org

Latest Tally of the Bush Administration's Environmental Mayhem

Source: Natural Resources Defense Council, <http://nrdc.org>.

July, 2003

Judge halts Montana timber sale, rules that Forest Service broke its own rules.
Illegal Navy sonar linked to porpoise deaths, environmentalists say.
Agency swamped with public comments supporting manatee protection.
EPA enforcement program in shambles.
Court rules against Cheney task force secrecy.
Bush administration taps new group to speed energy development in Rockies.
Bush administration sending mixed signals on energy strategy.
EPA quietly backs off on reducing drinking water pollution.
Corps of Engineers rejects judge's ruling on Missouri Riv. mgmnt dispute.
Bush pushing to privatize park service..
DOE attempting legislative end-run around court ruling on nuke waste.
Bush asks Supreme Court to overturn roadless protections.
Federal judge forced to intervene in Klamath River water plan.
BLM revs engines of off-road vehicle riders.
Judge holds Corps in contempt in Missouri River dispute.
Inspector General faults Interior officials for faulty land swap.
Bush climate plan all study, no action.
Criticism forces NPS not to raid Mount Rainier repair funds.
EPA reconsidering proposal to weaken Clean Air Act rule.
Out with outsourcing, Bush administration decides .
Forest Service rewriting Yellowstone plans with a grizzly ending.
U.S. Forest Service exempts some logging projects from environmental review.

EPA hides research on Senate clean air plan.

August, 2003

EPA makes misleading claims about support for Clear Skies plan.
FWS puts wildlife in critical condition.
BLM maximizing energy development, minimizing environmental protection.
Bush administration offers to double logging in Northwest.
Bush taps Utah Gov. Leavitt to head EPA.
Third Interior official under ethics investigation.
President making empty promises on parks funding, critics say.
Oily deal on offshore drilling rights.
Park Service spending less than promised.
EPA officially rolls back Clean Air Act protections.
EPA passes the buck on regulating global warming pollution from cars.

September, 2003

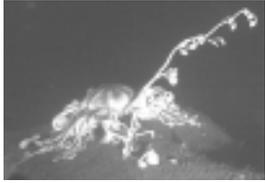
EPA lifts ban on selling polluted sites for development.
EPA balks at court ruling to protect waterways from pesticide pollution.
EPA opposes Bush plan to relax Clean Water Act.
White House instructed EPA to hide potential health risks following 9/11.
Bush touts air pollution plan at dirty power plant.
Bush recommendations could shut public out of environmental review.

October, 2003

EPA will not regulate dioxins from sewage sludge.

Wave Energy Project Planned for Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary

By Tim McNulty



Basket star on the ocean floor. Courtesy of Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary. Photo by Mary Sue Brancato.

AquaEnergy Group Ltd., a Mercer-Island-based alternative energy developer is pursuing federal permits for a pilot project that would place four energy-producing “buoys” in the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary 3.5 miles offshore from Hobuck Beach on the Makah Reservation north of Olympic National Park.

If the \$2 million pilot project meets expectations the Seattle firm intends to place 75 buoys off the Olympic coast. Each buoy will be anchored to the sea floor with four large concrete anchor pads. Wave action will generate electricity in the buoys, which will be fed to an unburied transmission line and carried to a structure on shore. There it will be connected to the Clallam County Public Utility District power grid and made available to customers. AquaEnergy has signed agreements with Makah Tribe and Clallam County PUD. Inexpensive energy from the project will be made available to the tribe.

The next step in the project is developing an environmental analysis as required under

the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Olympic Park Associates has voiced its concerns to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. We maintain that the proposed development is a major environmental action taking place in a national marine sanctuary, and a full environmental impact statement is required. AquaEnergy proposes a much shorter environmental assessment for only the pilot phase of the project.

