

# VOICE of the WILD OLYMPICS

Olympic Park Associates

Founded in 1948



Vol. 20, Number I  
Summer  
2012



*Wild Olympics, Middle Dungeness River area. Photo by John Bridge.*

## Contents:

OPA Meetings	2
Poll: Public Supports Wild Olympics	3
Please Send Your Email Address	3
Wild Olympics Bill Drops Additions	4
Spruce Railroad Expansion	5
In Memoriam Carsten Lien John Edwards	6
A Favorite Hike	7

## Dicks and Murray Introduce Wild Olympics Bill

With overwhelming popular support on the Olympic Peninsula and throughout western Washington, Congressman Norm Dicks and Senator Patty Murray have introduced identical bills in the U.S. House and Senate that will protect thousands of acres of roadless National Forest Wilderness in the Olympics and designate portions of 19 Olympic rivers and 7 tributaries as Wild and Scenic Rivers.

The long-awaited Wild Olympics Wilderness and Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 2012 was introduced on June 21. The bill offers permanent protection to 126,554 acres of Wilderness and an additional 5,346 acres of Potential Wilderness

that could be designated once road decommissioning is completed. Included are many of Olympic National Forest's most stunning unprotected wild lands. They include key recreation areas and important upper watersheds as well as critical habitats for fish and wildlife.

Among national forest areas included in the legislation are: scenic Deer Ridge and the lower Gray Wolf River valley, the north slopes of Mount Townsend, Jupiter Ridge, the popular Lena Lake area, South Fork Skokomish River and the splendid ancient forests of South Quinault Ridge and Moonlight Dome.

*Continued on P. 3, Wild Olympics Bill*

## OPA Meetings:

**Next: 26 September 2012**

**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 Member of Congress

**Congressional Switchboard: (202) 224-3121** to reach any member of the U.S. Congress 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)

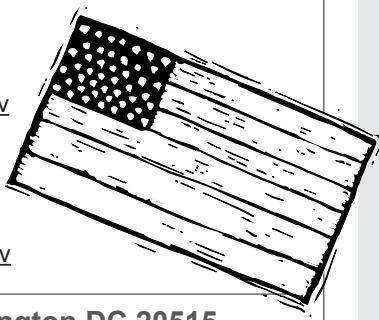
#### Senator Maria Cantwell

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

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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

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#### OPA's Web Page

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

## Voice OF THE WILD OLYMPICS

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## Wild Olympics Bill

*Continued from P. 1.*

For details on these areas see New Wilderness for Olympic National Forest in the Spring 2011 issue of the **Voice**.

Wild and Scenic River protections would extend to major portions of the Elwha, Gray Wolf-Dungeness, Dosewallips, Duckabush, Hamma Hamma, South Fork Skokomish, Wynoochee, Humptulips, Quinault, Queets, Hoh, Bogachiel, Calawah, and Sol Duc rivers. Wild and Scenic designation, the strongest protection a river can receive, ensures that

the free-flowing character, water quality and outstanding values of these rivers will be protected for generations to come.

Unfortunately, no national park/preserve additions are included in the legislation (see Wild Olympics Bill Drops National Park/Preserve Additions in this issue). But the extensive Wilderness and Wild River protections in this bill amount to a visionary land conservation measure for the Olympics that is historic in its breadth.

Please write and thank Congressman Dicks and Senator Murry for this bold initiative.

Please also write Senator Cantwell and other members of WA congressional delegation.

Urge their strong support for the Wild Olympics Wilderness and Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.

Check OPA's website for a map of the areas included and progress of this important bill.

See P. 2 for contact information.

## New Poll Shows Overwhelming Support for Wild Olympics

A June poll by the Mellman Group and commissioned by the Wild Olympics Coalition shows overwhelming popular support for the Wild Olympics proposal among voters in Washington's 6th Congressional District.

A phone survey of 500 likely voters demonstrated that nearly two-thirds (64%) of those surveyed support the proposal. Support was broad-based and extended across age and user groups, political affiliations, and education levels. Only 15% of the district's voters oppose the plan, and 20% remain undecided. In fact, a near majority of 49% not only supports the proposal but "strongly" supports it.

The 6th Congressional District includes the four-county Olympic Peninsula, Kitsap County, and part of Tacoma. On the Olympic Peninsula, where opposition to the proposal has been most vocal, 50% of those surveyed support Wild Olympics while only 28% oppose.

