VOICE of the WILD OLYMPICS

Olympic Park Associates



Volume 23 Number 1 Spring 2015



A Huge Environmental Mistake Coming to the Peninsula?

by Donna Osseward, President, OPA

The Olympics urgently need your help. We need to convince our Congressional representatives, Forest Service administrators, and the Navy, that the Navy's shocking plan to create a Permanent Electromagnetic Warfare Training Range on the Olympic Peninsula is ill-advised.

Imagine this: Under the Navy's plan, a *three-jet formation* will take off from Whidbey Island Naval Air Station, beginning at **7** *am*, and will fly back and forth at *low elevation* over the electromagnetic warfare training range (see map) searching for three mobile electromagnetic emitters randomly placed on forest roads. As those jets return, they will be followed hourly by other three-jet formations from Whidbey. This activity will be repeated for *12 to 16 hours a day, up to 260 days a year*.

The Navy's Environmental Assessment (EA) advises that their activities could change as the Navy sees fit into the future without further environmental review.

Founded in 1948



How would the Navy's proposal affect the Olympic Peninsula?

The proposal would make use of the roads and airspace of Olympic National Forest and, the Navy hopes, Washington State Department of Resources (DNR) land, to locate their electromagnetic targets. While searching for targets, Growler jets will use the airspace over Olympic National Park and Wilderness; Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary: the Washington Islands National Wildlife Refuges; the Quinault, Quileute, and Hoh reservations; thousands of acres of private land, including the towns of Forks and Amada Park; and sections of Highway 101. DNR has notified the Navy that the agency, not yet asked, is not interested in participating. However, DNR cannot stop

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OPA Meetings

Next: Tuesday, May 26, 2015

Place: Kingston Community Center.

Regular Meetings Schedule: 4th Tuesday of odd-numbered months, except the 3rd Tuesday in November and no meeting in July.

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

Your Legislators

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

U.S. Congress: 202) 224-3121 to reach any member of Congress

US Senate, Washington, DC 20510 www.senate.gov

Senator Patty Murray

DC: 202-224-2621 FAX 202-224-0238 Seattle: 206-553-5545 . www.murray.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/contactme

Senator Maria Cantwell DC: 202-224-3441 FAX 202-228-0514 Seattle: 206-220-6400 www.cantwell.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/email-maria

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US House of Representatives, Washington, DC, 20515

1 Rep. Suzan DelBene (D)

318 Cannon HOB P 202-225-6311 F 202-225-1606 WA: 425-252-3188 https://delbene.house.gov/contactme/email-me

2 Rep. Rick Larsen (D)

2113 Rayburn HOB P 202-225-2605 F 202-225-4420 WA: 425-252-3188 https://larsen.house.gov/contact-rick/ email-rick

3 Rep. Jaime Herrera Beutler (R) 1130 Longworth HOB P 202-225-3536 F 202-225-3478 http://herrerabeutler.house.gov/ contact/

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 - **Rep. Cathy McMorris Rodgers** 203 Cannon HOB Washington, DC 20515-4705 P 202-225-2006 F 202-225-3392

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- 7 Rep. Jim McDermott (D)

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8 Rep. David G. Reichert

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9 Rep. Adam Smith 12264 Russell HOB

P 202-225-8901 F 202-225-5893 http://adamsmith.house.gov/contact

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OPA's Web Page www.olympicparkassociates.org

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Navy Plans Electronic Warfare Training Over Olympic Peninsula

jet overflights of its land.

The Navy maintains that noise will be an insignificant problem for humans, animals, and birds. They did not include noise from jets in their EA that requested permission to use the national forest roads. They continue to publically deny that these activities will increase the noise on the Peninsula. Do they think by not mentioning jet noise, it is not there? The emitters are not just shooting at the moon.

