

# VOICE of the WILD OLYMPICS

Olympic Park Associates

Founded in 1948

Vol. 16, No. 1  
Winter 2008



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## Fishers Are Returning to Olympic National Park!



*Photo courtesy of Olympic National Park*

by *Tim McNulty*

On a cold, clear Sunday in late January, Olympic National Park reached a milestone. Eleven fishers scampered out of their carrying pens and into the snowy forests of the Elwha and Morse Creek valleys. The release marked the culmination of years of research, planning and coordination among agency biologists and conservationists. Biologists Jeff Lewis from the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, and Patti Happe from Olympic National Park managed the project. Staff from their agencies and Olympic National Forest also cooperated. Non-profits Conservation Northwest and Washington National Parks Fund

contributed funding. And OPA and other conservation groups across the state rallied support (see *Fisher to Return to Olympic National Park* in the Fall, 2007, *Voice* and *Return of the Fisher* in the Winter, 2006, *Voice*).

On March 2, seven more fishers were released, bringing the total in the Olympics to 18 (twelve males and six females). Over the next three years up to 100 fishers will be restored to Olympic forests from healthy populations in British Columbia. They will be reintroduced to their former habitats from the Elwha west to the Quinault valleys. When they settle in and success-

*Continued on P. 3, Fisher*

## OPA Board Meetings

**Next:** March 26, May 28, 2008

**Time:** 6:00 pm

**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.

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# Olympic National Park Final General Management Plan Released

Finally! The long-awaited General Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement (Final GMP) was released on March 13, after seven-plus years of work. This extremely important, 950-page document establishes a vision for managing Olympic National Park for the next 15 to 20 years.

Olympic Park Associates contributed extensive comments during the drafting phases of this plan, and we will be examining the final document carefully.

Implementation of the plan will include the development (finally) of a Wilderness management plan, an issue of highest priority for OPA. Stay tuned for more in the next issue of the *Voice*.

The Final GMP/EIS is available <http://parkplanning.nps.gov>, and as a CD by calling (360) 565-3004. Copies are also available at the Park Visitor Center in Port Angeles and many area libraries.

## Fishers Return to Olympic National Park *Continued from P. 1*

fully reproduce, they will bring the spectacular wilderness of Olympic National Park an important step closer to ecological wholeness. The only remaining wildlife species still missing from the Olympics is the wolf.

Fishers (*Martes pennanti*) are sleek, cat-size hunters of the lowland forest. They were once fairly common throughout the Northwest, but their lustrous, sable-like fur proved too valuable on the commercial market. As a result, fishers were all but wiped out by commercial trapping on the Olympic Peninsula and throughout much of the West by the 1950s. Intensive clearcutting of the lowland forest sealed their fate. By the end of the 20th century, only a few isolated populations remained on the West Coast. The last recorded fisher in the Olympics was trapped at Lilliwaup Swamp in 1969.

A 2004 feasibility study by Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife found that Olympic Park forests provided the best habitat for restoring fishers to Washington, where they are listed as a state endangered species. In 2006, the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife and Olympic National Park proposed to reintroduce fishers into park forests. The plan was met with popular support, and final approval came in November of 2007.

The animals were trapped north of Williams Lake in British Columbia. They underwent medical exams and were fitted with radio

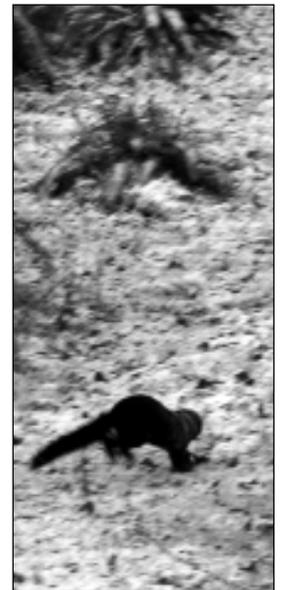
collars and transmitters for monitoring. The first eleven were released at remote sites in the Elwha River and Morse Creek valleys.

The second release of seven fishers also took place in the Elwha. Former Olympic National Park wildlife biologist and OPA trustee Bruce Moorhead assisted with the March release.

