

VOICE of the WILD OLYMPICS

Olympic Park Associates

Founded in 1948



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Non-native mountain goats create wallows in fragile alpine meadow. Courtesy of National Park Service.

ONP Mountain Goat Management Plan: A Major Step in Removing Non-Native Goats from the Olympics

by Tim McNulty

Last summer, Olympic National Park released its long-awaited Draft Mountain Goat Management Plan environmental impact statement (DEIS). It's a sound and far-reaching plan that address non-native mountain goats in the park and on adjacent forest service lands. The National Park Service is cooperating with the U.S. Forest Service and the Washington Dept. of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) in an effort to remove non-native mountain goats from all jurisdictions in the Olympics. The plan will also help restore native goat populations in the North Cascades that have declined due

to decades of overhunting.

The preferred alternative (D) combines a period of live capture and relocation with lethal removal of nonnative goats by shooting. OPA supports this compromise approach -- with modifications to the timeline to achieve the ultimate goal of eliminating all goats from the Olympics in a practical and timely fashion.

OPA has long considered nonnative mountain goats to be one of the most acute management problems facing the park. A number of factors have have pro-

Continued on P. 3, Non-native Goats

OPA Meetings

Next: Tuesday, Jan. 23, 2018, 6 pm

Place: Kingston Yacht Club

Regular Meetings Schedule: 4th Tuesday of odd-numbered months, except (usually) the 3rd Tuesday in November, and no meeting in July.

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

Your Legislators

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U.S. Congress: 202-224-3121 to reach any member of Congress

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511 Hart SOB
DC 202-224-3441
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154 Russell SOB
DC 202-224-2621
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US House of Representatives, DC 20515

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202-225-6311
Bothell 425-485-0085
Mt. Vernon 360-416-7879
www.delbene.house.gov

2 Rep. Rick Larsen (D)
2113 Rayburn HOB
202-225-2605
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www.larsen.house.gov

3 Rep. Jaime Herrera Beutler (R)
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Vancouver 360-695-6292
www.herrerabeutler.house.gov

4 Representative Dan Newhouse (R)
1641 Longworth HOB
P 202-225-5816
Yakima 509-452-3243
www.newhouse.house.gov

5 Rep. Cathy McMorris Rodgers (R)
203 Cannon HOB
202-225-2006
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Spokane 509-353-2374
Walla Walla 509-529-9358
www.mcmorrisrodgers.house.gov

6 Rep. Derek Kilmer (D)
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202-225-5916
Tacoma 253-272-3515
Bremerton 360-373-9725
Port Angeles 360-797-3623
www.kilmer.house.gov

7 Rep. Pramila Jayapal (D)
319 Cannon HOB
202-225-3106
Seattle 206-674-0040
www.jayapal.house.gov

8 Rep. David G. Reichert (R)
1127 Longworth HOB
202-225-7761
Issaquah 425-677-7414
Wenatchee 509-885-6615
www.reichert.house.gov

9 Rep. Adam Smith (D)
2264 Russell HOB
202-225-8901
Renton 425-793-5180
www.adamsmith.house.gov

10 Rep. Denny Heck (D)
425 Cannon HOB
202-225-9740
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98165-2560

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Non-Native Goat Removal

Continued from P. 1

pelled this issue to the forefront of park concerns. These include:

- A goat population growing at eight percent per year,
- Increasing impacts on the Olympics' alpine plant communities and soils, and
- The goats' ongoing degradation of the wilderness character of the Daniel J. Evans Wilderness in the park (as well as adjacent National Forest wilderness areas).

In our comment letter, OPA proposed modifying the timeline of projected actions. The plan proposes to conduct live capture and transport of goats to the Cascades until Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife's goals are met. WDFW has set a recovery goal of 388 goats to be captured and translocated to some twelve release sites in the Cascades. This would require an estimated 460 helicopter flights.

OPA considers this to be well beyond what is necessary to help restore Cascade goat populations. The number of flights, related noise, and disturbance are unacceptable.

We recommend limiting WDFW to one year of exclusive live capture followed, in year two, by live capture and removal by shooting to run concurrently. After year two, remaining goats would be lethally removed.

Our approach has received broad support in the conservation community. A joint letter by Washington Wild, The Wilderness Society, Olympic Forest Coalition, the Washington Wildlife Federation, and some Audubon chapters adopted this approach. Other allies, such as the Washington Native Plant Society as well as some individual members of OPA, favor lethal control exclusively. Total response to the plan was overwhelmingly positive. More than 2,300 comments were logged.