According to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), noise pollution is dangerous to human health. EPA defines noise pollution as "unwanted or disturbing sound." "Sound becomes unwanted when it either interferes with normal activities such as sleeping, conversation, or disrupts or diminishes one's quality of life.... [S]tudies have shown that there are direct links between noise and health. Problems related to noise include stress related illnesses, high blood pressure, speech interference, hearing loss, sleep disruption, and lost productivity... [R]esearch has shown that exposure to constant or high levels of noise can cause countless adverse health effects."[EPA website]

The Navy's plans will degrade the peaceful lifestyle of the people who live in this area. It will spoil an ecosystem that the members of OPA have worked to preserve for 70 years. Permanent military training operations would drastically change the nature and use of our lands. The lives of native people on reservations, and also the lives of people who live there or visit the Peninsula will be adversely affected.

The Navy's use of the training range will certainly reduce the number of visitors that will want to come to see the Park's rainforests; to fish, hunt, or hike in the National Forest; or explore the beaches of the coast. Visitors to the Peninsula come from across the country and around the world. Olympic National Park, alone, had 3,085,340 visitors in 2013 with a 17% increase in 2014.

The Navy is not offering compensation to the people living within the proposed range for the disruption to their quality of life. If the Forest Service grants a permit to the Navy, it allows the western part of the Peninsula to become a free (to the Navy) military asset. The Navy says the plan is an efficiency move. A move, OPA concludes, to be paid for by too many.

Forest Service's Permission Required

If the Forest Service grants the Navy permission to operate emitter trucks on National Forest roads, the Navy would then disrupt the peace and quiet of the people, wildlife, and birds of much of the western part of the Olympic Peninsula with its jets searching for these emitters. Affected wildlife includes two species, marbled murreletts and norhtern spotted owls, listed as threaten under the Endangered Species Act.

Our public lands were set up by Congress to provide

future resources for all America. These include resource jobs, wildlife preservation, recreation, and ecosystem preservation. The treaty lands were established to provide sanctuary for native people to live according to their culture and customs.

OPA supports our Navy and the efforts of our armed forces to defend our national security. Because this training has been done elsewhere for years, it will not degrade our national defense to leave the training where it is presently done.

Further, OPA argues that this plan, if allowed by our Forest Service and congressional representatives, will set precedents that could eventually degrade all of our national parks, national forests, wildlife refuges, and the wilderness within them. The solitude of wilderness would be taken from our lives.

If the Forest Service grants the Navy a permit, OPA will do what it can to help fight the decision in court.

OPA's Goal

OPA is working with other organizations and individuals to try to convince decision makers to stop this unprecedented misuse of our public and private lands.

The Forest Service EA contains many mistakes and omissions. OPA believes this will cause a federal court to find against the Forest Service and the Navy. That effort will require skilled environmental lawyers, hours of court preparation research, and a huge fundraising effort to pay for it. A Forest Service loss in court would cause the Navy and Forest Service either to appeal to a higher court, be forced to redo the EA or produce an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). That will cause a delay in the activity but not necessarily stop the plan. The other alternative is for the Forest Service to deny the permit to the Navy. That would solve the issue.

It is OPA's hope that our elected representatives will see the flaws in this plan with its impact on the Peninsula and its dangerous precedent nationwide. Right now, they should step up and tell the Navy to not move its training to the Olympic Peninsula. Our living environment is something we hope our Navy will help us protect.

We will work to keep information up-to-date on our website, and we will be asking for your support. There will be a limited time for response when the Forest Service makes its decision public. That could happen any day. There will also be campaigns to write or email public officials asking them to stop this plan. With your help, OPA will continue to work to save the Peninsula from this shocking, shortsighted proposal.

OPA pledges, with your help, to stop this unnecessary degradation of the Peninsula.

By Shelley Spalding, OPA Board, and Leader of the Polly Dyer Cascadia Broadband, Great Old Broads for Wilderness.

Washington's federal forests are slowly recovering. The clearcutting epidemic of the 1970s and 1980s left our state with severely degraded water quality, decimated wildlife habitat, and what little old growth that remained in jeopardy. However, for the last 20 years, an agreement called the Northwest Forest Plan (NWFP) has attempted to strike a new balance between logging and providing habitat for wildlife dependent on old growth forests. The US Forest Service is now considering revisions to this plan and is looking for public input.

