



# VOICE of the WILD OLYMPICS

Vol. 29 No. 2

Olympic Park Advocates

Fall & Winter 2021

## Fisher Reintroduction Bolstered in the Olympics

By Tim McNulty

A sunny break in the clouds warmed a small group of biologists, agency managers, conservationists and kids, as we gathered to witness the release of five fishers into the coastal forest at Ozette Lake. These sleek predators were captured in Alberta, transported by truck for two days, and arrived in Olympic in good health and ready for a change in scenery. They were the first of some 20 fishers that will strengthen the genetic diversity of the peninsula's reintroduced population. Once free of their transport boxes, they lost no time streaking off into the mossy woods of their new home.

Olympic National Park made a great stride in ecological restoration with its historic reintroduction of fishers more than a decade ago. These consummate forest carnivores were once plentiful in the peninsula's lowland forests. Unfortunately, the animals' thick, luxurious fur was prized for its richness, and fishers were trapped to extinction here and throughout the Northwest a century ago.

Between 2008 and 2010, the park, the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, and area tribes released 90 fishers into Olympic National Park. Reintroductions into Mount Rainier and North Cascades national parks followed. Monitored by radio collar,



Jeff Lewis (WDFW), Patti Happe (ONP), Lee Taylor (ONP), and OPA President John Bridge as the first fisher heads for the woods. Photo by John Gussman.

about half of Olympic's fishers survived, but few were reproducing. Genetic analysis of second- and third-generation fishers revealed that only four females from the founding population showed up in all samples. This signaled a significant loss of genetic diversity, a condition that could endanger the species' long-term survival here.

Last year, working with Washington's National Park Fund, Olympic Park Advocates made a significant contribution toward the supplemental reintroduction. This fall, fisher feet hit the ground. Two more fishers were released in the park's Sol Duc valley following the Ozette release. And some additional fishers from Alberta were released later in the Skokomish valley and another location in Olympic. Here,

*Continued on P4, Fisher*

**Contents**

Fisher Reintroduction Bolstered in the Olympics	1
Senator Murray Visits Wild Olympics	3
Tongass Roadless Rule Exemption Repealed	3
Scientific Integrity in Policy Making	4
Global Warming and Olympic's Marine Waters	5
Great Old Broads Visit the Peninsula	6
The GAOA Comes Through for the Olympics	6
Can You Hear Us Now, Verizon?	7
Meet OPA's New President, John Bridge	8
OPA Members Attending OPA Board Meetings	8
Hurricane Ridge in Winter	9
30x30: Preserving Natural Areas to Save Planet	10
Non-native Goat Removal Reaches a Benchmark	10
Planning Begins for Miller Peninsula State Park	11

**Your Legislators**

**WA State:** [app.leg.wa.gov/districtfinder](http://app.leg.wa.gov/districtfinder)

**US Congress:** 202-224-3121 to reach any member of Congress  
**Senate:** [senate.gov](http://senate.gov), **US House of Representatives:** [house.gov](http://house.gov)

<b>Sen. Maria Cantwell (D)</b> DC 202-224-3441 Seattle 206-220-6400 <a href="http://cantwell.senate.gov">cantwell.senate.gov</a>	<b>Sen. Patty Murray (D)</b> DC 202-224-2621 Seattle 206-553-5545 <a href="http://murray.senate.gov">murray.senate.gov</a>
---	---

<b>1 Suzan K. DelBene (D)</b> 202-225-6311 Bothell 425-485-0085 Mt. Vernon 360-415-7879 <a href="http://delbene.house.gov">delbene.house.gov</a>	<b>6 Derek Kilmer (D)</b> 202-225-5916 Tacoma 253-272-3515 Bremerton 360-373-9725 Port Angeles 360-797-3623 <a href="http://kilmer.house.gov">kilmer.house.gov</a>
--	---

<b>2 Rick Larsen (D)</b> 202-225-2605 Everett 425-252-3188 Bellingham 360-733-4500 <a href="http://larsen.house.gov">larsen.house.gov</a>	<b>7 Pramila Jayapal (D)</b> 202-225-3106 Seattle 206-674-0040 <a href="http://jayapal.house.gov">jayapal.house.gov</a>
---	--

