VOICE of the WILD OLYMPICS

Olympic Park Associates

Founded in 1948



Volume 26 Number 1 Spring 2018



Contents

Next Meeting	2
AG Ferguson to Lead An Olympic Coast Hike	3
Off-Shore Oil Reprieve	4
Congress Attacks Public Lands	5
BP Refinery Threatens Air Quality	6
Elwha Reclaims Floodplain Park Studies Access Solutions	n, 7
How To Email Congress	8
Navy Plans Widespread Amphibious Landings	9
Ruth Kirk Passes Away	9
Human Waste Problem In Park	10
Book Review: McNulty's Olympic Natura History 4th Edition	al 11

Olympic National Park's Final Plan Will Remove Non-Native Mountain Goats From the Olympics

On May 4, Olympic National Park released it's Mountain Goat Management Plan Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS). The plan calls for removal of all non-native mountain goats from the Olympics using a variety of methods over a several-year period. Non-native mountain goats were introduced into the Olympic Mountains by hunting enthusiasts in the 1920s, prior to the Park's creation. In the absence of predators and in the mild coastal climate, the goats went forth and multiplied. By the early 1980s, their numbers approached 1,200, and goat damage to plant communities and soils was apparent throughout the range. OPA has long advocated for removal of non-native goats, and we support the Park's effort wholeheartedly.

Removal will consist of live capture and translocation of a number of goats to several areas in the Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest where goats are native, followed by lethal shooting of the remaining goats in ONP. The National Park Service is cooperating with the U.S. Forest Service and the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) *Continuied on P. 3, Non-native Goat Removal*

Voice of the wild olympics _

OPA Meetings

Next: Tuesday, 22 May, 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

WA State: http://app.leg.wa.gov/districtfinder/

US Congress: 202-224-3121 to reach any member of Congress

Senate: www.senate.gov

U.S. House of Representatives: www.house.gov

US Senate, Washington DC 20510

Senator Maria Cantwell 511 Hart SOB DC 202-224-3441 Seattle 206-220-6400 www.cantwell.senate.gov Senator Patty Murray 154 Russell SOB DC 202-224-2621 Seattle 206-553-5545 . www.murray.senate.gov

US House of Representatives, Washington DC 20515

9

- Rep. Suzan DelBene (D) 1 318 Cannon HOB 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 Everett 425-252-3188 Bellingham 360-733-4500 www.larsen.house.gov
- Rep. Jaime Herrera Beutler (R) 3 1130 Longworth HOB 202-225-3536 Vancouver 360-695-6292 www.herrerabeutler.house.gov
- Representative Dan Newhouse (R) 4 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 Colville 509-684-3481 Spokane 509-353-2374 Walla Walla 509--529-9358 www.mcmorrisrodgers.house.gov

- Rep. Derek Kilmer (D) 1520 Longworth HOB 202-225-5916 Tacoma 253-272-3515 Bremerton 360-373-9725 Port Angeles 360-797-3623 www.kilmer.house.gov
- Rep. Pramila Jayapal (D) 7 319 Cannon HOB 202-225-3106 Seattle 206-674-0040 www.jayapal.house.gov
- Rep. David G. Reichert (R) 8 1127 Longworth HOB 202-225-7761 Issaquah 425-677-7414 Wenatchee 509-885-6615 www.reichert.house.gov
 - Rep. Adam Smith (D) 2264 Russell HOB 202-225-8901 Renton 425-793-5180 www.adamsmith.house.gov
- Rep. Denny Heck (D) 10 425 Cannon HOB 202-225-9740 Tacoma 253-459-8514 Lacy 360-459-8514 www.dennyheck.house.gov

Olympic Park Associates

Board of Trustees *Executive Committee

President *Donna Osseward Seattle

> Vice President *Tim McNulty Sequim

Secretary *John Bridge Sequim

> Treasurer *Tom Bihn Mazama

Jason Bausher Llyn De Dannan John Gussman Gordon Hempton Daniel Lieberman Bruce Moorhead Paul Robisch *Sally Soest Shelley Spalding

Sequim Oyster Bay Sequim Joyce Port Angeles Port Angeles Seattle Seattle Elma

Advisory Board Members

Paul Crawford Santa Barbara Ben Greuel Seattle Randall Payne Renton Mary Peck **Rick Rutz** Seattle Jim Scarborough John Woolley Sequim

Santa Fe Bellingham

Membership Chair

Paul Robisch

PO Box 27560 Seattle, WA 98165-2560

Newsletter Editor Sally W. Soest

725 9th Ave., #1407 Seattle, WA 98104

OPA's Web Page

www.olympicparkassociates.org

${f V}$ OICE OF THE WILD OLYMPICS

is published three times per year by Olympic Park Associates. Unless specifically copyrighted, articles may be reprinted without permission. However, credit is appreciated.