The NWFP defined areas for protecting and restoring old-growth habitat, set aside streamside areas to protect water quality and salmon habitat, and created strong standards for restoring forests and watersheds. This has led to great progress restoring damage done by the unsustainable logging of previous decades. Water quality and salmon habitat have improved, old-growth logging has come to a halt, and the agencies are largely meeting their timber production targets by thinning in previously clearcut plantations with little controversy.

This plan revision process will have several steps along the way for public engagement and comments. So far, Region 6 of the Forest Service has hosted "Listening Sessions" for the Pre-Assessment Phase of Plan revisions. Please consider attending future sessions when dates and locations are announced.

The Northwest Forest Plan (NWFP) continues to be instrumental in keeping Washington a special place through the restoration of watersheds, recovery of economically valuable salmon runs, protection of wildlife habitat and old-growth forests, and fostering the stunning vistas that are so iconic to our state.

It is important that the protections in the NWFP not be weakened – and potentially strengthened.

- There is no need for any radical revision of the plan – we're only 20 years into a 100 year restoration plan. We knew that it would take decades to restore the damage done during the clearcutting binge that occurred prior to the Northwest Forest Plan. Let's stay on course.
- Enhance and strengthen the NWFP reserve network by protecting all mature and old-growth forests and unroaded areas to provide for wildlife habitat needs in a changing climate and increasing pressure from habitat fragmentation and invasive species.
- Retain and build upon the strong objectives and buffers for streams and riparian areas in the NWFP should be retained and built upon.
- Continue to build on the restoration begun under the Northwest Forest Plan – from adding diversity to young plantations, to reducing impacts from the extensive road system, to improving fish and wildlife habitat.
- The science synthesis conducted to inform plan revisions *should ensure peer review and public participation*.

The Northwest Forest Plan was always much bigger than the northern spotted owl. The plan protects drinking water, keeps other wildlife off of the endangered species list, restores salmon runs, stabilizes the climate, provides recreation, and improves quality of life which is the foundation of the growing regional economy.

Let's show the Forest Service that the public cares about this very important process, and the forests it will impact.

Please consider attending future sessions when dates and locations are announced.

OPA's Comments Submitted for the Review Process

Donna Osseward, OPA President

- Any changes being considered for the Northwest Forest Plan must be science-based;
- · Establish permanent preserves where cutting is prohibited;
- · Establish functional riparian areas and watershed connectivity;
- Restore the full range of old-growth-associated species, leading to the restoration of federally threatened marbled murrelet and northern spotted owl populations; and
- · Non-conforming activities, not sanctioned by Congress, should not be allowed to denigrate national forest values.

A Record-Breaking No-Snow Year for the Olympics

by Tim McNulty

The data from Olympic National Park's May 1st snow survey are in and the results are alarming. All snow survey and automated Snowtel sites in the park were empty of snow, indicating a zero percent snowpack.

Snow remains on the higher peaks, but it is the mountain basin snow sites that indicate how much moisture will be available for rivers, water supplies, and salmon later in the summer. May is a time when the Olympic snowpack is typically near its peak.

Park science technician Bill Baccus, who monitors the snowpack monthly throughout the spring, points to Cox Valley at the head of Morse Creek as an example. Most years, the site would have over six and half feet of snow in May. This year the site was bare (see photos

The situation was similar at other survey and Snowtel sites as well. The Buckinghorse site in the upper Elwha watershed typically has eight feet of snow. In May; this year it registered none. The lower glaciers of Mount Olympus, among the coldest areas in the park, were also empty of snow.

"The phenomenon of a lack of snow has nothing to do with drought," Bacchus explains, "and everything to do with temperature this year." In fact precipitation, as measured at Waterhole on Hurricane Ridge and other Snowtel sites, was slightly above average. The problem is that temperatures at these sites were nearly four degrees Fahrenheit above average as well. At mid and upper elevations, this makes the critical difference between rain and snow.

