

VOICE of the WILD OLYMPICS

Olympic Park Associates

Founded in 1948

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U.S. Court Rules New Shelters Illegal in Olympic Park Wilderness



Home Sweet Home flower-carpeted meadow, site of proposed shelter installation in Olympic National Park Wilderness. A judge ruled it would directly contradict the mandate to preserve wilderness character. Photo by Tim McNulty.

In August, U.S. District Court Judge Franklin D. Burgess handed down a resounding victory for wilderness in Olympic National Park. He ruled that Olympic National Park's decision to helicopter two newly constructed trail shelters into the Olympic Wilderness is a clear violation of the Wilderness Act.

"The Home Sweet Home and Low Divide shelters have collapsed under the natural effects of weather and time," Judge Burgess wrote. To reconstruct and fly in new shelters by helicopter, he declared, "is in direct contradiction of the mandate to preserve the wilderness character of the Olympic Wilderness."

The decision follows court action brought by OPA, Wilderness Watch and Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility in October of

last year. Plaintiffs challenged a Park Service decision to fly two preconstructed shelters into remote, subalpine sites in the Olympic Wilderness (see *OPA Sues Park Service over Shelter Flights in Olympic Wilderness*, Fall 2004 *Voice*).

In October the Park Service appealed Judge Burgess' ruling. The case will now go the U.S. Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. OPA has every expectation that the Ninth Circuit judges will

Continued on P. 3, OPA Wins Lawsuit

OPA Board Meetings:

Next: Wednesday, November 16, 2005; Wednesday January 25, 2006.

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Place: Kingston Community Center

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

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

How to Reach Your Members of Congress

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

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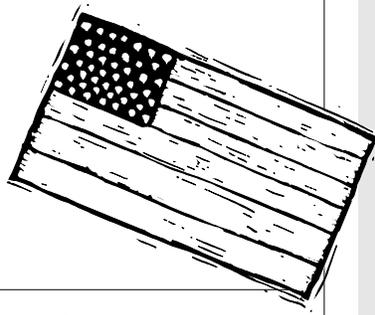
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OPA Wins Lawsuit to Preserve Park Wilderness

Continued from P. 1

uphold Judge Burgess' decision.

For years, park managers contended that the park was required by law to preserve these and other deteriorating structures in the Olympic Wilderness as historic resources. Park managers dismissed conservationists' concerns about wilderness preservation, insisting instead that the new shelters were essential for visitor safety and would enhance the areas' wilderness character. Project proponent and cultural resources chief at Olympic, Paul Gleeson, stated that shelters are "an organic part of the Olympic wilderness."

Judge Burgess disagreed on all counts. In a strongly worded 13-page decision, he found the Park Service guilty of "a clear error of judgment".

Attorney Gil Reavis, of Foster, Pepper and Shefelman, who represented OPA and Wilderness Watch in the suit, said the court's ruling upheld the integrity of the Wilderness Act. "While the Park Service is required to consider the effects of its actions on historic structures, the rules change when those structures are in Wilderness Areas," he said. "Judge Burgess' decision says that new structures are not allowed since they do not preserve the wilderness character of the area."

"This decision resolves a long-standing, contentious issue at Olympic," said OPA president Donna Osseward, "and it's a landmark victory for Wilderness everywhere."

The 876,669-acre Olympic Wilderness was created by Congress in 1988. In the 17 years since designation, the Park Service has failed to produce a Wilderness Management Plan for the area. In spite of that, park managers have promoted controversial actions in Wilderness, from reconstructing "historic" buildings and landscapes to flying in newly constructed trail shelters. Judge Burgess' decision gives clear direction to the Park Service that it must comply with its legal obligations under the Wilderness Act.

"[F]or a wilderness user to come across a brand new structure in a subalpine meadow would surely be disconcerting and obviously detract from experiencing, in the Park Service's words, 'wilderness on its own terms,'"

Burgess wrote. He determined that, if the shelters were placed in wilderness, the Park Service "would not be administering the area in accordance with its mandate under the Wilderness Act... 'to preserve its wilderness character'."

"The Court ruled that the creation of the Olympic Wilderness placed a 'new value' on the land, one that is more important than reconstructing old buildings," said Osseward. "That's something we've been telling park managers for close to a decade," she added; "I hope they finally get the message."



Photo by Darcy Hudgens.

"For a wilderness user to come across a brand new structure in a subalpine meadow would surely be disconcerting and obviously detract from experiencing, in the Park Service's words, 'wilderness on its own terms.'"

*Judge Franklin D. Burgess
United States District Court at Tacoma*

New Color OPA Membership Brochure

Olympic Park Associates' new, self-mailing membership brochure features stunning color photos of Olympic National Park by OPA member Bob Kaune, a summary of OPA's 58 years of conservation accomplishments, and a view of future goals and objectives.

The brochure is a beautiful and handy way to introduce your friends to this venerable grassroots organization while building strength for OPA's future.

