

# VOICE of the WILD OLYMPICS

Olympic Park Associates

Founded in 1948

Vol. 17, Number 1  
Winter  
2009



## Contents

OPA Meetings	2
Elwha Chinook Redds Destroyed	3
OPA Says No to Weakening of ESA Rules	3
Wolf Update	4
Logging Trucks Proposed in Lyre River	5
Dosewallips Road Washout	6
Tires Removed from Hurricane Ridge	7
Olympic Coast Nat'l Marine Sanctuary Management	8
Belated 70th Birthday, Olympic National Park	9
E-Mail Address: OPA Wants Yours!	10
Attacks on Ocean Strip	11

## More Fishers Return to Olympics



Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife photo.

by Tim McNulty

This winter saw the introduction of 29 more fishers into the forests of Olympic National Park, bringing the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife close to the half-way mark in its goal for fisher restoration.

Fishers are expert hunters. They are catlike members of the weasel family with luxurious brown coats. Because their fur was so valuable on the market, fishers were hunted to extinction in the Olympics largely before the park was created. The fisher was listed as endangered by the state of Washington in 1998, and a recovery plan was developed that targeted the forests of Olympic National Park as the best habitat for the animal's recovery. The plan calls for releasing 100 fishers in the Olympics over a three-year period.

That goal came closer this winter as fifteen of the small, lithe predators were released into the snowy Elwha and Sol Duc valleys in

December. In January, 14 more were let go in the Hoh, Queets and Skokomish valleys, bringing the total number of fishers in the Olympics to 43. A further release is planned for this winter. The animals are fitted with radio transmitters and they are closely monitored. Eighteen fishers were released into the park last winter; only three are known to have died. The rest are occupying a range of habitats across the peninsula, some traveling nearly 30 miles before establishing home territories. One traveled 60 miles from the Elwha to the Makah Reservation. The journey took six months.

The January release was the first into the eastern Olympics. Scientists originally thought the higher elevations forests of the east side were less than optimal for fishers. The animals thought otherwise. At least three from last winter's release traveled to the east side. All were females,

*Continued on P. 3, Fisher*

## OPA Board Meetings:

**Next:** March 25  
**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 the 3rd Weds in November to avoid Thanksgiving, and 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.

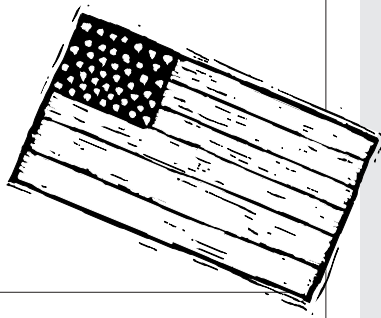
### US Senate, Washington DC 20510 [www.senate.gov](http://www.senate.gov)

#### Senator Patty Murray

Phone (DC): 202-224-2621  
 Fax: 202-224-0238  
 Seattle: 206-553-5545  
 E-mail: [Senator\\_Murray@murray.senate.gov](mailto:Senator_Murray@murray.senate.gov)

#### Senator Maria Cantwell

Phone (DC): 202-224-3441  
 Fax: 202-228-0514  
 Seattle: 206-220-6400  
 E-Mail: [maria\\_cantwell@cantwell.senate.gov](mailto:maria_cantwell@cantwell.senate.gov)



### US House of Representatives, Washington DC 20515 [www.house.gov](http://www.house.gov)

**Representative Jay Inslee, Dist. 1**  
 308 Cannon House Office Building  
 Phone (DC): 202-225-6311  
 FAX: 202-226-1606  
 WA: 425-640-0233  
 Web: [www.house.gov/inslee](http://www.house.gov/inslee)

**Representative Rick Larsen, Dist. 2**  
 1529 Longworth HOB  
 Phone (DC): 202-225-2605  
 FAX: 202-225-4420  
 WA: 425-252-3188  
 Web: [www.house.gov/larsen](http://www.house.gov/larsen)

**Representative Brian Baird, Dist. 3**  
 1721 Longworth HOB  
 Phone (DC): 202-225-3536  
 FAX: 202-225-3478  
 WA: 360-695-6292  
 email: [brian.baird@mail.house.gov](mailto:brian.baird@mail.house.gov)

**Representative Doc Hastings, Dist. 4**  
 1323 Longworth HOB  
 Phone (DC): 202-225-5816  
 FAX: 202-225-3251  
 WA: 509-543-1972  
 Web: [www.house.gov/hastings](http://www.house.gov/hastings)

