



VOICE of the WILD OLYMPICS

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Olympic Park Advocates

Spring – Summer 2022

Conditions on the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary



Olympic Coast. Photo by John Gussman

Climate change effects are the biggest threats to the sanctuary

Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary habitats are in overall good condition, according to a new NOAA report. Habitats are on stable or improving trends, but climate change impacts are a growing concern for sanctuary managers.

The sanctuary's "Condition Report" includes information on the status and trends of resources in the sanctuary, pressures on those resources, and management responses to the pressures that threaten the integrity of the marine environment.

The full report can be seen at: <https://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/science/condition/>

[ocnms/](https://www.noaa.gov/ocnms/). It is based on information from 2008-2019 and concludes that overall, most habitats within the sanctuary are in good condition and show signs of stable or improving trends over time. However, there are concerns about the effects of climate change, especially for open ocean habitats.

Climate change effects—marine heatwaves, harmful algal blooms, hypoxic events, and ocean acidification—are the biggest threats to the condition of the sanctuary. Although wildlife populations of the sanctuary are fairly stable or increasing overall, certain keystone

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Masthead photo by Pat O'Hara

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Meet Olympic National Park's Marmots
... And The Citizen Scientists Who Study Them

By Beth Glosen
 WNPf Board Member
 Park scientists

began researching Olympic marmot populations in the early 2000s. By examining the marmots' burrows, a decline in the population of 7 percent per year was found from 2002-2006 for an overall decline of 40 percent. The cause of the decline was determined to be coyote predation. Most worrisome, this predation affected mostly females just before giving birth.

In 2010, with funding from Washington's National Park Fund (WNPf), park scientists developed a system to monitor Olympic marmot populations to inform long-term population management planning. A citizen scientist program was planned to assure long-term financial sustainability; thus was born the Olympic National Park Marmot Monitoring program that is fueled by volunteers.

Each year, 70 to 100 volunteers participate in this program. Between 25 and 36 groups of two to six volunteers each head out to a designated site to camp and document evidence of marmots in patches of their habitat. Because it can be tricky to count marmots directly, the volunteers are trained to not only document marmots themselves, but to also look for boroughs and determine if the boroughs are occupied or abandoned. Evidence of recent occupancy in a borough includes kicked up dirt, fresh feces, or flattened vegetation. Habitat occupancy is tracked over time.

Over 35,000 volunteer hours have been logged, contributing to our understanding of our Olympic marmot population, and nearly two-thirds of the volunteers return each year to participate in this rewarding project. Volunteer trips can range in duration and difficulty, from two-day trips exploring the front country around Hurricane Ridge to seven-or-eight-day outings deep in the park's backcountry. While the park provides permits, volunteers need to bring their backcountry gear and way-finding skills.

New volunteers participate in a one-day training



Olympic Marmots. Photo by John Gussman

Each year, between 25 and 36 groups of two to six volunteers each head out to a designated site to camp and document evidence of marmots in patches of their habitat.

and orientation that involves both classroom and field work. The next day, the volunteers hike out and set up camp in the area they are to study. The study areas may be meadows or scree fields. The volunteers look for marmots, marmot burrows, and evidence of occupancy, and fill out a data form. GPS tracking confirms the area covered by the volunteers and determines the exact burrow locations. Data collected over the years allows tracking of marmot populations.

Program Results

The first several years of the program revealed that the decline in the Olympic marmot observed in the 2000s had not continued. The population was small, but it was stable and not declining further. A higher occupancy rate was found in the northeast section of the park, with fewer occupied marmot burrows found in the southwest region.

These data have also spawned further studies. One study found that meadow habitats are favored over rocky, and more open spaces favored over less. The challenge of coyote predation is believed to be in part from the effects of climate change. The snowpack melts out earlier in the season, allowing coyote access to the marmots not only for a longer period, but also while the females are pregnant. Future studies hope to evaluate additional effects of climate change on marmot habitat and populations.

Over 100 volunteers signed up to participate in the program in 2021. The first volunteers went out into the field at the end of July and the last on September 1. Volunteers were also challenged by the higher-than-normal temperatures, both in terms of them dealing with the heat personally, and in terms of the marmots not being out and about as

Continued on P10, Marmots



Hurricane Ridge Comfort Station, March 26, 2021 (left), and March 25, 2022 (right). Photos by Tom Hammond

Olympic Mountains Snowpack Gets Spring Reprieve

By Tom Hammond

The past winter was very inconsistent in terms of storms and resulting snowfall. After a good start to winter, things literally dried up for most of January and essentially all of February and March. Indeed, per the photos above, note the comparison from March 26, 2021 (left) and March 25, 2022 (right) at the same location on Hurricane Ridge. At the end of March 2021, snowpack across the Olympic Mountains was 135% of normal (normal per human record keeping over about a century). At the end of March 2022, snowpack was 65% of normal. Given how the heat of late spring and summer of 2021 wiped out our good snowpack and left very little water for fish, animals and humans, things were looking very grim for 2022.

