

# VOICE of the WILD OLYMPICS

Olympic Park Associates

Founded in 1948



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## 75TH ANNIVERSARY ISSUE



Mount Olympus, Appleton Ridge. Photo by Bob Kaune.

## Olympic National Park at 75: A Planetary Legacy

by Tim McNulty

Seventy-five years ago this June, Congress passed and President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed into law the bill creating Olympic National Park. With this act Americans embarked on something new in land conservation: creating a wilderness preserve large enough to protect intact old-growth forest communities and the hosts of forest-dependent wildlife they contained.

Olympic National Park set a new standard for ecosystem conservation in America, and

it marked a turning point in wildland protection. For the first time, a powerful economic industry, entrenched government agencies, and the political clout of local and state officials failed to turn the tide of popular support for a spectacular wilderness.

By the mid-1930s the contentious argument over the creation of Olympic National Park had reached a stalemate. National conservation groups proposed a large park

*Continued on P. 3, Legacy*

**OPA Meetings:**

**Next:** October 5, 9 am

**Place:** Special Meeting: Dungeness River Center in Sequim.

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

**Regular Meetings:** The regular OPA Board meetings are at 6 pm 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.

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

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## Olympic National Park at 75: A Planetary Legacy

*Legacy, continued from P. 1.*

that included some of the peninsula's magnificent temperate old-growth forests. Government agencies and local business interests first opposed any park, then pushed for a smaller park devoid of any commercial-grade forests or potential mineral lands.

It had been nearly a half century since two early Olympic Mountain explorers, James Wickersham and Lt. Joseph O'Neil, had proposed a national park in the Olympics. John Muir, founding father of the national parks, had earlier urged protection for Olympic's forests. A half-dozen park bills had been introduced over the years. But the U.S. Forest Service held doggedly to its management of the Olympic forests, and the National Park Service seemed content to manage the small Mt. Olympus National Monument in the heart of the range.

Nationally, it was a different story. In the light of rampant forest destruction in the Appalachians and throughout the upper Midwest, pressure mounted to preserve some of the last lowland virgin forests in the Northwest. Willard Van Name of the American Museum of Natural History framed the issue powerfully: "The [Olympic] Peninsula affords the last opportunity for preserving any adequate large remnants of the wonderful primeval forests... which everywhere have been or are being logged off to the very stick."

By 1937 both sides were entrenched. Timber companies, local politicians and business interests fell in behind a bill for a small park shorn of any commercially valuable forests. Even the National Park Service bowed to local pressure and advocated a park that did not include lowland forests.

But national and state-wide advocates pressed fervently for a large park. Their goal was to preserve much of the remaining temperate rain forest valleys of the Olympics and the winter habitat they provided for Roosevelt elk (named for an earlier president) and a wealth of related wildlife. Wisely, they took their cause directly to President Roosevelt.

In September of 1937, FDR decided to visit the Olympic Peninsula, view the proposed park, and if possible break the logjam. At a stop attended by thousands in front of the courthouse in Port Angeles, he promised the crowd: "you can count on my help in getting that national park, not only because we need it... but for a whole lot of young people who are going to come along in the next hundred years of America."

That evening at his cabin at Lake Crescent Lodge, FDR told a small gathering of Park Service and Forest Service executives, congressmen and senators: "You are not allowing a large enough national park. I am thinking 50 years ahead." When a congressman from Hoquiam invoked the old saw that timber jobs would be lost with a large park, Roosevelt countered that "five billion board feet of timber is but a drop in the bucket compared to the 119 or 120 billion board feet already logged on the peninsula." He gave voice to the national consensus that the remaining original forest is "much more valuable for its recreational use than for lumber."

The following day Roosevelt toured the forests of the western peninsula, including burned over stump lands miles in extent. He became even more committed to a generous national park. FDR's trip crystalized

*Continued on P. 4, Legacy*



*Elwha Valley and Mt. Fitzhenry. Photo by Bob Kaune.*



## Olympic National Park at 75: A Planetary Legacy

*Legacy, continued from P. 3.*

national attention on the park, defeated Forest Service and timber industry opposition, and gave lowland forest preservation its first national push forward.

