

VOICE of the WILD OLYMPICS

Olympic Park Associates

Founded in 1948

Vol. 13, Number 1
Spring 2005



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Old Ranch Has "Story to Tell"

Humes log cabin testifies to century past.



Humes Cabin. Photo by Ira Spring, 1973.

By Darrick Meneken. Copyright 2005, Peninsula Daily News, used by permission.

Russ Dalton ran his fingers over a century-old wall inside Humes Ranch, a log cabin 2½ miles from the nearest road inside the Elwha Valley.

"I've inspected every log in the cabin and they all have a little story to tell."

It was Thursday [February 17, 2005], 100 years to the day that brothers Grant and Will Humes, pioneers of the Olympic Peninsula, officially moved into their one-room wooden shack.

"This was the day they carried the stove up," Dalton said Thursday, speaking of a similar afternoon precisely a century earlier.

"To me that constitutes the first day on the job of living in the place."

A job indeed.

Will lived in the cabin for 10 years while Grant remained almost until his death 30 years later, forever plowing his name in the Olympic landscape.

"He lived a 19th century life well into the 20th century...horseback, kerosene lamps, water out of the creek," Dalton said.

Humes Ranch is the oldest standing structure inside Olympic National Park and was named to the National Register of Historic Places in 1975.

It outdates the park by at least 33 years and was completed eight years before the first Elwha River dam was constructed.

Its place high above the eastern banks of the Elwha River, beyond the Whiskey Bend trailhead, makes it an easy day hike and a popular destination.

To approach the cabin from the surrounding meadow is to place a muddy boot in a puddle of history.

"I guess I'd put it this way," said Dalton, a

(Continued on P. 3, Humes Ranch)

OPA Board Meetings:

Next: Wednesday, March 23, 2005; Wednesday, May 25, 2005
Time: 6:00 p.m.
Place: Kingston Community Center
Please join us. OPA members are always welcome at Board meetings.
The regular OPA Board meetings are in the Kingston Community Center on the 4th Wednesday of odd-numbered months, except no meeting in July.

How to Reach Your Members of Congress

U.S. Congress Switchboard: (202) 224-3121
 From this number you can reach any member of the US Senate or House of Representatives.

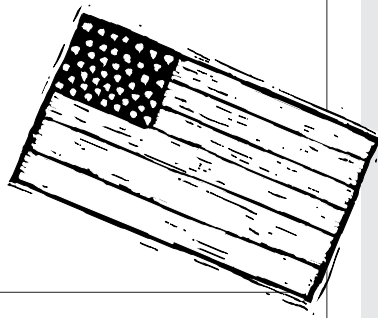
US Senate, Washington DC 20510 www.senate.gov

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Voice OF THE WILD OLYMPICS

is published three times per year by Olympic Park Associates.

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OPA membership dues are:

\$20 for individuals;

\$25 for families;

\$35 (or more) contributing member;

\$50 for organizations;

\$5 for students or low income individuals;

\$250 for an individual life membership.

Printed by EcoGraphics

on elemental-chlorine-free,

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Olympic Park Associates Joins Arctic National Wildlife Refuge Coalition

Subhankar Banerjee's exhibit on the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge will be shown at the Burke Museum June 25 – December 31, 2005. This exhibit created controversy at the Smithsonian, where it was stripped of its titles and moved to the basement. The exhibit to be shown at the Burke has been recreated with the original titles by the California Academy of Sciences.

Why should OPA be involved? A coalition of conservation organizations is partnering with the Burke Museum to create public events that will coincide with the Burke exhibit events and themes. This series includes high profile presentations by Peter Matthiessen, David Sibley, and local

conservationists, on the Arctic and related subjects. These other events will discuss the value of wilderness, wildlife, connections between the Arctic and the rest of the world, energy, global warming, and other related subjects. By joining this partnership, current *OPA members can visit the exhibit in September for half price*. OPA will also be able to display our brochures and information during some events at the Burke.

This is a great opportunity to reach the public and show how wilderness and wildlife are, and should be, a part of their lives. The next issue of Voice will provide a schedule of events you and your friends can attend.

Arctic National Wildlife Refuge: Seasons of Life and Land

Burke Museum, June 25–December 31, 2005

Forty-nine extraordinary photographs of the landscapes, wildlife, and people of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in Alaska by renowned photographer Subhankar Banerjee. The first person to document the life and land of the refuge through four seasons, Banerjee covered 4,000 miles to create a comprehensive portrait of the land the Gwich'in people call "The Sacred Place Where Life Begins." This exhibit of photography was designed and produced by the California Academy of Sciences with support from the Mountaineers and The Wilderness Society.

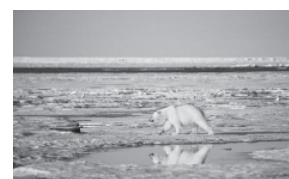


Photo by Subhankar Banerjee

Humes Ranch *Continued from P. 1*

Port Angeles native whose first backpacking trip as a child was to the cabin.

"You can walk into a little clearing where somebody lived and it's a little bit of a stretch to imagine how they lived.

"But if you can walk up to the old porch and look out, you can have a much greater sense of what it was like."

Some of the boards still creak, twigs still snap as black-tail deer graze nearby, and the Elwha River rushes as loudly as ever, despite two dams that now strangle its wild ride to the Strait of Juan de Fuca.