Moorhead welcomes the reintroduction. "We know from Yellowstone the positive affects a restored predator can have on the long-term health of a natural system," he observed. "So putting one of the major pieces back into the Olympics is a significant step in restoring this ecosystem."

Members of the Stevens Middle School Animal Club and other school children helped release some of the animals at the Elwha sites. The fishers appeared well cared for: dark, sleek and healthy as they bolted from their plywood pens into the surrounding old-growth forest. Cameras flashed, but the animals didn't look back. Radio tracking indicates the fishers are now exploring new habitats across the north central Olympics. Douglas squirrels and snowshoe hares are advised to take note.

Stevens Middle School student Kelsey Coffman, who helped with the January release, captured the spirit of the day. "This is such a great honor," she said. "It's like they're coming home."



## Calendar Notes: For more information, please turn to Pages 6 & 7.

- April 3 - 5 Wilderness Conference: *The Future of Wilderness In a Time of Change*, Seattle, WA
- April 26 Eighth Annual Olympic Coast Cleanup
- May 30 50th Anniversary Justice Douglas Olympic Beach Hike, Peninsula College, Port Angeles, WA

# Winter Storms Create Havoc In Park . . . . .

Storm Damage Update:  
Based on news releases from Olympic National Park

## Public Comments Were Sought on Repairing Quinault South Shore and Graves Creek Roads



*Bear Gulch Restroom.  
Photo by Bruce  
Moorehead.*

The record-breaking storm of December 3, 2007, caused massive damage in Olympic National Park. The Elwha River rose 14 feet in 24 hours. It reached a record-setting peak of 24.65 feet, with 32,500 cubic feet per second of water flowing past the McDonald Bridge gage, up from 658 cfs the previous day.

Countless Park roads and even major highways were closed for a time by storm-related damage: blowdown and fallen power lines, rockslides, flooding, and washouts. Closures included Highway 101 and Highway 112, making it difficult to reach the Park's west side destinations to assess damage.

Olympic Hot Springs Road was flooded; a mudslide 5 feet deep and 60 feet wide covered the Sol Duc Road; the Hoko-Ozette was closed with downed trees and power lines. Hurricane Ridge road was closed by rockslides.

As of February 1, Park crews were still struggling to restore public access.

### Quinault Rain Forest

Over seven inches of rain fell in the Quinault Valley between December 2 and 3 and high winds toppled uncounted numbers of trees.

Sections of the North Shore, South

Shore, North Fork, and Graves Creek Roads are closed to all public entry, including foot and bicycle access. The Park hopes to have access restored sometime in March.

The Quinault North Fork Road was covered by hundreds, if not thousands, of trees by the windstorm of December 3. It is currently open as far as Clark Hill, giving area residents access to their homes.

The South Shore Road is closed beyond that point because of a 750-foot long road washout and a 150-foot long rockslide, plus bank erosion and blowdown.

The Graves Creek Road was severely damaged in nine locations by floodwaters of the Quinault River, heavy rain, runoff, and downed trees.

### Dosewallips Road

The Dosewallips Road remains closed because of a worsening washout outside the Park boundary.

### Staircase

The Staircase Road sustained major damage during the December storm, both within and outside of the park boundary. Olympic National Park and Olympic National Forest hope to develop a strategy for reopening the road by the summer season.

*USFS Road 24.  
Photo by Bruce  
Moorehead.*



## Costly Hoh River Road Washouts

*by John Woolley, OPA Vice-President*

The Hoh River Rain Forest -- Paradise of Olympic National Park -- is a place you just can't get to anymore: by car that is. Park officials are hard at work, but it sounds like mid-May before visitors can once again access this sentinel stop on the Olympic Loop drive. Extensive blowdowns and washouts occurred in the Olympic Mountains once again, and that's without yet being able to seriously check out snow-covered areas within the Park. Talk is of \$6 million just to access the Hoh! Damage at Twin Creek, a mile east of the entrance station, is major, say Park officials. An interim repair of the road was necessary this winter to allow stranded vehicles to get out, including a

rental car.