<b>3 Jaime Herrera Beutler (R)</b> 202-225-3536 Vancouver 360-695-6292 <a href="http://herrerabeutel.house.gov">herrerabeutel.house.gov</a>	<b>8 Kim Schrier (D)</b> 202-225-7761 Issaquah 425-677-7414 Wenatchee 509-885-6615 <a href="http://schrier.house.gov">schrier.house.gov</a>
--	---

<b>4 Dan Newhouse (R)</b> 202-225-5816 Yakima 509-452-3243 <a href="http://newhouse.house.gov">newhouse.house.gov</a>	<b>9 Adam Smith (D)</b> 202-225-8901 Renton 425-793-5180 <a href="http://adamsmith.house.gov">adamsmith.house.gov</a>
--	--

<b>5 Cathy McMorris Rodgers (R)</b> 202-225-2006 Colville 509-684-3481 Spokane 509-353-2374 Walla Walla 509-529-9358 <a href="http://mcmorrisrodgers.house.gov">mcmorrisrodgers.house.gov</a>	<b>10 Marilyn Strickland (D)</b> 202-225-9740 Lacey 360-459-8514 <a href="http://strickland.house.gov">strickland.house.gov</a>
--	--

**Olympic Park Advocates**

**Meetings**

**Next: January 25, 2022 via Zoom/ Conference Call**

**Regular Meeting Schedule:**  
See story on page 8

**Board of Trustees  
\*Executive Committee**

**President**

\*John Bridge Sequim

**Vice President**

\*Tim McNulty Sequim

**Secretary**

\*Paul Robisch Seattle

**Treasurer**

\*Annie Cubberly Olympia

**President Emeritus**

Donna Osseward Seattle

Tom Bihn	Winthrop
David Friedman	Seattle
John Gussman	Sequim
*Tom Hammond	Port Angeles
Dan Lieberman	Port Angeles
Rob Smith	Bainbridge Island
Shelley Spalding	Elma

**Advisory Board Members**

Janis Burger	Port Angeles
Paul Crawford	Santa Barbara
Bruce Moorhead	Port Angeles
Mary Peck	Santa Fe
Rick Rutz	Kenmore
Jim Scarborough	Bellingham
John Woolley	Sequim

**Membership Chair**

Paul Robisch  
PO Box 27560, Seattle, WA 98165-2560

**Newsletter Editor**

Amy Youngblood  
ybwest@sbcglobal.net

[olympicparkadvocates.org](http://olympicparkadvocates.org)

**VOICE OF THE WILD OLYMPICS**

Masthead photo by Pat O'Hara

VOICE is published two or three times per year by Olympic Park Advocates. Unless specifically copyrighted, articles may be reprinted without permission. However, credit is appreciated. Printed by Abracadabra Printing on acid- & chlorine-free FSC-certified paper, 10% recycled, 30% post-consumer waste

# Senator Murray Visits Wild Olympics and Confirms Her Support for Passage

Senator Patty Murray [D-WA] joined Wild Olympics leaders in July for a hike along the Dungeness River in Olympic National Forest. Clouds blanketed the valley, but rain held off as the party explored the stunning old-growth forest along the river trail to Royal Creek.



OPA VP Tim McNulty and Sen. Patty Murray discuss the Wild Olympics bill, Olympic National Forest.

This lovely and extremely popular stretch of trail was not included in the nearby Buckhorn Wilderness but would be protected as wilderness in the Wild Olympics bill.

Along the way, Senator Murray discussed the values of old-growth forests and the importance of wild, free-flowing rivers like the Dungeness for fisheries, recreation, and sources of fresh water for domestic use and agriculture. Downstream, pink and chinook salmon were working their way to clean-washed spawning grounds that will be protected by Wild Olympics' system of wild and scenic rivers.

Earlier this year, the Wild Olympics Wilderness and Wild and Scenic Rivers Act was passed by the U.S. House of Representatives with bipartisan support as part of the Protecting America's Wilderness Act. Representative Derek Kilmer [D-6 WA] was instrumental in guiding its passage through the House. In June, the bill had a Senate hearing and passed out of the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources' Subcommittee on Public Lands, Forests and Mining.