A Rugged Family

Grant and Will Humes were as wild and untamed as the river below their log cabin.

They came from a sugar bush family in the Adirondack Mountains of upstate New York and made money by horse and pack guiding in the rugged backcountry of the Olympics.

The brothers led the Seattle Mountaineers on their first assault of Mount Olympus in 1906, the same year San Francisco burned to the ground, and saw most of the Olympic Peninsula before the rest of America knew it existed.

They were well-read, and Grant maintained a respectable library at the cabin.

Back then, every book – in fact every single thing – had to be carried 10 miles by hand or horse. The road was shorter and the river – now on the other side of the valley – could be seen from the cabin's south-facing window.

By 1912, the brothers laid a telephone wire over all 10 miles of trail. It was, as Dalton says, "just a bare wire that ran all the way down the valley."

The cabin's kitchen annex was built around 1911, and

the roof was likely elevated at sometime in the 1940s, when Herb and Lois Crisler, pioneers in their own right, moved in.

Humes Ranch was restored in 1970 and 1980, but little has been done since.

Only about half of the original 60 or so logs remain, with newer wood in place of that which has rotted away. Dalton can tell which timber dates to when by the nature of each notch and gash.

The hand-cut logs chopped from the nearby hills and hewed by the Humeses have smoother edges than the chainsawed and cross-cut logs of later years.

"You just make it look as much like the original as possible," Dalton said.

He has a binder that identifies each log by the date and displayed this along with historical photos to more than a dozen visitors who made the hike for Thursday's 100th anniversary.

Buried in Port Angeles

Grant Humes is buried at Ocean View Cemetery in Port Angeles.

Neither he or Will ever had children.

Their closest relatives are nieces and nephews who live back in the Adirondacks.

Near the end of Thursday's stay at the cabin, Dalton turned his attention from the past.

"There are (logs) that need to be replaced now," he said.

"Funding is always a question for national parks. We would like to think there would be funds available to take this cabin into the next one hundred years."

If so, a new set of hands will trace the same logs in 2105.

Gifts of the Magi

by Tim McNulty

Over Christmas, the Bush administration bequeathed the regulatory equivalent of gold, frankincense and myrrh on its friends in the resource extraction industries. For those seeking to reap quick profits from public lands, it was a holiday like no other. Forest managers may now dispense with the untidiness of environmental impact statements. Endangered species protections are hobbled. And citizen review and comment on potentially harmful actions on public lands are swept under the carpet like so much dust.

The crowned heads of federal agencies trimmed their gifts in the wrappings of regulatory reform and “flexibility” for local managers. But the effect is a bonanza for loggers, miners, corporate ranchers and industrial recreationists who are lining up happily at the public trough.

It’s no surprise that the new rules went through over the holidays when most Americans are focused on home and family. The Bush team has become notorious for “Friday night surprises,” last minute regulatory pronouncements skillfully timed to miss the national news cycles. They know Americans care deeply about clean air and water, diminishing forests and endangered wildlife.

That’s why they cloak rule changes and resource giveaways with misnomers like Healthy Forests and Clear Skies. But this year’s Christmas bequests to the administration’s corporate clients abandoned all sense of decorum.

On December 22, the administration announced far-reaching new regulations that weaken protections for wildlife and limit citizen comment on destructive actions in national forests. Forest managers are no longer charged with maintaining “viable populations” of native wildlife in national forests. Clean water standards are weakened. Wilderness is opened to overuse. And forest supervisors are no longer required to complete environmental impact statements, offering a range of options and delimiting their impacts on public resources, for the next round of forest plans. Plans that increase log-

ging, mining or road building on 191 million acres of national forest lands are now categorically excluded from National Environmental Policy Act review.

The 1976 National Forest Management Act laid the foundation for forest management reforms over the past quarter-century. Under its rules and

resulting forest plans, forests, soils, rivers, fish and wildlife— including the northern spotted owl—were better protected. Clearcutting and other abuses were drastically reduced. No more.

Still on a roll at New Years, Bush appointees in the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service took a weakening

swipe at the Endangered Species Act. Ranchers may now shoot wolves reintroduced to the Rocky Mountain region on the mere suspicion that the animals are preying on stock. This is a big wet kiss to western ranchers and politicians who still have a burr in their saddles over the return of wolves to Yellowstone and Idaho—one of the most successful endangered species reintroductions in U.S. history.

On a related errand, Department of the Interior Secretary Gail Norton paid a winter visit to Yellowstone in late February. Not to look in on wolf recovery or see how bison populations are faring, the secretary took an extended

snowmobile ride through the park. Clad in a dark snowsuit, heavy boots and Darth Vader helmet, she proclaimed the noisy, polluting machines the best way for Americans to experience the glories of Yellowstone in winter. Her junket was a boon to the burgeoning snow machine industry that has sprouted up like exotic weeds in the small towns surrounding Yellowstone, but a blight on the park’s air, wildlife and wilderness.

Never before have federal resource agencies taken such a blatant stance on behalf of corporate interests—and at the cost of our most valuable natural treasures.

Or, to quote Jim Hightower, “Never have so few done so much for so few.”

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Interior Secretary Gail Norton took an extended snowmobile ride in Yellowstone National Park, proclaiming the noisy polluting machines the best way for Americans to experience the glories of Yellowstone in winter.

Clearcuts
Pollution
Industry perks
Public process
be damned.