Barb Maynes, Park spokesperson, reports that grading at Twin Creek and acquiring extra large culverts will require further study, and a final fix will not be clear until late February. OPA has contacted Congressman Norm Dicks to encourage support for Park repairs, with particular concern about the needs of spawning salmon.

Park personnel have already been at work at Taft Creek, near the Hoh Visitor Center and Campground. Often an area for close-up viewing of elk, Taft Pond has also become a significant salmon spawning area since construction of the original Hoh Road. Floods of

*Continued on P. 5, Hoh River*

# ... Costly Recovery Underway to Restore Access

## Lake Quinault Waters Rise Over 18 Feet, Dosewallips Washout Worsens OPA Provides Scoping Comments on Repair Options

by John Woolley, OPA Vice-President

Driftwood logs remained well up on the on the lawns of Lake Quinault Lodge. The braided islands in the Quinault River were swept bare of young alder growth, and a home on the South Shore Road hung out over the newly relocated river bank.

Driving and hiking access are limited. One couple chose to day-hike a nearby one-mile loop trail just south of the Lodge, and spent the night out in the woods after losing their way in the massive blowdowns. Dogs located them the next morning.

The North Fork Road was covered with trees to the extent that the roadway was not visible in the chaos. A Park Service employee exclaimed that the entire forest canopy is gone in places. It took nearly two months to clear the way to the North Fork Ranger Station. Sitka Spruce more than three feet in diameter were snapped or twisted off their trunks 30 feet above the ground. Talk was of 100 mph winds, churning like a vortex through the forest. Big leaf maple and alder suffered unusual damage.

As we walked though the wreckage on the closed North Fork Road, starting at the Clark Hill gate, we encounter an elk herd, and a surprising number of mature Bald eagles roosting in maples thirty feet off the ground, a good distance from the river waters. I couldn't help wondering how they handle the terror of

such severe weather.

Olympic Park Associates has provided scoping comments for an environmental analysis of proposed repairs by the end of February. Options may include the design and placement of engineered log jams and bank barbs to protect the road better while protecting and improving habitat for fish.

Bruce Moorhead, retired Park biologist, suggests that very specific written comments about specific sites along the two routes may have some influence on Park decisions -- for example, on how heavy-handedly the repairs may be done. However the Quinault in-holders and local residents' lobby will likely dominate when Congressman Dicks weighs in.

Paul Crawford, retired wilderness ranger, responds, "Fat Chance!" when asked about "the Park's intention to perform a 'permanent' fix on the South Shore Road." He says, "No road in that valley is permanent. And I'm curious to see how they propose to fix things without encroaching on the Wilderness boundary. Pontoons?" Crawford also wonders why the Park is spending so much time and effort opening the North Fork Road. "I've been advocating closing that darn thing at the bridge for years. It serves a tiny, flood-prone campground and trailhead."

Climate change is upon us. Shall we continue as if such damage is normal, as though we can continually turn back the clock?



*Dosewallips washout is even more dramatic since winter storms.  
Photo by John Woolley.*

### Hoh River, *Continued from P. 4*

gravel had cut off the pond from the river, so salmon could no longer reach the pond and its tributaries. In this case, the Park's focus on wildlife is admirable, as they were able to re-open channels before salmon runs had started.

OPA encourages the Park to give priority to salmon enhancement at this time when making major repairs, and we are hopeful that the Park's careful study of grading and culvert location will be successful.

Only major hiking trails will likely be cleared by repair crews for this summer season.

It shouldn't be very difficult to find a wilderness experience in the Park this year.



## OPA to Celebrate 50th Anniversary of William O. Douglas Hike to Save the Coast

Friday, May 30, 7:00 PM

Peninsula College Science Building Auditorium  
Port Angeles

Olympic Park Associates had its hands full during its first ten years. OPA fought back repeated attacks on Olympic National Park's west-side forests, worked to stop salvage logging within the Park, and struggled against a Park Service proposal to construct a "scenic highway" along the newly designated Olympic coastal strip.

That battle reached a climax in August of 1958 when U.S. Supreme Court Justice William O. Douglas led seventy fellow conservationists and reporters on a 22-mile protest hike along the north wilderness coast.