Note: "snowpack" doesn't refer simply to the depth of the snow, but the snow water equivalent (SWE) — the amount of water contained in the snow.

Then April happened, and April roared like a lion. Snowpack in April jumped to about 90% of normal across the entire Olympic range, thanks to significant snowstorms and cool temperatures. Indeed, not only

has snowfall been a boon, but the cool, cloudy conditions have helped keep the snow we have from starting the annual melt cycle. More than one local resource manager notes that our cool, stormy April has "bailed us out," hydrologically speaking.

The photos are a fine demonstration of year-to-year variability in weather and a reminder of the difference between climate and weather. While weather may change from season to season and year to year, climate is the aggregate of many years of weather variability. The overall signal is clear, as demonstrated by our disappearing glaciers — summers are warmer and longer. Winters may be wetter, but more of that precipitation falls as rain, not snow. This is especially true for our beloved Olympic Mountains, which are of moderate elevation in a maritime environment.

Summer heat is the ultimate arbiter of how our snowpack will hold up through the dry months to come, but at least we have something close to a "normal" snowpack up there in the hills to feed our rivers and all the living things (including us) that depend on cool, clean water.

has initiated shuttle service to the Ridge for the summer months, and it's free for the month of June. Park entry passes are required. Buses will depart from the Gateway Transit Center in Port Angeles three times daily seven days a week including holidays. Go to clallamtransit.com for schedules and information.

While the Clallam Transit project is for the summer only, the park will hire a transportation planner to develop a long-term shuttle plan for Hurricane Ridge. Washington's National Park Fund is backing the effort, and OPA has contributed. The park would like to see a long-term shuttle system to replace some personal car trips and provide convenient, frequent, and inexpensive service to Hurricane Ridge.

The advantages are numerous. A shuttle will reduce carbon emissions by lowering the number of vehicles entering the park. Traveling by shuttle would allow a relaxed trip where visitors could

Continued on P5, Shuttle

New Study Predicts the Disappearance of Olympic Glaciers

By 2070, the glaciers on the Olympic Peninsula will have largely disappeared, although some glaciers will probably remain, albeit as tiny shells of their former selves.

This and other findings appear in a study led by Portland State University's Andrew G. Fountain. Fountain led a team of researchers on the subject. Their study, "Glaciers of the Olympic Mountains, Washington – the past and future 100 years," was recently published in the *Journal of Geophysical Research*, agupubs.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1029/2022JF006670

Since about 1900 the region has lost half of its glacier area, and since 1980, 35 glaciers and 16 perennial snowfields have disappeared. Anderson, Ferry, and Cameron glaciers, among others, are largely gone.

"There's little we can do to prevent the disappearance of these glaciers," Fountain said. "We're on this global warming train right now. Even if we're super good citizens and stop adding carbon dioxide in the atmosphere immediately, it will still be 100 years or so before the climate responds."

Even though preventing glacier melt at the hand of global warming isn't in the cards, ensuring things don't get worse is a critical goal, Fountain said.

Dan Cayan, research meteorologist at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography, University of California, San Diego, said this long-term loss of glacial mass found on the Olympic Peninsula is a strong indication of a warming global climate.

Glacier disappearance will trigger a chain of impacts, beginning with diminishing alpine streams and species like bull trout that have adapted to the cold water streams.

U.S. Geological Survey data shows a similar decline of glacier ice in the North Cascades of Washington, farther inland in Montana's Glacier



Mt. Olympus, Snow Dome and Blue Glacier. Photo by Tom Hammond

National Park, and further north in Alaska, according to USGS Research Physical Scientist Caitlyn Florentine.

"This assessment of glaciers in the Olympic Mountains underscores two key elements of glacier vulnerability. The first is warming summer temperatures, which affect the persistence of glacier ice throughout the summer melt season," Florentine said. "The second, less obvious, is warming winter temperatures, which affect the replenishment of glacier ice during the winter snow accumulation season. This double whammy has downstream implications for glacier-adapted ecosystems in the U.S. Pacific Northwest."