“Never have so few done so much for so few.”

April 16 and 17: Join an OPA Conservation Field Trip to the Dosewallips

Join Olympic Park Associate members and other local conservationists for a trip to look at the washout of the Forest Service's Dosewallips River road adjacent to Olympic National Park. We will examine the effects upon the road of another winter and the river's meandering, and explore the issues of access to Olympic Forest and National Park trails and the Elkhorn and Olympic Park campgrounds.

We will meet at the washout road end on Saturday, April 16. Activities include hiking the road from the washout to Elkhorn Campground, and hiking the road up to the Park campground. We will explore the area where the Forest Service proposes rerouting the road past the washout, the condition of the road into the Park, and both campgrounds. A group

discussion will be held Saturday evening to discuss what we learned and the issues involved if the road is or isn't restored. Sunday morning will allow further examination of the area. The trip will conclude early Sunday afternoon.

Participants will need to bring the 10 essentials; hiking and overnight camping gear; food for Sat. lunch & Dinner, plus Sunday breakfast & lunch. Maps: 7 ½ min Quad = Mt Jupiter, The Brothers; Green Trails = The Brothers.

Contact Donna Osseward at <osseward@juno.com> or 206-362-3296 for more information and sign up. Depending on interest, it may be necessary to limit sign up.

Clash of the Titans: Olympic National Park vs. Quinault River

In a heroic effort to rescue an aging building, Olympic National Park airlifted emergency crews into Enchanted Valley this winter to change the course of the East Fork Quinault River. Fire and maintenance workers fought valiantly, felling trees into the unruly stream and filling wire mesh baskets with rocks to protect the

area. Chainsaws and pure grit were brought to battle. Supervisors circled above like eagles. But word from the front was not promising. The effort may be for naught.

Heavy winter floods shifted the course of the river in the East Fork, bringing it within 10 feet of the historic Enchanted Valley Chalet. A similar flood in 2000 placed the river 28 feet from the log building. On that occasion, park crews also cut trees and log jams in an attempt to steer the river back to its prior course.

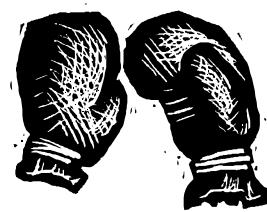
They were successful, until it rained.

Wild rivers are dynamic systems, particu-

larly in the wilderness of the Olympics. A team of University of Washington researchers are documenting the restless course of the nearby Queets River, as well as the ecological benefits this provides to forests, fish and wildlife. Their groundbreaking research was featured in a cover story in the *Seattle Times Pacific Northwest Magazine: A River Reigns Through It* (Jan. 30, 2005). Apparently park managers missed it.

The National Park Service is currently completing an environmental assessment on how best to manage the Enchanted Valley Chalet. The chalet, like many old structures in the park—some existing, some not—has been nominated for the National Register of Historic Places. Deadline for public comment ended March 10. A preferred alternative is due later this year.

Meanwhile, the river's preferred alternative seems apparent.



OPA Board Biography: John Woolley, Sequim, OPA Vice-President

John is a retired teacher of politics, the environment, history and the social sciences; and has lived in the Sequim area for more than thirty years. John and his wife, Nancy, have backpacked, day-hiked, and explored cross-country extensively in the Olympics, Cascades and much of the western United States. No vacation was left un-charted.

John holds a BA and MA in Transportation and International Business from the UW, and a Teaching Certificate from WWSU.

Currently active in the Olympic Forest Coalition (OFCO) efforts to monitor forest practices, John is vice-president and chair of OFCO's Olympic Wild committee. In addition, John is on the board of the Washington Trails Association (WTA), particularly interested in promoting wilderness ethics, and is a liaison and guide for Friends of Miller Peninsula State Park

April 23, 2005: 6th Annual Olympic Coast Beach Cleanup!

Last year more than **500 volunteers** participated in the Fifth Annual, 2004, Olympic Coast clean up.

In the finest tradition of community involvement, people drove from Bellingham, Twisp, Vancouver, Yakima and all points between. Volunteers represent all age groups, individuals, families, community groups and organizations and agency partners.

Marine debris collected in 2004: North Beach, **7 tons**; Olympic National Park, **14 tons**; Makah Tribe, **3 tons**, for a total of **24 tons** of trash collected.

Congratulations and thanks to ALL!

Now it's time to join in the Sixth Annual clean up of

Washington's beaches during the April 23, 2005 week-end.

You may come for just the one day, April 23, or spend 3 or 4 days on remote beaches in Olympic National Park. In the past some volunteers have put together a team of their friends or coworkers to clean up their favorite beach. Some beaches are easily accessible for younger people while most of the remote coast requires more experienced volunteers.

For information online: www.olympiccoastcleanup.us.

For additional information, call coordinator Jan Klippert, 206-364-2689.

Registration for Olympic Coast Cleanup

1. Register online at www.olympiccoastcleanup.us

2. OR use the form below and mail to: Jan Klippert, 14036 Meridian Ave. N, Seattle, WA 98133.

Note: Only one registration is required for a group going to a single area. For insurance reasons, ALL group members must sign-in at a Check-In location before starting cleanup activities. Thank You for helping!

Check-In

You must sign in at a Check-in Station before starting cleanup to get required permits and an info packet.