OPA past president and guiding light Polly Dyer helped plan and organize the hike, which focused needed attention on the highway proposal. Current OPA president Donna Osseward, then a teenager, tagged along, inspired by her father, John, one of OPA's

founding visionaries. Other major figures in American conservation helped plan or participate: Howard Zahniser, author of the Wilderness Act, noted naturalists Olaus and Mardy Murie, Sigurd Olson, OPA founder Irving Clark, and many OPA trustees no longer with us.

In 1964, Justice Douglas led a second hike along the southern wilderness coast of Olympic, which helped put the road proposal permanently to bed.

On May 30, OPA and the Olympic Park Institute will host a commemorative celebration of the 50th anniversary of the 1958 hike — and the ongoing role of citizen conservationists in coastal conservation on the Olympic Peninsula. OPA's Polly Dyer and Donna Osseward will be joined by Doug Scott, wilderness historian, author of *The Enduring Wilderness*, and policy director for Campaign for America's Wilderness. Doug will give a presentation and lead a panel discussion on the historic hike and the inspiring story of preserving this remarkable wilderness coast.

Check OPA's web site,  
[olympicparkassociates.com](http://olympicparkassociates.com)  
for further information and updates.

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## Elwha Restoration Project Passes Two Major Milestones, Paving the Way for Dam Removal

*Based on Olympic National Park news release.*

Construction work has begun in earnest on the \$24.5 million Port Angeles Water Treatment Plant, with excavation underway for two huge "clear well" tanks that will hold clean water during the final stages of chlorination. The Water Treatment Plant is expected to take two years to build.

In addition, contractor Watts/DelHur AJV will begin constructing the \$69.6 million Elwha Water Facilities project, expected to take 3 years to complete.

The Elwha Water Facilities project will take three years to complete, and the Port Angeles

These projects will protect the drinking water and industrial water supply for Port Angeles and other Elwha water users; these and other mitigation projects must be completed and operational before the dams can be removed.

Removal of both the Elwha and Glines Canyon dams will occur simultaneously and is estimated to begin in 2012 and take approximately three years to complete.

The Elwha is the largest watershed on the Olympic Peninsula and was once one of the most productive salmon streams in the Pacific Northwest, home to all five species of Pacific salmon as well as other fish species. Two dams constructed in the early 1900s now block fish from all but the lower five miles of the river. Removal of the Elwha and Glines Canyon dam will restore the Elwha to its natural, free-flowing condition and will once again allow fish access to over 70 river miles of habitat now protected within Olympic National Park.

## 2008 Wilderness Conference

### *The Future of Wilderness in a Time of Change*

April 3 – 5, 2008

Seattle Washington

**Web Site:** <http://www.speakeasy.org/~nwwpc/home.html>

Join conservationists from the US and Canada to examine the changes happening in the world and their impacts on wilderness preservation. Choose from sessions discussing the problems facing preservation, how to be an effective advocate, and on delivering the message of wilderness values.

#### **Thursday Evening - FREE Pre-Conference Keynote:**

**Gary Braasch**, Environmental photojournalist:

#### **Earth Under Fire - How Global Warming is Changing the World**

Kane Hall on UW campus

Register FREE at <<http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/28585>>

The public is welcome but you must reserve a seat.

#### **Friday and Saturday**

Mountaineers Building

300 Third Ave West

Seattle, Washington

Register at <<http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/28594>>

#### **Saturday Night Banquet Speaker:**

**Steven Brown, PhD**, Manomet Center for Conservation Research, editor of *Arctic Wings*:

#### **The Arctic: Nursery to the Birds of the World**

#### **Other featured speakers include:**

Bill Meadows, President, The Wilderness Society; Roger Kaye, Wilderness Specialist, US Fish & Wildlife Service; Dennis Martinez, a Native American and author on forest restoration. Tom O'Keefe, Chair, Mountaineers Division of Recreation Resources; and many more!

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## Eighth Annual Washington Coast Cleanup: April 26, 2008

[www.WashingtonCoastCleanup.org](http://www.WashingtonCoastCleanup.org)

**Sign up now** on this great new website.

So easy -- just click on your favorite beach!