Senator Murray, a longtime champion of the bill and

its sponsor in the Senate, told supporters, "We are closer than we've ever been. All that remains is for the committee to mark up the bill and send it to the Senate floor for a vote." Protection for Wild Olympics moved a step closer in September when the House once more passed the bill, this time as part of the National Defense Appropriations Act. OPA vice-president

Tim McNulty led the hike, along with Quinault fishing guide and

environmental activist Ashley Nichole Lewis, Bill Taylor of Taylor Shellfish, and WA State Representative Steve Tharinger.

In the midst of another summer when wildfires raged across the West, McNulty discussed the importance of preserving ancient forests like these for the immense amounts of carbon they store both above and below ground. He described the old-growth Douglas-firs they hiked through as towers of carbon sequestration that store carbon dioxide from across the continent and the world.

Senator Murray praised the widespread support the Wild Olympics bill has garnered. "We've managed to build as broad of a coalition as possible to get this done," she said. "I'm glad I could spend some time with local leaders to talk about the importance of this legislation and what it will mean for the Olympic Peninsula."

For more information on the Wild Olympics Act, go to [olympicparkadvocates.org](http://olympicparkadvocates.org).

## Tongass Roadless Rule Exemption Repealed

OPA and more than 70 conservation, recreation and wildlife organizations and Washington legislators signed on to a letter last year opposing the U.S. Forest Service's decision to exempt the Tongass National Forest from the Alaska Roadless Rule. In June, the

Biden administration announced it would repeal the earlier Trump administration decision that would have opened most of the Tongass temperate rain forest to logging.

A revised plan for the Tongass is now underway.

## Scientific Integrity in Policy Making

### 26 scientists and experts address climate change and attacks on science

Book review by Shelley Spalding

*Conservation Science and Advocacy for a Planet in Peril: Speaking Truth to Power* (Elsevier), edited by Dr. Dominick DellaSala with a foreword by leading climate scientist Dr. James Hansen, is a collection of works using science to advocate for the climate and for biodiversity during this time of ecological crisis. The book is also a reminder of how close we are to a global tipping point regarding climate change and biodiversity.

In this book, scientists and policy experts from around the globe call on governments to restore scientific integrity to decision-making processes on climate change. The book describes how scientists are dealing with attacks on climate research, and why so many are speaking out about the biodiversity and climate emergencies. As scientists around the world have worked to raise awareness on climate research that can guide policy, they have increasingly come under attack by climate skeptics, delaying actions to lessen severe weather, super storms, and drought.

"The world has entered a dangerous period of retraction from evidence-based science in decisions

that affect life on Earth, human health, and the climate, as attacks are escalating on scientists for speaking an inconvenient truth," said DellaSala.

The UN Secretary-General called the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report a "code red" emergency as climate change speeds up. This follows an earlier report that one million species face imminent extinction.

In his foreword to the book, Dr. James E. Hansen, Director of the Columbia University program in Climate Science, Awareness and Solutions — and one of the first scientists to testify in the US Senate about the dangers of unabated fossil fuel emissions — describes an earth that is increasingly out of energy balance (more heat coming into the system than exiting). He argues that we are close to a tipping point that could shut down the major ocean current that keeps western Europe from frigid temperatures and trigger the disintegration of the West Antarctic Ice Sheet with global sea level rise consequences.

Chapters in the book respond to agenda-driven claims, northern spotted owl politics, wildfire politics, the importance of the precautionary principle, and of course, climate change.

"The main message of this book — the importance of using science to inform policy — needs to be listened to by world leaders while there is precious little time to prevent a planetary collapse far worse than the Covid-19 pandemic," said Dr. William Ripple of Oregon State University. "Dr. DellaSala crafted a book showing how an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure."

## Fishers *Continued from p. 1*

they will prey on squirrels, snowshoe hares, mountain beavers and other small mammals. Park, state and tribal biologists will monitor their movements through signals from satellite radio collars. With luck, these Alberta fishers will share their genes with the British Columbia-sourced animals from the earlier reintroduction.