Primary Check-In is Saturday from 7:30 to 10:30 AM

Friday Check-In, for people going to remote sites, is 2:00-5:00 PM at designated Ranger Stations Only

To register for:	Register and Check-in at:
Makah Reservation beaches:	Makah Tribal Center in Neah Bay
First Beach and Quileute Reservation:	Use the Olympic Coast Cleanup form below or online, and you will receive further information on working with the Quileute Tribal Council.
All other areas, including Shi Shi Beach:	Use the Olympic Coast Cleanup form below or online and then go to the most convenient check-in on your first Cleanup day.

Mail-in Registration Form

**Mail to: Jan Klippert
14036 Meridian Ave. N,
Seattle, WA 98133.**

Name (First, Last): _____

Email: _____

Telephone: _____

Address (Optional): _____

Preferred Contact Mode (email, regular mail or phone): _____

Beach Selection: (choose for me: drive near, one day hike-in, multi-day hike-in, OR name a beach) _____

Inspection-hike beaches before Apr 2? (propose a beach or area) _____

Be a "Welcoming Volunteer" at: Forks Info Center, Mora, Kalaloch or Ozette Ranger Station _____

Send more info on: Olympic National Park Volunteering, or Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary, or 10th Anniversary Festivities of above _____

Can you give a ride/carpool, from where? _____

Do you need a ride, from where? _____

Olympic National Park Wildlife Update

by Bruce Moorhead

On January 25, I interviewed staff wildlife biologists, Drs. Patti Happe and Kurt Jenkins, at park headquarters in Port Angeles and discussed various wildlife issues and projects in the park—some species highlights follow.

Spotted Owls

Under provisions of the US Forest Service's (USFS) Regional Forest Management Plan, Olympic National Park and Olympic National Forest are among eight interagency monitoring areas established in the Pacific Northwest for the Northern Spotted Owl to assess this threatened bird's population trends over time. A meta-analysis of the trends in various subpopulations across the bird's range is repeated every five years. Olympic N.P. is the only National Park included in this trend assessment.

The park is scheduled to receive about \$118,000 in each of the next two years to continue this regional monitoring protocol; each year's effort requires a crew of nine people for several months. Getting additional funding was an important accomplishment, given the current political climate. No money was available to continue the effort beyond 2004 and monitoring results to date indicate that owls in Washington State are experiencing the most significant declines. On the Olympic Peninsula [in Olympic National Park (ONP) and Olympic National Forest (ONF)], the owl population is continuing to decline but at a somewhat lower rate than elsewhere in the state. These trends are expressed as rates of owl nest-territory abandonment.

The continuing decline of the spotted owl in Olympic N.P. is now believed to be directly related to the spread and increase of Barred Owls, an invading competitor species. For example, in the Elwha drainage about 25% of the available spotted owl habitat is now occupied by barred owls. Better information is rather urgently needed on the dietary overlap and behavioral relationships of these birds.

Mountain Goats

An aerial census of the introduced goat population was conducted in July 2004, using a helicopter block-count sampling procedure that was developed in the 1980s to census goats in higher-elevation areas of the park interior. A minimum population of 180-211 goats was estimated in 2004 from 30 sample units that were flown. To account for those goats not seen, the sample counts were adjusted to an overall population estimate of 289 +/- 15.7 (SE) goats, or a 95% confidence level that the total population is between 259-320 goats. This adjusted total of roughly 300 goats overall does not significantly differ from results in previous censuses in 1990, 1994, and 1997.

While the overall number of goats may not have changed much, there is evidence of local changes in the count areas, as shown in Table 1.

In 2004, a group of about 20 goats repeatedly seen by campers in Seven Lakes Basin may have come from nearby Mt. Carrie (see above).

Mountain goats are declining significantly in the Cascade Mountains and these census efforts in Olympic are

now part of an ongoing cooperative effort with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, North Cascades N.P. and Mt. Rainier N.P. to conduct a statewide census in 2005-2007. As part of this effort, the Olympic staff plans to mark-and-release up to 10 goats in the park this summer to aid in developing an improved "sightability correction factor" (ratio of goats seen to those actually present) and thereby enable a more accurate and comparable census across the state.

Table 1.

Census Unit	Goats seen 1997	Goats seen 2004	Difference
Mt. Olympus	29	60	+31
Bailey Range	18	27	+9
Mt. Carrie	18	21	+3
Chimney Pk.	48	50	+2
Mt. Anderson	18	1	-17
Northeast	5	4	-1
Klahhane	2	0	-2
Southeast	5	5	0
Mt. Washington	10	12	+2

Fisher Reintroduction

A statewide fisher habitat and reintroduction-feasibility analysis was completed by the WA Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) in 2004, and recommended western ONP as the best place remaining in the state for fisher restoration. Two related WDFW reports are available online at www.wdfw.wa.gov/wildlife. (See also the fisher story in the Voice, Fall 2004.)

A joint state-federal NEPA analysis of the reintroduction project is starting this winter, with an estimated completion next year. The park would prefer to obtain animals for reintroduction from British Columbia, due to their genetic proximity, but this may be difficult since the species is already red-listed there. Fishers in northern California are also available but would also be difficult to obtain for similar reasons. Western Alberta may be the best location remaining to obtain animals, but that too is unclear at this stage.