Join hundreds of volunteers and help remove marine debris from Washington's beautiful and ecologically sensitive coastline: plastic water bottles, fishing nets, tires, and tons of other trash. Help remove this debris before it causes irreparable damage to countless marine mammals, fish, plants, and birds. Last year, over 800 volunteers removed more than 25 tons of debris!

For general questions about the overall event, please email the program coordinator David Lindau at [davidl@coastsavers.org](mailto:davidl@coastsavers.org) or call him at (206) 220-4279.

If you can't take part in this year's Coast Cleanup but wish to honor the memory of its founder, Jan Klippert, who passed away in January (see P. 6) you may want to send a donation to Washington Coast Savers Jan Klippert Memorial Fund, 164 S. Jackson St., Seattle, WA 98104.



Who are *CoastSavers*? <http://www.coastsavers.org/washington.html>

The annual Coast Cleanup is now the signature event of a new, year-round program called CoastSavers.

The CoastSavers program is being supported by the newly formed **Washington Clean Coast Alliance**, a dedicated group of nonprofits, community groups, tribal organizations, and government agencies all working together to help clean up Washington's beaches .

## In Memoriam

### Harry Lydiard

#### Remembering Harry Lydiard

by Tim McNulty



Olympic Park Associates lost one of its longtime guiding lights last December. Dr. Harry Lydiard passed away at his home by the Elwha River.

Harry was a trusted veterinarian in the Port Angeles community, a former Clallam County Commissioner, a dedicated forester and a devoted conservationist.

Harry served for more than a half-century on the OPA board of trustees. An ardent hiker and member of the Klahhane Club in Port Angeles, he joined the OPA board in 1955. His leadership with OPA helped add the north coast, Shi Shi Beach, Point of the Arches, and the eastern shore of Ozette Lake to Olympic National Park. He was central to the effort to keep a major highway from being constructed up the Sol Duc Valley in ONP, a project that would have destroyed 3,000 mature and old-growth trees along one of the Park's most scenic drives.

Harry worked for passage of the Elwha Restoration Act in 1992 and was pivotal in the Elwha Citizen's Committee that helped per-

suaude Port Angeles civic leaders to support dam removal. Harry's respect in the local community went a long way in fostering OPA's conservation objectives. And his commitment to sustainable forestry was legendary.

Harry believed that great reserves like Olympic National Park and National Forest Wilderness Areas would only remain safe if commercial forest lands were managed sustainably. He backed this up for most of his life by purchasing logged-over lands and restoring them to health and productivity. He was often out hand-planting trees on his lands — well into his 80s. Before he died he had protected over 300 acres of forest lands from development through the North Olympic Land Trust. He also protected 40 acres of invaluable Sequim-area agricultural land that is now being farmed organically in the Dungeness Valley.

Harry was a true visionary. A lover of poetry, music, opera. He left three adult children and nine grandchildren. He also left a legacy of conservation activism that will be appreciated for generations.

### Jan Klippert

#### Founder of Olympic Coast Cleanup



Jan Klippert, the inspiration and energy behind the Olympic Coast Cleanup, died of cancer in January on his 73rd birthday.

Klippert conceived of the cleanup in 2000 after hiking the Olympic coast and being appalled by the amount of trash littering the beaches. He had retired from a job in which he had worked with volunteers, and he harnessed those same skills to inspire a new army of volunteers with his enthusiasm.

Since then, some 3,800 volunteers have removed an estimated 190 tons of debris, an average of nearly 100 pounds per volunteer!

With a sense that his time might be limited, he had the foresight to fold the Coast Cleanup

into a new alliance, the Washington Clean Coast Alliance, which has taken over the organization of the annual cleanup.

Join this eighth annual Coast Cleanup, on April 26 (see P. 7), and keep Jan's vision alive. Sign up at: <[www.CoastSavers.org](http://www.CoastSavers.org)>.

*"When I started the Cleanup years ago, I could only dream that the idea would catch on the way it has. Knowing that the annual Cleanup will not only continue, but will be unified with the many other efforts along Washington's coast fills me with great gratitude and hope."*

Jan Klippert, 2008

## Olympic National Park Wildlife Update

by Bruce Moorhead, OPA Trustee, retired former wildlife biologist at Olympic National Park.