A special appreciation is due to Olympic National Park wildlife branch chief Patti Happe who directed the project from its beginning, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife carnivore conservation biologist Jeff Lewis, tribal biologists and perspective field crews that are making this reintroduction a success. Thanks to our members and generous donors, OPA could assist with seed funding for this phase of the reintroduction. With fishers returned, only one wildlife species remains missing from Olympic forests, the wolf.

For more detailed information on fisher reintroduction, check out this YouTube video of ONP's



WDFW wildlife biologist Shelly Ament and OPA's Tim McNulty transport a fisher for release. Photo by John Gussman.

Patti Happe discussing the return of fishers to the park, <https://tinyurl.com/FisherReturn>.

# GLOBAL WARMING

## and Olympic's Marine Waters

By Donna Osseward

Like the tide that slowly rolls in on a summer day at Sand Point in Olympic National Park, carbon dioxide has been building in our atmosphere, but the ocean acidification it creates never wanes, and sea levels continue to rise. Shellfish on the peninsula have been among the first to feel that change. The carbon dioxide we have been releasing into the air has been mixing with the sea water and making carbonic acid. Oceans cover 70% of our earth's surface.

Nearly all marine life uses carbonate from seawater to build their shells and skeletons. Increasing acidity is already impacting many ocean species, especially oysters and corals. Colder, more acidic waters are welling up from the depths of the Pacific Ocean and coming ashore on the Northwest coast.

The amount of carbonic acid already in the water has been eroding away baby oyster shells faster than they can grow. To continue growing oysters commercially in the Pacific, oyster farmers in the Pacific Northwest now add sodium bicarbonate to their breeding tanks. Oysters in Puget Sound and elsewhere are also experiencing reproductive failure because of the acidic waters. Sea star wasting disease is caused by a virus, but its spread has been exacerbated by the warming waters.

We can easily notice the increase in the number and intensity of storms created by the warming of the oceans and atmosphere. The warming atmosphere



Olympic Coast, photo by John Gussman

has reduced the number of glaciers in the Olympic Mountains from 266 in 1982 to 184 by 2009. We write this not to scare you but to ask you to take action. There are things we can do as individuals to reduce the carbon dioxide in the air by:

- reducing our use of fossil fuels for transportation and heating.
- using less paper means cutting fewer trees; say yes to electronic billing.
- planting vegetation and trees, which use carbon dioxide and return oxygen.
- avoiding

wasting food; 7% of the carbon dioxide and methane in the air is from wasted food production. Americans on average waste 246 pounds of food per year.

• encouraging smaller electric generating projects in place of huge projects that lose a share of the electricity in transmission. Why not encourage our power producers to install solar panels on individual homes?

• helping to save wilderness and natural areas as bastions of natural plants and trees for absorbing carbon.

# Great Old Broads Visit the Peninsula

By Annie Cubberly

The Great Old Broads for Wilderness convened in Sequim on a national "Broad Walk" this past August and what a time they had!

The Great Old Broads are a national grassroots organization, led by women, that engages and inspires activism to preserve and protect wilderness and wild lands. Goals of the organization are to educate, engage and act to protect wilderness and wild places.

Each evening speakers provided educational information about the Olympic ecosystem. Hansi Halls, natural resources director for the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe, shared information about Tribal treaty rights. Superintendent Carol Bernthal from NOAA presented information about how climate change is affecting the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary. Olympic Park Superintendent Sara Creachbaum presented information about women in environmental leadership, and Paula Sweeden, policy director at Conservation Northwest along with Brian Stewart, presented on a variety of issues including conservation programs, forest policy, marbled murrelets and wildlife corridors.

The Broads donned boots and gloves to dig into stewardship activities. One group helped with plant propagation at ONP's Matt Albright Native Plant Nursery. Another spent the day deadheading butterfly bush along the shores of the Dungeness River, while another group wandered the ocean beaches picking up trash.

It wasn't all work though, there was adventure!

Kayaking through kelp beds and sighting a family of River Otters were highlights.