The status of the fisher is not the only mustelid concern now in Olympic. Small carnivore camera-trap surveys in the past two years at 48 different locations in the park have yielded no evidence of Pine Marten. The last reliable sighting of a marten in the park was over 10 years ago. Similar surveys in Mt. Rainier and North Cascade N.P.s indicate sizable marten populations. Biologists at Olympic suspect these declines are probably related to massive trapping and poisoning efforts early in the 20th century, in combination with major declines in salmon carcasses along most watersheds.

Continued on p. 8, Wildlife.

OPA Asks Forest Service for Environmental Assessment on Proposed Hamma Hamma Road Repair

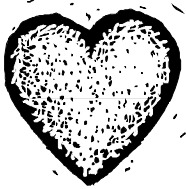
Letter to Olympic National Forest from OPA

Olympic Park Associates has recently become aware of the washout on FSR 25 at milepost 12, in the Hamma Hamma Valley. We understand that the site of the washout is located within an overlapping Late Successional Reserve and Riparian Reserve. It has additionally come to our attention that the Forest Service has received ERFO funds to address the washout, with the current proposal involving a relocation of the road twenty feet farther from the river, which is actively undercutting the existing road prism and the bench upon which it was constructed.

OPA is concerned that, based on information contained within the Forest Service's Schedule of Proposed Actions, the FSR 25

washout project will be pushed through via categorical exclusion. We urge instead that an environmental assessment be conducted, which would allow formal public input, along with a more detailed analysis of possible alternatives offering fewer risks to adjacent terrestrial and aquatic habitats. In particular, we would be in favor of an EA alternative that studies the benefits of decommissioning the final one and one-half mile of FSR 25 above the washout and converting this section to a non-motorized trail. We would appreciate updates on this issue as they occur. Thank you for considering our requests, as well as for your ongoing commitment to involving the public in complex management decisions such as this.

Olympic National Park Honors Volunteers



Olympic National Park Superintendent Bill Laitner recently welcomed a group of dedicated park volunteers at a celebration at the park visitor center in Port Angeles. He thanked them for their many hours of "working from their hearts", and presented several of them with the President's Volunteer Service Award.

Long time volunteer Ray Lovely received the President's Volunteer Service Award of Lifetime Achievement for his 6,000-plus hours of volunteer work completed since 1991. He has coordinated volunteer work on the park's accessible frontcountry trails, such as the Living Forest trail at the Olympic National Park Visitor Center, Lake Crescent's Moments in Time trail, and the Kestner Homestead trail in the Quinault Valley.

Visitor Center volunteers Bill Hixson and Lu Lovely and natural resources volunteer

Helen Kushman received the President's Volunteer Service Bronze award for donating 100 to 249 hours of service this year. Visitor Center volunteers Frank Welch and Marion Prentiss received silver awards for their contributions of between 250 and 499 hours in 2004. Emilia Belserene received a gold award for over 1,000 volunteer hours this year in the park's wilderness resources program.

More than 900 volunteers contributed over 76,000 hours of service to Olympic National Park in 2004, helping in a wide variety of roles, ranging from staffing visitor information desks and leading educational walks, to assisting with maintenance projects, patrolling the park's wilderness backcountry, accomplishing revegetation projects and nurturing plants in the park greenhouse.

Wildlife

Continued from P. 7.



Black Bear Research

Fifteen black bears have been captured, radio-collared and monitored in the northern part of the park in the past year or two—the first bear studies within the park. The intent of the study is obtain useful, benchmark information about bears in the lower Elwha and Hurricane Ridge vicinity before the Elwha dams are removed.

Enough information has been obtained from 10 of the bears for an M.S. thesis about the seasonal activity of bears in this part of the

park. Two of the collared female bears have remained rather close to where they were captured, and their reproductive cycles have been monitored. Collared male bears have moved greater distances; e.g., to the Dosewallips drainage and back. The project has been marred by problems with the radio-satellite transmitters and only two of the radios are currently working. The manufacturer has recently given the park 10 more of these transmitters, so more information may be obtained prior to dam removal.

Swifts & Swallows (Sp, S): Look for Vaux and Black Swifts is in open areas

along the Elwha Road in ONP. Look overhead from the park entrance south to the Elwha Ranger Station, and farther south, where the road

climbs out of the forest into an open area at the Lake Mills dam site. This location is good also for Violet-green, Cliff, Rough-wing and Barn Swallows. Tree Swallow is a spring migrant, and nests also in some lowland areas near Port Angeles and Sequim.

Thrushes: Varied Thrush (Y) is resident in lowland and montane conifer forests, e.g., along the Elwha or Hurricane Ridge Roads in the park. Fairly common, but not always easily viewed. Early or late in the day, forages

(like a robin) on or near the ground along forest roads or in campgrounds; often seen just after a rain. Swainson's (S) and Hermit Thrushes (S) also common in park forests, respectively, at lower and higher elevations. Townsend's Solitaire (S) is often seen in summer in subalpine forest habitats along the Hurricane Ridge Road in the park.

Vireos: Hutton's (Y) and Warbling (S) Vireos are relatively common in forested valleys, like the Elwha; Cassin's Vireo also occurs here but more erratically.

Warblers: Orange-crowned and Yellow-rumped Warblers (Sp, S, F) are probably the most widespread warblers on the Olympic Peninsula, in a diversity of forest habitats at most elevations. Townsend's (S) and Black-throated Gray Warbler (S) are common spring migrants in conifer forest.