OPA membership dues are tax-deductible. \$500 Individual Life Member

- \$250 Patron
- \$100 Sustaining Member
- \$50 Associate Organization
- \$50 Contributing Member
- \$30 Family
- \$20 Individual
- \$5 Students & Low Income Members

Printed by Abracadabra Printing

on acid- & chlorine-free FSC-certified paper, 10% recycled,

30% post-consumer waste.



Non-Native Goat Removal

Continued from P.. 1

in what will be a major effort to remove goats from all jurisdictions in the Olympics. The plan will also help restore native mountain goat populations in the North Cascades, where they have declined due to decades of overhunting.

Following a four-year planning process, the FEIS calls for a two to three-year period of live capture and translocation. The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife will conduct these operations. When relocation goals have been met or when safety issues limit further live-capture, remaining goats will be lethally removed utilizing trained and certified volunteer hunters as well as aerial shooting from helicopters. An extended period of monitoring and maintenance control will follow.

Surveys indicate that the goat population in the Olympics is increasing at an alarming eight percent per year. This and the goats' ongoing degradation of the Park's unique alpine and subalpine plant communities, combined with extensive soil erosion caused by trampling and wallowing, have spurred park managers to complete this timely plan. An earlier live capture effort in the 1980s reduced goat numbers, but the current population is rapidly approaching 1980s numbers.

Live capture operations could start as early as August of this year. Lethal removal could begin later next year. Following removal by all methods, periodic maintenance will be required.

Controversy arose in some quarters over the use of helicopters in park wilderness to implement the plan. But OPA considers the destruction that nonnative goats have wrought on the Park's alpine communities and associated and ongoing degradation of wilderness character a much more serious breach of the Wilderness Act (as well as the National Park Organic Act). We believe the short-term use of helicopters to remove the goats is a necessary and justified approach.

Olympic's stunning alpine zone, with its unique associations of rare and endemic plants and wildlife, evolved without the presence of large rocky-outcrop herbivores throughout the Pleistocene. It's time to return the high Olympics to their natural, wild, and untrammeled condition.

To review Olympic National Park's Mountain Goat Management Plan DEIS go to https://parkplanning.nps.gov/projectHome.cfm?projectID=49246.

To review OPA's comment letter on the Draft Mountain Goat Management Plan, or for background on the issue, go to olympicparkassociates.org.

COMING IN AUGUST! WATCH OUR WEB PAGE FOR DETAILS

Washington State Attorney General Bob Ferguson

to lead a celebratory

hike along Washington's Olympic Coast

Recalling Justice William O. Douglas's legendary 1958 coast hike which celebrated its pristine wildness and saved it from being paved.

Check www.olympicparkassociates.org for details.

Voice OF THE WILD OLYMPICS _____ Trump Administration Backs Away from Offshore Oil Drilling Proposal for Washington State

From Conservation News, Washington Wild, with permission.

In response to an outpouring of public opposition and strong objection from Washington's Congressional delegation, Secretary of Interior Ryan Zinke acknowledged the overwhelming opposition from Washington State leaders and residents to his proposal to allow offshore oil drilling!

After Senator Maria Cantwell (D-WA) raised concerns about the offshore drilling proposal at a congressional hearing in March, Secretary Zinke stated "I think I'm going to mark down Washington as opposed to drilling...I know where people are, and I certainly know where the state of Washington is. The state of Washington is deeply, passionately opposed to oil and gas drilling off their coast...Our proposal will have the interests of Washington reflected in that plan."

This January U.S. Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke had proposed a sweeping plan to open nearly all waters off the nation's coastlines to oil and gas drilling, which originally including a major new lease sale off Oregon and Washington proposed for 2021. The proposal aimed to expand offshore drilling on over 90% of the Outer Continental Shelf along America's coastline, which included Washington's own wild and rugged coast. In northern Washington, this proposal included much of the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary, where the regulations currently prohibit "exploring for, developing or producing oil."