Ann Shaffer with the Coastal Watershed Institute led a hike to the Elwha delta. Barb Maynes, former public information officer for Olympic National Park, led a hike up the Elwha River to the Glines Canyon overlook. Other hikers joined Tim McNulty for a hike along the Gray Wolf River in Olympic National Forest. Tim is the Vice President of the Olympic Park Advocates and author of *Olympic National Park A Natural History*. Katchi Cassinelli, founder of



Great Old Broads at the Peninsula "Broad Walk"

Dandelion Botanical Company, led an herb walk and Broads got to taste various edible and medicinal forest plants from the area.

The Broads expressed gratitude for the experiences and took away a sense of wonder and conviction to advocate to preserve this diverse, environmentally significant, enchanting landscape. For more information about the Broads check the website <https://www.greatoldbroads.org/>

## The Great American Outdoors Act Comes Through for the Olympics

The 2019 Great American Outdoors Act (GAOA), championed by the Olympic Peninsula's Congressman Derek Kilmer, is coming through for the peninsula. Its National Parks and Public Land Legacy Restoration Fund is providing funding to the National Park Service, U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and other federal agencies to fix buildings, trails, roads, and other infrastructure.

At Olympic National Park and Olympic National Forest, some long-deferred maintenance projects are finally getting underway.

In Olympic National Forest, three projects will greatly improve outdoor recreation: campground restrooms are being replaced across the forest, and campground improvements are underway in three popular Forest

*Continued on P7, GAOA*



Hurricane Ridge and Lodge, photo by John Gussman

# Can You Hear Us Now, Verizon?

By Dan Lieberman

Olympic Park Advocates has learned that Verizon's 2015 application to Olympic National Park to install a cell phone/communications tower at Hurricane Ridge remains active. Verizon's initial application included trenching subalpine meadow lands and installing a diesel tank for backup power.

Naturally, OPA has serious concerns about this project. We fear that its scale, its potential ecological and visual impacts, its potential impacts on cultural resources, and impacts on the wilderness character of the Daniel J. Evans Wilderness will impair park resources. Though Hurricane Ridge Visitor Center is not a wilderness area, we at OPA, and people in-the-know in Olympic National Park, have no trust that Verizon would, or even could, keep the cell signal from permeating deep into the wilderness. We are also concerned about this level of commercial development in any area of the park.

The National Park Service does not have a policy on commercial cell towers in parks, nor is there a plan for cell

tower/private communications facilities in Olympic National Park. Unfortunately, in the meantime many parks across the country have recently had cell towers installed by private telecommunications companies.

In addition to OPA, many other aligned organizations have been tracking these issues of cell towers in National Parks. Last year, the Sierra Club published this thorough article on the topic: <https://www.sierraclub.org/sierra/2020-4-july-august/feature/wi-fi-wilderness>

Even after the National Park Service develops a national policy, before considering such a project locally, Olympic National Park needs to develop a NEPA-reviewed plan for siting commercial communications structures in the park. Supposing all of these steps do happen, would we then want a cell tower at Hurricane Ridge degrading the resources and wilderness character of Olympic?

No! OPA opposes the installation of a cell tower by Verizon or any private company on Hurricane Ridge. Can you hear us now, Verizon?

## GAOA *Continued from p.6*

Service campgrounds at Lake Quinault. A trails assessment will identify future projects on heavily used Forest Service trails.

At Olympic National Park, a large \$9 million project is benefiting from GAOA funding. Hurricane Ridge Lodge will be thoroughly rehabilitated. Hurricane Ridge is

the most popular destination at Olympic, and the lodge serves visitors year-round. The roof will be reconstructed, and windows, doors, exterior walls, and floors will be replaced. Electrical and plumbing systems will be brought up to code, and restrooms will be improved to comply with accessibility standards. Heating and ventilation systems will also be upgraded along with other

long-deferred improvements.

The Great American Outdoors Act also permanently funds the Land and Water Conservation Fund, which provides matching grants to help states establish local, state, and national preservation areas and outdoor recreation facilities. It is an important step in conserving our public lands.