To order up to 10 copies of OPA's new membership brochure, contact Donna Osseward, 12730 9th Avenue NW, Seattle WA.98177.

Give Gift Memberships for the Holidays!



Gutting the National Parks

by Tim McNulty
U. S.
Congressman
Richard
Pombo
(R-CA)
would sell
15 of America's
national parks
and
historic sites to
the highest
bidder.



Paul Hoffman, a deputy assistant secretary at Interior [and a Bush political appointee]... launched what the New York Times called "a frontal attack" on the National Park Service's founding legislation.

This fall U.S. Congressman Richard Pombo (R-CA) stunned liberals and conservatives alike by introducing a bill that would sell 15 of America's national parks and historic sites to the highest bidder. Among the parks targeted for liquidation were the Bering Land Bridge and Yukon Charlie River National Preserves in Alaska. Included were 8.5 million acres of designated Wilderness. Representative Pombo also proposed selling commercial sponsorships to visitor centers, educational institutes, nature trails and campgrounds.

Ready for an outing to the Weyerhaeuser Rain Forest Visitor Center?

Pombo is the California rancher and loose cannon currently chairing the House Resources Committee. An outspoken proponent of the "wise use" movement and ardent property rights advocate, he has railed against public lands protection and U.S. environmental laws. In September he pushed through a bill in the House that eviscerates the 1972 Endangered Species Act by doing away with critical habitat designations. House Republican leadership twisted arms to pass the measure. Indications are that saner heads will prevail in the Senate.

Jim DiPeso, of Republicans for Environmental Protection, put it plainly. "Pombo's extremism, if turned into law, would turn our treasured National Park System into a tawdry carnival of advertising and fast-buck commercialism."

Pombo rose to attention in the Northwest by single-handedly blocking the bipartisan Wild Sky Wilderness bill, locking it up in his committee because he didn't think that low-elevation lands formerly roaded or logged should qualify as wilderness. A short trip to the Duckabush Valley in Buckhorn Wilderness or any number of places in the Olympic Wilderness would have demonstrated otherwise.

Pombo's assault on the parks came close on the heels of another attack on the National Park System. In August Paul Hoffman, a Deputy Assistant Secretary at Interior and a Bush political appointee, circulated a revision of the National Park System Management Policies. With it, Hoffman, whose qualifications for the post at Interior were running the Cody Wyoming Chamber of Commerce and serving as a congressional aide to Dick Cheney, launched what the New York Times called "a frontal attack" on the National Park Service's founding legislation.

The 1916 National Park Organic Act states the core mission of the national parks is to protect and preserve "unimpaired" the resources and values of the National Park System while providing for public use and enjoyment.

Hoffman's rewrite redefines "unimpaired" and other terms so as to open up national parks and monuments to use by dirt bikes, jet skis and snowmobiles, not to mention helicopter sightseeing, grazing, mining, and other forms of commercial privatization. Hoffman spun the proposed changes as "opportunities for visitors to use and enjoy their parks." But the end result would be to toss out the window the Park Service's role of preserving landscapes and wildlife for the future.

Hoffman and his cronies in the Bush administration would bring state and local governments, with their emphasis on motorized recreation and commercial development, into decision-making processes for national parks. The draft policies downplay the role of science in park management (and scrap all references to evolution). The *Times* summarized the document as "a road map of what could happen to the parks if Mr. Bush's political appointees are allowed to have their way."

Following an outcry from across the political spectrum, the Bush administration backed away from the Hoffman revision. The draft policy released October 18 lacked the most controversial measures of the earlier version. It tiptoed away from snowmobiles on park roads and creationist books in visitor centers. Armageddon for the parks may be held at bay.

But conservationists will find no shortage of measures to criticize in the new draft. Former National Park Service Deputy Director Denis Galvin told the *Los Angeles Times* that park policies dating from 1918 made conservation the preeminent value of our national parks. The new directives make public enjoyment and conservation equals.

Pombo, Hoffman and the Bush crowd's true designs for our national parks — abandonment, abuse and privatization — are now at least clearly exposed to the light of day. Whether by broadside attacks or incremental rule changes, they will pursue this agenda doggedly.

The revised National Park System Draft Management Policies can be viewed on the Park Service web site. Go to www.nps.gov/. Click on "Draft 2006 NPS management policies". Follow the links to comment, or email the Park Service at waso_policy@nps.gov. Tell agency managers that their revised policies (which some are calling "Hoffman light") are a colossal waste of time. The existing 2001 management policies are sound and do not need revision. The Administration's rationale — concern over homeland security, cellphone towers, creationist texts — can easily be addressed by director's orders. The rest is a bankrupt agenda better suited to Texas sports stadiums than our national treasures. Deadline for comment is December 18, 2005.