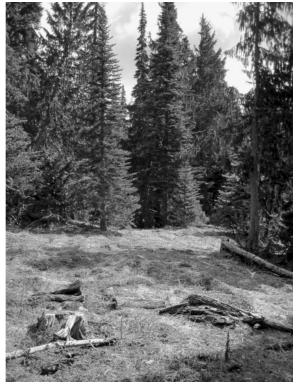
One result of this record-breaking winter will be reduced flows in park rivers, particularly snow-fed rivers like the Elwha, where April and May flows are already below average. The condition of these rivers in late summer and fall -- and their effects on forests, fish, and domestic water supplies -- is yet unknown.

A 2013 report from the University of Washington Climate Impacts Group predicts that the Pacific Northwest is likely to be four degrees Fahrenheit warmer by 2050 or 2070, with a slight increase in precipitation.

Is this year a temporary aberration, the result of altered Pacific currents and elevated ocean surface temperatures -- or a preview of coming decades under continued global warming? No one can say with certainty.

Either way, one thing is certain. The time for climate action is now. To learn more, visit Olympic Climate Action at olyclimate.org.





Cox Valley 2014. NPS Photo. Cox Valley 2015. NPS Photo.

Voice OF THE WILD OLYMPICS ______ Nature Conservancy Sells Off Potential Park Additions

In April, The Nature Conservancy announced that it had sold 1,720 acres of land adjacent to Olympic National Park's Queets River corridor to the Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR) for logging. The land was part of a 2,320 acre parcel purchased from Rayonier two years earlier.

It was also part of OPA's and other conservation groups' proposal for national preserve additions to Olympic National Park. Park-preserve additions were dropped from the Wild Olympics bill currently before Congress. But selling this land to DNR for logging seems sorely out of keeping with The Nature Conservancy's stated purpose, "to protect ecologically important lands and waters for nature and people."

A Nature Conservancy spokesman told the Peninsula Daily News the property was not "critical for conservation."

We disagree. So does Olympic National Park, which recommended part of the area for willing-seller park additions in its 2008 general management plan.

The value of this land to the Conservancy? The spokesman said that the purchase price of \$4 million reflects "the value of the timber that can be harvested in the next 10 to 20 years."

Enchanted Valley Chalet: The Continuing Saga

by Tim McNulty

This summer, Olympic National Park will begin yet another round of planning for the beleaguered Enchanted Valley chalet in the East Fork Quinault Valley. Last September the park conducted an emergency relocation \$400,000 - \$500,000: of the three-story struc-Taxpayers' \$\$ spent so far ture, moving it approxito move the chalet. mately 100 feet back from the river bank to prevent it from collapsing into the stream. The operation involved nearly two dozen helicopter flights up and down a thirty mile stretch of the valley, pumps, jacks, generators, near-continuous pack-stock support, and a total estimated cost of \$400,000 to \$500,000.

This past winter, it carved away another 20 or more feet of river bank and cut a flood channel south of the chalet. All this leaves the chalet on a diminishing

piece of unconsolidated floodplain. The park's options are limited. OPA will once more argue for the sensible solution, disassembling the aging building and instead focusing needed funds where they

belong, on visitor services: road and trail repairs, campgrounds, visitor centers, and wilderness and interpretive rangers, to name a few. Park visitation reached 3.24 million last year. The park has already gone to extraordinary lengths to preserve the old log building.

The Quinault River is undeterred.

Enough is enough.

Look to OPA's website, *www.olympicparkassociates.org* for updates on the next chapter of this gothic tale, and make your views known.

ONP Goat Plan Due in Fall

by Tm McNulty

This fall, Olympic National Park will release a draft environmental impact statement on its Mountain Goat Management Plan. A preferred course of action will be proposed, and the park will solicit comments from the public.

This planning effort presents a longawaited opportunity to effectively deal with non-native goats in the Olympics. Park managers need to hear from you.