When Roosevelt signed the bill creating Olympic National Park the following year, it recognized the Olympics' incredible natural richness and diversity. The park's qualities were articulated in the accompanying U.S. House Report:

*" . . . preserve for the benefit, use and enjoyment of the people the finest sample of primeval forests . . . winter range and permanent protection for the herds of native Roosevelt elk and other wildlife indigenous to the area . . . conserve and render available to the people, for recreational use, this outstanding mountainous country . . . and a portion of surrounding verdant forest together with a narrow strip along the beautiful Washington coast."*

*Three Lakes Trail. Photo by Bob Kaune.*



In a huge victory for conservationists, the act authorized FDR to add significant lowland valley forests in the Bogachiel, Hoh, Queets and Quinault valleys to the new park. The bill also contained, at the president's insistence, provisions to add the spectacular wilderness coast and the Queets River corridor.

To development interests who still hoped to see the new park "improved" with roads, lodges, resorts, and chalets, FDR's Secretary of the Interior, Harold Ickes, reaffirmed Congress's intent in a speech delivered in Seattle that September. "In the case of a wilderness area like Olympic National Park, the solution can be stated in four words," Ickes stated. "Keep it a wilderness."

The creation of Olympic National Park marked a high-water point in citizen conservation efforts and set the course for future national park and wilderness protections. Our parks would no longer be confined to "pleasuring grounds," curiosities, iconic landscapes, and lands of marginal economic worth. Parks would now contain commercially valuable, low-elevation forests and critical wildlife habitats. And they could preserve vast areas in wilderness condition.

Seventy-five years ago, Olympic National Park was a stunning victory. In the many conservation battles that have ensued in the Olympics -- from attempts to remove west-side valleys from the park to freeing the Elwha River from century-old dams -- the national significance of Olympic has carried the day. As OPA and our allies work for further conservation efforts, such as wilderness and wild rivers designation under the Wild Olympics bill, wolf recovery, and salmon and ecosystem restoration, we can take heart from the past and know that we are defending one of the richest and most ecologically significant wilderness preserves on the planet.

## Wilderness Gifts: Biodiversity Preserves Our Future

by Donna Osseward, President, OPA

Wilderness, as it is, as the Earth's creator made it, is valuable to us all. We instinctively enjoy its beauty. We are drawn into its splendor. The areas of our earth remaining as wilderness are incredible in their many gifts. These lands make our earth livable.

One person, one pine, or one panda is not enough for life. In wilderness we find nature's storehouse of genes. When a wilderness area is large enough it contains the species of plants and animals that make up the natural, sustainable ecosystem of an area. Each area is special because of its mix of climate, plants, and animals that collaborate in that ecosystem.

In the unique biology of complete ecosystems we have found the majority of our medicines and the plant species that help solve agricultural problems. We have learned from natural processes to synthesize new products and to better understand the importance of natural process in sustaining natural products currently valuable to us.

Mitigation is not a viable excuse for destroying one wilderness area because there is another. No two areas are alike biologically. One place cannot replace another. What is destroyed is lost.

Consider how much we learn from wilderness ecosystems. The burrs of burdock inspired the inventor of Velcro. Birds inspired flight and we still learn from them on how to improve flight.

The natural complexity of plant, animal, and fungi molecules provides compounds that are unlikely to be developed in laboratories. Over half of our medicines have their source as plants or animals found in the natural world. The native people of a place learned over the centuries that plants provided medicinal cures for many conditions. Their knowledge and faith in natural medicines has been exploited by pharmaceutical companies to develop medicines to diminish pain, fight cancer, reduce mental illness, and help organ transplants succeed. The Pacific yew was considered a weed tree until we discovered a compound in its bark was a cure for some forms of cancer. With this knowledge, yew became one of the most valuable trees in the forest. Aspirin was discovered in Medieval times from willow tree bark. A recently found compound in Eastern red cedar fights MRSA, a dangerous antibiotic-resistant flesh-eating bacteria.