**Rep. Cathy McMorris, Dist. 5**  
 1708 Longworth HOB  
 Washington, DC 20515-4705  
 Phone: (202) 225-2006  
 Web: [www.mcmorris.house.gov](http://www.mcmorris.house.gov)

**Representative Norm Dicks, Dist. 6**  
 2467 Rayburn HOB  
 Phone (DC): 202-225-5916  
 Fax: 202-225-1176  
 Toll-free 800-947-NORM (947-6676)  
 Web: [www.house.gov/dicks](http://www.house.gov/dicks)

**Rep. Jim McDermott, Dist. 7**  
 1035 Longworth HOB  
 Phone (DC): 202-225-3106  
 FAX: 202-225-6197  
 WA: 206-553-7170  
 Web: [www.house.gov/mcdermott](http://www.house.gov/mcdermott)

**Rep. David G. Reichert, Dist. 8**  
 1223 Longworth HOB  
 Phone (DC): (202) 225-7761  
 Web: [www.house.gov/reichert](http://www.house.gov/reichert)

**Rep. Adam Smith, Dist. 9**  
 116 Cannon HOB  
 Phone (DC): 202-225-8901  
 FAX: 202-225-5893  
 Toll free 1-888-smith09 (764-8409)  
 Web: [www.house.gov/adamsmith](http://www.house.gov/adamsmith)

## Olympic Park Associates Board of Trustees

*\*Executive Committee*

### President

\*Donna Osseward Seattle

### Vice President

\*John Woolley Sequim

### Secretary

\*Philip Zalesky Edmonds

### Treasurer

\*Tom Bihn Port Angeles

John Bridge Sequim

\*Paul Crawford Port Angeles

\*Polly Dyer Seattle

John Edwards Seattle

David Friedman Seattle

Patrick Goldsworthy Seattle

Ben Greuel Sattle

Daniel Lieberman Port Angeles

Joe Mentor, Jr. Seattle

Tim McNulty Sequim

Bruce Moorhead Port Angeles

Mary Peck Port Angeles

Sally Soest Seattle

Laura Zalesky Edmonds

### Advisory Board Members

Dick Goin Port Angeles

Carsten Lien Seattle

Randall Payne Renton

Rick Rutz Friday Harbor

Jim Scarborough Bellingham

Norman Winn Seattle

### Membership Chair

Laura Zalesky 2433 Del Campo Dr.  
 Everett, WA 98208

### Newsletter Editor

Sally W. Soest 2055 43rd Ave. E. #202  
 Seattle, WA 98112

### OPA's Web Page

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

## Voice 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:

\$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,  
 50% recycled paper,  
 20% post-consumer waste.



# Elwha Water Treatment Plant Construction Destroys Salmon Redds



Between 30 and 45 Chinook salmon redds (egg nests) were destroyed by construction activities on the lower Elwha River this fall. Elwha Klallam tribal habitat biologist Mike McHenry reported that the damage occurred during construction of a \$70 million industrial water treatment facility for the City of Port Angeles, part of the Elwha River restoration funded by the National Park Service.

Elwha Chinook are a keystone species in the restoration. Puget Sound chinook numbers have dropped precipitously in recent years and they are currently listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act. McHenry estimated that the damage may have affected 15 percent of the 2008 Chinook run for the Elwha River.

A spokesman for Watts Constructors, one of the two contractors doing the project, told the *Peninsula Daily News*, "We were darned careful out there. We had three seasons to do the work in the river, and got it all done in one. So, concerning any damage that was done, I think we did a lot less than we could have."

McHenry said the damage was avoidable and should not have happened. Olympic National Park and the National Marine Fisheries Service are conducting inquiries into the matter.

## OPA Opposed Weakening Rules on Endangered Species Act

In October Olympic Park Associates (OPA) notified the Bush administration of our opposition to proposed changes in the rules governing interagency cooperation under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA).

OPA considers the Endangered Species Act a necessary component in maintaining species and gene diversity. These benefits will accrue to us in the form of healthier ecosystems and healthier lives. OPA has worked for sixty years to preserve wilderness habitat. Wilderness safeguards clean water and air and biodiversity, necessary to the health and prosperity of humans.

The proposed changes in the ESA would subvert the intent of Congress and the public by allowing agencies to make decisions regarding their projects without the benefit of necessary expertise. The primary rationale for the En-

dangered Species Act was to provide such expertise to the agencies whose projects affect the environment, thus eliminating the need for each agency to hire and maintain its own properly trained scientists. Significantly, the proposed rule changes would exacerbate the effects of global warming by reducing ESA protection for at-risk species.