"These results come as no surprise," said Connie Gallant, chair of the Wild Olympics Coalition. "This new poll confirms that voters in the 6th Congressional District want to see this special place remain as it is for our children and grandchildren."

## OPA Needs Your Email Address to Help *You* Protect Olympic National Park

By the time this newsletter is delivered to your door, it may be too late for you to take a decisive action.

For more than 60 years, Olympic Park Associates has been working to preserve the now nearly 75 year old Olympic National Park in keeping with the nearly 100 year old mandate of the National Park Service (NPS). Both the NPS mandate and OPA are all about trying to keep the natural systems in Olympic National Park the way they have always been, and to insulate them from spur-of-the-moment change.

Coincidentally, this resistance to change has also been part of OPA's communication patterns: the only way OPA connects with members is through the time-honored, mailed, paper-copy newsletter a few times per year.

However, these days, as information and decisions are passed with lightning speed, we do not always have the luxury of waiting for the next OPA newsletter to learn about and action items.

You may even be able to do this on your phone with one hand as you are reading this newsletter. Or, at most, it will take just a few mouse clicks.

OPA thanks you in advance for your time. OPA will never sell, distribute or improperly use your email address or any other information, nor will we inundate you with emails. Your email address is safe with OPA. But Olympic National Park may not be safe if we do not have your email address . . .

**Please email [OlympicParkAssociates@gmail.com](mailto:OlympicParkAssociates@gmail.com)** so that we can keep you up to date on the most essential, time-sensitive developments and action items relevant to Olympic National Park.

Thank you,

Dan Lieberman, OPA Board

## Wild Olympics Bill Drops National Park/Preserve Additions

by Tim McNulty

Wild Olympics supporters suffered a major blow in May when staff for Congressman Norm Dicks announced that he and Senator Patty Murray had dropped all proposed national preserve additions to Olympic National Park from their Olympic watersheds proposal. Staff cited opposition to willing-seller additions by area timber companies for their decision.

The Congressman and Senator moved forward with the other two legs of the proposal: more than 130,000 acres of new and potential Wilderness in Olympic National Forest and Wild and Scenic River designation for nearly 19 rivers and major tributaries on the Peninsula. OPA and the Wild Olympics Campaign remain strongly supportive of these important conservation measures which will protect ancient forests and free-flowing rivers for generations to come. But the loss of national preserve additions cuts at the heart of long-term habitat protections for Park fish and wildlife populations.

As readers of the **Voice** know, OPA and other organizations have been advocating critical habitat additions to Olympic National Park since the planning phase of Olympic Park's 2008 General Management Plan (GMP). Originally, conservationists proposed 86,000 acres of critical willing-seller park additions in the Lyre River/Lake Crescent, Ozette Lake, South Fork Hoh, Queets and Quinault areas. These areas, identified by government biologists during the GMP planning process, provide critical spawning, rearing, and winter-range habitats for park populations of Roosevelt elk, salmon, steelhead, and endemic trout. The additions would also provide for restoration of some heavily logged, low-elevation forest areas adjacent to park boundaries. Conservation biologists believe that in the face of unknown climate-driven habitat alteration, identification and conservation of key habitat areas is the best strategy for conserving natural wildlife populations in protected areas like ONP.

Over years of meetings with timber representatives, tribes, sportsmen's groups and West End communities, the Wild Olympics coalition adjusted its proposal to eliminate areas that engendered the most controversy. We changed our proposed park additions to national preserve additions to accommodate tribal hunting in traditional areas, and we eventually reduced the areas proposed for preserves by more than half, from 86,000 to 37,397 acres. Last year, following months of their own conversations with timber companies and tribes, Congressman

Dicks and Senator Murray proposed 20,000 acres of willing-seller national preserve additions, the same amount recommended by the park's 2008 management plan, which was developed under the Bush administration. Even then, timber companies continued to be adamant in their opposition.

Reasons for industry opposition remained constant. The companies claim they don't want to sell. Further, they state that willing-seller legislation would create "false expectations" and the companies would somehow be bullied by the government into selling. Finally, they claim that existing laws are adequate to protect fish and wildlife.

None of these arguments hold water. "Willing-seller" means just that. If landowners don't want to sell, they don't have to. No extra restrictions would affect their lands. Existing laws, such as the Forest and Fish agreement, have failed to keep ten Olympic fish and wildlife species off the federal endangered species list -- or helped the recovery of 22 others still listed as "species of concern." Finally, the claim that companies want to keep their lands is hard to swallow in the face of Washington DNR statistics that indicate some 50,000 acres of commercial forest land on the Olympic Peninsula was sold and converted to residential and commercial uses over a recent 15-year period.