This update is based on an October 10, 2007 interview with Dr. Patti Happe, Wildlife Branch Chief, Olympic National Park.

### Fisher Reintroduction

The first long awaited release of fishers into the Olympic ecosystem occurred this winter after a lengthy evaluation process, including an Environmental Assessment and Implementation plan by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) and the National Park Service (NPS). The NPS approved a Finding of No Significant Impact, opening the door to fisher reintroduction in Olympic National Park.

Beginning in December 2007, with approval from Canadian provincial authorities, the plan is to capture and release about 30 wild-caught fishers each year over the next three years from British Columbia (and possibly Alberta) to several locations in and around Olympic National Park, totalling about 100 animals. Funding is available from the WDFW, U.S. Geological Survey, Conservation Northwest, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington's Park Fund and the National Park Service to begin the program, and if the 2008 budget is approved, \$150,000 in National Park Service funds will also be available to carry out the program over the next two to three years.

The animals will be trapped from central and northern British Columbia, since fewer fishers occur south of there. Two hundred to four hundred fishers are trapped each year in B.C. The plan is to pay trappers to divert about 9-15% of their annual harvest to live-capturing the 30 to 35 animals that will be needed for translocation each year. The captured fishers will be released at three locations: The Elwha-Sol Duc, Hoh-Bogachiel, and Queets-Quinault Areas.

All of the released animals will be radio-collared to monitor their movement, habitat selection, reproductive success, and mortality over the next three years. Additional funding is being applied for continued monitoring efforts over the next ten years and to gain greater depth in the research program.

WDFW's lead biologist, Jeff Lewis will use the reintroduction effort as his PhD program.

Drs. Kurt Jenkins, USGS wildlife research biologist at Olympic National Park, and Keith Aubrey, USFS-Pacific Northwest research biologist, will be on his graduate committee.

I asked Patti Happe at the Park to keep Olympic Park Associates closely informed about volunteer opportunities during the reintroduction and monitoring efforts.

### Wolf Reintroduction

While no active plans are underway to reintroduce wolves to the Olympic Peninsula, the WDFW, with the assistance of a citizens working group, are working on a Wolf Recovery Plan as part of an overall Endangered Species Recovery Plan for Washington State.

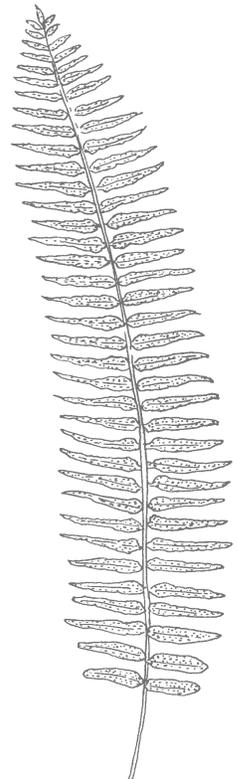
In talking with Patti Happe, I gathered that the Olympic Peninsula is better understood now as having biologically suitable habitat for reintroducing a wolf population. Initially, higher road densities were shown in the upper U.S. Midwest to counter or limit wolf recovery. An earlier model there that assessed habitat suitability for wolf recovery, however, was based on a colonizing population. More recent information on established wolf populations has shown that prey density is more important than road density in predicting the success and viability of a population. Therefore an earlier estimate of the Olympic Peninsula being able to support a population of about 50 wolves is probably too low, because it overestimated the influence of roads.

### Marmot Research

Sue Griffin has completed her PhD dissertation on marmot ecology in the Olympic Mountains at the University of Montana. (See *The Status and Conservation Biology of the Olympic Marmot*, Summer 2006 *Voice*.) She also has published a couple of papers this year on her study results.

Julia Witczuk, another UM grad student studying marmots in ONP, has an M.S. Thesis in review now that offers some rather significant evidence of coyote predation on marmots, based on analysis of bobcat, cougar, and

*Continued on P. 10, Wildlife.*



## Congressman Norm Dicks Receives the 2008 Ansel Adams Conservation Award



Dicks with Wilderness Society President William H. Meadows (R) and Mike Anderson (C) of the Society's Pacific NW Office.