A Plan to Make Our Parks “Less National”

by Joel Connelly, *Post-Intelligencer* Columnist. Copyright 1998-2005 *Seattle Post-Intelligencer*. October 26, 2005, reprinted with permission.

After this column became rhapsodic over the North Cascades some time back, a witty put-down and come-on letter asked that this columnist get his head out of the clouds and come visit Seattle’s outpost of the National Park Service.

Been there, done that, three times.

The Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park exhibits in Pioneer Square have taught me much about how an 1897-98 discovery in Alaska helped shape what the National Park Service’s Web site still calls the “Queen City.”

National parks are an idea that America gave to the world. They entertained 287 million visitors last year, National Park Service Director Fran Mainella told a recent ceremony in the national recreation area that embraces Seattle City Light’s three dams on the Skagit River.

Three days after she spoke, the Bush administration slapped a political loyalty test on the National Park Service.

Under an order set down by Mainella, the hiring of park superintendents, deputy and assistant superintendents, associate regional directors and program managers — the agency’s top civil servants — will be “screened” at top levels of the Department of the Interior.

Selection criteria for promotion will include the “ability to lead employees in achieving the ... Secretary’s 4Cs and the President’s Management Agenda.”

The President’s Management Agenda includes controversial stuff, such as outsourcing of jobs to replace civil service personnel, as well as a new policy under which the Park Service will actively solicit corporate donations. Generous corporations get expanded “donor recognition” rights in their advertising.

Yep, corporate sponsorship is coming to the crown jewels of America.

A major force for protecting the 388 units that make up America’s park system — an independent National Park Service with a defined mission — is being sacrificed to political conformity. Under the 1916 Organic Act, Congress

charged the Park Service to preserve its open spaces and battle sites “unimpaired for future generations.”

A 2001 management policy — the product of six years of public consultation — amplified the law. It stated: **“Congress, recognizing that the enjoyment by future generations of the national parks can be ensured only if the superb quality of park resources is left unimpaired, has provided that when there is a conflict between conserving resources and values and providing for enjoyment of them, conservation is to be predominant.”**

Without public consultation, the Interior Department has drafted a new set of management guidelines. Gone is the explicit, just-quoted commitment to conservation.

The guidelines, released last week, are watered down from the crass commercialism of an earlier draft prepared by Deputy Assistant Interior Secretary Paul Hoffman. Hoffman is a former aide to Dick Cheney and former manager of the Cody, Wyo., Chamber of Commerce.

The watered-down version would still leave a parched Park Service.

So-called “Gateway” communities on park boundaries would get increasing clout over park management.

For instance, West Yellowstone, Mont., is the self-described “snowmobile capital of the world.” It has furiously resisted the banning or curtailing of snowmobiles in Yellowstone.

“It makes the parks less national,” said Bill Wade, the former Shenandoah National Park superintendent (and one-time Mount Rainier climbing ranger) who heads the Coalition of National Park Service Retirees.

Wade has wider worries. At Shenandoah, he witnessed — and protested — effects of air pollution on famous views from the Blue Ridge Parkway. Dirty air did not originate in the park but drifted east from the Ohio Valley.

As superintendent at Grand Canyon National Park, Robert Amberger dealt with air pollution, plus noise pol-



lution from “flightseeing” tours taking off from beyond park boundaries.

Bush administration screening and rule making has “chilled park professionals,” Amberger told The Sacramento Bee, and “intimidated those who speak out.”

A silenced National Park Service is the last thing America needs.

In our corner of the country, Olympic National Park’s then-Superintendent Maureen Finnerty helped jumpstart the campaign to remove two aging, no-longer-needed dams from the Elwha River. Removal promises to restore one of the Northwest’s greatest salmon streams.

The National Park Service joined conservationists and Indian tribes as interveners when Seattle City Light’s dams on the upper Skagit came up for federal relicensing. A far-reaching agreement was signed in 1991.

City Light manages river flows in the “magic Skagit” so as not to leave salmon eggs high and dry. Wildlife habitat has been bought in the Skagit and South Fork Nooksack rivers, to protect one of our country’s largest winter populations of bald eagles. Another project is the just-dedicated North Cascades Environmental Learning Center.

Whether viewing a Klondike exhibit in Pioneer Square or watching Mount McKinley reflected in Alaska’s Wonder Lake, 96 percent of national park visitors come away satisfied.

The Bush administration has an agenda for this great natural, national resource: commercial exploitation, political cronyism, loud noises and dirty air.

That sort of thing should not be allowed to happen.

[*Ed: emphasis added.*]

Forest Service Again Proposes to Reconstruct Dosewallips Road

by Jim Scarborough, Olympic Forest Coalition and OPA Board

When we first got word that the Forest Service was gearing up yet again to attempt reconstructing the Dosewallips road at the site of its huge washout, there was no need to feign surprise. In this Age of Bad Ideas, one can bet the farm that the worst of notions will resurrect themselves cyclically. This is especially the case when such Bad Ideas are powered by the bruised egos that hatched them in the first place. For those calling the shots within the Forest Service, frustrated after watching their two previous road reconstruction attempts fall flat in response to vigorous public input and deft legal work, fighting Mother Nature on the Dose is apparently their top priority. They are joined in their efforts by a visitation-hungry Park Service, as well as certain business interests whose focus is limited solely to the girth of their pocketbooks.