There was one more claim, voiced recently in the Peninsula Daily News by a timber company executive: that the Wild Olympics Campaign refused to compromise.

It's disheartening that the future conservation of one of the world's most outstanding ecological preserves can be thwarted by narrow local interests -- particularly in the face of some 4,500 Peninsula citizens and 200 businesses and organizations who have voiced support for the Wild Olympics proposal.

Fortunately, Congressman Dicks and Senator Murray remain committed to promoting legislation to designate new Forest Service Wilderness and Wild and Scenic Rivers on the Peninsula -- a major piece of Olympic conservation by any standards. OPA strongly supports of this legislation. We will keep you apprised of its progress on our website, [olympicparkassociates.org](http://olympicparkassociates.org), and in future issues of the **Voice**.

## Park Revises Plans for Spruce Railroad Trail Expansion

In May, Olympic National Park revised its plan to upgrade the historic Spruce Railroad trail at Lake Crescent into a new section of the Olympic Discovery Trail. The ODT, as it's locally known, is a popular, non-motorized, multi-use trail that will eventually extend 140 miles from Port Townsend to La Push on the Olympic coast. The revised park plan calls for a gravel rather than paved trail surface, a realignment of the east end of the trail to accommodate handicapped use, reopening two historic railroad tunnels, and expanding the Lyre River trailhead parking area on East Beach Road. The finished trail will be accessible by handicapped users, bicyclists, hikers, joggers, and equestrians. A proposal to build a similar, 1.5 mile-long trail segment in undisturbed forest in the park's Sol Duc River area close to Highway 101 has been dropped from the current EA.

The current plan is a significant improvement over the park's earlier proposal. OPA supports the revised plan (alternative 4 in the Spruce Railroad Trail Environmental Assessment) with some important modifications. In our May 30 response to the assessment, we asked the Park Service:

- to mitigate a quarter-mile of bank armoring along the lakeshore with wood structures and plantings to restore natural shoreline functions;
- to construct the expanded East Beach Rd. parking area with a gravel or another permeable surface to prevent oil and automotive fluids from being flushed into the lake's outlet, the sole spawning area for endemic Beardslee trout;
- to consider a narrower trail surface (10.5 to 11 feet is proposed); and
- to reserve the two existing tunnel-bypass trails for hikers only, allowing places for quiet enjoyment of the lake and its natural setting, free of hoofed traffic.

Though the park made a major concession by moving from asphalt to a packed gravel surface, and met us half-way on tunnel bypass trails (restricting bike use but allowing horses), the plan can still be improved considerably.

The Olympic Discovery Trail is an important and widely used recreational trail on the peninsula. Its extension through Olympic National Park will bring new visitors to ONP who will be able to experience the park's beauty and surrounding wilderness in ways not currently available.

OPA remains opposed to a Clallam County proposal that would pave the trail surface to 8 feet, widen the trail shoulders, and expand the cleared width of the trail corridor. We feel this level of development is inappropriate for a national park, particularly in an unspoiled scenic area like Lake Crescent.

The deadline for comments was June 8, 2012. A final decision on the trail will be made later this year.

*Photo by Tim McNulty.*



You can review the park's environmental assessment at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/srrt>.

OPA's letter to the park service can be viewed on our website, [olympicparkassociates.org](http://olympicparkassociates.org).

## OPA Has Lost Two Respected Board Members

### Carsten Lien: An Appreciation

by Tim McNulty

Conservationist, historian, author, and former OPA Trustee Carsten Lien passed away on April 7 after a long battle with Parkinson's disease. Carsten led a life dedicated to the wildlands and magnificent old-growth forests of the Olympic Peninsula, and he focused much of his abundant energy on Olympic National Park. His encyclopedic knowledge of the history of the Park, and his intensity, pluck and dedication as a conservationist inspired a generation of Olympic activists. His presence on the Olympic landscape will be sorely missed.

Carsten came by his conservation credentials early. In the 1950s, he worked as a seasonal naturalist at Olympic National Park. As he was extolling the complexity and grandeur of Olympic's ancient forests to park visitors, he became aware of the Park's aggressive program of "salvage logging." Over a 20-year period the Park Service sold more than 100 million board feet of old-growth trees, standing and down, to local mills. Carsten and his fellow naturalist, noted author Paul Shepherd, effectively blew the whistle on this rampant abuse and helped mount a national campaign to stop it.