A final decision will be made next spring, and management actions could begin as early as next summer. Funding sources are currently in place.

To review OPA's comment letter or for more background information on non-native goats in the Olympics, visit our website, olympicparkassociates.org.

WANTED: Editor for *Voice of the Wild Olympics*

Olympic Park Associates is seeking a new editor for this semi-annual newsletter, *Voice of the Wild Olympics*. Olympic Park Associates is a non-profit citizens' watchdog organization founded in 1948 to support wise management of Olympic National Park.

The editor's job involves publishing two issues per year of the *Voice*, typically spring and fall. Occasionally a third issue is needed, and less frequently a single-page "alert" on a hot issue. Most of the content is written by OPA board members. Some are written or excerpted from outside sources and used with permission.

Qualifications:

- Experience using InDesign or equivalent.
- Experience using Photoshop or equivalent.
- Experience packaging a publication for printing.

Responsibilities:

- Receive and copy-edit articles for publication in the *Voice*.
- Obtain permission to use material from outside sources.
- Lay out and proof-read newsletter issue.
- Notify OPA Membership Chair (mailing list) and printer and when an issue is ready to print.
- Occasional attendance at the bimonthly board meeting in Kingston, WA, would be helpful for everyone.

For further information, contact OPA President, Donna Osseward, osseward@gmail.com



Olympic Forest Coalition (OFCO) Urges Ban on Salmon Farming

by Lorna Smith, Olympic Forest Coalition.

On August 21, Cooke Aquaculture experienced a catastrophic failure of its salmon net-pen farm in the waters of the Salish Sea just off Cypress Island. The accident apparently was precipitated by lax maintenance and safety practices. (The coincidental solar eclipse that same day resulted in no discernible tidal abnormalities.)

Just how many Atlantic salmon were released is still not known, but the pens contained more than 300,000 nearly mature fish at the time. The majority of the fish in the pen escaped. Since that time, in spite of a massive fishing response by the Tribes and sports fishers, thousands of the fish dispersed to areas throughout the Salish Sea from Olympia to Canada, and were documented entering Northwest rivers, where native Chinook are now spawning. Many of the recovered fish were full of eggs.

In response to that catastrophe and because of the serious threats that salmon farming poses to the health of native salmon, to the health of the Salish Sea and to human health, OFCO has registered opposition to all salmon farming in the waters of Washington state.

The issue likely is to be taken up in Olympia this coming session; legislators including Rep. Mike Chapman from the Peninsula's 24th District and Sen. Kevin Ranker from Orcas Island have already come forward to take on salmon farms. Although Governor Inslee has declared a temporary ban on the issuance of further permits while the cause of the net-pen failure is investigated, that step is not permanent.

OFCO has sent a letter to the Governor urging a total ban on salmon farming, citing the imperative to protect native species and explaining that escaped exotic fish are likely to spread disease and deprive native fish of food sources, compounding other growing threats to their health and survival (including overharvest, pollution, warming seas and habitat degradation).

OFCO is asking its members to contact the Governor, DNR Commissioner of Public Lands Hilary Franz, and their own representatives to demand a permanent ban on Washington's waters.

Recommended for viewing to learn more about the issue: Salmon Confidential, a documentary about net pens in Canada.

UPDATE:

Alaska, California, and Oregon have all banned Atlantic salmon net pens in their waters. Representative Mike Chapman (D-24th) said legislation will be introduced in the Washington State Legislature in the 2018 session on the issue, already with bi-partisan support.

Hoh River Recreation and Conservation Area Established

Conservation of the Hoh River corridor took a significant step forward last May. Prior to that, the Hoh River Trust, with important support from the Western Rivers Conservancy and other conservation and fish and wildlife groups, acquired more than 7,000 acres of former timber industry land along the river. The goal was to restore natural habitat and protect the river corridor from harmful development that would impact salmon, wildlife, and recreation. The Nature Conservancy (TNC) purchased over 3,000 acres along the river for the same purposes.

In May, the Trust transferred its holdings to TNC to create the more than 10,000-acre Hoh River Recreation and Conservation Area. The new designation will protect more than 30 miles of river corridor between the national park boundary and the Pacific

Ocean. TNC management will include planting, road stabilization, restoration thinning, and stream rehabilitation. Hunting, fishing, and gathering will continue to be allowed, and public and tribal access will remain open.