U.S. Rep. Norm Dicks, D-Belfair, has received a national award from The Wilderness Society recognizing his leadership in conservation-funding programs.

The Ansel Adams Award, named for the celebrated photographer, recognizes his leadership in conservation-funding programs for more than 30 years, said William Meadows, president of The

Wilderness Society. As the chairman of the House Interior and Environment Appropriations Subcommittee, Dicks has championed initiatives on water quality and climate change, including a new \$40 million Legacy Roads and Trails Remediation Program.

Michelle Ackerman, Pacific Northwest director for the organization, said she is working closely with Dicks to restore the Skokomish River watershed in the Olympic National Forest.

Previous recipients include President Jimmy Carter, former Senate Majority Leader George Mitchell, former Vice President Al Gore, former Idaho governor Cecil Andrus and U.S. Sen. Maria Cantwell, D-Washington.

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## Rep. Norm Dicks Says He'll Block Changes to Lift Gun Ban in National Parks

By Les Blumenthal

Excerpted from **Tacoma News Tribune**, March 3rd, 2008.

With a showdown looming, U.S. Rep. Norm Dicks says he's prepared to block any effort by the administration to lift the current ban on carrying loaded weapons in national parks.

"Every now and then something rises up that needs to be fought, and this is one of them," Dicks said.

The ban, and efforts by the National Rifle Association to lift it, have emerged as a major Second Amendment issue this election year.... Republicans say they're just trying to protect the rights of gun owners....

Current regulations ban loaded weapons in federal parks and refuges. Unloaded weapons can be carried if they're locked up, such as in a car trunk.

Dicks said his counterpart in the Senate, Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif., has told him she would use her position as chairwoman of the Senate Appropriations interior subcommittee to block any changes in the current regulations.

"Permitting loaded firearms to be carried or

used within our national parks or wildlife refuges would be a radical, unprecedented change that would likely upset the delicate balance that exists between wildlife and park visitors in these areas," Dicks and Feinstein said in a letter to Kempthorne....

The ban dates to 1936 amid concerns of illegal hunting and poaching in the parks.

Washington state's two senators also oppose any change in the current regulations.... [Senator Patty] Murray was also upset the issue had interfered with passages of the Wild Sky Wilderness legislation, which was yanked from the floor when Sen. Tom Coburn, R-Okla., a longtime gun-rights advocate, said he would offer an amendment to the public lands bill lifting the ban.

"It's truly unfortunate the National Rifle Association has chosen this issue to flex its election-year political muscle," said Tom Kiernan, president of the National Parks Conservation Association.

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### Wildlife *Continued from P. 9.*

coyote scats collected along park trails. Seventy-nine of the 958 predator scats collected (8%) contained marmots, and 85% of those scats were from coyotes, while only 10% were bobcats, and 5% cougars. So while over 80% percent of the predator scats collected were coyotes, only about 10% of those contained marmots.

It's still a bit early to know the management implications of this recent research, but it does more clearly than ever suggest a need to consider selective control of coyotes perhaps around marmot colonies at some locations.

Watch for a sequel article in the **Voice** on the upshot of all this research on longterm prospects for the marmot population in ONP.

**Book Review:****The Last Wild Wolves: Ghosts of the Rainforest**

by Ian McAllister, University of California Press, 2007, 192 pages, with color photographs and DVD included.

*Reviewed by Bruce Moorhead, OPA Trustee and retired former wildlife biologist at Olympic National Park.*

Along the west coast of British Columbia north of Vancouver Island is an immense wilderness of oldgrowth forested islands and peninsulas naturally fragmented by a network of steep-sided fjords and waterways. It is accessible only by boat or small airplane. Known as the “Great Bear Rainforest”, this 23,000 square-mile area is still relatively intact, and only recently has come under increasing scrutiny and concern by conservationists and scientists alike, as industrial logging and other modern extractive interests have targeted its natural resources.