You'll recall that a football field-sized length of the Dosewallips road was completely swept away in January 2002 during a flood of the river, about ten miles west of Highway 101. A massive wall of glacial till is all that remains of the road's original location there. Each subsequent winter, the washout has grown larger. The Forest Service's first environmental assessment, which emphasized moving the river back and reinstalling the road in place, was yanked by the agency due to salmon habitat concerns. The second EA yielded a decision by Dale Hom to re-route the road above the washout, which would have destroyed dozens of centuries-old trees. Following a formal appeal by OPA, Olympic Forest Coalition, Olympic Peninsula Audubon Society, and two individuals, Mr. Hom withdrew his decision – rather than face a ruling against him that was due from the USFS Regional Office the very next day. In the meantime, non-motorized recreationists have rediscovered the beauty of the Dosewallips' middle valley, while the wild critters do their thing in quiet peace.

Now, however, the Forest Service has published a Notice of Intent to reconstruct the Dosewallips road through critical chinook salmon habitat. Although the agency will be completing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), which requires consideration of several alternatives, the most responsible option of converting the last five miles of road into a non-motorized trail would not be studied at all. By choosing to ignore the obvious benefits of a road-to-trail conversion above the massive washout, the Forest Service has essentially thumbed its nose at the many thoughtful citizens

who have previously submitted comments in favor of ensuring the future integrity of the Dose.

The Forest Service's new preferred alternative would reconstruct the road using a single-lane "low-water crossing design" of six hundred feet in length that would be 8 feet lower than the existing road grade. This seasonal-access road would curve close to the unstable washout bank, and be hardened as to be overtopped by the river during flood events. While not only forcibly altering the Dose's natural dynamics and harming threatened salmon stocks, the Forest Service would seek a Northwest Forest Plan amendment to waive compliance with the Aquatic Conservation Strategy (ACS). This, despite the fact that the Bush administration has already rendered the ACS largely toothless, indicates the severity of damage the Forest Service expects to inflict on the river. It's worth noting that the National Marine Fisheries Service has weighed in with a letter seriously questioning the legality of this plan.

The Dosewallips once again depends upon you! The Forest Service has indicated they will gladly sacrifice this Northwest icon for the sole benefit of getting motor vehicles five miles farther upvalley. Only a concerned and vocal public can succeed in keeping the bulldozers out of the river. Please write the Forest Service. Suggested talking points are as follows:

- An alternative that would convert the last five miles of road above the washout into a non-motorized trail must be included in the EIS. The Forest Service cannot simply disregard the public's prior and current demands for studying this option. Access to the upper valley via foot, bicycle, wheelchair, or stock is not only best for experiencing the beauty of the Dose, but also the most respectful towards the fragile landscape and watercourses there.
- The proposal to waive compliance with the ACS is an egregious violation of the public trust, a reckless continuation of the Bush administration's weakening of core environmental protections, and runs directly counter to time-intensive and expensive salmon recovery efforts throughout the region. Any degradation of chinook salmon critical habitat is likely illegal under the Endangered Species Act.
- In these days of stretched public funds, the

Continued on P. 7, Dose Road.

Forest Service Proposes to Log Mount Walker

From Olympic Forest Coalition newsletter articles by Bonnie Phillips and others.

One of the rarest forest types to be found on Olympic National Forest is in danger of being logged and roaded under the proposed Jackson Thin. The slopes of popular Mt. Walker, above the town of Quilcene, and Mt. Turner near Seal Rock, are blanketed in 110-year-old forest, naturally regenerated from a 19th-century fire. Some remnants of old-growth also remain, yet the Forest Service has advanced the Orwellian argument that these impressive stands of trees require “treatment” by chainsaw and bulldozer to “accelerate” their development.

This timber sale would cover up to 3,200 acres and build up to 9 miles of road. It proposes thinning to prevent fires though there is no scientific evidence that Olympic Peninsula forests are aided by this “method” of fire prevention.

This sale, if left unchallenged, would represent a terrible precedent and confirm our worst fears since the Bush administration took office. A recent Forest Service-sponsored field trip to the area was attended by three Olympic Forest Coalition (OFCO) representatives and over two dozen other concerned citizens.

As the Bush administration pushes all the national forests to increase cut levels, we will see larger and more devastating timber sales.

For the last year or so the Olympic National Forest (ONF) Service staff has talked about increasing the amount of timber they cut each year, all in the name of “what’s good for the forest.” Commercial thinning sales since the Northwest Forest Plan went into effect in 1994 have averaged 10 million board feet per year.