This proposal put our nation's coastal communities, beaches, and marine ecosystems at risk of a catastrophic oil spill. Expanding offshore drilling could damage precious marine ecosystems, as well as industries such as coastal tourism, recreation, and fishing that generate billions of dollars for our nation's economy. The catastrophic effects of the BP Deepwater Horizon oil spill showed why we must stop drilling our ocean for oil and transition to a clean energy economy based on renewables and conservation.

Early this year Senator Maria Cantwell called for removing the Pacific Northwest waters from the proposal. "Offshore oil and gas development poses a direct threat to Washington state jobs in coastal communities like Grays Harbor, Ilwaco, Aberdeen, and Port Angeles. The Washington coast economy relies on healthy, sustainable oceans which support fisheries, seafood processing, recreation, shipbuilding, trade, transportation, and tourism...Pacific Northwest waters should be removed from any further consideration of the National Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Program for 2019-2024."

The coast of the Olympic Peninsula is home to the coastal strip of Olympic National Park, most of which is protected as Wilderness. Areas like Second Beach, Ruby Beach and Lake Ozette are a major source of tourism and economic benefit for local economies. Other conservation lands on the Washington coast include Quillayute Needles National Wildlife Refuge, Copalis National Wildlife Refuge and Willapa National Wildlife Refuge.

Senator Maria Cantwell deserves our thanks for her leadership efforts on this issue and other efforts to defend our public lands.



Good news for our Giant Pacific Octopus, *Enteroctopus dofleini. Photo by* Monterey Bay Aquarium

Congress Increases Their Attacks on Public Lands

While our 45th president dominates newspapers and network news with his illconsidered and dangerous antics, Republican majorities in the House and Senate have released a spate of legislative attacks on our parks, public lands, air, water, wilderness, and wildlife, and threaten to revoke bedrock environmental laws. All with nary a tweet.

The onslaught of anti-environmental bills can be overwhelming. So, to help you keep track, here are a few noteworthy initiatives that deserve a quick and irrevocable death.

• H.R. 4532 and HR 4558 would codify Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke's recommendation to reduce Bears Ears National Monument by 85 percent and Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument by nearly half.

• H.R. 3990 would restrict the president's authority to establish national monuments and would authorize the president to abolish existing monuments. (Many of our most popular national parks, like Olympic, began as national monuments).

• A Senate rider to the fiscal year 2018 Interior appropriations budget would exempt the Tongass and Chugach National Forests in Alaska from Roadless Rule protections -- and threaten to undermine the Roadless Rule nationally, which protects more than 60 million acres of national forest lands.

Our allies at Wilderness Watch have alerted us to a number of bills that specifically threaten our wilderness and public lands legacy. Among them:

• H.R. 3668, the "Sportsmen's Heritage and Recreational Enhancement (SHARE) Act" is an NRA-backed bill that would gut the 1964 Wilderness Act and the protections afforded to every unit of America's 110 million-acre National Wilderness Preservation System.

• **H.R. 1349**, the "Wheels in Wilderness Bill," would amend and weaken the Wilderness Act to allow mountain bikes, strollers, wheelbarrows, and game carts in Wilderness.

• A couple of terrible "Border Bills' purport to deal with border security, but would actually threaten all of America's wilderness areas within 100 miles of the southern border with Mexico and within 100 miles of the northern border with Canada including wilderness in Olympic and North Cascades national parks.

• **S. 2206,** the "Protect Public use of Public Lands Act," would release 450,000 acres of America's Wilderness Study Areas in Montana and potentially open up these wildlands to logging, mining, motorized recreation and road building.

These are merely the tip of the iceberg.

We urge you to contact your senators and representatives and request they vote to defeat these and other anti-environmental bills in Congress.

And remember to exercise your right to vote this November!



How to send emails to your members of Congress?

See Page 8 of this issue!

5

Voice OF THE WILD OLYMPICS ______ BP Refinery Expansion Puts ONP Air Quality at Risk

By Tim McNulty, Vice-President, Olympic Park Associates

Let's not allow this planetary treasure to become further and needlessly

degraded.

Whenever the clouds lift, as they sometimes do, from my place in the Dungeness foothills, I'm struck by the stunning beauty of Olympic National Park. There's no place like it. For a writer and naturalist like myself, there's no better place to be. But if British Petroleum has its way, this wild and beautiful place may never be the same.