OPA is concerned that the anchor cables, feeder and transmission lines and the buoys themselves pose a danger to sea mammals, particularly migratory gray whales that use this portion of the Olympic Coast. Impacts on humpback and minke whales, orcas, seals, sea lions and resident sea otters are also a concern. Further impacts could harm seafloor communities, eelgrass and seagrass beds, rockfish and migrating salmon. Interference with commercial fishing and recreational boating in the area is also a concern. There is the added danger of buoys breaking loose in powerful winter storms.

An environmental analysis is due in April, 2004.

To learn more about the project, visit AquaEnergy’s web site at: aquaenergygroup.com.

“Even If It Kills All the Fish.” The Big Boxing of Sequim

By Laura Showers
Sequim First



The city government of Sequim is taking Olympic Peninsula residents down an irreversible path. This path is the ‘big boxing’ of Sequim.

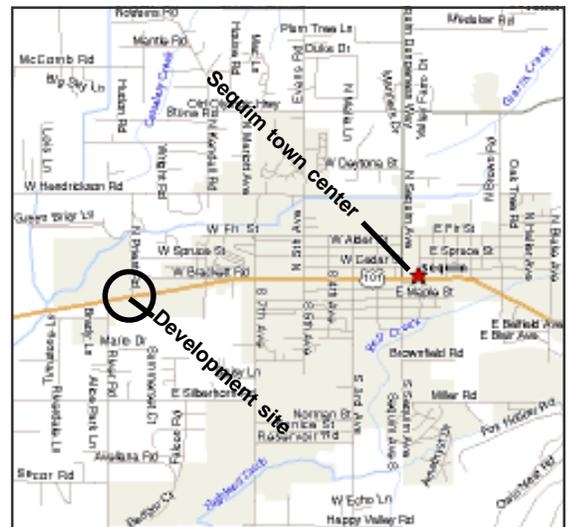
All that is needed to approve these projects is a non-discretionary building permit, “even if it kills all the fish.” That’s what the Sequim City Attorney said about the proposed Wal-Mart Superstore, close to the Dungeness River in Sequim.

An extreme lack of awareness demonstrated by the Sequim City Council, City Planner, and Mayor has led to plans for a giant Wal-Mart Superstore and a huge big box development across the street from this planned Wal-Mart. These developments will comprise over 600,000 square feet of buildings covering

5 acres and 50 acres of asphalt parking near our precious Dungeness River.

The city leaders envision money in the city coffers from the taxes and increased use of services that these huge stores within their city limits will provide. They have no perspective

Continued on P. 7, Sequim First .



Please direct contributions to:
Sequim First, P.O. Box 431, Sequim Washington, 98382.

To learn more about how you can help, or to keep apprised of our activities, please call us at (360) 460-4016 or check our web site at www.sequimfirst.org.

Where have all the pine trees gone?

By Ed Tisch

During the past eighty to one hundred years, a silent but deadly blight has invaded our native conifer forests. I first encountered white pine blister rust in the late 1950's while studying trees in the mountains of western Montana. Thousands of the five-needled pines there had already succumbed to rust, while many of the survivors were obviously infected and dying. Up near timberline the lovely whitebark pines were fast disappearing, while lower down, in the montane forests, white pines were falling victim to this disease.

I came to the Olympics in 1966 and found comparable ailments facing the five-needle pines of this area. How vividly I recall a morning in the 1970's, when I crawled from my tent in the upper Dungeness Valley, oblivious to the dangers hovering overhead. Our campsite — prepared in near darkness — was surrounded by tall snags, ready to topple at any moment. They were dead white pines, once lofty, soft-needled monarchs, now strangely smooth and naked, their alligator bark lying in heaps on the ground below. Here and there old cones littered the forest floor, the decaying remnants of futile reproductive efforts.