The FS asserts that a logging level of 30 million board feet in the ONF feet will actually be beneficial for the forest ecosystem. Arguably thinning in young managed stands (30-50 years of age) can be helpful. But the ONF adds so many new and reconstructed roads that watershed health is damaged.

What is so egregious in our minds is that the FS uses terms like “healthy forests” to promote projects that actually undermine the health of these ecosystems. The general media, and therefore the public, may be taken in, but the damage that these sales inflict — especially those with significant new and reconstructed roads — is all too real. OFCO has been trying for several years to have the ONF plan timber sales adjacent to existing road systems.

Read OFCO’s initial comment letter on the Jackson sale: www.olympicforest.org/Docs/jacksoninitial%20letter.htm.



Want to lodge your own opinion on this proposal?

Send your email to:

comments-pacificnorthwest-olympic-hoodcanal@fs.fed.us.

Ask to be put on the mailing list for the upcoming environmental assessment.

Continued from P. 6, Dose Road

Forest Service must deliver an honest accounting of both short-range and long-term comparative expenditures to taxpayers. The poorly conceived road along the Dosewallips will continue to sustain severe damage into the future, due in part to global warming phenomena. Is it worth the price? A comprehensive economic analysis is necessary.

- Any re-routing of the road through the old-growth forest and unstable bank above the washout, as would occur in other “non-preferred” alternatives to be studied in the EIS, is not only illogical, but would be an illegal incursion into northern spotted owl critical habitat.

Please address your comments to:

Dale Hom, Forest Supervisor
Olympic National Forest
1835 Black Lake Blvd. SW, Suite A
Olympia, WA 98512.

You may also email your comments to:

comments-pacificnorthwest-olympic@fs.fed.us

However, be aware that email comments to the Forest Service have not been fully reliable in the past. If you choose to email, please ask for a confirmation from the agency that they have indeed received your message. Thank you from the bottom of our Dosewallips-loving heart for your participation! As always, personalizing your comments is helpful (e.g., relating a particularly pleasant hike you may have taken on the closed road above the washout).

Half-Million Dollar Gift by Anderson Family Honors OPA Treasurer John Anderson



John Anderson

John Anderson, long-time treasurer of Olympic Park Associates, has also served for nearly two decades as volunteer treasurer and bookkeeper for Washington Environmental Council (WEC).

John's passion inspired his family members to donate a \$500,000 gift from the Sunup Foundation in honor of John's long-time commitment to WEC and his high praise for WEC's work. The WEC Board of Directors has placed the gift in their endowment so it will keep on giving for years to come.

John grew up in Kansas, spent a summer with an uncle in Port Angeles, and decided to come back as an adult and stay the rest of his life. Once, when asked why, John answered, "Have you ever been to Kansas?"

He settled in Seattle and started a family and his career in banking.

Being out in the elements and immersed in the stunning scenery was part of John's connection to nature. Upon retirement John began volunteering as WEC's treasurer. The years ticked by, and John's family grew with grandchildren, and his treasury skill was often seen helping other causes like wilderness and parks organizations. His work with WEC over the years was largely based on his support for WEC's niche as a powerful and credible voice for the environment in our state capitol.

In 2003 John received the rare WEC President's Award in recognition of his long and valuable service to the organization.

If you would like to send a note of congratulation to John for his support and inspiration, and let him know how much you value his work, write to:

John Anderson
900 University St, Room AL 32
Seattle, WA 98101

Washington Trails Assoc. Honors "Hiking Legends" Including Four OPA Board Members!

Excerpts from the October 2005 issue of *Washington Trails*.



Polly Dyer

Ever wonder who to thank for the protection of wondrous places like the Glacier Peak Wilderness, the Quinault River Valley, or the coastal strip of Olympic National Park?

Without the determined activism of Polly Dyer, the map of Washington State would look considerably different. In fact, the map of the U.S. might look very different; Polly had a leading role in the 1964 Wilderness Act, which preserved millions of acres of wilderness throughout the nation....

Olympic National Park...is bigger today thanks to Polly, now comprising Shi Shi beach, Point of the Arches and the Lake Ozette area.... Tenacious lobbying efforts, led by Polly, secured both as permanently protected in Olympic National Park....

Polly...continues to organize the North American Wilderness Conference every two years, and still serves on the board of Olympic Park Associates.

By Madeline Ostrander

Patrick Goldsworthy

The moment, on October 2, 1968, when President Lyndon Johnson signed North Cascades National Park into law, represented a triumph of hundreds, even thousands, of vocal citizens and activists. For Patrick Goldsworthy, the moment was personal, the consummation of fifteen years of work.... Goldsworthy would devote the next nearly forty years to the North Cascades – as their guardian and spokesperson.... Goldsworthy understood that the national park's creation was only a beginning to the need for conservation advocacy....