The Hoh is one of the great western rivers, renowned for its wild salmon, wildlife, and its world-class temperate rainforest. The new recreation and conservation area is a successful example of restoration and non-motorized recreation complementing the upstream protection offered by Olympic National Park.



Fly fisherman on the Hoh. Prop. W n S River Lateral Line Media.

OPA Opposes Olympic National Forest's Proposed Off-Highway-Vehicle Area In Calawah

Comments on Environmental Assessment, Calawah OHV Project #38717



October 30, 2017

Dean Millet, Pacific District Ranger
Kimberly Crider, Project Lead
Olympic National Forest

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this project and draft environmental assessment. We wish to register our opposition to this project and request that the Forest Service withdraw the EA, begin a rigorous program of enforcement regarding illegal OHV use and trail building, close access roads to illegal OHV trails, and initiate restoration activities on damage to soils, vegetation, and watershed processes resulting from unplanned and unregulated trail construction and OHV use.

OPA has participated in previous OHV trail proposals in Olympic National Forest, and we have communicated with district rangers regarding illegal OHV trail construction and resulting damage to soils, vegetation, streams, fisheries, and wildlife. We have also noted noise impacts and trash resulting from illegal OHV use. In light of decreasing funding for national forests and the resulting lack of oversight and enforcement over destructive uses of the forest, we find this proposal to be deeply flawed. It is contrary to the direction of the 1990 Olympic Forest management plan, the Northwest Forest Plan, and the 2005 Travel Management rule. Further, the EA proposes a major OHV development without projecting the amount of expected use or fully analyzing impacts to forest resources, including ESA-listed or Forest Service sensitive species, or noise impacts on these and other wildlife in the project area. We note that OHVs are allowed to be louder than street vehicles even though the noise source is closer to wildlife. We also note that portions of the project occur in Late Successional Reserves where such activities are not advised.

We are also deeply concerned over the Forest's ability to fund staff for the necessary education, enforcement, and monitoring that will be required for this project. A monitoring plan should be developed and funded, yet no funding sources or guarantees are listed in the EA.

The EA proposes, in its only action alternative, to designate 7 miles of existing ML1 roads as OHV trails, 3.6 miles of existing ML2 roads as OHV trails, 10.7 miles of user created OHV trails as part of the motorized trail system, construct 0.25 miles of new

OHV trails, and decommission 6.6 miles of user created OHV trails.

We strongly oppose the notion of legalizing user-created motorized trails. We reject the speculation that this will somehow contain or regulate harmful and illegal OHV use in the forest. We do not accept the statement that the developed trail system "... reduces the potential for impacts from unauthorized cross country travel associated with noxious weed spread, sedimentation, fish habitat, water quality, and the disturbance of wildlife habitat within the Calawah OHV project area." We believe that these and other impacts will only increase as more users are drawn to the national forest for this purpose, and that illegal motorized trails will proliferate, particularly without additional enforcement. There is ample evidence elsewhere in the forest that OHV users are disinclined to regulate themselves. Legitimizing user-created trails will send the dangerous message that further illegal trails will also be sanctioned by the agency.

Olympic National Forest is a forest in recovery. Decades of excessive logging and road building have devastated watersheds, fish and wildlife communities, and forest ecosystems, now addressed in the the Northwest Forest Plan. With the well-recognized impacts of off-road vehicles on natural resources, compounded by the amount of rainfall in the project area, we are concerned that proposed action will open the door to a new wave of destructive recreational use of sensitive forest lands -- a use that is best accommodated on private lands outside the national forest. We urge you to reconsider the proposed action.

Sincerely,
Tim McNulty
Olympic Park Associates



Congress Passes a Disastrous Forest Wildfire Bill: H.R. 2936

From News Sources

In October, the U.S. House passed The Resilient Federal Forests Act, H.R. 2936. Introduced by Rep. John Barrasso (R-Wyo.), this Republican-backed bill is an ill-conceived attempt to address wildfire in the West. Fires have affected more than 8 million acres this year, including more than 2 million acres on national forest land. The bill's solution to more fires is increased forest thinning. Democrats called the measure a giveaway to the timber industry.