From studying processes in wilderness we learn that the Douglas fir is dependent on

the fungi at its roots for its strength as lumber. We have discovered that the current clear cut method of taking trees harms the fungi by drying out the soil, killing it, and thereby reducing the quality of the next generation of trees. We are learning that our monoculture method of planting trees and many agricultural crops increases the opportunity for disease. Biodiversity slows insect movement and allows symbiotic relationships to develop for healthier living. Wilderness is naturally bio-diverse.

From wilderness we learn what is critical to sustain healthy salmon runs and keep them available as food.

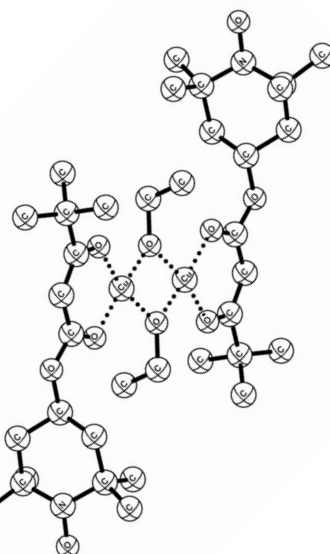
Wilderness preserves gene pools, which gives us a chance to find genes useful in preserving our crops and forests. Monoculture in agriculture reduces variety and increases the chances for disease infections in these crops. We must save plants and animals that will provide genes for agricultural use to reduce disease, provide better fruit or seed, or to confer on a species the ability to grow in different conditions.

Patenting of species, as is now allowed, can result in the loss of gene species because of market controls. This is currently happening to soy beans and other agricultural species in the United States. While soybeans are not found in American wilderness, other legumes occur there, with more to learn that will be beneficial to our continued ability to live comfortably on this earth for many generations.

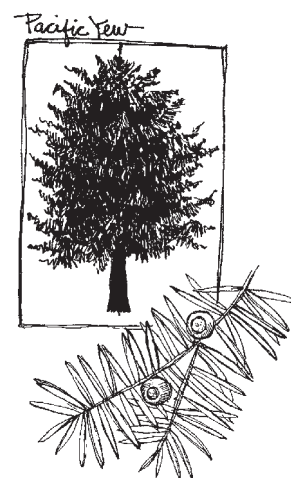
The best insurance for saving the earth's gene pool is in wilderness. We do not know what will be needed or when it will be needed to solve current or future problems. We need to preserve the diversity of genes remaining so they are there when we need them.

Because we are such a dominating force on what happens on the earth, we must be aware of our potential to destroy this valuable interspecies complexity. With power must come responsibility. We must reduce our carbon footprint and preserve remaining wilderness to maintain this diversity of life on earth.

The forces of storms, asteroids, earthquakes, and volcanoes remind us that nature has the power to overcome us unless we learn and listen to what it has to tell us. However, global warming and other less violent adversities to our comfortable life on earth will require our effort and cooperation to maintain that comfortable life for us and future generations.



**Taxol:** derived from bark of Pacific yew, *Taxus brevifolia*. Used to treat patients with lung, ovarian, breast, head and neck, and other cancers.



## Author, Guide, Advocate Doug Rose Remembered

by Tim McNulty



Author, renowned fly-fishing guide, outdoorsman and conservationist Doug Rose died of cancer this past spring. He was 63. Doug was a friend, a fellow writer, and a kindred spirit whose deep love of the Olympic Peninsula illuminated every aspect of his life.

Doug wrote three fly-fishing books devoted to the Olympic Peninsula, including the classic, *The Color of Winter and Fly-Fishing Guide to the Olympic Peninsula*. He also penned countless magazine and newspaper articles on hunting, fishing, conservation and the outdoors. Doug's credentials as an outdoorsman were unassailable, and his connection to the woods, rivers, lakes and streams of the Olympics was soulful and deep. Doug carried his love for the Olympics' wild places into political advocacy, and he wasn't afraid to

write passionately about wilderness and conservation issues -- something his fellow guides seem loathe to do. He was a long-time supporter of OPA and wrote for the *Voice* on wolves, non-native mountain goats, wilderness, and wild rivers.