The proposed new rules complicate procedures, place new burdens on the service agencies, and introduce unrealistic timelines. OPA urged the withdrawal of these rule changes as they were unnecessary and harmful to our environment now and in the future.

*Fisher, continued from P. 1*

so at least two males were introduced into the east-side mix this winter.

The reintroductions are coordinated by biologists from the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, U.S. Geological Survey, and Olympic National Park. Bellingham-based Conservation Northwest assisted with logistics and provided funding for capturing the animals in British Columbia.

So far, this has been an astounding successful reintroduction. Fishers have brought the Olympic ecosystem one step closer to wholeness. And the knowledge that scientists gain about this reclusive species will help recovery projects in other areas of the Northwest.

For more information on the restoration including monthly updates, go to:

<http://wdfw.wa.gov/wlm/diversty/soc/fisher/reintro.htm>

## A Wolf Update

by Bruce Moorhead

Bruce Moorhead is an OPA trustee and retired wildlife biologist in Olympic National Park.

The Gray Wolf has been in the news in the Northern Rocky Mountain states as well as in Washington State in 2008 and early 2009.

In wolf news in the Rocky Mountain states, in 2009 the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) removed federal protection for all wolves in Montana and Idaho, after determining that management plans prepared by these states will adequately assure a minimum of 15 breeding pairs and 150 wolves in each state, along with target population levels of about 400 wolves in Montana and 500 in Idaho. In contrast, as an early action by the new administration of President Obama, the USFWS reinstated federal protection for those wolves in Wyoming, after determining that they would not receive sufficient protection by the state “due to a lack of adequate regulatory mechanisms ensuring their protection under [Wyoming] state law.”<sup>1</sup>

At the top of wolf news in Washington State was the rather surprising discovery last summer of wolves breeding in the North Cascade Mountains of Washington once again for the first time in 75 years. In July 2008, a pair of wild wolves with six pups was confirmed in Okanogan County near Twisp.<sup>2,3</sup> Subsequent genetic testing determined the origin of the animals to be British Columbia, rather than Yellowstone National Park. Wolves dispersing apparently from the new population in Yellowstone, however, have been recorded in northeastern and southeastern Washington since 2005.<sup>4</sup>

Photo by Tracy Brooks.



This news was followed in August, 2008, by a draft of a Wolf Conservation and Management Plan<sup>5</sup> for Washington State by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW). This draft was completed under the guidance of a 17-person citizen panel, and a scientific advisory group, appointed by the WDFW Director. The 76-page document provides for a

total of about 15 successfully breeding wolf pairs across the state. Fifteen “successfully” breeding pairs does not mean merely 30 wolves in Washington, however, since the new pups and other subadults (e.g., 1-2 year old animals) born to the 15 pairs may amount to a standing number of 75 or more animals at any time. Target wolf population levels locally in the three wolf regions identified by the state will be developed as further information becomes available. On the face of it, though, the plan seems like a rather modest, even token, effort thus far in effective wolf recovery planning across the varied habitats of Washington State, and appears to focus more on minimizing livestock loss now than on recovering any adequately wolf-healthy ecosystems over the longer term.

Last but not least, a provocatively interesting scientific paper was published in 2008 by two Oregon State University scientists, Robert Beschta and William Ripple.<sup>6</sup> They reveal the potential folly of removing a major predator from a large wilderness. They suggest that a serious and potentially “unraveling” ecosystem scenario has been occurring in the immense, rainforest valleys of Olympic National Park due to the impact of wolf removal over 80 years ago. Through retrospective on-site analysis, they infer significant changes in riparian plant communities (e.g., significantly decreasing cottonwood trees) and river channel morphology (e.g., significantly widening channels) at several locations in the park in the decades following removal of wolves by early homesteaders on the western Olympic Peninsula. These trends suggest that increased grazing by elk and deer, after removal of wolves, has led to a “cascade” of ramifying and degrading changes in the park, causing a landscape-level “unraveling” of the structure and stability of the riparian ecosystems.

While such research may laudably sharpen public and scientific understanding and debate about the consequences of large predators like wolves (and cougars) at a landscape level, alternative explanations may also account for, or significantly contribute to, such changes evident in this ecosystem. For example, the natural variability in underlying bedrock formations and sediments across the Park’s multiple watersheds can also affect vegetation and river

*Continued on P. 5.*

## Park Considers Allowing Log Truck Traffic in Lyre River Area



*Tlingit salmon by Bill Reid.*

Conservationists were taken aback in November when Olympic National Park announced its intention to conduct an environmental assessment on a proposal by the Washington State Department of Natural Resources and Merrill and Ring Timber Company to run logging trucks on two park roads in the Lyre River area of Lake Crescent (not far from the east trailhead of the Spruce Railroad Trail). Industrial traffic could run for five to ten years.