Townsend's, in particular, nests throughout the old growth forest canopy of the park. A good place to find them in late spring-early summer is along the small overlook trail at the parking area near the entrance to the first tunnel along the Hurricane Ridge Road. The Hermit Warbler (Sp, S) occurs in the upper canopy of mid-elevation conifer forests of the eastern Olympic Peninsula, e.g., along the upper Mt. Walker road in Olympic National Forest south of Quilcene. Reliable observations of this bird elsewhere are rare; moreover, the two species are known to hybridize here. Wilson's and MacGillivray's Warblers (Sp, S) are also common spring migrants in lowland forest-shrub edges and brushy roadsides. Yellow (S) Warblers are found in open, lowland scrub, particularly near water.

Western Tanager (Sp, S): Nests commonly in lowland forests in and around the park; e.g., along the Elwha River Road.

Grosbeaks: Black-headed Grosbeak (S) is common in lowland, deciduous forests, e.g., along major river valleys such as the Elwha and Sol Duc.

Evening Grosbeak (S) is also fairly common but more erratically observed in lowland, deciduous forests; e.g., near the Elwha Campground. Purple Finch (Sp, S) is common locally in open forest-edge sites; best located by its short, warbley song from the tree canopy. Pine Grosbeak (W): reported occasionally on Hurricane Ridge.

Pine Siskin (Y): Common resident of coniferous forests on the Peninsula; Hurricane Ridge Road.

Red Crossbill (S): Erratic but fairly common in coniferous forests of the park, particularly at higher elevations like Hurricane Ridge Road.

March 31, 2004, Olympic Park Associates.



Cliff Swallow



Varied thrush



Vireo



Yellow-rumped warbler



Black-throated gray warbler



Western tanager



Purple finch



Red crossbill

Birding Notes

for Northern Olympic National Park and Vicinity

By Bruce B. Moorhead, Retired Wildlife Biologist, Olympic National Park

Information Sources

Books (Available at American Birding Association (aba.org) and Amazon.com.)
A Birder's Guide to Washington (2003) by Hal Opperman and
A Birder's Guide to Coastal Washington (2001) by Bob Morse.
Olympic National Park Visitor Center, 600 E. Park Ave., Port Angeles, WA.
Natural history publications. You can also purchase a
Checklist, *Olympic Wildlife*, lists birds and other wildlife found in the park.

Internet:

www.nps.gov/olymp Official Olympic National Park website
www.olympus.net/opas Olympic Peninsula Audubon Society (OPAS)
www.olympus.net/opas/where-to.htm Bird-finding brochure for northern Olympic Peninsula by OPAS
www.dungenessrivercenter.org (Dungeness River Audubon Center, Sequim
www.scn.org/earth/tweeters Tweeters, WA & BC birders' website

Habitats of Northern Olympic Peninsula

The northern Olympic Peninsula, the northwestern-most corner of Washington State, is comprised of three major habitats, each with good birding sites:

1. Pacific Marine Coast:

- Ediz Hook Road, along outer harbor of Port Angeles; and Salt Creek County Park, west of Port Angeles.
- The Elwha River Road, 10 miles west of Port Angeles.
- The Sequim-Dungeness River valley east of Port Angeles, and nearby coastal habitats along the Strait of Juan de Fuca and Dungeness National Wildlife Refuge.
- The outer Pacific Ocean coast at Neah Bay, or Cape Alava within Olympic National Park, about 75 miles west of Port Angeles. Also Lake Ozette.

2. Mixed Conifer Forest: Elwha, Sol Duc, and Hoh River valleys and Lake Crescent.

3. Glaciated Mountains: Hurricane Ridge Road in Olympic National Park.

Seasons and Access

At low elevations in spring and early summer, it's especially good to bird in early morning along the roads and trails of any of the major northern river valleys in the park. For example:

Access to higher elevations in the park in spring and summer is best along the Hurricane Ridge Road, the easiest and quickest route for variety of montane birds and access to some upper elevation trails. Access dates here vary from year to year due to late-winter snow cover. Inquire at the park's Visitor Center in Port Angeles for the latest road information and driving directions.

Selected Species & Locations

Time of year when most observed: Sp = Spring (March-May); S = Summer (June-August); F = Fall (Sept-Nov.); W = Winter (Dec.-Feb.); Y = All Year.

Pacific Marine Coast

Marbled Murrelet (Sp, S) Small, threatened seabird that nests 10-30 miles inland from the ocean within the upper canopy of oldgrowth, coniferous trees. Makes daily migrations carrying small fish from the ocean deep into the forest to feed its single chick. The park has the largest intact breeding population of this bird remaining in the Pacific Northwest. Observed fairly regularly near shore, esp. morning & evening. Ediz Hook Road in Port Angeles provides easy access to the outer beach that encloses the inner harbor of Port Angeles. Search the inner & outer shoreline along this road, from Nippon Paper Mill out to U.S. Coast Guard Station. You may also occasionally see **Ancient Murrelets** in mid-winter from the Ediz Hook Road, along the outer shoreline.

Harlequin Duck (Y) Commonly observed most of the year along the inner shoreline of the Ediz Hook Road. Also common inland during breeding season in spring-early summer along major rivers of the park; Along the Elwha River Road, often seen perching in midstream on boulders. Nests on the ground or in a tree cavity close to the water.