## Meet OPA's New President **John Bridge**

*Having served on OPA's board for many years, I'm honored to be taking over as Olympic Park Advocates president. Since most of you don't know me, here's a little background about myself.*

*I grew up in Maryland and moved to Sequim fifty years ago to make fiberglass kayak paddles. I soon discovered that the Olympic Peninsula is an amazing place. I worked at the Battelle Marine Biology Laboratory for ten years, went to Western Washington University to get a teaching certificate and taught fourth grade in Sequim for 20 rewarding years.*

*Since retiring I have served on the Sequim School Board and been involved with several local nonprofit organizations that deal with education and the outdoors. I have volunteered with Olympic National Park in its citizen scientist program surveying Olympic marmots for the past 11 years. I lead wildflower walks as a fundraiser for the Dungeness River Nature Center and I check game cameras to help the Lower Elwha Tribe with its Olympic Cougar Project.*

*This keeps me fairly busy, but I try to get out and hike twice a week in our beautiful park and national forest wilderness*



OPA President John Bridge at Chicago Camp, Elwha River

areas.

*OPA is the "boots on the ground" organization that protects the Olympic Peninsula's wildlands and helps to ensure that there will be wilderness remaining for my grandchildren. I'm humbled to be following in the footsteps of legendary conservationists and previous OPA presidents Polly Dyer and Donna Osseward, and I am excited to be involved in the important work OPA will be undertaking in the challenging years to come.*

### OPA Members Attending OPA Board Meetings

OPA's regular meeting schedule is the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of odd numbered months, except 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of November. There is no meeting in July.

It's the longstanding policy of OPA to have its Board of Trustees meetings open to members. However, because of restrictions due to the Covid-19 pandemic, meetings during 2020 and 2021 have all been virtual via Zoom and/or audio telephone conference, which prevents members from attending.

To resolve this problem, OPA members who wish to attend a future OPA Board meeting can go to the website [olympicparkadvocates.org](http://olympicparkadvocates.org) and click on "contact us." Then send an email requesting information be sent to you regarding how you can attend the next meeting of the Board of Trustees. You will be sent the necessary information for how to attend the next virtual meeting via Zoom or audio telephone conference call.

Thanks, John Bridge, President



February 5, 2021: Snow-flocked trees on Hurricane Ridge provide a spectacular demonstration of what a La Nina winter looks like in the alpine. Photo by Tom Hammond

## Hurricane Ridge in Winter

By Tom Hammond

Snow has returned to the Olympic Mountains, as the higher peaks are now sporting a lovely early season white coat.

We are entering a second consecutive La Nina winter (where relatively cool surface and near-surface water temperatures in the Pacific Ocean near the equator help steer and form weather here in the Pacific Northwest) and that usually means a cooler, wetter winter for us, and our Olympic Mountains.

It is somewhat unusual to have consecutive La Nina winters, but for fish, wildlife, area water managers, farmers, hydroelectric operators and yes, even winter sports enthusiasts, the forecast is welcomed! Hurricane Ridge offers plenty of opportunities for winter fun, from sightseeing to family sledding/tubing, snowshoeing, traditional cross-country skiing and (extremely challenging)

backcountry skiing.

Educational opportunities at the Hurricane Ridge Visitors Center will again be curtailed this winter due to covid restrictions, but over the years this facility has offered many good programs for area schools and visitors alike. It has also offered a warm, protected place to have lunch, but again, not this season due to ongoing covid restrictions.

Hurricane Ridge will be open Fridays-Sundays from late November through late March, and Monday holidays weather permitting. There is a new entrance station, which is where visitors are held until the road is deemed safe/clear/open; or if the parking lot is full at the top of the ridge.

If you visit this winter, plan to arrive early--it is usually quite busy, with visitors from around the world seeking a taste of the alpine in winter—a special treat indeed.

### Enchanted Valley Chalet Moves Closer to Removal

Progress toward removing the derelict Enchanted Valley Chalet from its quickly eroding terrace on the East Fork Quinault River is clearing another hurdle. Olympic National Park and the Washington State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) held a virtual public meeting in November to discuss mitigation for removing the historic building. Ideas ranged from funding restoration of other historic buildings in the park to using materials from the chalet for art projects. OPA, a consulting party in the process, favors an interpretive exhibit in the Quinault front country that would tell a deeper story of human presence in the Quinault Valley -- including the valley's millennia-long use by Native Americans. To share mitigation ideas with the park and the SHPO, go to <https://tinyurl.com/EVChalet>. Deadline is December 31.