Blister rust came to North America in the

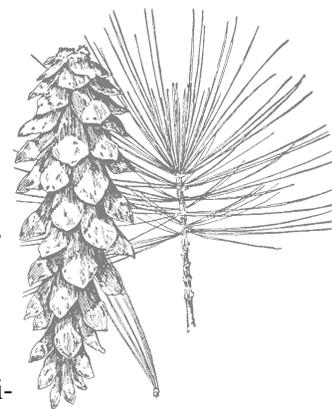
early 1900's on pine seedlings imported from Europe. By World War II the magnitude of its destruction was overwhelmingly apparent. To complete its cycle blister rust must infect at least two different hosts. Part of its life is spent on gooseberries and currants (of the genus

Ribes), which serve as alternate hosts to the disease. Since the Olympics harbor seven species of *Ribes*, the rust spores produced on pines have little difficulty finding their appropriate alternates. The diseased gooseberry shrubs release special basidiospores, which settle on pine needles, send parasitic filaments in through stomatal pores, and slowly engulf the living tissues located between the tree's wood and bark. In springtime the enclosed fungal masses burst through the bark and release different spores (aeciospores), which ul-

Continued on Page 12, Blister Rust.



*Blister rust on pine near Soleduck Bridge, 1969.
Photo by Ed Tisch.*



Sequim First, continued from P. 6.

on the future, no thought of the impact that this will have on the environment, the Dungeness River, and small local businesses and farms struggling to survive.

The city politicians of Sequim have not considered the increased light, noise, and air pollution and its impact on the human life and wildlife in the Dungeness river valley. There is no mindfulness of the heavy metals and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAH's) that will be produced by the 15,000 daily trips made in private vehicles, or the dirty diesel exhaust from the bulldozing and trucking required to build and stock these stores. There is little thought of the countless toxic pollutants that will enter the Dungeness River ecosystem. They do not consider the impact of this pollution on our fragile Olympic National Park only a few miles from these enormous stores.

Sequim First is a grass roots organization trying to preserve the small town nature of Sequim. We are concerned about the quality of our air, the remaining farmlands in our Dunge-

ness valley, and preserving the few healthy habitats left for our wildlife and aquatic species. We care about the Dungeness River and everything it has to offer to all living things on the Olympic Peninsula. We care about the natural and social legacy we leave for our children. For these reasons, we are demanding that the City of Sequim do its part to guard our environment.

The city has decided that these 2 huge shopping centers will have no impact upon our environment and gave the project a "determination of non-significance." First considers this a cavalier disregard for our environment and we have filed a formal appeal. We are demanding that they study the effects of big box stores near the Dungeness River by completing a full Environmental Impact Statement.

This appeal is going to cost money and we are asking for help from others who are concerned about the health and well being of the Olympic Peninsula. We hope people will contribute generously and join with us in crying out for reason.



Washouts: The Bad News

October Floods Close Olympic Roads

by Tim McNulty

With October's record rainfall, Olympic's wild rivers grew restless. Doing what rivers do, they shifted around in their floodplains, carving banks, depositing soils and building new islands. When floodwaters receded, a number of road sections in Olympic National Park and Olympic National Forest came up missing.

The Hoh River Road washed out five miles inside the park boundary. Some 150 feet of the road were swept down valley when the river shifted channels. Access to the Hoh Rain Forest is now by foot only for the last 3.5 miles to the visitors center.

The Sol Duck Road was hit in four places, including one 40-foot section where the pavement was washed away. The Sol Duc area remains closed. A slide also temporarily blocked Highway 101 around Lake Crescent.

Other park roads receiving the brunt of October's floods were the North Shore and South Shore Quinault roads and the Queets River Road. The Quinault Ranger Station reported 14 inches of rain between October 16 and 21.