Other coastal birds observed commonly along Ediz Hook Road:

Loons: Common & Red-throated (F, W, Sp);

Grebes: Red-necked, Western and Horned (F, W, Sp);

Alcids: Pigeon Guillemot (Y), Rhinoceros Auklet (S);

Cormorants: Pelagic & Brandt's (Y)

Geese & Ducks: Canada Goose (Y), Brant (W, Sp), Mallard (Y), American Wigeon (F, W, Sp), Greater Scaup (F, W, Sp), Surf Scoter (Y), Bufflehead (F, W, Sp), Common & Barrow's Goldeneye (F, W, Sp); Red-breasted Merganser (W, Sp);

Shorebirds: Black-bellied Plover (F, W, Sp), Whimbrel (W), Black Turnstone (F, W, Sp) Western Sandpiper (F, W, Sp), Dunlin (F, W, Sp), Black Oystercatcher (W, Sp);

Gulls: Glaucous-winged (Y), Glaucous-winged & Western Hybrids (Y)

Heermann's (S, F), Bonaparte's (W), and Thayer's Gulls (W);

Raptors: Bald Eagle (Y), Merlin (W), Peregrine Falcon (W).

Mixed Conifer Forest:

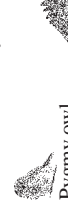
Spotted Owl (Sp) Occurs widely in low densities throughout old growth coniferous forests of the park, although rarely detected due to access difficulties. Olympic National Park has one of the largest remaining intact populations; about 200 breeding pairs are estimated in the park. Best located by imitating its call at night, for example along Elwha or Sol Duc Roads in early spring.



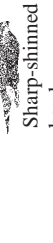
Saw-whet owl



Screech owl



Pygmy owl



Sharp-shinned hawk



Red-tailed Hawk



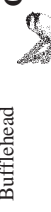
Blue Grouse



Pileated Woodpecker



Hairy woodpecker



Black-capped chickadee



Bewick's wren



Kinglet



Junco

Other Owls: Pygmy, Western Screech, and Saw-whet Owl are the most common species in the park. Great Horned Owl, Barn Owl & Short-eared Owl also present at lower elevations. The Barred Owl is an invading species; Snowy Owl (W) observed occasionally at Ediz Hook or Dungeness NWR.

Other Raptors: Bald Eagle (Y) nests along lowland river valleys and outer coast of Olympic Peninsula year-round but most commonly seen in winter. Golden Eagle (Sp, S, F) nests in Olympic Mountains, rather commonly seen along the Hurricane Ridge Road in the park during summer. Goshawk (Y) nests in Olympic Mountains but less commonly observed.

Sharp-shinned Hawk (S, F) nests in Olympic Mountains, most commonly observed as migrant. Harrier (Y) common in open fields year-round and along open high ridges in fall. Red-tailed Hawk (Y) is the most common large raptor on the Olympic Peninsula. Merlin (Sp, S, F) nests on western Olympic Peninsula but most commonly seen in migration. Peregrine (W) nests at several locations along outer coast but most commonly seen in winter along Ediz Hook Road and Dungeness NWR. Turkey Vulture (Sp, S) nests here but seen most often during spring migration through the lowlands.

Grouse: Blue Grouse (Sp, S, F), a common nesting species throughout Olympic Mountains, most commonly observed along Hurricane Ridge Road.

Ruffed Grouse (S, F), another nesting species, more common at lower elevations than blue grouse.

Woodpeckers: Pileated Woodpecker (Y), Red-breasted Sapsucker (Y) & Hairy Woodpecker (Y): Common in old growth coniferous forests in ONP, e.g. along Elwha or Sol Duc Roads.

Chickadees: Chestnut-backed Chickadee (Y): Most common chickadee in park forests at all elevations. Black-capped Chickadee (Y) less common, found only at lower elevations in more open forest or farmland habitat not far from the coast.

Wrens: Winter Wren (Y): One of the most common birds in the park, in low to mid-elevation coniferous forests, but more often heard than seen.

Bewick's and Marsh Wren (Sp, S) found locally at lower elevations.

Kinglets: Golden-crowned Kinglet (Y): Very common year around in conifer and deciduous forests throughout the Olympic Peninsula. Their calls are perhaps the most frequently heard bird sounds from surrounding, high canopy when walking through forests. Ruby-crowned Kinglet (Y) also occurs here but not as common.

Dark-eyed Junco (Y): Perhaps the most plentiful, widespread bird at all elevations in ONP.

American Dipper (Y): Common along major rivers and rocky streams in park, e.g., Elwha or Sol Duc River roads.



Dipper

Saving the Sockeye Salmon of Lake Ozette

by Philip H. Zalesky, Secretary, Olympic Park Associates

In the 1990s, the population of lake-spawning Sockeye salmon in Lake Ozette crashed to between 350 to 500 spawners, a decline of 90-98% in the past 45 years. "The Lake Ozette Sockeye salmon population is in serious trouble.... If this trend continues, this population will soon be extinct." That was the unanimous conclusion reached by a panel of four respected Sockeye salmon experts at a conference on the Lake Ozette fishery in Port Angeles in 1996. The causes of decline may include many conditions - global warming altering ocean feeding habitat, spread of exotic species such as reed canary grass, increased turbidity of the lake, and lower lake levels.