In 2006, the B.C. government proposed to protect 5 million acres of the area from logging, along with a process to develop ecosystem-based management for an additional 10 million acres. Currently, however, most of the area remains essentially unprotected.

Ian McAllister, co-founder of the Great Bear Rainforest Alliance (GBRA), has spent the last two decades exploring, photographing, and bringing to public attention—often for the first time—the region’s sweeping beauty and biodiversity. In a 1998 book entitled *Great Bear Rainforest: Canada’s Forgotten Coast*, he showcased its spectacular scenery and grizzly bears. He also highlighted the unusual white, or cream-colored, form of the black bear found nowhere else and known locally as the Komode or Spirit Bear.

Now, in the *Last Wild Wolves: Ghosts of the Rainforest*, McAllister has produced another coffee-table book of stunning photography that reveals a rather unique coastal form of the gray wolf that’s found here as well. Through intimate (and very difficult to obtain) photos of these wolves, combined with an interesting and well-written personal narrative, McAllister describes his experiences through the seasons with several wolf packs along this marine coast. Until recently, they have been known mainly by the First Nation tribes of the area. This book offers new insights about the animals, based on extensive scientific studies carried out since 2000 by a University of Victoria graduate student, Chris Darimont, in collaboration with GBRA’s chief scientist, Dr. Paul Paquet, as well as a skilled Heiltsuk First Nation tracker named Chester Starr, and numerous volunteers. The research has now

documented the status and ecological role of wolves throughout this coastal ecosystem.

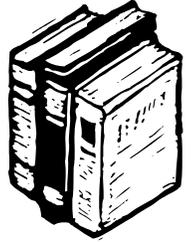
Among the new findings, these coastal wolves are about 20% smaller than their inland counterparts, have shorter and coarser fur, a greater genetic diversity, and a tendency to swim readily from island to island. While blacktailed deer are the wolves’ staple prey here, they also eat black bears and a significant variety of marine life, including barnacles, mussels, clams, crabs, river otters, mink, seals, and an occasional whale carcass.

They also actively hunt migrating salmon along the streams, but only eat the brains, which may enable the wolves to avoid parasites that bears seem unaffected by.

Although living amidst grizzly bears, wolves appear to be the dominant land predator here. To illustrate, McAllister describes an interaction he observed between a wolf pack and a grizzly bear. While watching a very large male grizzly placidly eating salmon carcasses on the open mud flats of an estuary, he saw the bear suddenly stand up, drop the salmon it was eating, look across the estuary, make a loud woofing sound, and abruptly whirl around and flee as a pack of wolves suddenly appeared from the forest and fanned out across the flats. The 13 wolves advanced rapidly with “heads and tails up and ears forward...purposefully toward the grizzly....There was no question what their intent was.”

This book has enlivened my curiosity about these fascinating animals, and I strongly recommend it to anyone concerned about the future of wilderness and wildlife. It’s heartening to learn that wolves are still living out their lives as they have for generations along a coast not all that far north of us. But it also saddens me

*Continued on  
back cover,  
Book Review.*



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**Book Review** (Continued from P. 11):

## **The Last Wild Wolves: Ghosts of the Rainforest** by Ian McAllister

to realize how a similar, coastal wolf population lived here too not very long ago, amid the cloud-shrouded rainforests and coast-bound shores of the Olympic Peninsula.

Early in the last century the Olympic wolves were destroyed within a few years by trapping and poisoning, as conflicts arose with an ever growing wave of European homesteaders onto the Peninsula. By the early 1920's they were apparently gone. This seems to be the fate of wolves almost everywhere after a certain number of people become established nearby. It may also occur before long in the Great Bear Rainforest unless enlightened and effective protection measures are undertaken soon. This was assuredly not the case for their southern cousins here on the Olympic Peninsula. But maybe, just maybe, in the not too distant future, wolves may once again return to the Olympic rainforest...just as fishers are now.

For more information on the Great Bear Rainforest and the recent wolf studies, check out the Raincoast Conservation Foundation's website ([www.raincoast.org](http://www.raincoast.org)); for more information about conservation measures proposed for the Great Bear Rainforest see the Nature Conservancy's website ([www.nature.org](http://www.nature.org)).