Repairs have begun on the North Shore Quinault road, which accesses several residences. And park officials have applied for

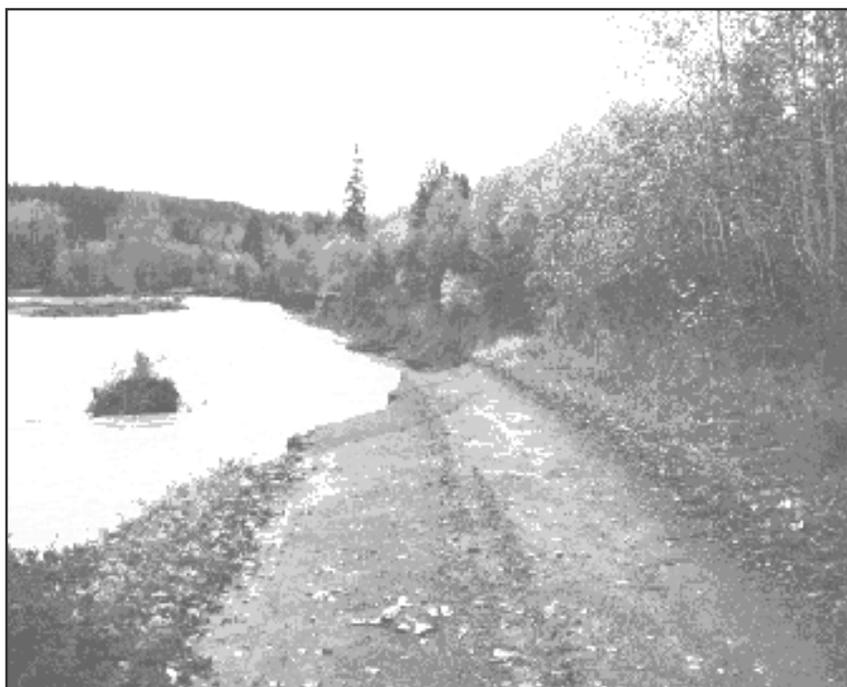
emergency federal highways funding for other road repairs.

Olympic National Forest's roads fared little better with the high waters. Forest Service Road 2923 washed out at the forest boundary cutting off vehicle access to the Bogachiel trail. Other Forest Service roads were damaged in the South Fork Sol Duc, Sitkum, West Branch Wynoochee and Copper Creek drainages among others. The washout on the Dosewallips River also grew.

Granted, these were heavy rains, even by Olympic standards. But all this points to a pressing need for long-term transportation planning in the Olympics.

Olympic National Forest has developed a model transportation plan that calls for decommissioning nearly 800 miles of roads in the forest, including several recently damaged.

Olympic National Park's upcoming general management plan provides an excellent opportunity to look at the park road system with an eye to determining which roads are essential for public enjoyment of the park, and which may be better off reverting to trails. October's damage to park roads is expected to cost \$500,000 to repair. And the winter storm season has just begun.



Undie Road washout prevents vehicle access to Bogachiel Trail in Olympic National Forest. U.S. Forest Service photo.

Olympic National Forest roads closed by washouts:

- 2932 (Undie Road, Bogachiel River) is washed out at Mile Post (MP) 4.0, preventing access to the Bogachiel Trail in Olympic National Park.
- 29 "A" at MP 18.
- 2923 at MP 1.0 on the Sitkum River side and at MP 9.6 on the North Fork Calawah side.
- 2918 at the South Fork Sol Duc bridge approach at MP 4.5.
- 2341 (Middle Fork Vee Creek) at MP 18.5.
- 2343 at MP 9.0
- 2464 at MP 4.4.
- 2270 (West Branch Wynoochee) at MP 9.8.
- 2270-300 (Copper Creek) at MP 0.2.

Washouts: The Good News

Olympic Reopens Cross-park Trail to Anderson Pass.

With completion of the scenic “High Dose” Bridge last summer, Olympic National Park’s trail crew reopened the West Fork Dosewallips River trail. The bridge, one of the most dramatic in the park, spans a 90-foot canyon across the West Fork. It was seriously damaged by deep snows and heavy winds in 1999. Since then, the popular hiking route across the park by way of Anderson Pass was blocked.