These Sockeye salmon at Lake Ozette, an evolutionary significant strain as defined under the Endangered Species Act, spawn on gravel near the shoreline. A prime cause for their decline appears to be siltation and turbidity. Siltation is smothering the close-to-shore gravel beds that form the spawning redds. The extremely erodible soils within the Ozette basin have produced highly destructive levels of fine sediments in the lake and caused mass wasting in areas of the watershed. Flash floods from winter streams result in high turbidity levels in the lake. In Big River and Umbrella Creek, near some of the prime spawning areas, the turbidity levels can reach three times the Washington State standards for turbidity. Turbidity interferes with juveniles' feeding so that, although zooplankton food supply is more than adequate, the juvenile salmon cannot see their prey. They cannot just go deeper because the turbidity also reaches deep levels.

This siltation is the result of logging and road building. One estimate has 90% of the Ozette basin as having been previously logged. Dramatically increased logging has occurred since the 1950s and most heavily in the 1980s.

The Sockeye Salmon Panel Report

The previous Superintendent of Olympic National Park, David Morse, noting that the National Park Service has "a mandate to protect its native wildlife," convened the Lake Ozette Sockeye Salmon Conference. Morse brought in four eminent fishery biologists to analyze the conditions of the Sockeye. This conference produced a technical report in 1999, **The Sockeye Salmon *Oncorhynchus nerka* Population in Lake Ozette, Washington.**

The panel concluded that the population of sockeye salmon had declined by 90% to 98% over the last 45 years. Numbers from fishery biologists of the National Park Service presently indicate a run of spawning sockeye of 2,000 to 3,000. Historic figures based mostly on the Makah Indian tribal fishery take suggested 5,000 to 6,000 spawning sockeye in 1926, and a 1950s figure based on the numbers fished by the Makah tribal fishermen was 15,000. Figuring that they had harvested only half the fish, the total becomes 30,000 spawning sockeye. Three times between 1940 and 1950 there were returns estimated at over 10,000. Some of these figures may be exaggerated, and further research is

needed. No question remains, however, about a vast decline.

Habitat Degradation Leads to Sockeye Decline

The panel's report on Sockeye salmon endangerment suggested that logging and logging roads with resulting siltation into the lake may be the principal source of the fish's decline, although other factors may contribute.

As a result of the findings from the conference, Morse sought congressional funding for a definitive scientific study within the General Management Plan for the park. The study would determine the status of the Sockeye salmon in Lake Ozette, with recovery of the species being a prime aspect of the plan.

Genetic Uniqueness Linked with Vulnerable Habitat

The leading cause of peril in 85% of endangered species is habitat degradation due to human-related activities. By the time most species are listed on the Endangered Species List, their numbers are so low that even short term survival appears in doubt.

A return of only 500 Lake Ozette spawners could, in time, diminish the genetic viability of the species.

The scientific panel indicated that "The population is almost certainly an evolutionary significant unit as defined under the Endangered Species Act." Lake Ozette sockeye salmon show genetically unique characteristics. They return from the ocean after two to three years, swimming up the Ozette River into the lake. But unlike many other species of sockeye salmon, such as the heavy runs into the Quinault River, they do not spawn in the Ozette River or the tributary streams feeding Lake Ozette. This genetically unique unit spawns along the lakeshore, using the gravel near the shore.

Attempts to increase the population through an Indian hatchery at Umbrella Creek have not produced spawners in the creek. And the panel scientists, worried about hatchery production leading to too great a genetic alteration of the Lake Ozette species, warned against attempting anything other than small scale and experimental hatchery production.

Saving the Sockeye of Lake Ozette: Restore the Habitat

Olympic Park Associates has a history of interest in Lake Ozette, Washington's third largest lake. Our organization successfully convinced Congress to add a strip of shore around Lake Ozette to Olympic National Park in 1986. That strip of land averages 1/4 of a mile wide. OPA has never regarded that narrow strip as adequate protection for the lake. (See page 40, "The Voice of the Wild Olympics: the 50th Anniversary Edition.") We have always felt that to keep the lake in pristine condition the basin of Lake Ozette should be protected, too. But in 1986 the enabling act for the park placed acreage limitations on the size of the park. However, those limitations have since been removed, and more than ever, now, because of the recent Sockeye salmon findings, we advocate the addition of the lake basin

Continued on P. 12, Sockeye



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Sockeye, *Continued from P. 11.*

to the park, or some other creative, equally effective means of protecting the lake and the watershed.

Ten percent of the Ozette basin is WA Department of Natural Resources land. The lake itself and the strip of land around it is under the jurisdiction of the National Park Service. The remaining 67% is privately owned by industrial forest interests.

Restoration to stabilize old logging roads and forest cuts to minimize siltation will require time. Can the salmon survive the time needed to stave off extinction and remain viable?

The first step should be Congressional funding for Olympic National Park General Management Plan budget, to support Sockeye salmon research leading to recommendations for salmon recovery.

Further funding may be required to carry out habitat restoration. OPA would like to see the basin purchased and placed under National Park Service jurisdiction, for they have a mandate to preserve this native wild species within the lake. Other creative solutions might include working with the Clallam County, Department of Natural Resources, state Department of Washington Fish and Wildlife, and possibly others to carry out zoning restrictions within the basin, to limit the type and extent of road building and logging. Ultimately the National Park Service's mandate may require captive breeding projects to rescue this genetic line.

The need for a fully funded solution is urgent. If we cannot restore this habitat to viable conditions, this evolutionary significant genetic strain of Sockeye salmon may become extinct, and National Park Service will have failed to fulfill its mandate.