The Park Service asked the public for comments on issues and concerns that should be addressed in the assessment. OPA has several:

1. Part of the area to be logged includes the upper Boundary Creek watershed, a major tributary to the Lyre River spawning area for the park's unique Crescenti trout, endemic to Lake Crescent. A disastrous logging-caused failure in this drainage in 1997 had calamitous effects on downstream fish populations, including Crescenti trout. Why risk another?
2. The area to be logged includes proposed park additions identified in the park's draft and final General Management Plan (largely to protect Crescenti spawning habitat). It makes little sense for the park to facilitate logging of this area before Congress has had a chance to consider it for a park addition.
3. Serious safety risks would result from log truck traffic on narrow park roads (Joyce-Piedmont and Waterline roads), particularly given the park's intention to shift bicycle traffic from U.S. Highway 101 to the

Spruce Railroad Trail for safety reasons. Bicyclists (as well as walkers) sharing these roads with loaded log trucks could hardly be considered safe.

4. While we understand the Park Service's willingness to get along with its neighbors, we question the need to grant special use permits when the main advantage to the user is to increase profitability, and the risks to the public include potential resource damage and safety.

OPA reminded the Park Service that the logging lands in question could be accessed by other routes. The Park Service's primary trust is to manage its lands and resources to leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations.

*Lake Crescent from Storm King.  
Photo by Ben Greuel.*



*Wolf, continued from P. 4*

channel changes locally, irrespective of ungulate grazing. But however you choose to interpret these results, they nonetheless provide an important impetus for more focused research

on the important role of large predators such as wolves—pro and con—in shaping and maintaining the Park's ecosystem.

- 1 <http://www.fws.gov/mountain-prairie/pressrel/09-02.htm>
- 2 <http://wdfw.wa.gov/do/newreal/release.php?id=jul2308a>
- 3 [www.conservationnw.org/pressroom/press-release/wolf-pack-confirmed-in-washington-state](http://www.conservationnw.org/pressroom/press-release/wolf-pack-confirmed-in-washington-state)
- 4 [http://wdfw.wa.gov/wlm/diversty/soc/gray\\_wolf/fact\\_sheet.htm](http://wdfw.wa.gov/wlm/diversty/soc/gray_wolf/fact_sheet.htm)
- 5 [http://wdfw.wa.gov/wlm/diversty/soc/gray\\_wolf/conservation\\_plan.pdf](http://wdfw.wa.gov/wlm/diversty/soc/gray_wolf/conservation_plan.pdf)
- 6 Beschta, R.L. and W. J. Ripple. 2008. Wolves, trophic cascades, and rivers in the Olympic National Park, USA. *Ecohydrology* 1, 118-130.

# Dosewallips Road Plan Flops: OPA Will Mount Challenge

by Tim McNulty

Public comment supports OPA and other conservation groups in challenging the agencies' draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) on reconstructing the Dosewallips River Road in Olympic National Forest.

The agencies that wrote the DEIS are the Western Federal Lands Highway Division of the Federal Highway Administration (WFLHD), Olympic National Forest (ONF), and Olympic National Park (ONP). However, several *other* government agencies, Eastern Peninsula tribes, and more than 71% of respondents soundly rejected the plan to reconstruct the Dosewallips Road. The vast majority told the agency to start over.

The Forest Service received more than 500 responses to this Dosewallips Road Repair DEIS released last June, an unusually high number for a project of this type. Three hundred sixty-four respondents objected to the road reconstruction and instead favored development of a hiking, biking and equestrian trail

into the upper valley. Only 145 respondents supported the proposed action.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) stated in their comments:

“The Dosewallips River contains an independent population of Puget Sound (PS) Chinook Salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*) **that is essential to recovery** of that Evolutionarily Significant Unit, listed under the ESA as threatened. The Dosewallips River at the washout, about River Mile (RM) 10.7, provides important spawning and rearing habitat for the threatened PS Chinook salmon and ESA-threatened PS Steelhead (*O. mykiss*). In addition, the river reach at the washout is designated critical habitat for critical PS Chinook salmon and Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) for Pacific salmon.”