In July, the trail crew put the finishing touches on the new bridge. Engineered with steel stringers flown to the site, the bridge was decked with cedar planks and finished with log hand rails. The view from its height down canyon to Dose Forks is spectacular.

Park crews also rebuilt portions of the upper trail that had washed out below Honeymoon Meadows, restoring one of the most splendid wilderness hikes in the Olympics.

Across the mountains, at the East Fork Quinault trail head, the trail crew is at work this fall replacing the bridge across Graves Creek. The new bridge will provide access to Enchanted Valley, O’Neil and Anderson Pass from the west.

The last link in the Dosewallips-Quinault route across the Olympics is a missing bridge at Enchanted Valley. The river can be easily forded at this point during low summer flows, but heavy rains make it a dangerous crossing. A hiker lost her life during high water there three summers ago.

Superintendent Bill Laitner has visited the site and made the Enchanted Valley bridge a high priority. With a commitment from park management and the demonstrated expertise of the park trail crew, this outstanding route across the Olympics will soon be safe and accessible to all backcountry hikers.



High Dose Bridge, Summer, 2003. Photo by Mary Morgan.

USFS Dosewallips Road Washout Repair: A Different Point of View

The devastating January, 2002, Dosewallips road washout (see Summer, 2003, *Voice: USFS Dosewallips Road Washout Repair: Going Down A Road to Nowhere?*) was the subject of a September 11 article in the *Peninsula Daily News* that deplored the inability of handicapped people to access the area. At least one Port Angeles reader disagreed.

To the Editor, Peninsula Daily News,

As an older woman who has spent most of the last 20 years in a wheelchair, I [have] ... discovered that most handicapped access trails are very short and provide little interest or challenge to someone like me.

This summer, however, I had the good fortune to visit the Dosewallips road and was able to wheel over six miles round trip above the washout in a simple day trip. I ... felt overjoyed that I could finally have this near-wilderness experience under my own steam.

I have had many high country experiences in an automobile—just last week I drove to Hurricane Ridge. Yet in 20 years, wheeling up the Dose Road was the first time I was able to have this amazing experience of being along in a wild area.

Sincerely,

Bonnie Phillips, Port Angeles

The Legacy of Wilderness in Olympic National Park

by Tim McNulty

Thirty years ago this year, Olympic Park Associates' president, Polly Dyer, made a convincing case for additional wilderness protection in Washington's national parks. In *Wilderness for Olympic and Mt. Rainier National Parks*, published in the 1973 issue of *The Mountaineer*, Polly reported on hearings conducted at both parks to gauge public support for wilderness. Support was enthusiastic and widespread, and these hearings set the stage for the Washington Parks Wilderness Act passed by Congress fifteen years later.

Polly credited park managers with "basically good" wilderness proposals. But she pointed to what conservationists felt were shortcomings in Olympic National Parks' proposals. She questioned Olympic's intent to eliminate 26,800 acres around Mount Angeles from wilderness protection and Mt. Rainier's five-mile wide, non-wilderness swath from White River to Sunrise. Both were excluded "for potential experiments with tramways."

Polly submitted that these were "undesirable intrusions" into potential wilderness and had no place in a national park. Similarly, she found the park's 20-acre wilderness exclusions for hostels inappropriate and unnecessary. "During the Olympic hearings the proposed hostel enclaves were almost unanimously opposed as a violent intrusion on the surrounding wilderness," she wrote. After the universal dismay expressed over the "holes" in proposed wilderness, Polly doubted the park service would keep them in its recommendation.

Of course, she was right.

The 1988 Washington Parks Wilderness Act created the 876,699-acre Olympic Wilderness as well as generous wilderness designations for Mt. Rainier and North Cascades National Parks.

This year marks another anniversary. It is now 15 years since wilderness was established in Washington's parks. Unfortunately, Polly and her fellow conservationists are still fighting to protect the integrity of the Olympic Wilderness. At present, the greatest threat to wilderness in Olympic appears to be the National Park Service itself.