I will miss Doug, his presence, his spirit, and his words. He honored the conservationists of the past who worked to create and defend the Park and wilderness areas he loved, and he was proud to be a part of that tradition. So we offer a recent essay of Doug's (see P. 7), an opinion piece written for a local newspaper. It supports the Wild Olympics campaign and addresses some of the arguments his West End neighbors raised against it. It was written when Norm Dicks and Patty Murray released their draft plan, so it includes Doug's argument for Park/National Preserve protections that were later dropped from the bill. As our current congressman, Derek Kilmer, continues to have reservations about the nature of Wild Olympics protections, it's a good time to look again at Doug's reasoning: always clear, well-informed, and to the point.

### Book Review

#### *Elwha: A River Reborn*

by Lynda V. Mapes. Photography by Steve Ringman. *The Mountaineers Books*, 176 pages, \$29.95

Excerpted from review by Tim McNulty, in the *Seattle Times*, May 6, 2013.



On September 17, 2011, an excavator with a gold-painted bucket took the first bite out of the Elwha Dam. That marked the beginning of the largest dam removal in the world and an ambitious ecological restoration effort that will return salmon to Olympic National Park's largest river system.

Beyond the Elwha and Glines Canyon dams lie 70 miles of pristine spawning habitat protected by the Olympic National Park, habitat blocked to salmon for a century. The Elwha River was legendary for its once-prodigious runs of all five species of Pacific salmon. By 2011 less than one percent remained.

The Elwha dams, built in 1913 and 1927, brought power and a degree of prosperity to the pioneering settlement of Port Angeles. But the Lower Elwha Klallam people, area fishermen, and a cherished national park bore the cost.

In *Elwha: A River Reborn*, *Seattle Times* reporter Lynda Mapes and photographer Steve Ringman have done an exceptional job weaving together the many varied and often conflicting threads of the Elwha story.

Mapes sat with elders of the Elwha Klallam Tribe, including the late Adeline Smith, who as a child watched crowds of salmon splash past her parents' farm house. "You couldn't cross a stream without stepping on a fish,"

she recalled. Smith and others recount how the Elwha people had no voice to protest when the dams were built. Indian people did not receive U.S. citizenship until 1924; the Elwha Tribe had no reservation until 1968.

But when the local pulp and paper mill applied to renew its license for the upper dam, the tribe led the effort to correct a decades-long injustice. In 1986 the tribe petitioned the federal licensing agency to remove both dams and restore historic salmon runs. The tribe was joined by Olympic Park Associates and three other environmental organizations led by OPA's Rick Rutz, a scrappy scientist-activist who envisioned Elwha dam removal as a national issue.

"Not only do you not have to be an attorney," Rutz told Mapes, "you don't have to be a credentialed agency biologist to know a thing or two about this sort of thing, even when they tell you [you] are wrong."

The Elwha River Ecosystem Restoration Act passed in 1992, but victory was short-lived. Local politics ensued. It would be nearly two decades before the dams were taken out -- at a cost of \$325 million.

It is a great story, well told and beautifully illustrated in fluid prose and striking images. As salmon swim past the former site of the lower dam, *Elwha: A River Reborn* celebrates a local environmental success story with planetary significance.



# Why I Support the Wild Olympics Campaign

by Doug Rose

I live on the West End. I hunt and I fish. Indeed, I make my living writing about hunting and fishing and by guiding fly fishermen. And I am an enthusiastic supporter of the Wild Olympics Campaign.

This is what the campaign wants to do: expand the wilderness areas in Olympic National Forest, designate the portions of the region's major rivers that flow through federal and state land as wild and scenic, and create modest national preserves around Olympic National Park at Lake Ozette, Lake Crescent and the Queets.

Why do I want this campaign to succeed?

The current national park and wilderness boundaries in the Olympics are the result of political negotiations, not ecological considerations. In recent decades, as scientists have learned more about the complex and interwoven nature of ecosystems—things such as mycorrhizal layers and hyporheic zones—it has become clear that some areas that are critical to fish, wildlife and water quality are vulnerable to degradation, even development.

Recently, U.S. Rep. Norm Dicks and Sen. Patty Murray put forth an alternative path toward the Wild Olympics proposals. This alternative path included the idea of a national preserve for areas identified as being critical habitat for salmon, steelhead and other wildlife. This is a key distinction from the ways of the past.