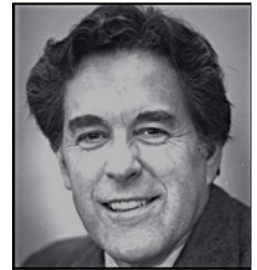
The experience launched Carsten into a lifetime of citizen conservation activism -- as well as documenting the controversial history and management of Olympic National Park. "Carsten was constantly alert to any threat to the integrity of the park," re-

calls his long-time OPA colleague Phil Zalesky. "He deserves tremendous credit for that."

In 1991 Carsten published his groundbreaking book, *Olympic Battleground, The Power Politics of Timber Preservation*. Michael Frome, dean of American conservation writers, called it "a regional classic." National parks historian Alfred Runte dubbed it "a work of historical dynamite." It remains a keystone piece of conservation scholarship.

A decade later, Carsten followed *Olympic Battleground* with *Exploring the Olympic Mountains*, a sprawling, 500-page compilation of original documents from all the late 19th century explorations of the Olympic Mountains. The excitement with which he gathered and scrupulously keyed in these sometimes tattered historic documents is palpable in his chapter introductions and footnotes. The project clearly recaptured his early enthusiasm for exploring Olympic wild country going back to his years as a boy scout.

Carsten's devotion to the wild Olympic Mountains was exemplary. His books occupy a central place on anyone's Olympic bookshelf. And his conservation efforts -- from rescuing Olympic Park from commercial logging, to alerting conservationists to a second attempt to build a highway along the Olympic coast, to insuring that park protection extended to the intertidal coastal lands and offshore rocks and islands -- is part of the legacy of Olympic National Park.



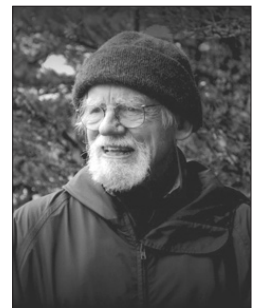
### John T. Edwards: Naturalist and Mountaineer

*Excerpted from UW Department of Zoology memorial.*

John Edwards passed away on 25 March 2012 at the age of 80. His love of mountains inspired him serve on the boards of Olympic Park Associates and the North Cascades Conservation Council. He will be missed by conservationists throughout the Northwest.

John Edwards was a Renaissance Man: a great naturalist, a leading scholar in the ecology and physiology of high-altitude insects, an adventurer, a skilled mountaineer (first winter ascent of Denali), a lover of early American landscape painting, a harp-sichord player....

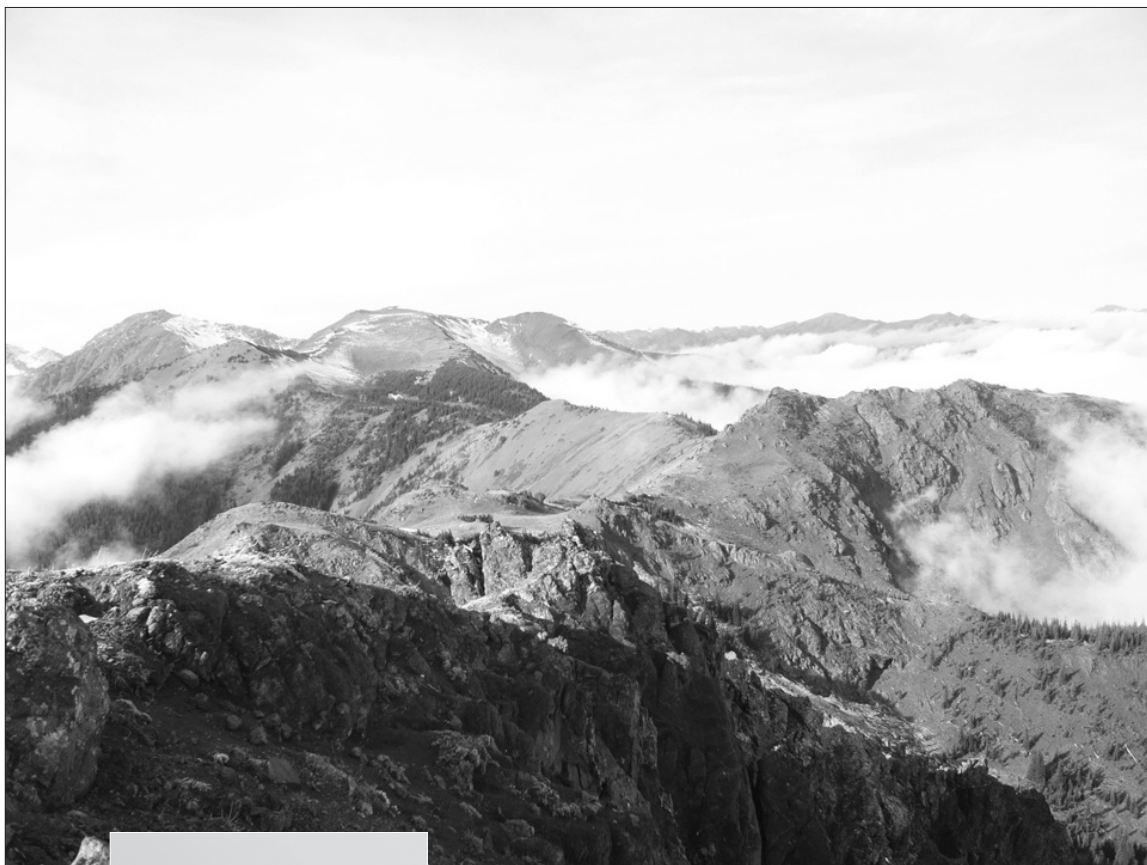
John earned a doctorate at Cambridge and joined the Department of Zoology at the University of Washington in 1966. He taught entomology, human ecology, and other courses and served terms as the Director of both the Undergraduate Biology Program and the UW Honors Program. He was a Guggenheim Fellow, a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and the Royal Entomological Society. After retiring from UW he established the John S. Edwards Endowed Fund in Biology to support graduate student research.