Olympic National Park plans to fly pre-constructed shelters into remote sites in wilderness, clear and thin forests around backcountry structures and recreate historic homestead clearings in wilderness valleys—all without the guidance of a publicly reviewed wilderness management plan.

Olympic Park Associates, along with a number of conservation groups, consider these actions a betrayal of the spirit if not the letter of the Wilderness Act, and a disservice to those who worked for many years for wilderness protection in Olympic.

Olympic National Park now has a new superintendent. This is an excellent time for the Park Service to take a fresh look at these questionable plans and reassess its priorities. Wilderness is a precious natural legacy Americans have bequeathed to future generations. As a flagship wilderness park, Olympic should be setting a standard for wilderness protection, not spending its scarce dollars increasing the human footprint on the land.



Friends of Olympic Coast Marine Sanctuary

By Polly Dyer

"Surrounded by sea otters, tide pools, ocean creatures, and vast seascapes, we are inspired by the world class place we call home. It is an experience to be protected for the enjoyment of this and future generations."

For information:

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Recently, Friends of Olympic Coast Marine Sanctuary (FOCMS) was incorporated by the State of Washington. The mission and purpose of the volunteer FOCMS are "...dedicated to supporting conservation within the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary through research and citizen education, outreach, stewardship, and volunteer opportunities." FOCMS By-Laws were adopted September 22, 2003.

The Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary (OCNMS) was established and dedicated in 1994. The Sanctuary extends from Cape Flattery to the vicinity of Copalis, encompassing 3310 square miles of marine waters, seaward 25 to 30 miles from the Olympic coast.

OCNMS, with a staff of sixteen, has its offices in Port Angeles. A 19-member Sanctuary

Advisory Committee (SAC) is composed of representatives from conservation, governments and agencies, education, research, commercial fishing, tourism, Makah and Quileute Indian Tribes, and Quinault Indian Nation.

Both OCNMS and SAC felt the need for a support organization to complement the Sanctuary needs and programs "beyond the scope of the Sanctuary due to limited staffing and budget."

The FOCMS has eight on its Board of Directors, with a maximum of twenty-one. Current members are: Jan Klippert, Seattle (founder/organizer of Olympic Beach clean-ups); Chris Morganroth, Port Angeles (member, but not representing Quileute Indian Tribe); Tom Hyde (Publisher, North Coast

Continued on P. 11, Marine Sanctuary

Margaret (Mardy) Murie: 1902 – 2003

By Polly Dyer and Donna Osseward

Mardy Murie was an extra special individual. For Polly, it was an honor to be able to meet Mardy and Olaus Murie during the first Northwest Wilderness Conference in Portland, Oregon, in 1956. All of us owe more than a great deal to Mardy and Olaus for the protected Wildernesses we, today, know and love – and, even if not personally acquainted with a particular Wilderness, to know that it is there for, hopefully, present and future generations of people as well as its indigenous wildlife and plants.

Mardy Murie was not just a little cog in the big conservation wheel. Mardy was a major leader, as eulogized in this quote from the final paragraph about Mardy in the *The New York Times* October 24, 2003, Editorial, *Margaret Murie's Vision* (by Verlyn Klinkenborg).

“[Mardy Murie’s] zeal and her belief in the idea of wilderness made it possible for many other people to believe in it and defend it zealously, too. Thanks in part to her work great swaths of land were set aside with a single presidential pen stroke. It may seem as if such enormous achievements lie beyond our scope in the world as we know it. But our job now is to maintain both the will and the conscience needed to protect the wilderness our predecessors set aside.”

The Muries were among the some seventy people taking part in the 1958 hike along the coastal beach, in or paralleling Olympic National Park, from Point of the Arches to Rialto Beach – the hike led by Justice William O. Douglas. This was to bring to public awareness there were proponents lobbying for a road along the coastal strip. The road would have devastated one of the last remaining wild coastal areas in the continental United States.