The announcement solidified my support because I still will be able to hunt, hike with my dog, Ruby, camp and forage for berries and mushrooms if these areas become wilderness, wild and scenic rivers or national preserves.

Residents of local timber communities, of course, have understandable questions and concerns about the proposals' effect on their economies. Olympic National Forest holdings, which can be logged, will be removed from the timber base if they become wilderness. But nearly all of the land proposed for wilderness is already off limits to logging because of existing protections such as the Northwest Forest Plan and Roadless Rule. So the "Wilderness" designation will have a negligible effect on the timber base, but it will permanently protect some of the best hunting and fishing spots on the forest.

Timber companies own most of the land proposed to create the national preserves. All acquisitions will be on a "willing seller" basis. This means that if timber land owners are concerned about the timber base, they need never sell to the park. Because of this, the campaign anticipates that sales to the park, if any, would be acquired slowly, one property at a time, over many years. As a result, the impact on local economies will be limited and based entirely on decisions made by the land owners.

As for access, all of the lands proposed for wilderness, wild and scenic rivers and national preserves will remain open to the public. That's not something you can assume anymore about the peninsula's timberlands. You can't hunt or fish on certain commercial timberlands unless you are willing to buy an annual permit. Within the last couple of years, timber landowners have posted large swaths of their holdings between the Bogachiel and Hoh rivers. And timberlands south of Highway 104 near Beaver Valley Road, traditionally one of the most productive blacktailed deer hunting areas on the peninsula, is closed this year.

If timber landowners ever want to sell their land, Congressman Dicks and Sen. Murray's draft proposal creates an option—not a mandate—to bring these lands into public ownership and provide permanent hunting and fishing access where there is now none.

In addition, if the proposed wilderness designation were already in effect, deer hunters would have had 130,000 more acres to hunt during the September "High Buck Hunt." Located exclusively on the peninsula's wilderness areas, the High Buck Hunt allows hunters willing to walk away from the roads an opportunity to pursue some of the region's most impressive bucks in the Olympics' most magnificent settings.

*The "Wilderness" designation will have a negligible effect on the timber base, but it will permanently protect some of the best hunting and fishing spots on the forest.*

I will be the first to acknowledge that rural residents of the Olympic Peninsula often have taken it on the chin as a result of decisions imposed on them by people who live far from here and who have no idea about how we live. The land condemnations

in the Queets Valley and at Ruby Beach to create the national park were heavy-handed, at best. More recently, the statewide vote to ban hound hunting ended an important part of the heritage of timber communities, one that also effectively managed large predator populations.

But that is not how the Wild Olympics Campaign has operated. Their coalition is driven and led by four local Peninsula groups. The Chair of the campaign lives in Quilcene. Over the last couple of years, they have met with scores of Olympic Peninsula residents. They approached me last year and heard my concerns about the wilderness boundaries in the Calawah watershed. Congressman Dicks and Sen. Murray have continued this process by making substantive changes to the Wild Olympics Campaign as a result of their own consultations and have tailored their proposal to address concerns and the ideas of West End timber communities, the tribes and sportsmen, not to mention the ideas of other people who live on the Olympic Peninsula—and who want to leave its most important areas in at least as good a shape as we received them.

Book Review

## *Wolves in the Land of Salmon*

by David Moskowitz, 2013, Timber Press, Portland and London, 2013, 335 pages. Illustrated with maps and photographs, hardbound, \$29.95.

Reviewed by Bruce Moorhead, Trustee and Lifetime Member of OPA. Bruce served as wildlife biologist at Olympic National Park for 28 years before retiring in 1995.



No native wild animal in North America creates more heat than light than the Gray Wolf in its conservation prospects and management. If you're looking for the single, best reference on this attractive and complicated animal as it returns to the Pacific Northwest, read David Moskowitz's new book, *Wolves in the Land of Salmon*. Moskowitz

offers the most extensive, thorough, and up-to-date treatment of its history, biology, and behavior yet attempted for this region. The book is beautifully written and illustrated, filled with the author's marvelous color-photographs of wild wolves in the region, and includes 12 maps and a 22-page bibliography.

This book is an especially informative and balanced compendium on this animal for wolf lovers, wildlife researchers and managers, wilderness advocates, outdoor recreationists of various stripes, and perhaps even a few wolf fence-sitters and haters.