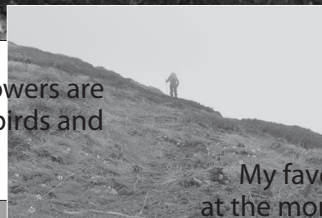
## A Favorite Hike

by John Bridge, Secretary, OPA

I live in Sequim and try to hike twice a week, but sometimes things come up and it only happens once a week. I have told people that I hike year round because that way I stay in shape, and while that is true, the real truth is that I don't want to miss out on what is going on in the mountains. When I say the mountains, I mean the Olympic Mountains and really the ones in the Dungeness River watershed because they are the ones in my backyard. They're my friends and I feel a need to visit them often to see how they're doing. I want to know the snow level, and when the flowers are blooming, and hope to see the birds and animals that live there.



Photos by John Bridge.



My favorite hike – the best one – is always the one that I am doing at the moment. There are always new things to see, some expected, like flowers blooming where I have seen them before. There are some mysteries to solve, such as animal tracks or a peculiar weather event. There are also memories: this is the place I came upon the bear; scared the grouse off its nest and almost fell over because I was so startled; found a wet place full of brilliant blooming shooting stars; or was surrounded by a flock of gray-crowned rosy-finches. I try to live in the moment, but memories seem to do their own thing.

If I were to recommend a hike in the Dungeness Watershed, I would suggest, for an easy one, the Upper Dungeness Trail to Camp Handy, because of all the large Douglas Firs and because you can always see or hear the river. It is a well maintained trail that goes up 600 feet in the 3.2 miles and puts you in a large meadow next to the river with spectacular mountain views. If the person wanted a more rigorous hike, I would suggest that they take the Tyler Peak trail to Baldy. The trailhead is at 3200 feet and the summit of Baldy is at 6800 feet. The trail goes through the forest for a ways and soon breaks out into alpine meadows. As you climb higher, the views of the surrounding mountains continually change, and you cross through fields of different flowers. You will find solitude, distant views, flowers, unpredictable but hoped-for birds, and a feeling of accomplishment when you get to the summit.





# VOICE of the WILD OLYMPICS

Sally W. Soest, Editor

## Olympic Park Associates

14905 Bothell-Everett Highway  
Apartment 270  
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ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

#### Please mail to:

Laura Zalesky, Membership Chair  
14905 Bothell-Everett Hwy, #270  
Mill Creek, WA 98012

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## Olympic Peninsula Community Endorses Wild Olympics Legislation

- 112 Local businesses
- 23 Conservation and civic organizations
- 21 Local farms
- 14 Elected officials
- 13 Hunting, fishing recreational interests
- 7 Religious leaders

Find the complete list at  
<http://www.wildolympics.org/supporters/endorsements>

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