Throughout his life he has encouraged outdoor recreation. He now recognizes that a growing population is loving the parks to death. He exhorts conservationists to work to solve this problem. "Leave it for the next generation," he charges them.

By Madeline Ostrander

Laura and Phil Zalesky

The Zaleskys are a conservationist couple who have been fighting to save Northwest wilderness for more than fifty years.... Ten years before North Cascades National Park was established in 1968, the Zaleskys were working to

make sure wilderness in the area was set aside and the park established. To create a single voice to speak for the park, they helped form the North Cascades Conservation Council, and Phil served as its first president.... They have been active with Pilchuck Audubon, for whom he teaches a birding class, and Olympic Park Associates. More recently they have campaigned for the Wild Sky Wilderness.

Laura's mission was to revitalize the Pilchuck Audubon Conservation Committee, now one of the strongest conservation organizations in Snohomish County. She also chaired the County Conservation Futures Fund for several years, which helped determine lands to be purchased for parks. One park she is particularly proud of is Spencer Island, which might not have been saved without her advocacy, says her husband Phil.

Retired Everett schoolteachers, the Zaleskys have always loved the Northwest outdoors

"We got into something we really enjoyed together," says Phil.

In 1999 they were honored with a Lifetime Achievement Award by The Cascade Land Conservancy, a group which

seeks protection of rivers, wetlands and other sensitive lands by encouraging placement of land in trust or setting up easements for conservation purposes.

By Joan Burton



Summer Trails

by Tom Bihn, Treasurer, OPA

Late in May, or maybe early in June, I hiked up to Victor Pass via the Switchback Trail. Leaving the Hurricane Ridge Road perhaps two miles short of the visitor center and lodge, the trail switchbacks, as the name implies, one and one-half miles **up** to Klahhane Ridge and Victor Pass. From there one can choose to continue to Heather Park or Lake Angeles, but that day the pass was my goal.

Small white flowers bloomed on the rocks at the top of the pass — they were being covered by what would be the season's last snowfall. It was windy at the pass, as I would learn it mostly is, and though I was wet and cold, I felt that I was where I was supposed to be. The view was spectacular, of course. I had done some hiking in the spring, but somehow that hike sticks in my mind as “my first hike” of the season.

I was in good but not great shape, and had resolved that this summer would be my summer outside: an opportunity to regain some level of conditioning, to clear my head and to spend as much time as possible in the Olympics, before I had to hunker down for a long winter of work.

They started as “mind-over-matter” hikes: enjoyable for sure, but challenging enough to require that mind convince body that this was all worthwhile and for the best. By mid-August my almost daily hikes became an addiction, and anything short of 11 or 12 miles seemed easy. At any invitation I would throw a water bottle into my pack and my boots into a car and head toward a trailhead. Sometimes I hiked with friends, sometimes with people I hardly knew. Often I hiked alone in the National Park. In the National Forest I always took Riley, my four-year-old wolfhound mutt.

Klahhane Ridge, Mount Angeles, Deer Ridge, Obstruction Point, Hurricane Hill, the upper Dungeness, Tull Canyon and Tubal Cain, the

Bogachiel, High Divide, Baldy, Slide Camp and Shelter Camp: these place-names defined my summer. Failing any other option, I would hike the Switchback Trail, sometimes before work and sometimes after work, once leaving so early I used a headlamp until the last switchback, and more than once staying up so late as to return entirely in the dark. Riley would insist on hiking at least every other day, so the trail from Slab Camp Road to the Phil Hall Bench and on to the Park Boundary was a regular as well.

While I think of this as my summer of hiking, it could as easily be called my summer of wildlife. I saw elk in the Bogie, mountain goats on Klahhane Ridge, and finally cougars. I'm quite certain cougars must have seen me before, but this was the first time I saw them. The first one we saw was from the car; it was crossing Hurricane Ridge Road late one evening as we returned from a hike. Cougar numbers two and three were a little more exciting, as they were perhaps 40 or 50 feet ahead of us on the trail. As my friend Darcy Hudgens, Riley and I came around a corner we surprised a pair of probably young mountain lions, one on the trail and another maybe six feet below the trail. They seemed only interested in escape, for they turned their lean, muscular selves around and showed us their long tails as they made a hasty retreat.

There is less of me now than when summer started, and it seems only right. I've lost 15 pounds in my summer of hiking, and that's hard not to like. But more importantly, I have felt a gradual falling away of my *self*: nagging pains, out-of-date fears, used-up passions and excessive ego seem to have been sweated out of me. The sometimes rare sunshine of the Olympics has lit my darkness, and the rain and wind have blown cobwebs from my head.



Photo by Darcy Hudgens.

What is left behind feels lighter
in body and spirit,
more *essential*,
both as in
that which is absolutely necessary
and
that which is fundamental.



Book Review:

Where Mountains Are Nameless:
Passion and Politics in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge



by Jonathan Waterman. Norton, 280 pp., \$24.95

Reviewed by Tim McNulty
in *The Seattle Times*,
9/9/05.