Earlier this year, OPA board member Tom Bihn and I were able to meet and have dinner with Mr. Moskowitz prior to his presentation on the book in Port Angeles, WA, which was co-sponsored by the Olympic Park Associates and Port Book and News.

As a retired wildlife biologist, from the outset I sensed that Moskowitz's approach and strength is his obvious physical and mental skills as a naturalist and professional tracker. Even more, what I found really interesting and commendable is his trait of digging deeply (albeit readably) into the heart of complicated biological, economic and cultural issues while trying to experience and assess them up-close and personal on the ground for himself -- without preconceptions. This is a very tall order, but also an especially useful way of approaching and portraying such a fascinating but tricky, even quirky, subject as the wolf. However, it's probably about the only way to effectively communicate with and to educate a sometimes intelligent but often largely uninformed urban audience living far from the realities of the wild

wolf. The author clearly has benefitted substantially from personal contacts he was able to foster with research scientists and Native Americans alike to better understand these animals in their Northwest biome and cultural context.

To my knowledge, no one has so fully gathered, assimilated and presented so much information so accessibly about wolves across such a sizable and varied region, nor addressed their various limits and prospects in the Olympics. After discussing each of the geographical sections where wolves now occur, the book culminates in the rather isolated and empty-of-wolves Olympic Peninsula. It is an improbable yet somewhat possible prospect for them to re-appear here too, eventually, perhaps in the manner in which they are dispersing now through the Cascade Mountains, within sight to the east.

The wolf is animal that throughout its long history has induced strong feelings and biases in humans. Yet sensed throughout the book an open yet realistic integrity at work to portray this highly adaptable animal as it is, rather than through the "shape-shifting" smoke and mirrors of symbolic myths, magic and menace.

Moskowitz's effort is a fascinating, modern exploration of the other top-carnivore that's inhabited the Pacific Northwest as long as humans: its current status, remaining habitats, and way of life here, past, present, and now future. I highly recommend the book. It is a good background read if you're more than a little curious about what's really going on amid all the media fluff and fury you're likely to see and hear as wolves continue to increase throughout this region in the days and years ahead. You will also better understand, as wolf-expert Carter Niemeyer has said, that "Wolves are neither as good as we hope, nor as bad as we fear."

Nor are we humans.



## Ecological Benefits of the Elwha River Sediment

by Stefanie Colliton

Student, Natural Resources Class, North Olympic Peninsula Skills Center

If you stand at the mouth of the Elwha River, you will see torrents and torrents of murky water flowing rapidly out into the Strait of Juan de Fuca. You will also see several new beaches and even a peninsula forming from the outpouring sediment, both resulting from 99 years of backup. At first glance, this may all look dangerous for the ecosystem; however, despite the vast muddy flow, the river and near-shore environments have gained significant ecological benefits from the sediment since the dam removal a year and a half ago, which was the largest of its kind in the history of the United States. In this article, I will be sharing examples of some of the ecological benefits of the newly-released sediment, as well as my own personal observations from being in the field with my North Olympic Peninsula Skills Center Natural Resources class.

It is believed by the scientific community and many other citizens that all of this sediment will prove to be ecologically favorable for the Elwha ecosystem. Since the dams were removed to a point at which the river could once again push fine sediment downstream, enough new sediment was present in spring 2012 for native plant regrowth. Seeds projected from trees surrounding the reservoir and river bed took root in the newly exposed silt and are now vigorously growing saplings. A multitude of bushes has spread along the river banks, creating future riparian habitats.

Out in the Strait of Juan de Fuca, the accumulation of supple sediment is predicted to present a suitable environment for sea grasses, which are decreasing in abundance in our region and which nurture salmon. The pliable sediment on the beaches could also provide spawning grounds for sea smelt and sand lance, according to *The Seattle Times*. "I see it as a return of how things are supposed to be, and we are only at the beginning of these ecological effects," said Anne Shaffer, from the Coastal Watershed Institute of Port Angeles to the *Peninsula Daily News*.