<https://tinyurl.com/e2umv7da>

## 30 X 30

Preserving Natural Areas  
to Save Our Planet

By Shelley Spalding

In 2016, E. O. Wilson, one of the world's most respected conservation biologists, released his visionary book *Half-nature: Our Planet's Fight for Life*. In this book, deeply rooted in the science of

ecology and the need to conserve biodiversity, Wilson proposed a radical, wild and challenging idea to our species: Set aside half of the planet as nature preserves. Yet just five years later, in September of this year, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service proposed delisting 23 species from the Endangered Species Act due to extinction.

Nature forms the backbone of our communities, and numerous articles in *The Voice* have referred to critical "ecosystem services" provided by nature. These include the sources of the water we drink, the clean air we breathe, the food we eat, and places where we can recharge our spirit as well as spend time with our friends and families. When conserved and restored, natural areas also can help mitigate the impacts of a warming climate: healthy forests and oceans absorb carbon dioxide, wetlands and barrier islands shelter us from extreme weather, and conserved and restored natural areas help stem biodiversity loss and bring wildlife back to our lands and waters.

Recognizing the peril our planet is facing and the importance of Wilson's idea, scientists from around the world have recently proposed a more modest yet still ambitious goal of protecting *at least* 30 percent of our lands, waters, and oceans by 2030. Aptly titled "30 x 30," it is a central component of the Biden-Harris administration's America the Beautiful initiative.

Both "30 x 30" and "America the Beautiful" are based on a science-driven process, with the goal that areas included should be permanently protected from conversion of natural cover and protected from

*Spread the word:  
It's time to save more nature.*

determined.

Many of the best-conserved natural areas in the U.S. are under ownership of indigenous communities. Upholding sovereignty of tribal communities is a key component of the report. Conservation groups recently assisted the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation in acquiring more than 9,000 acres in north-central Oregon. Although not yet evaluated under the lens of 30x30, this property will likely work toward achieving the 30x30 goal.

It will take much more than good science to pull this off. There is an important social component: communities need to be engaged, and people need to be informed and excited about protecting our planet in order to foster resilience and biodiversity. If we can inform our governors, legislators, Congress people, communities, friends, and families, we can build momentum to demonstrate the need and expectation that actions to achieve this goal will be a high priority.

Wilson recently noted that "when people are encouraged to take a close look at the remnants of nature, in its complexity, beauty, and majesty, and when they understand that the natural environment is the home of their deep history, many become the reserves' most ardent supporters."

This is a call to action, to work together to conserve and restore at least 30% of nature in America — on land and at sea — over the next decade, for the sake of our health, our economy, and our well-being. Spread the word: It's time to save more nature.

extractive use. How this will be interpreted regarding the ecological soundness of practices such as private land conservation easements, cattle grazing, or urban parks is yet to be

## Non-native Mountain Goat Removal Reaches a Benchmark

By John Bridge

The removal operation for non-native mountain goats that were introduced to the Olympic Mountains a century ago is nearing completion. The multi-agency, multi-year effort has involved two two-week-long helicopter operations for each of the past four years. Live capture and relocation were the focus of the first two years. Ground-based lethal culling took place in 2020. This year marked the first year of a lethal removal by aerial shooting. It was considered to be a marked success. Of the 113 goats removed this year, 16 of them were recovered and the meat was shared with local

food banks and native tribes. The tribes also received the hides, horns and wool for cultural purposes.

The year 2022 will be the last year of the active aerial removal program. The goal is to have eliminated 90% of the population by then. Starting in 2023, there will be a 15-year maintenance program that allows for any goats that show up to be removed lethally by ground operation or aerially. There will also be periodic aerial surveys during this time.

It was estimated that the (pre-removal) goat population in 2018 was around 725. Since

*Continued on P11, Goats*

## Planning Begins for Miller Peninsula State Park



Miller Peninsula State Park, photo by John Gussman

Washington State Parks has begun planning for development of Miller Peninsula State Park (MPSP) on the northeast Olympic Peninsula. Currently the park is a 2,880-acre forested preserve with three miles of undeveloped shoreline along the Strait of Juan de Fuca and a network of hiking, biking and equestrian trails. Many on the peninsula would like to see it remain a natural, primarily day-use park with an emphasis on nature-oriented recreation, research, and education.