Further, NOAA comments, “Decommissioning the road beyond the washout would begin to restore watershed processes that support salmon recovery. Some road segments beyond the main washout location are also at high risk for future washouts and landslides, and the proposed new section of road would be at high risk for future landslides, which then may require future road maintenance activities in or adjacent to the river....”

In June of 2008, Forest Service officials announced three options for rebuilding the Dosewallips River Road (see *Dosewallips Road Plan Threatens Ancient Trees and Critical Salmon Habitat*, *Voice*, Summer 2008). Two options would construct a bypass road through a stunning, 500-year-old forest on a steep, unstable slope above the washout. One option would construct an \$8 million bridge over the washout, Olympic's version of a “bridge to nowhere.” Costs for road reconstructions range upward from \$3.5 million. The Dosewallips Road provided motorized access to two Park Service and Forest Service campgrounds and hiking trails. Now the campgrounds and trail heads are reached by way of a scenic one- to five-mile hike along the river. Backcountry use in the park has returned to pre-washout numbers.

OPA, Olympic Forest Coalition (OFCO) and other conservation and outdoor groups objected strongly to the plan. But requests by conservationists to consider an option that would convert the upper, 5-mile section of road



## Park Removes Old Tires from Hurricane Ridge Ski Area

After two decades, more than 21 tons of old tires were removed from the Hurricane Ridge area. The work was accomplished in September by park crews and Coast Guard volunteers with helicopter assistance.

The tires were placed at the base of the Poma ski lift in the early 1980s to facilitate skiers' access to the lift. The downhill ski area at the Ridge is one of only two such developments in the national park system.

A park spokesperson said the tires were no longer needed because the slope is now groomed by a Sno-Cat.

OPA applauds the removal of the old tires, an eyesore as well as a potential source of pollution.



*Dosewallips Road, Continued from P. 6.*

to a hiking, biking, and equestrian trail were rejected by the agency.

Four area tribes, and a number of federal and state agencies, including the Environmental Protection Agency, National Marine Fisheries Service, Washington Department of Ecology, and Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, also took issue with the plan. In fact, the only public agencies supporting the action were the project proponents. OPA and conservation representatives have met with the agencies to suggest reasonable alternatives and try to head off a prolonged battle over road reconstruction.

The DEIS confirmed critics' charges that bypass road construction would be costly and environmentally destructive. The new road would cut through an ancient forest and wetland. Endangered species habitat for northern spotted owls and marbled murrelets and critical salmon habitat would be destroyed. The project would violate the Clean Water Act, Endangered Species Act, National Environmental Policy Act, and the Northwest Forest Plan, the law that preserves old-growth forests and wildlife habitats in Northwest federal forests. The new road section would require up to five waivers from this law. In addition the plan is plagued with problems, missing critical studies and supportive data, and rife with errors (in one instance citing the road reconstruction that is actually five miles downstream from the wash-out).

"It's clear to nearly everyone that this plan is fatally flawed," says OPA president Donna Osseward. "It's time for the Forest Service to go back to the drawing board and produce a

supplemental DEIS that conforms with existing law, sound resource management, and common sense."

Unless common sense prevails, OPA, OFCO, and the Sierra Club promise to challenge the final decision.

Watch the **Voice** for future developments. And be sure to check out OPA trustee Dan Lieberman's **YouTube** video, **The Dosewallips Question**  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n17nRLXkseY>

### The Challenge

In a meeting in Vancouver, WA, OPA was told that Western Federal Lands Highway Division (WFLHD) is planning to meet with the Forest Service and Park Service in mid- to late February to discuss the project's next steps. If the project receives permits from the US Corps of Engineers AND the Washington State Department of Ecology, they will issue a Final EIS, allow 30 days for comments, and then issue Record of Decision (ROD).

On this project, WFLHD and the Forest Service will issue separate RODs. There is no appeal process for WFLHD RODs. There is for FS RODs. Thus to challenge this project OPA may need to file one suit against the WFLHD ROD, as well as an appeal (and perhaps a separate suit) against the FS ROD.

## OPA Comments on Management Plan Review for Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary

Olympic Park Associates (OPA) recently contributed comments for the Management Plan Review of the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary.

The Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary (OCNMS) is unique and should be protected for future generations as a place to provide scientific opportunities for coastal ocean preservation and research.

The sanctuary is needed to provide a natural yardstick of ocean health, an example for scientific study of precious ocean ecosystems, as well as a cradle for many marine species – a kind of oceanic “seed bank” for the future. OPA endorses the Olympic Coast Alliance’s (OCA) position, which advocates strongly for science-based and conservation-oriented management of the sanctuary, minimizing invasive species and disruptive human activities.