I spend much of my time outdoors observing: the character of our forests, the wonderful diversity of plant and animal life in the Olympics, and the often wide-ranging effects of small changes in this dynamic ecosystem. I pay particular attention to lichen. Lichens are among the most subtle but significant plants in Olympic National Park. They are acutely and often negatively impacted by even small changes in air quality, temperature, or rainfall -- all of which are becoming increasingly unpredictable due to human-caused climate change and energy development in the surrounding region.

Of particular concern are the oil refineries of northern Puget Sound. They contribute pollutants that degrade air quality and visibility in Olympic National Park as well as in our surrounding communities. From the northern and eastern Peninsula, the beautiful vistas of the Cascade Range are obstructed by haze on days with particularly bad air quality. The refineries are a significant source of air pollutants that contribute to dirty haze in Olympic Nation-

al Park and amplify the harmful effects of climate change on the ecology of the Peninsula.

Pollutants released by these refineries are absorbed by the Park's lichens, and then are distributed throughout the forest ecosystem. As these pollutants work their way up the food chain, they threaten already imperiled species like Northern Spotted Owls, and iconic species like Roosevelt elk. As pollutants increase, their concentration in the ecosystem becomes increasingly harmful.

In this sensitive environment, it is irresponsible to expand any one of the

several existing refineries in the area; yet the Washington Department of Ecology has granted permission for British Petroleum to do just that. The Department's decision to grant the company a new air permit for the Cherry Point refinery in northern Puget Sound is incredibly troubling. The increase and lack of adequate control of pollutants from the refinery puts this special place and our surrounding communities at risk.

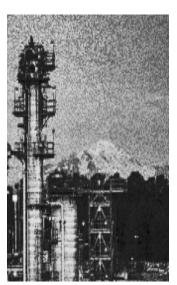
I applaud National Parks Conservation Association for challenging the renewed permit for BP's expanded Cherry Point refinery. A revised permit requiring more stringent pollutant controls would address many of the anticipated adverse effects on the Peninsula. BP could do this because they already have similar modern controls on other facilities. Surely our wonderful part of the world deserves no less.

This is hardly the time to turn a blind eye to the increasingly harmful effects of climate change spurred on by the pollutants released by these refineries. It is up to all of us, and organizations like National Parks Conservation Association, to fight for protections to keep our air clean. Haze pollution is a way of life for folks in most cities, but it doesn't have to be a way of life for a place as wild as Olympic National Park.

Olympic National Park provides an opportunity to stop, take a breath, and drink in the beauty and wonder of our earth. Let's not allow this planetary treasure to become further and needlessly degraded.

Ahtiana sphaerosporella, a lichen found in the Olympics. Goward.





Restoring Access to the Elwha River Valley

by Tim McNulty, Vice-President, Olympic Park Associates

The Elwha Reclaims Her Floodplain

The epic restoration of the Elwha River in Olympic National Park has far exceeded biologists' expectations. Within a few short years following the removal of two salmon-blocking dams, all species of Pacific salmon as well as steelhead and bull trout have reclaimed the rich forested spawning grounds of the Elwha River. For the first time in a century, anadromous fish have been spotted as far upriver as Chicago Camp, 42 miles into the river's mountainous headwaters. At the same time, more than two-thirds of the 22 million cubic yards of impounded gravel and sediments have flushed downstream, rejuvenating spawning areas in the lower river and building a new delta that has brought renewed life to the river's estuary.

But the newly freed river, charged by near-record winter storms in recent years, has taken a toll on human developments built in the river's path. The Elwha has reclaimed its historic floodplain and washed out both the Altaire and Elwha campgrounds. And a reoccupied river channel has ripped through the Olympic Hot Springs (Elwha) Road less than a mile from the Park entrance station. Twice. Now, and for the next few years, the only access to the Elwha Ranger Station, housing, maintenance area, historic CCC Camp, mule corral, trailheads, and the Elwha restoration interpretive exhibits at the Glines Canyon Dam spillway will be by foot or bike. The road remains closed to vehicles at the Madison Falls parking area.