OPA has long argued that not only are mountain goats not native to the Olympics, their presence in the park -- feeding, wallowing, and trampling -- causes serious damage to alpine plants, soils, and native wildlife. Olympic National Park is known worldwide for its unique endemic species, including eleven plants and five mammals, such as the Olympic marmot, that occur nowhere else on earth.

The draft plan will propose a strategy for dealing with non-native goats. Whether it is by live capture and translocation, lethal means, or some combination, the end result must be removal of goats from the park. Research has shown that even a small number of goats continue to cause lasting damage to fragile alpine and subalpine habitats.

The park is cooperating with the U.S. Forest Service and Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) in this effort, which is critically important. Goats on adjoining Forest Service lands, where wildlife is managed by WDFW, can function as a breeding population reintroducing goats back into the park. Long-term management and interagency cooperation will be essential.

Following the draft plan this fall, a final plan will be released in 2016. Management can begin soon thereafter.

Let's help preserve the Olympics' stunning alpine habitats for the native plants and animals that have made it their home for millennia. Urge park managers to develop a workable and scientific approach that will remove all non-native goats from the park.

You can stay abreast of the planning effort at parkplanning.nps.gov/projectHome.cfm?projectID=49246. To view OPA's scoping letter on the plan

or to review OPA's 1995 analysis of non-native mountain goats in the Olympics, visit our website at **olympicparkassociates.org**.

Counties to Receive Timber Payments

OPA is pleased to report that rural counties with federal timberlands will receive \$285 million this year after Congress again authorized long-standing annual payments to help fund schools and roads.

A 1908 law requires the federal government to compensate counties with national forests by giving them 25 percent of funds generated through logging on federal land. In 1990, after lawsuits prompted steep declines in logging, Congress authorized the Secure Rural Schools Act. That legislation has been reauthorized every year since. In April, Congress agreed to a two-year extension. Rural counties surrounding Olympic National Forest will benefit. In 2013, Jefferson County received \$877,496 from the Secure Rural Schools program while Clallam County got \$866,081.

"This agreement continues critical support for cities and towns near national forest lands so they can provide essential services to our kids and their families," said U.S. Rep. Derek Kilmer, who represents peninsula counties. "I was proud to push House leadership to get this done."

Voice OF THE WILD OLYMPICS ______ Farewell to Elwha Champion and OPA Advisor Dick Goin



Fly fisherman, wild fish advocate, Elwha restoration champion, and OPA advisor and former board member, Dick Goin, died at his home in Port Angles in April. He was 83.

Dick moved to the Peninsula as a boy in the Depression year of 1937, and Elwha salmon sustained his family. A skilled fisherman and keen observer, he monitored the plentitude -- then loss -- of wild fish stocks in the Elwha and other peninsula rivers. He also kept meticulous records. Dick was a citizen-scientist before there was a name for it. And he was among the first to raise concerns about the fate of Elwha River salmon based on first-hand observation. Dick spoke passionately about restoring the Elwha. He continually urged OPA and other conservation organizations to focus on watersheds and salmon as the true indicators of ecosystem health.

Fortunately, Dick lived to see the Elwha dams removed and wild salmon and steelhead return to the upper river. He was honored for his contribution.

A trailer for a documentary currently being developed on Dick's life can be seen at http://vimeo.com/14138803.

We at OPA send our condolences to Marie, Dick's wife of 63 years, and his family. To Dick we owe our enduring gratitude.

Dick Goin and friend

Excerpts from Fate of the Fisheries in Olympic National Park By Dick Goin. From a presentation to the OPA Board meeting on November 15, 2000.

Wild / native fishery stocks are not re-

placeable.

This is a crucial point that few people grasp. The genetic characteristics of a wild stock of salmon are uniquely adapted to a specific river. These unique, successful collections of genes are not replaceable. Once they are gone they will never be seen again.

Diversity is the key to survival of any species. Through the centuries salmon stocks have become diverse in many ways in order to survive. Nature seeks to use every portion of a river. A stock is adapted to spawn in a very specific portion of a specific stream. If they all sought to spawn in the same place, that would be the end of that!