**Lest We Forget, This Is What Unregulated Logging Looks Like
Satsop River Drainage circa 1970.**



The National Parks Conservation Association analyzed the bill and found that it puts our forests, communities, and wildlife at further risk. NPCA notes that H.R. 2936 fails to address the largest part of the problem: the growing impact of wildfire suppression on the Forest Service's annual budget. Also, the bill:

- threatens communities and wildlife,
- puts endangered species at risk,
- exempts massive logging projects from environmental safeguards,
- blocks citizen oversight and accountability, and
- fails to fix wildfire funding.

In contrast, Senator Cantwell introduced a bipartisan Senate bill, the Wildland Fires Act of 2017, S.1991, which embraces the role of wildfire in forest ecology and addresses the need for a separate funding source for fighting forest fires. Cantwell's bill would direct the Forest Service to treat the most at-risk forests to protect at-risk communities and reestablish natural fire regimes, and would provide additional funding to communities to enable them to reduce risks from wildfires.

S.1991 was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources and, in addition, to the Committee on Agriculture, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

*Satsop River drainage.
EPA, 1970. U.S. National Archives via Wikimedia Commons.*

FSEEE Challenges Navy War Games

September 18, 2017

Forest Service Employees for Environmental Ethics,

<https://www.fseee.org/2017/09/18/fseee-challenges-navy-war->

FSEEE has filed a lawsuit challenging the Forest Service's approval of a Navy plan to conduct electronic warfare training on the Olympic National Forest in Washington state.

Earlier this summer, Olympic National Forest officials gave the Navy a special-use permit to park mobile transmitter trucks at 11 locations on the national forest. The trucks would shoot electromagnetic transmissions skyward and Navy fighter jets would try to detect and intercept the signals.

FSEEE claims the Forest Service violated the Olympic National Forest's land and resource management plan in issuing the special-use permit.

That plan, adopted in 1990 and required by the National Forest Management Act, states that the Forest Service must consider whether an activity can be accommodated on private land before issuing a special-use permit to operate on national forest land. FSEEE claims the Forest Service failed to consider a private land option.

The complaint also alleges that the permit approval violated a requirement that the Forest Service give priority to the interests and needs of the general public when deciding whether to issue a permit.

"Finally," the complaint reads, "the Forest Service failed to determine that the permitted activity is compatible, and in harmony with, the surrounding landscape, as the (land and resource management plan) requires."

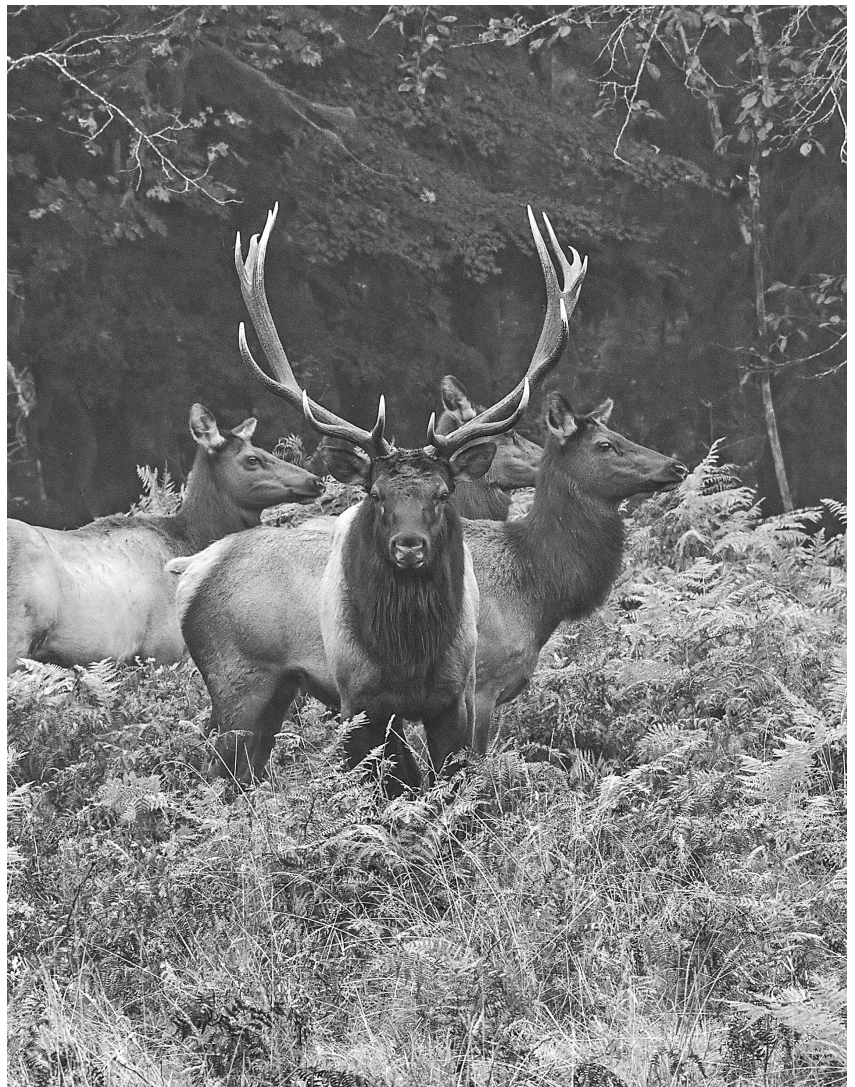
FSEEE filed the lawsuit in U.S. District Court in Tacoma on Friday. The complaint asks the court to order the Forest Service to withdraw the permit.