Every other Thursday, the North Olympic Peninsula Skills Center Natural Re-

sources students working with the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary make a pilgrimage to the Elwha River mouth to conduct seabird, sediment, and marine debris surveys. Each week, we get to witness the ever-changing scenery; in fact, several of us remember our eighth-grade field trips to the beaches prior to the 2011 removal, and recall a landscape covered in rocks. Now, everywhere we look there is free-flowing water pushing out debris and smooth, pliable sand beneath our feet. It is astounding to see such an environmental rebound in so short a short period. Based on my own informal observations, as well as the word of many Elwha project scientists, the ecosystem looks like it is repairing itself, and well on its way to a recovery. I can only assume that there will be a complete and phenomenal restoration in years to come.

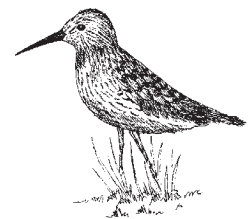
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### *Sediments Trouble Port Angeles Water Treatment Facilities*

Excessive sediment loading from Elwha dam removal has led to complications and shut downs of a pump station for the City of Port Angeles. The station was constructed for the city by the National Park Service as part of the \$79 million Elwha Water Facilities, built to insure domestic and industrial water quality for Port Angeles. The city currently gets its drinking water from a Ranney well nearby the pump station which has remained unaffected by sediment flows in the river.

Removal of the remaining 50 feet of the Glines Canyon Dam has been placed on hold pending repairs to the pump station. In June, a park spokesperson told the Port Angeles Chamber of Commerce that problems with the pump station will be repaired by September, and removal of the remaining Glines Canyon Dam will be completed over the following months. Final dam removal remains on schedule for September of 2014.

Early estimates of sediments backed up behind the dams fell short. Currently, it's estimated that between 30 and 40 million cubic yards of sediments were trapped behind both dams. According to park sources, about half the sediment expected to move downstream has already been flushed.



## Sarah Creachbaum, Superintendent of Olympic National Park.



Superintendent Creachbaum arrived in Port Angeles in November of 2012. Prior to this post Sarah was Superintendent of Haleakala National Park on the island of Maui. Sarah has also served as the Superintendent of the War In the Pacific National Historical Park, and American Memorial Park on the islands of Guam and Saipan. She has also served at other national parks in the western US, including Grand Canyon, Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Park.

She currently is the co-chair of the National Park Service Wilderness Leadership Council.

In Washington, D.C. Sarah served on the staff of the Senate Subcommittee on National Parks, and was the 2004 National Park Service Bevinetto Fellow, a fellowship established to foster mutual understanding and cooperation between the National Park Service and Congress.

Sarah received her Masters degree in Landscape Architecture and Environmental Planning from Utah State University in 1994.

Sarah lives in Port Angeles with her husband Bob and their border collie Jimmy. In her minimal free time she enjoys painting, hiking and kayaking.

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## Park Closes Hoh River to Fishing to Preserve Threatened Chinook

Olympic National Park released its sport fishing regulations for 2013-2014 and announced the closure of recreational fishing in the Hoh River.

Just over half of the Hoh watershed lies within Olympic National Park; the fishing closure includes only those portions of the upper Hoh River, South Fork Hoh River, all tributaries, and the Hoh River mouth within the park.

The closure in the Hoh River system is designed to protect a unique population of wild Chinook salmon that has declined in recent years. This year's forecast for Hoh River spring/summer Chinook predicts another year when the returning population will fall below the established escapement floor of 900 adults. The population has failed to meet the escapement floor five times in the past six years.

The recent pattern of low escapements and low productivity of Chinook highlights the need for additional conservation measures to better protect these salmon that are prized in tribal and non-tribal fisheries.

"While we strive to provide fishing opportunities to park visitors, we have significant concerns about impacts on wild Chinook in light of the forecast low return to the Hoh this year," said Olympic Superintendent Sarah Creachbaum. "Conservation of this population is a high priority and the closure will provide some relief and protection for Chinook that spawn in Olympic National Park."

Hoh River spring Chinook are an integral component of the park ecosystem and contribute ecologically, economically, and culturally.