OPA agrees with OCA that OCNMS should be expanded to provide a more complete and more manageable natural ecosystem on the north Olympic Peninsula. Since the inception of OCNMS we have learned more of its vulnerabilities to oil spills; threats associated with oil and gas exploration and extraction; the need to expand kelp forest habitat within the

sanctuary for sea otter protection, and to include canyon areas where deep-sea coral and sponge communities are found. This expansion would help protect these delicate and threatened deep-sea ecosystems.

We would also like OCNMS to have the ability to comment on land-based activities that affect the success of the sanctuary in meeting its goals of ocean stewardship.

OPA supports the recommendations of OCA to monitor, regulate, and prohibit energy projects, including alternative energy, oil and gas exploration, or future ideas to generate energy that would conflict with the goals of the sanctuary to protect its ocean habitat.

There is no value in using the ocean without the regard for natural limits — whether for the development of future energy, or attempts to farm or fish — if it results in the reduction of healthy food from the oceans that cover about 70% of the earth.

We should act with the realization that we do not, yet, know enough to be sure we can manage the ocean or the earth. We therefore need places where we can learn from nature and, if necessary, repair damage based on that learning

---

## Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary Considers Its Future: The Coastline of Olympic National Park

by John Woolley

The Olympic Sanctuary advisory council, staff, and the public had a two-day presentation at the Resource Center in Forks, January 28-30, to review the recently released Sanctuary Condition Report.

“Thirty seven topics for debate” became 43 by the start of the first session. By day two, the number of topics and their wordings and had been consolidated to some extent.

The challenge is to dovetail perceived conditions with sustainable management practices. The tone of the sessions was set initially by the presentation of the Intergovernmental Policy Condition (IPC) Report Addendum, and the question of jurisdictional overview. The gist is that we will make no ecological progress unless we recognize that Tribes are an integral part of

the Pacific Coast pre-Columbian biosphere, pre-dating today’s challenges.

Native American human rights, as well as their long traditional participation in the coastal web of life, place them in a unique position. Representatives at the meeting presented a compelling argument for their recognition as copartners in the Sanctuary. And in addition to rights, for example as pertains to aqua energy development, trust and respect equally describes what the Tribes seek.

The primary economic goal is to protect the commercial fishery. Management will focus on achieving a sustainable resource, primarily the salmon resource, and within that aim must be the Tribes’ need to have a sustainable industry. Simplistically, it sure fits the 50% rule.



# A Belated Birthday Card to Olympic National Park

by Donna Osseward, OPA Chair

Olympic National Park's 70<sup>th</sup> Birthday was June 29, 2008. The current mountains came from an upwelling of marine ocean sediments that originated in the Tertiary to Quaternary ages and other undersea volcanic material. The height rose from the shifting and subduction of tectonic plates in the area. After millions of years of erosion and occasional buffeting by continental ice sheets, the elevation of Olympic National Park now ranges from the top of Mt. Olympus (2,428 m) to the offshore islands on the Pacific coast. It is the magnificent heart of the Olympic Peninsula.

Olympic National Park is an exciting, protected, wild sample of the western side of Washington State. It cradles many unique and threatened species of fish, plants, and wildlife. It has one of the biggest temperate rainforests and protects a large Roosevelt Elk herd, a herd that was one of the reasons the park was created. In all, it houses 50 mammal species and 180 species of birds. Its rivers protect 20 native fish species, including seven species of salmon and anadromous trout.

Olympic became a National Park seventy years ago in a law signed by Franklin Roosevelt. The mountainous area had previously been declared a National Monument by Theodore Roosevelt in 1909. The Pacific Coastal Area and the Queets River Corridor were added to the park in January 1953 by Harry Truman a few weeks before he left office. The Point of the Arches and Shi Shi Beach were added in 1976 through the efforts of former Governor Dan Evans. That was also the year it was accepted as a biosphere reserve. It was added to the World Heritage Site List in 1981.