Restoring Vehicle Access to the Elwha Valley

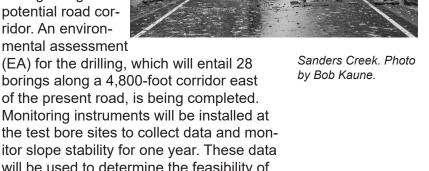
In 2019 Olympic National Park will begin formal planning for long-term access to the Elwha Valley. Among the options considered will be relocating the road out

of the active floodplain to allow for natural river processes. To asses the feasibility of moving the road, the Federal Highway Administration plan to conduct geotechnical test drilling along a potential road corridor. An environmental assessment

borings along a 4,800-foot corridor east of the present road, is being completed. Monitoring instruments will be installed at the test bore sites to collect data and monitor slope stability for one year. These data will be used to determine the feasibility of a potential relocation of this one-mile section of Olympic Hot Springs Road. Drilling could begin this summer.

OPA provided scoping comments on this EA. We requested that stringent parameters be placed on the extent of ground disturbance and tree removal, and that small, low-impact drilling devices be employed to minimize resource damage.

OPA is committed to restoring permanent access up the Elwha valley that will accommodate the natural processes of the Elwha River. The ecological restoration of Elwha River ecosystem has been the focus of nationwide attention, and the public deserve to be able to witness this ongoing process. Park staff also need vehicle access to maintain existing infrastructure and visitor services in the valley. But we believe any future access should be of a scale and character consistent with the existing Hot Springs and Whiskey Bend roads. OPA will continue to closely monitor this important planning process.



To review OPA's scoping letter on geotechnical testing, go to: olympicparkassociates.org. To visit the park's web page and comment on the next stage of Elwha planning,

go to: https://parkplanning.nps.gov/document.cfm?documentID=86611.

Voice OF THE WILD OLYMPICS _____ How To Write An Email To Congress

by Donna Osseward, Presudent, Olympic Park Associates

On Page 2 of this and every issue of the **Voice of the Wild Olympics** you will find the email and mail addresses of your two US Senators, Senator Patty Murray and Senator Maria Cantwell, and all of Washington State's members of the US House of Representatives. Email all three of them! The body of your email can be the same to each.

Your comments will NOT count if you do not tell them who you are and where you live. They want to know if you can vote for them. Their primary motivation is to get re-elected. It's VOTES that count, not logic.

OPA's job, through the *Voice*, is to give you the details of issues to help you fill in the blanks below.

Here are some ideas and points to draw from. Pick as many or as few as you wish, or use your own. It is important that you let your congressional representatives know your opinion.

- 1. Properly address your letter (Dear Senator Murray, Dear Congresswoman or -man.
- 2. Describe your concerns. Tell them how you would like them to resolve them. Get your friends and neighbors to write, too. The more people asking, the better the chances they will respond.
- 3. Explain your interest in the issue:
- I (We) oppose or support ______ because...
 - I (We) want to preserve the birds and wildlife on the Olympic Peninsula, etc.
 - I (We) live on the Olympic Peninsula,
 - I live and work on the Olympic Peninsula,
 - I have a business on the Peninsula that would be disrupted by this activity in or around Olympic National Park.
 - I live in/on _____ and vacation on the Peninsula,
 - I live in the _____ area and have a vacation place on the peninsula,
- I (we) go to the Olympic Peninsula to:
 - enjoy Olympic National Park
 - fish on the peninsula,
- hunt on the peninsula,
- hike and climb on the peninsula,
- enjoy the ocean, trees, the peace, and quiet of the peninsula,
- go to the Twilight areas and see the sights.
- I (we) am concerned about...:
 - any part of the Olympic Peninsula turned into a warfare training range.
 - the effects of this activity on my...(fishing, hunting, gathering berries, mushrooms, traditional foods, Christmas trees, and greens)
 - the effects of this activity on the many birds that live and fly on the Peninsula;
 - the effects of this activity on the tourists and our tourist business;
 - the effects of this activity on the wildlife and ecology of the areas involved;
 - the effects of this activity on our community. Example: noise around schools, hospitals, in our homes, at our workplaces.
 - this activity's disruption of our enjoyment of the hiking, climbing, birding, fishing, etc.
- 4. Finish with an "ask." Examples: "Please talk with ______ about this activity" AND/OR "Please stop this activity on the Olympic Peninsula;" AND/OR "We are depending on you to stop this use of our public parks in this way;" AND/OR "Please oppose this plan because…", etc.
- 5. Sincerely, (Your name), Address (with zip) This tells them you live in their jurisdiction and can vote for them.

NEWSLETTER OF OLYMPIC PARK ASSOCIATES

The Navy Now Wants To Do What?