Specific changes that will take effect include:

- 1) the Hoh River mouth will be closed to fishing thru August 31; and
- 2) the upper Hoh and South Fork Hoh rivers and their tributaries will be closed from May 1 to October 31 and will reopen on November 1.

Sport fishing opportunities are available throughout other areas of the park.

Updated regulations are available at <http://www.nps.gov/olymp/fishregs.htm> and at all park visitor centers, fee booths, ranger stations, and area fishing stores.



## Letter Honoring the 75th Anniversary of Olympic National Park

by Sarah Creachbaum, Superintendent, Olympic National Park  
 Printed in the Peninsula Daily News on 6/23/2013. Used with permission.

Seventy-five years ago, on June 29, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed the bill establishing Olympic National Park, creating one of the most beloved and visited national parks in the country and forever changing the face of the Olympic Peninsula.

This milestone gives us an opportunity to celebrate the past, highlight over a century of hard work and dedication, and tell a story that reaches much further back than the last 75 years.

The story and character of Olympic National Park is shaped by thousands of years of shifting climate, landscapes, and cultures.

More than 12,000 years ago, during the last great ice age, rivers of ice carved out the Olympic Peninsula and separated the Olympic Mountains from the rest of North America's mountain ranges.

This period of glaciation and geographical isolation created a unique landscape with extreme gradients of elevation, temperature and precipitation and resulted in the incredible ecological variety that is the hallmark of Olympic National Park today.

The Story of the Olympic Peninsula has also been shaped by the many diverse cultures and people who have called this place home.

Since time immemorial, people have lived in and loved the land now within Olympic National Park.

Local communities are closely and directly linked to the park in culture, heritage and tradition, and provide important historical information and meaning to the park's landscape.

Efforts to preserve and protect this unique landscape began in the late 1880s when the Peninsula's spectacular mountains, rain forest and unique wildlife captured the attention of visitors, park advocates and naturalists.

By 1890, naturalist John Muir, Washington Congressman James Wickersham and Lieutenant Joseph O'Neil, who led the first Anglo exploration of the Peninsula's interior, each respectively proposed creation of a national park on the Peninsula.

Originally established as a national forest reserve in 1897, the type of use and protection for this ecologically and economically valuable area was hotly debated for almost half a century.

A visit by President Franklin D. Roosevelt to the Olympic Peninsula in 1937 was the final turning point in the battle to preserve the area as a National Park.

Within a year of his visit, President Roosevelt signed the bill establishing Olympic National Park, preserving this unique and stunning landscape for generations of present and future visitors, students, researchers and outdoor enthusiasts.

The park's outstanding qualities have also led to international recognition as an International Biosphere Reserve by the United Nations as educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and as a World Heritage Site by the World Heritage Convention, joining it to a global system of natural and cultural properties that are considered irreplaceable treasures of outstanding universal value.

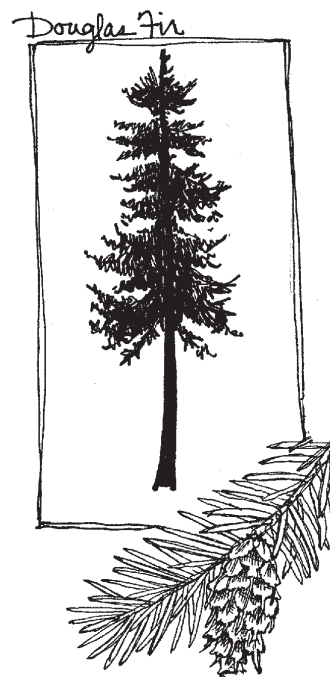
As we celebrate the anniversary and history of this special place, we are also looking forward to the next 75 years.

This year we began developing the park's Wilderness Stewardship Plan, which will guide the preservation, management and use for the 95 percent of the park designated as a wilderness area, the highest level of protection for federal lands.

As we plan for the future, we must strive to find ways to work together to protect and preserve the park's resources and to continue to provide our millions of visitors and neighboring residents with excellent experiences both inside the park and in our surrounding communities.

I invite you to experience and enjoy Olympic National Park, and to join us in celebrating its 75th Anniversary.

Sincerely,  
 M. Sarah Creachbaum  
 Olympic National Park Superintendent







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Sally W. Soest, Editor

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