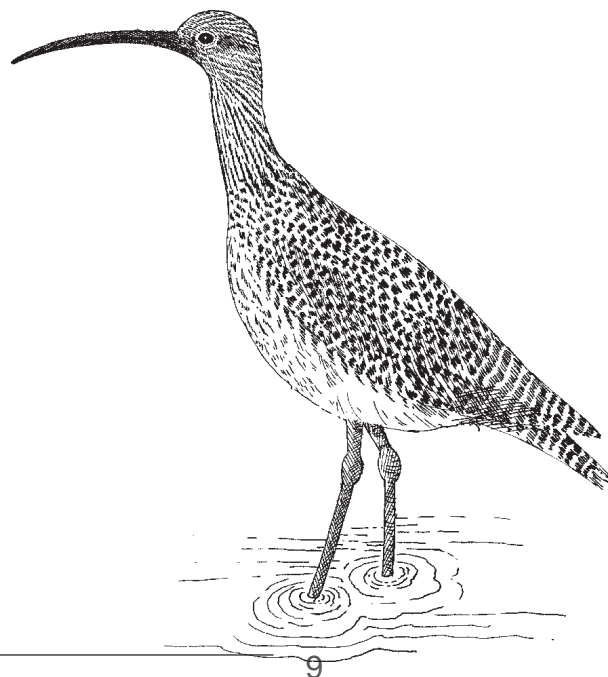
Ninety-six percent of the park's area was declared wilderness by congressional action led by then Senator Dan Evans. The intertidal area of the Coastal Strip was added in 1986.

In October 1992, President George H.W. Bush (41) signed the Elwha River Ecosystem and Fisheries Restoration Act which started the process of removing the two dams on the Elwha River and will allow salmon to swim an additional 70 miles up the river to spawn. The project is underway and the actual dam removal is scheduled to begin 2010.

It has been a truly magnificent 70 years.  
(Some information derived from National Park Service website.)



Third Beach. Photo by Ben Greuel.



# Attacks on the Olympic Ocean Strip

By Phil Zalesky

On June 1, 2008, the *Peninsula Daily News* wrote a very good and congratulatory article on the Fiftieth Year Celebration of the William O. Douglas Hike, recalling, “The hike that saved the coast...” That hike was indeed monumental in showing how the public treasured the wilderness of the Ocean Strip. But “the hike that saved the coast,” not quite! A mere eight years after the Douglas Hike came the next major proposal to whittle away at the Ocean Strip. This attempt came from the chairman of the Senate Interior Committee, Washington Senator Henry “Scoop” Jackson. And who was pushing it? Senator Jackson and a man named Fred Overly, a manager in the Department of Interior in Washington D.C.

Fred Overly was a former logging engineer for Crescent Logging Company in Port Angeles, and a good friend and camping companion of Senator Jackson. Overly’s daughter once worked as Jackson’s secretary. Throughout his devious career Fred Overly brought his logging mind-set with him, serving as Superintendent of Olympic National Monument and later as Superintendent of Olympic National Park. He was responsible for actual logging in the national park. After that logging scandal became an embarrassment to the Director of the National Park System, Overly was sent to Great Smokey Mountain National Park, then back west to be Northwest Regional Director of the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation.

While he was managing Olympic National Park, Overly’s logging mentality had the support of National Park Service management, who historically had never wanted a national park in the Olympics because they contained “commercial old growth trees.” They favored turning it over to the U.S. Forest Service, and they worked surreptitiously against the establishment of the park. However, Present Franklin Roosevelt and Secretary of Interior Harold Ickes wanted it, so the National Park Service looked for other ways to access Olympic’s old growth forest.

Fred Overly in particular had a blue print on how to trim off pieces of the Olympics. His ideas were seen in Representative Jackson’s 1947 bill to establish the park. Overly proposed the following:

1. A road should be built to Cape Alava and from Cape Alava to the Ozette River to the

boundary.

2. The Bogachiel River and Callawah valleys should be turned over to the U.S. Forest Service and clear cut to supply timber to the mills in Port Angeles.
3. A large portion of the Quinault Valley should be logged providing 586 million board feet of timber.
4. Alcee Creek should be removed from the park.
5. Previously abandoned road in Tshletshy Creek should be reopened and developed into a “popular drive.” This would of course open the area to logging.

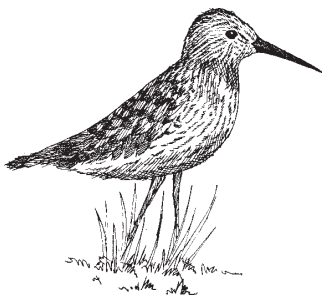
Overly’s proposal would have would have sent at least 2.6 billion board feet of timber – perhaps double that — to the mills.

This brings us to the next assault on Olympic National Park. In 1966 at a press conference Senator Jackson announced that he had introduced a bill to create a new North Cascades National Park. He brought in Secretary of Stewart Interior Udall and Secretary of Agriculture Orville Freeman to testify how they felt about a North Cascades National Park. On an equal footing with these two cabinet members, he asked for the Regional Director of the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation, Fred Overly, for a presentation. Overly released the bomb. He proposed to eliminate 59,000 acres from Olympic National Park.