Some examples: Bull trout are one of our most numerous stocks in the streams that they use in the park. Sea run cutthroat get into every stream in the park. The Gray Wolf is the major recipient of pink salmon. Beyond that we have rainbow and cutthroat and resident bull trout and Dolly Varden. We have different life histories of the same species in the same stream. Some stocks over-winter differently than others.

However, specialization limits the survivability of a particular stock. Because each stock has adapted very specifically, they have absolutely no option of going

elsewhere. Once we lose the stock, we lose the diversity.

For example, if we were to discover that in a particular watershed the elk were gone, we could bring a Roosevelt elk over from the Calawha, Solduc, or Hoh watersheds. That cannot be done with a wild salmon stock. The genetics of a wild stock of salmon cannot be replaced....

I do a lot of looking around the park. What I enjoy watching most is first the big trees; second, the elk; and third, the salmon. A high point came to me a few years ago when I was a few miles up a stream. I heard the bugling of a very fine bull elk with his harem. He was out on the river bar with a challenge from the other side. He took up the challenge right then. They called back and forth for a while and the challenger had no chance. He was just a young blabbermouth. The bull went across the river after him going right through a school of giant Chinook salmon. That was one of the neatest things I had seen in a long time. You had all the unique elements together on that stream. It was a natural scene.

But you are not going to see that very often, or much longer. I talked to the fishery manager on the Hoh, for we had worked together some. I asked him how it was. "Well, I'll give one example," he said. "That little break that I usually hit generally has 32 or 33 redds, but I got four this year."

We are in terrible trouble. We have a lot to lose and we can't replace it.

Paint the Peninsula Artists Competition and Show September 7 and 8, 2015

On Labor Day, September 7, visitors to Olympic National Park will have an added treat. In addition to mountains, rain forest, salt water beaches and rivers, 25 professional plein air painters competing in **Paint the Peninsula** will be seen throughout the Park creating masterpieces in a variety of media.

Paint the Peninsula is an outdoor painting competition. In order to be chosen to paint, each professional artist had to submit 3 pieces to be judged by 3 separate judges. *Plein air* painters have unique artistic skills, painting outdoors using natural light which is constantly changing. Typically artists have several windows of opportunity in each day when the light is just right to create an impression of what they see. The painting which results often appears impressionistic in the classic sense.

This competition is sponsored by the Port Angeles Fine Arts Center in Port Angeles on the beautiful Olympic Peninsula. Although the artists will paint at other sites during the 5 day competition, on this one special day they will all be



2014 Winning Artist Eric Jacobsen.

spread out to their favorite locations within the Park.

Each artist will complete two paintings, which will be hung for exhibit and sale beginning September 8 at the Port Angeles Fine Arts Center at 1203 E. Lauridsen Boulevard in Port Angeles. It will be a rare sight – 50 professional paintings in oil, pastel, acrylic and watercolor will all be displayed in one location!

The evening of September 8 between 6 pm and 8 pm, there



will be a reception and awards ceremony where ribbons, cash, and ONP products will be awarded to the winning artists. Olympic Park Associates, Friends of Olympic National Park, Olympic National Park employees and the public are encouraged to attend this exciting event.

For more information about *Paint the Peninsula* and the ONP exhibit, see *www.paintthepeninsula. org.*

Solduc Water Cascade, by Jane Wallis.



Voice of the Wild Olympics

Sally W. Soest, Editor

Olympic Park Associates 13245 40th Avenue NE Seattle, WA 98125

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\$35	Contributing
\$25	Family
\$20	Individual Member
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The value of an organization endeavoring to promote the protection and integrity of a World Heritage Site and its wilderness is infinite.

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

Juried Artists Competition and Show 50 Paintings of Olympic National Park by 25 Professional Artists Reception & Awards September 8, 6 pm - 8 pm Exhibit, Sale, and Other Events September 8 - 19 Port Angeles Fine Arts Center 1203 Lauridsen Boulevard Port Angeles, WA	Paint the Peninsula
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