Washington State Parks has released three alternative approaches. All are heavily skewed toward excessive development, including large, developed campgrounds with RV hookups, a commercial lodge, deluxe cabins, a ropes course, zip lines, aerial tramways and other resort-like developments.

Friends of Miller Peninsula State Park invited a small group of peninsula biologists and naturalists to meet on-site with state parks planners and discuss proposed developments. Following the visit, the group wrote a letter to the Washington State Parks Commission expressing concern over the direction of park planning. It stated that Miller Peninsula State Park's development should align with the Washington State Parks' Mission Statement: to "care for Washington's most treasured lands, waters, and

historic places," and discussed several ideas to consider in the planning process. They included:

- Miller Peninsula State Park is a unique tract in an exceptional geographic location, a last, large undeveloped coastal forest contiguous with marine habitats.
- The park serves as a significant migration corridor and greenbelt for animals moving between the Olympic Mountains to the shoreline of the Strait.
- It is a birding haven closely linked to Protection Island and Dungeness national wildlife refuges.
- The coastal area of the park must not be disturbed.
- The park offers a unique outdoor educational opportunity.
- The park's contiguous forest offers shade and a cooling site in the ever-increasing hot weather and offers peace and solitude.
- A variety of campsites already exist in the area.
- Natural resources should be conserved, especially in face of climate change, drought, and increasing demands on natural resources.

To review plans and share your thoughts with park planners, go to: <https://parks.state.wa.us/1187/Miller-Peninsula-Planning>

## Goats *Continued from p.10*

then, 525 have been removed. Of those, 325 were live-captured and translocated to the Cascades, 16 were taken to zoos and 184 goats were lethally removed by helicopter operations and ground-based hunters. That leaves an estimated 190 goats that are now hiding out whenever they hear a helicopter.

OPA congratulates the park and its partner organizations on achieving a significant reduction in the goat population. The operation was carried out safely and humanely. Damage to alpine plants, soils and degradation of habitats

for native alpine animals, including Olympic marmots, has been greatly reduced. A century-long problem has been addressed. But it is worth remembering that there were only about 20 goats originally introduced into the Olympics and still an estimated 190 remain.

I don't believe that anyone thinks it is possible to eliminate all of the goats; there will always be some. Visitors will not see as many goats because they are fewer and likely skittish due to removals. Some small number of goats will persist in remote areas of the park. "Removal" will be an ongoing effort.



# Voice of the Wild Olympics

Amy Youngblood, Editor

Olympic Park Advocates  
PO Box 27560  
Seattle, WA 98165-2560

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



***This holiday season share your love of the Olympics with a gift membership to Olympic Park Advocates. Your recipients will receive a welcome letter and two issues of Voice of the Wild Olympics. Simply complete the membership application, check "gift" and note who it is from. You will receive a confirmation.***

## Olympic Park Advocates

*The value of an organization endeavoring to promote the protection and integrity of a World Heritage Site and its Wilderness is infinite. Visit us at [olympicparkadvocates.org](http://olympicparkadvocates.org)*

- \$500 Individual Life Member (One time)
- \$250 Patron (Annual)
- \$100 Sustaining Member (Annual)
- \$50 Associate Organization (Annual)
- \$50 Contributing Member (Annual)
- \$30 Family Membership (Annual)
- \$20 Individual Member (Annual)
- \$5 Student / Low Income (Annual)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Gift Memberships\* (Annual)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Donation (Tax Deductible)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to **Olympic Park Advocates**.  
Your contributions are tax-deductible.  
*\*Is this a gift? Along with your check please provide the name and address for the receivers. OPA will send the receivers an acknowledgement of your gift and you a tax receipt.*

**Mail to:** Paul Robisch, Membership Chair, PO Box 27560, Seattle, WA 98165-2560

Dues and gifts are 100% deductible. OPA is a 501(c)3 organization.  
Membership includes subscription to the **Voice of the Wild Olympics**.