The permit allows the Navy to operate the transmitter trucks up to 260 days a year, for 8 to 16 hours each day. The trucks would be surrounded by yellow caution tape when operating on the national forest.



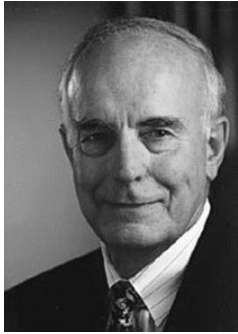
Growler courtesy of NW Public Radio.

Bull Elk, Quinault. Photo by Bob Kaune.



Endangered Spotted Owl
USFS Sharon Jeffries.

Celebration of Newly Named *Daniel J. Evans Wilderness*



Dan Evans, U.S. Senator and WA State Governor.

The public Dedication Ceremony for renaming the Olympic Wilderness as the Daniel J. Evans Wilderness was held on 18 August 2017 near the Visitors Center at Hurricane Ridge, ONP. [See the Spring 2017 Voice for the announcement of this well-deserved honor for the ex-Governor [1955-1977] and U. S. Senator [1983-1989] of Washington State.

On a pleasantly warm sunny day with the magnificent peaks of the northern Olympic Mountains forming the perfect backdrop, the well-attended event began with the Presentation of the Colors and Pledge of Allegiance by Boy Scout Troops #90 - Sequim and #186 – Seattle, who were summoned by a bagpipe solo by Nathan Carroll, Northwest Junior Pipe Band. Following a brief welcome by Lee Taylor, Acting Superintendent of Olympic National Park, the Makah Tribe presented a traditional ceremonial blessing which included some of the native history of the Olympic area. The ceremony and history were well received by the attendees.

Next were some appropriate, rela-

tively concise remarks by Norm Dicks, former U.S. Representative for District 6 (1977-2013) followed by the current District 6 Representative, Derek Kilmer and U.S. Senator Maria Cantwell. Hans Zeiger, Senator, Washington State Legislature, presented an informative introduction of the esteemed honoree. Dan Evans gave a brief history of his love for the outdoors beginning with his activities as a boy scout and continuing to the present. Nonagenarian Evans admitted that he has had to give up skiing and, even though he now allows others to carry some of his equipment on hikes, he is still able to enjoy backcountry hiking. While many people have had a lifelong love of the outdoors, it is only a select few, such as Dan Evans, who also have worked diligently over many decades to preserve the magnificent Washington wilderness for future generations.

The formal ceremony ended with a poetry reading by Tim McNulty, author and vice-president of the Olympic Park Associates. A bag pipe solo for the recession brought the event to a close.

The Gift of Hope: an Evening with Bill Bradley



Senator Bill Bradley

In June, Olympic Park Associates and other organizations welcomed former U.S. Senator Bill Bradley to Seattle's Benaroya Hall to reflect on the Elwha River restoration and its larger implications for ecological restoration. Senator Bradley was a major sponsor of Elwha River Fisheries and Ecosystem Restoration Act. As chair of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee, his leadership was central to the bill's passage.

At the invitation of NatureBridge, Bradley appeared with his former colleague Senator Dan Evans in a poignant conversation, facilitated by Seattle Times reporter Lynda Mapes. They were introduced by former Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell. The two statesmen discussed the Elwha, environmental justice, bipartisan cooperation, and hope for the earth.