With nearly 20 years of controversy over the fate of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge about to come to a head, there's good reason to welcome "Where Mountains Are Nameless," a new book that takes an intimate look at this remote corner of northeast Alaska and at the legendary couple who first brought it to the world's attention.

Colorado-based writer Jonathan Waterman is an explorer, photographer, wilderness guide and author of several books on northern landscapes. For the past 20 years, he has returned to the glaciated mountains, braided rivers and undulating coastal plain of the Arctic Refuge almost yearly.

Traveling by kayak and on foot, sometimes with companions and sometimes alone, he has explored a fair portion of the 19 million-acre refuge, including the 1.5 million-acre coastal plain proposed for industrial-oil development.

Waterman evokes a timeless landscape "sequestered in summer lushness, and inhabited by millions of migratory animals — poised to flee at the initial chill of winter or the first tendrils of human industry." His natural-history writing is clear and compelling, particularly as he describes encounters with beluga whales, tundra swans, polar and grizzly bears and musk oxen.

He sketches a picture of thousands of migratory caribou flowing over the land like a river and millions of migratory birds flocking to the coastal plain for the brief Arctic summer. The portrait that emerges is a land as fresh, wondrous and rich in wildlife as the Northwest first encountered by Lewis and Clark. Like that earlier territory, the Arctic is also an inhabited landscape.

The Inupiat people hunt whales and seals from their coastal village of Kaktovic on the Beaufort Sea. The Gwich'in, 150 miles south in Arctic Village, still depend on the great caribou migrations for food, clothing and culture. Waterman spends time among both native groups, and their perspectives enliven and inform his narrative.

But his true teachers are the distinguished literary naturalists who preceded him in the Arctic, Olaus and Margaret ("Mardy") Murie. Olaus Murie, a scientist with the U.S. Biologi-

cal Survey, began his groundbreaking study of northern caribou in 1920. Traveling by dogsled through severe Alaskan winters and gaining a comprehensive understanding of northern ecosystems, he distinguished himself as the foremost field biologist of his time.

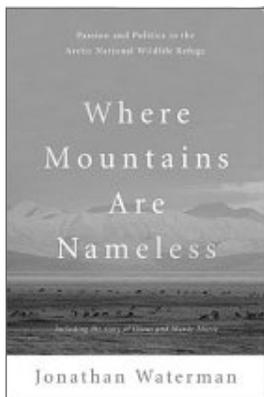
In 1924, Olaus and Mardy were married and spent their honeymoon conducting research on the Arctic slope. The couple began a long and passionate involvement with the land that more than a quarter century later would become the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

Waterman opens each chapter with a personal essay of his own Arctic encounters followed by a historical sketch of the Muries. The latter stories, drawn from the couple's many books, letters and scientific reports, are inspiring. This approach underscores the fact that the refuge remains as wild, unpredictable and biologically rich today as when first encountered by science.

After he retired, Olaus Murie became director of the Wilderness Society and worked tirelessly for protection of his beloved refuge. It came in 1960, a year after Alaska's statehood and just three years before his death. But nearly a half-century later, the fate of "Area 1002," the 1.5 million-acre coastal plain, still hangs unresolved.

Waterman contrasts the natural wonders of the refuge with the developed oil fields of Prudhoe Bay 60 miles to the west. There an industrial complex of gravel pads, drilling rigs, squat buildings, airstrips and pipelines sprawls over hundreds of square miles of Arctic tundra.

The contrast is stark and unsettling. The author's loyalty is clearly and eloquently with the last great wilderness at the continent's northern edge. Like the Muries before him, he offers an informed and heartfelt plea for its preservation.





John Burroughs: A Father of the Conservation Movement

By Ed Tisch. Excerpt. First published in Winter, 1994, issue of *Outdoors West*, newsletter of the Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs.

Environmental awareness is not a strictly modern phenomenon, nor is the science of ecology. Both trace their origins to the mid-1800s, perhaps earlier, finding some initial outlet through the writings of naturalists like John Burroughs, John Muir, Dr. Ellen Swallow, Henry David Thoreau, and others. Thoreau's masterpiece, **Walden**, a short treatise on man's responsibility to his fellow men and to the earth, helped trigger a vast outpouring of natural literature in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The writings of John Burroughs figured significantly in this outpouring.

Burroughs lived somewhat like Thoreau, often in rustic cottages in the Catskill Mountains of eastern New York. He became well-known near the turn of this century. His acquaintances included such notables as Walt Whitman, Teddy Roosevelt, Ralph Waldo Emerson, John Muir, Henry Ford, Thomas Edison, and Harry Firestone....