By Donna Osseward, President, Olympic Park Associates

Olympic Park Associates are puzzled and shocked by the *U.S. Navy's Environmental Assessment (EA) for Special Operations Training in Western Washington.* This is a Navy plan for Navy Seals to use Western Washington seashores as a training operation to practice sneaking ashore. They want to do these exercises on any seashore regardless of public (National Parks, State Parks, counties) or private ownership. They plan to conduct these training operations unannounced.



What are they thinking, on several fronts?

1. Surprise operations with people crawling ashore in wet suits invites our Seals to be shot by an armed, alarmed citizen thinking America is being invaded by who knows whom –



Isis? North Korea? Russia? Iran?...

2. Unannounced invasions could frighten the public and result in injury or death.

3. How does the Navy think they have the right to use state and national park lands they don't own, without even asking the agencies involved? The mission of our parks, state or national, does not include military training operations.

4. Such operations could result in environmental and other destructive damage to public and private shores and shoreline facilities.

What can you do?

Email Governor Inslee https://www.governor.wa.gov/contact/contact/contacting-governors-office Express your dismay and ask him:

- to involve Washington State Attorney General to investigate the Navy's Environmental Assessment, and
- to go to court, if necessary, to stop this and similar operation on our state lands.

Ruth Kirk, Northwest Historian, Writer and Photographer, Passes Away At 92 by Llyn De Dannan

Ruth Kirk, beloved Northwest writer and photographer, died April 19, 2018 at Panorama Convalescent and Rehabilitation Center in Lacey, Washington. Ruth lived, with her husband, Louis Kirk, a National Park Service Ranger, for several years in Mount Rainier National Park. She climbed to the summit five times, reveled in the beauty of the place, and wrote an extraordinary ode to the park, the people of the park, and those who have depicted the park in words and images over the years. The University of Washington Press book is called Sunrise to Paradise: The Story of Mountain Rainier National Park. Though her list of publications is long and her work earned many accolades, her last book, Ozette: Excavating a Makah Whaling Village, was published just three years ago, also by The University of Washington Press. It is a must for those who love the Olympic Peninsula and its history. This, more personal account of the Ozette "dig," is dedicated to her longtime friend and late life husband "Doc" Dick Daugherty, who died in 2014. Ruth was 92. OPA joins many in mourning her loss and thanking her for her intelligent, thoughtful contributions to the literature of our National Parks and the Northwest.

Ed: Some other books by Ruth Kirk include The Enduring Forests: Norther California, Oregon, Washington, British Columbia, and Southeast Alaska (1996), Exploring Washington's Past (1990), Tradition & Change on the Northwest Coast (1986), Hunters of the Whale: An Adventure of Northwest Coast Archaeology (1974), David, Young Chief of the Quileutes, An American Indian Today (1967), The Olympic Rain Forest (1966).



Ruth Kirk. Photo from High Country News

Voice OF THE WILD OLYMPICS _____ Park Visitors Leave Persistent Piles On Beaches

Jason Bausher, OPA Board



Coughlan's 2 oz, \$3, orange plastic



TentLab Deuce of Spades 0.6 oz, \$20, thin edge aerospace aluminum



GSI Cathole trowel 3 oz, \$5, recycled plastic



The U-Dig-It® Pro, 5 oz, \$15 stainless steel, folding handle, stuff sack.



With the most recent stretch of rain passing, the endless lines of cars between Kingston and Port Angeles announce the beginning of the spring rush to Olympic National Park. While this means thousands of people who will awaken to the glories of our local wild places, this also means thousands of recreational impacts to these places that we are loving to death. For a glimpse of this damage, watch the tourists tromping through melting snowfields and trampling the tender new growth at Hurricane Ridge. Heather and huckleberries are safe for now under high country snowfields, but backpackers go to the beach when subalpine trails are hidden by snow. Until those high trails are melted out, beaches will carry most of the load of recreational impacts. With thousands of backpackers and day hikers visiting those beaches, one very visible load the beaches carry is feces,

NPS rangers regularly count and bury hundreds of piles of human feces found on logs, rocks, sand, water, vegetation, and any other semi-level surface. Trip leaders are required to sign a permit that explicitly requires their group members to properly bury feces, but the piles re-appear as quickly as they are covered by the rangers who systematically and regularly patrol the beaches. Every permit ensures that the trip leader received a demonstrative lecture on how the burying is to be executed with the trowel: at least six inches deep, well away from water sources, etc. Leave No Trace, Boy Scouts of America, REI, and other national organizations have devoted significant resources to national campaigns for proper waste disposal. Yet the piles persist, sometimes just feet away from-and outside of-the primitive privies.