It seemed obvious to us conservationists this was a *quid pro quo*: if you want a North Cascades National Park, you are going to have to give up the 59,000 acres. The Olympic Park Associates’ Polly Dyer, John Osseward, and I decided to prepare a mailing from OPA, for we knew that all the excitement about a North Cascades National Park had turned many conservationists’ minds away from the Olympics. This mailing resulted in a huge outpouring of love for Olympic National Park from the people in the Puget Sound region and elsewhere. The mail came in 20 to 1 against the Overly proposal. It was dead within a year.

However, shortly after this defeat, Senator Jackson (once again at Overly’s urging) initiated the next onslaught: a study of the boundaries of Olympic National Park. This was the third boundary study he had proposed since his 1947 bill died. Superintendent of Olympic Na-

*Continued on P. 11, Ocean Strip*



*Ocean Strip, Continued from P. 10.*

tional Park Bennett Gale was named chairman of the study committee, which included six employees of the National Park Service, a nationally known architect from San Francisco who was a member of the National Park Service Advisory Committee, and (no great surprise) Fred Overly.

As the new president of Olympic Park Associates, I immediately wrote letters of protest to Secretary of Interior Udall and Director Hartzog of the National Park Service about Overly's appointment to the committee. "The National Park Service may feel they can handle Overly or this committee. I do not believe it!"

Several days later I received a telephone call from an advisory board member. He wanted our conversation to remain confidential, but he wanted to know how we felt about the potential outcome. I filled him in on the history of Overly's scheming, especially his desire to send the giant spruces of the Bogachiel Valley to the mills in Port Angeles.

Weeks later I received a call from Carsten Lien. While researching for his book, *Olympic Battleground: the Power Politics of Timber Preservation*, he had stumbled across the details of a recommendation to the study committee. Sure enough, Overly's handiwork was evident, and once again it was aimed at the Olympic Ocean Strip. The wilderness beach would be replaced by a road.

Immediately I wrote to mobilize the national conservation groups in Washington D.C. Alarmed, they went to Director Hartzog to register their dismay. They discovered that this latest proposal would involve far more than the Ocean Strip. Di-

rector Hartzog, wanting to avoid embarrassment on his watch, consulted with his boss, Secretary Stewart Udall. They decided not to implement the committee's decisions. Eight years after the William O. Douglas beach hike, another assault on the Pacific Ocean Coastal Strip had been turned back.

Superintendent Gale, never a friend of mine, was irate. I seldom saw him after this that he didn't challenge me to reveal the source of our information. Was it someone on the committee, and I would smile at him; was it someone from his headquarters staff, and I would smile; was it someone from the National Park Service office in Washington D.C., and I smiled....

We have had some good superintendents of the park who fully appreciated the founding commitments of the Park Service Enabling Act. Some others have been facility developers placing the integrity of the park's wilderness secondary. Will this be the end of such attempts to whittle away the wilderness? Olympic Park Associates never says never, so if the ghost of Overly returns, OPA will be there to greet him.





# VOICE of the WILD OLYMPICS

Sally W. Soest, Editor

PRSRRT STD  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Seattle, WA  
Permit No. 1815

**Olympic Park Associates**  
13245 - 40th Avenue N.E.  
Seattle, WA 98125

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

## Olympic Park Associates

Membership Application

Membership includes subscription to the OPA publication, **Voice of the Wild Olympics**.

- \$250 Individual Life
- \$50 Associate Organization
- \$35+ Contributing
- \$25 Family
- \$20 Individual Member
- \$5 Student / Low Income
- \$\_\_\_\_ Gift (not tax-deductible)

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Street \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail to:  
Laura Zalesky, Membership Chair  
2433 Del Campo Drive, Everett, WA 98208

## Email Appeal

### Give OPA More Speed and Power

We would like your email address.

Olympic Park Associates often responds to requests for comments on issues affecting Olympic National Park and Olympic National Forest. Recent examples are the Olympic National Park Management Plan, Dosewallips Road Washout DEIS, and Endangered Species Act.

We would like to notify you about these issues. But often there is a 30-day deadline. By the time we get the information, there is little time to get the word out to you by mail.

If you will provide your email address, we will send alerts that you can read and quickly respond to, by email, to the government agency involved.

You can send your email address by emailing: [osseward@juno.com](mailto:osseward@juno.com)

Thanks!