Born in 1837 on a modest farm deep in the Catskills, Burroughs grew to love the land with its feathered creatures and myriad natural phenomena. Appreciating these as a child, he decided early in life to devote his efforts to the observation and creative description of nature. His first book, **Wake-Robin**, was published in 1871. By the time of his death, in 1921, he had written hundreds of essays compiled in over 25 volumes with colorful titles such as **Winter Sunshine, Birds and Poets, Locusts and Wild Honey, Signs and Seasons, and Ways of Nature**.

Unlike John Muir, who tramped the vast western wilderness, Burroughs found solace in the less pristine, yet equally appealing, microcosms of the East. Burroughs and Muir could never agree on the relative merits of their respective life styles; however, in the end, each made significant contributions to America's nature literature and to its environmental awareness,

Burroughs lived in accordance with his belief that the human condition is best experienced in a natural setting. And, like Thoreau, he found intellectual and spiritual stimulation in wilderness. Strangely enough, both of these men lived in the northeastern United States at a time when that region was already ecologically ravaged. By the mid-1800s, European settlers had killed or driven out most native peoples; the wolf had been extirpated; cougars were essentially gone; and the once abundant passenger pigeon was passing rapidly into extinction.

John Burroughs was a remarkable renaissance man who did many things well. He was one of this nation's first conservationists. He was also a teacher, bookkeeper, banker, farmer, literary critic, gifted ornithologist, and one of the most popular writers of his day. The American

public hungered for his essays, and through his writings he became popular enough to capture the hearts of U.S. presidents, rich industrialists, inventors, and even little children....

John Burroughs loved the Catskills as much as any place on earth. His birthplace, in Roxbury, NY, is situated in a portion of the range where the hills are low and rounded, yet remarkably picturesque. He was reared on the slopes of a mountain known as Old Clump. Portions of the family farm persist to this day, protected in part as a state historic monument. Young Burroughs roamed the hills and forests of his birthplace, chasing the cows, berrying, fishing, hunting, and sometimes just daydreaming, especially from a vantage point he lovingly referred to as his boyhood rock. Situated near the edge of a sloping pasture and overlooking the ridges and valleys of Roxbury, this rock had immeasurable relevance to Burroughs. He returned to it over and over during his lifetime and now lies buried beside it.

The Burroughs children had strict but loving parents who, while providing their offspring with life's essentials, spent very little on their educations. The seventh of ten siblings, John apparently chose a literary career on his own, for the members of his immediate family rarely encouraged, or even read, his works. Burroughs historians speculate that John's mother, Amy, may have been most responsible for the nurturing of her son's naturalist sensitivities. With less than an eighth grade education, supplemented by outside reading and a few sessions at a local seminary, John developed exceptional literary capabilities. In reading his essays, one is immediately impressed by his superb choice of vocabulary and his fine use of grammar. He was an astute observer of nature and in his writings generally avoided the sentimental tendencies that plagued so many writers of that era.

In his late teens Burroughs taught elementary school in the Catskill hamlet of Tongore. The original schoolhouse is still standing and was dedicated as a historic site in 1993. It was during his stay at Tongore that Burroughs met his future wife, Ursula North.

Burroughs taught school until 1863; however, he never enjoyed this profession and longed for the day when he would be able to focus his efforts entirely on writing. In 1863 he also managed to spend some time with Emerson and Whitman, two prestigious writers whose works and ideas ultimately influenced his own.

Between 1863 and 1870, Burroughs resided in Washington, DC, where he was employed at the US Treasury. There he continued to expand his literary output, publishing a series on Walt Whitman, plus his first volume of nature essays. The

Continued on P. 12, Burroughs.



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Burroughs, continued from P. 11.

nation's capital also exposed him to the civil war and even provided a few glimpses of Abraham Lincoln, who occasionally walked the back alleys near his office.

In 1872, Burroughs and his wife returned to New York, where John obtained employment as a bank receiver and began the construction of "Riverby," his anticipated dream house on the Hudson River...

In 1895, Burroughs built "Slabsides", a cottage deriving its name from its unique rustic siding.... During the last 20 years of his life Burroughs remained quite active: hosting guests at Slabsides, writing about 15 books, leading nature walks, traveling, receiving several honorary doctorates, sometimes wintering in California and summering at his family's "Woodchuck Lodge" in Roxbury. His beard grew longer and whiter, yet his convictions regarding nature remained constant. In one of his later essays, **The Summit of the Years**, he speaks confidently of man's place in the overall scheme of things:

The essential things are always near at hand...one's own door opens upon the wealth of heaven and earth; and... all things are ready to serve and cheer one. Life is a struggle, but not a warfare, it is a day's labor, but labor on God's earth, under the sun and stars with other laborers, where we may think and sing and rejoice as we work.

John Burroughs wrote a lovely and widely quoted poem entitled *Waiting*, in which he stressed the assurance with which he faced old age and death. As a final resting place he chose the pasture in Roxbury; as his gravestone, the boyhood rock; and as an epitaph, one line from that poem:

I stand amid the eternal ways.