Leave No Trace education is the primary means of mitigating impacts. The permitting process and ranger patrols provide some of this education and monitoring inside the Park, but Leave No Trace education for many visitors begins with books, magazines, videos, camps, stores, and talks before those visitors face the need and choice to dig a proper cathole. This pre-trip education deserves financial and instructional support, and some of this support may be motivated by the urge to prevent the mass proliferation of uncovered feces in places such as our Olympic beaches.

[Ed. For a review of backpacking trowels and cathole technique, see Fall 2016 issue of *Voice of the Wild Olympics.*]



Book Review Olympic National Park: A Natural History

By Tim McNulty. 4th editon, University of Washington Press, Seattle, 2018. \$30. ISBN 978 -0-295-74328-8.

Reviewed by Shelley Spalding, OPA Board.

Books, as with landscapes, have the ability to shape our sense of place. Certain books, like certain landscapes, stay with us even when we have left them. Olympic National Park: A Natural *History* is one such book. With author Tim McNulty as our guide, this revised 4th edition takes us through the landscape of the Olympics, and Olympic National Park in particular. This new edition includes updates on the impact of humans on the park's landscape as well as a species checklist and a quick help section that describes where to go to see wildflowers, old growth forests, and wildlife

Also included is new information on the epic recovery of the Elwha River ecosystem, the recovery of fishers in Olympic forests, updates on endemic Olympic marmots, and new information on threatened spotted owls and marbled murrelets, as well as climate-driven changes to glaciers, wildfires, and forests.

As McNulty guides the reader through various ecosystems - the mountains, the forest, the coast - it becomes clear that within these systems there is a "tapestry...of interdependent plant and animal communities." Dougas squirrels not only gather and store Sones, seeding the landscape, but also dine on various fungi and thus disseminate spores. Squirrels, seeds, and spores! Ferns found in forest trees actually appear to provide soils in the trees which in turn provide extra nutrients to the host trees as they put down roots into the soil found in the moss mats created by the tree ferns. Old growth forests provide snags which are much utilize by numerous forest dwellers, including the pileated woodpecker searching for the larval and adult ants and insects found within decaying wood. In the words of John Muir, "when we try to pick out anything by itself, we find it hitched to everything else in the Universe."

By traveling around the Olympics and learning from this natural history book about the wonders of the Olympic Peninsula, it becomes clear that the natural processes responsible for this phenomenal place are dynamic, evolving, and full of surprises. "People exploit what they have merely concluded to be of value, but they defend what they love," writes author and farmer

Wendell Berry, "and to defend what we love we need a particularizing language, for we love what we particularly know."

As we learn more about how our actions impact this unique and astonishing region, especially as we begin to note the alterations being manifested by climate change, it becomes imperative that each and every one of us put on the mantle of stewardship and become a concerned and informed citizen speaking up on behalf of our beloved Olympic National Park and the forests, rivers, and coast surrounding this jewel. By reading this book we end up educating and astounding ourselves and thus we are invigorated as we work to understand and protect this "wild and spectacular corner of the earth."





Voice of the Wild Olympics

Sally W. Soest, Editor

Olympic Park Associates PO Box 27560 Seattle, WA 98165-2560

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Olympic Park Associates

Dues and gifts are 100% deductible. OPA is a 501(c)(3) organization. Membership includes subscription to the *Voice of the Wild Olympics*.

\$500	Individual Life Member	(One time)	Name		
\$250	Patron	(Annual)			
\$100	Sustaining Member	(Annual)	Adress		
\$50	Associate Organization	(Annual)	City		
\$50	Contributing Member	(Annual)	City		
\$30	Family Membership	(Annual)	State	ZIP	Date
\$20	Individual Member	(Annual)	State		
\$5	Student/Low Income	(Annual)	Email		
	Gift (Tax-deductible)				
			Please make	checks payable t	o Olympic Park Associates.
			Your contribu	itions are tax-ded	uctable.

The value of an organization endeavoring to promote the protection and integrity of a World Heritage Site and its Wilderness is infinite.

Mail to:	Paul Robisch, Membership Chair,			
	P.O. Box 27560, Seattle, WA 98165-2560			