I particularly remember Mardy’s and Olaus’s friendly conversations with *Time-Life* reporter Robert (Bob) Shulman about keeping some of the world in its natural state – with-

out human alterations. Shulman subsequently joined KING-TV (Channel 5). There he initiated some of television’s first documentaries related to wildlife and wilderness. Not many people had TV sets in the late 1950s and early 1960s. One, among the conservationists, who did, invited around fifty of us to view one of Bob’s early documentaries related to conservationists’ proposed Wilderness in the North Cascades/Glacier Peak area. The contemplated Wilderness was being adamantly opposed, in particular, by fishing and hunting sportsmen – even though those pursuits are not prohibited in U.S. Forest Service areas of wilderness. The film did not state either a pro or con; nevertheless, a subtle message of the area’s value for wildlife and wilderness came through. We knew Bob’s friendly “education” from Mardy and Olaus on that 1958 coastal walk had had a great influence on him then and as he continued his career (later in journalism as editor of a major paper in the middle area of the country.)

After Olaus passed away in 1963, Mardy spent her winters in Seattle for quite a few years. She and Olaus had been the prime instigators for protecting the Arctic, leading to the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. In Seattle, Mardy was Chair of the first Alaska Committee of The Mountaineers. Many an evening were spent poring over maps on her living room floor, plotting boundaries for areas to be kept wild in Southeast Alaska. (And today a battle for Tongass National Forest’s ancient, old growth forests is becoming even more difficult.)

If you have not read Mardy’s book, *Two in the Far North*, you will find it a wonderful way to “know” Mardy, as so many of us knew her, both in person and through her writing. She is missed. Nevertheless – the legacy left us by Mardy, and her husband, Olaus, will be felt and appreciated by many, many more – now and in the future.

*Wilderness itself
is the basis of
all our civilization.
I wonder
if we have enough
reverence for life
to concede
to wilderness
the right to live on?*

Mardie Murie



Olaus & Mardy Murie

*I hope the United
States of America
is not so rich
that she can afford to
let these wildernesses
pass by,
or so poor
that she cannot afford
to keep them.*

Mardie Murie

Marine Sanctuary, continued from P. 10.

News, Ocean Shores); Robert Jackson, FOCMS Treasurer (Seattle, member, but not representing Quinalt Indian Nation); Todd Tiffany, FOCMS Assistant Secretary, Federal Way (Sierra Club; Cascade Conservation Partnership); Jim Davis, FOCMS Secretary, Olympia (Conservation Partnership Center); Gerry RingEricson, FOCMS Vice President, Shelton

(former N.W. Representative, Defenders of Wildlife); and Polly Dyer, FOCMS President, Seattle (Olympic Park Associates). Ex officio members are Carol Bernthal, Superintendent, OCNMS; and Alan Brooks, Chair, Sanctuary Advisory Committee.

FOCMS By-Laws provide for general membership in the future.

*Photo courtesy of
Olympic Coast National
Marine Sanctuary.*





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Blister Rust.

Continued from P. 7,

mately re-infect the gooseberries. Once a pine stem is girdled by blister rust, its distal portions quickly die. This girdling process continues down the tree trunk and eventually kills the entire plant.

Fortunately, some five-needled pines still inhabit our Olympic forests. Young white pines are found at nearly all elevations, but most succumb to rust before they reach maturity. Fairly large pines grow near Hood Canal Bridge and on the adjacent Kitsap Peninsula. On rare occasions, giant individuals over four feet in diameter are encountered deep in the Olympic Mountains.

For many years foresters tried to control blister rust by large-scale eradication of wild gooseberries;



however, this technique proved unsuccessful. Now forest geneticists selectively breed pines in hopes of developing rust-resistant strains. And Mother Nature herself, through the rigors of natural selection, may eventually evolve some on her own. Whatever the outcome, we can only hope that future Olympic hikers might once again experience the luxuriant blue-green foliage and sweet aromas of our native white pines.