Senator Bradley was inspirational and hopeful about the future.

"Every time we do right in America, we set the stage to do right again," he told a packed audience. "Every time we manage to honor our best traditions and values, we show that we can do it again. Every instance of hard work that brings justice proves that we have a just society."

"With the Elwha, we restored honor," he reminded us, "we kept promises, we rewarded stewardship, we did the right thing. Indeed, even in our current dark times, the great gift of the Elwha is one very essential thing for our country -- hope."

OPA is honored to have been participating sponsor of this inspiring event. We thank our members and donors for making it possible.

Polly's Eleventh Essential

Celebrating the Life of Pauline (Polly) Dyer, June 3, 2017

by Laura Dassow Walls, God-daughter of Polly and John Dyer

Thanks to Polly and Johnny Dyer's lifelong friendship with my parents, John and Ethel Dassow, I was blessed through my childhood with a second home. My mother was an outdoors-woman who loved to fish and hunt, although by the time I came along she had put down her rod and rifle and taken to pottering around the woods hunting mushrooms and wild berries instead. Mom wasn't keen on long-distance hikes, unless it was on her favorite wild Olympic beach; and she wasn't one for meetings and organizations either. So it was Polly and Johnny who stepped in to turn my growing love of nature outward. How many mornings I woke up in one of their little cubicle bedrooms, looking forward to a splendid hike or snowshoe trip after bumping up into the mountains in their little Volkswagen Bug to somewhere amazing. I'll never forget the thousands of snow geese Polly and I startled once on Skagit Flats, and how they rose up and around us in flickering, deafening clouds of white; or our backpacking trip to Crystal Lake in Mount Rainier—I spent almost as many days getting my backpack just right as on the actual hike! Polly always made sure I had along the Ten Essentials, but she always brought the Eleventh Essential: love and passion for saving all that we were enjoying for future generations. This meant constant organizing, writing and editing newsletters, getting up letter campaigns, fundraising, work parties, conferences. I know she sometimes felt that what she loved most, hiking and getting out into the air and light, took a back seat to all those endless meetings. There's a place for quiet loners like my mother, but I can't imagine a world without the wilderness areas that activists like Polly helped bring into being, nor can I imagine the relentless work it took, over decades, to make that happen.

What sustained her during all those years? She used to say she didn't believe in a Sunday School God, that Nature was her Bible. And once she gave me a copy of a little book that had meant a lot to her: John Burroughs's classic essay, *The Gospel of Nature*. Burroughs says that when we come to see that the celestial and the terrestrial are one, that time and eternity are one, we'll no longer look for a distant and far-off God but for a God nearby. But still, he pulls no punches when he talks about what this means. He says it's not always easy to know what that God is saying to us: "Nature teaches more than she preaches. There are no sermons in stones. It is easier to get

a spark out of a stone than a moral." So what we need to look for is not sermons in stones nor books in running brooks, either, but in the relations of stones and brooks to other things. About stones, for instance, Burroughs says, "'A rolling stone gathers no moss,' which is not bad for the stone, as moss hastens decay." Well, Polly, this might explain why you were so remarkably ageless!

But I like still better what Burroughs says about brooks:

The lesson in running brooks is that motion is a great purifier and health-producer. When the brook ceases to run, it soon stagnates. It keeps in touch with the great vital currents when it is in motion, and unites with other brooks to help make the river. In motion it soon leaves all mud and sediment behind. Do not proper work and the exercise of will power have the same effect upon our lives?

Polly, this must be one of the lessons you took from all those years of hiking in mountains laced with brooks, dipping up their waters in your Sierra Club cup and thinking, while you drank, about vital currents and cleansing motion, about brooks combining with other brooks to make rivers, and how those rivers can work to change the world. That sounds like you, and that's what you taught me. So I propose a toast to that Eleventh Essential, your passion for preserving all things wild, because you knew so well—as Thoreau said—that in wildness is the preservation of the world.

With love and remembrance,
Your goddaughter Laura



Dr. Polly Dyer receiving an Honorary Doctorate from WSU in 2014

¹ John Burroughs, *The Gospel of Nature* (Bedford, Massachusetts: Applewood Books, 1989). Burroughs essay was originally published as the conclusion of his book *Time and Change* (Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1912).



Voice of the Wild Olympics

Sally W. Soest, Editor

Olympic Park Associates

PO Box 27560

Seattle, WA 98165-2560

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