The Olympic glaciers are particularly vulnerable because of their lower elevation, as compared to glaciers elsewhere at higher elevations where temperatures are significantly cooler, such as the Cascade Mountains.

"As the temperatures warm, not only will the glaciers melt more in summer, which you'd expect, but in the wintertime, it changes the phase of the precipitation from snow to rain," Fountain said. "So the glaciers get less nourished in the winter, more melt in the summer, and then they just fall off the map."

Shuttle *Continued from p.4*

enjoy the scenery and learn from park interpreters. And frustrating waits at the entrance station on beautiful days could be seriously reduced.

A Hurricane Ridge shuttle plan will provide

recommendations on system costs and funding, visitor parking, shuttle scheduling, and whether the system would be operated by the National Park Service or a public or private partner.

To contribute to this worthy effort, go to: wnpf.org.



John Gussman and Tom Sanford, North Olympic Land Trust. Photo by Cath Hickey

John Gussman Honored with North Olympic Land Trust Award

Photographer, videographer, and OPA trustee John Gussman was recently honored by the North Olympic Land Trust's Out Standing in the Field Award. The award, given at the Land Trust's annual conservation breakfast in April, recognizes "exemplary locals making big differences in our community for conservation." Gussman was praised for his creative work highlighting the beauty of the Olympic Peninsula and documenting the community's conservation efforts.

Land Trust director Tom Sanford said the award was given to Gussman "for his incredible images of the North Olympic Peninsula that are key to documenting and inspiring our community's conservation efforts." We at OPA echo those sentiments and congratulate our fellow board member.

Hear Our Olympics, Not Air Tours

By Rob Smith

Olympic National Park is for natural beauty, wildlife and the sounds of nature – not the place for low-level air tours buzzing overhead.

More than twenty years ago, Congress directed the National Park Service (NPS) and Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to protect national parks from noisy low-level commercial air tours. After two decades of agency deadlock, a court ordered action. So now the agencies are issuing draft plans for 24 national parks with air tours, including Olympic.

However, the industry has in effect already written the plans. That's because the agencies just asked the air tour operators how much they already flew (before recent COVID restrictions) and went with that. The draft "plans" have no real analysis of visitor impacts, wilderness intrusions or wildlife. There are no alternatives to compare, most essentially a "no flight" alternative.

Olympic National Park has 64 flights planned per year, but that can be increased and allow noisier helicopters if an operator requests it. In contrast, there is no provision for a park visitor to request fewer or no flights.

The proposed flight route goes into the heart of the park, circling below Mt. Olympus and about eye level with Hurricane Ridge. These low-level flights will deliver their racket across much of the Daniel J. Evans Wilderness.

Olympic Park Advocates has insisted on a plan for no low-level air tours over the park; views of the mountains and coast can be had by flying around the park rather than overhead. Olympic deserves protection as a national park, World Heritage Site and Biosphere Reserve.

Navy jets train over the west side of the park with little that the NPS can do about it. However, park managers have an opportunity through an air tour plan to set an example of proper stewardship. During the public comment period this past fall, more than 4,000 comments were received and according to park sources almost all of them opposed commercial air tours.

To encourage the NPS to adopt a "no air tour" plan, write to Acting Supt. Lee Taylor, ONP, 600 East Park Ave., Port Angeles, WA 98362, or email to olym_superintendent@nps.gov.



By Shelley Spaulding

The forests of the Pacific Northwest are well known for spectacular scenery, amazing recreation, and of course, really BIG trees. The Northwest's Douglas-fir, western hemlock, spruce, and cedar are among the largest on earth. We now know that mature and old-growth forests store massive amounts of carbon and are key to fighting climate change. And these carbon-rich forests are held in trust for all Americans.

Trees have been banking carbon for millions of years. They are the arboreal champions of carbon sequestration and storage. Older, mature trees hold a disproportionate amount of a forest's above-ground carbon. And they continue to sequester carbon throughout their lives.

A new coalition of over 100 conservation groups and organizations, Climate-Forests, is calling on the Biden Administration to enact a strong, lasting rule that protects these forest stands from logging across federal lands. With phrases such as "Forest defense is climate defense" and "Let trees grow: protect the climate," Climate-Forests is hoping to engage and inspire individuals, as well as conservation organizations, in urging the Biden administration to reorient forest management toward optimizing climate and biodiversity benefits.

The Biden administration has already committed to protecting 9 million acres in Alaska's Tongass National Forest and to ending commercial old growth logging in that forest. On Earth Day, President Biden signed an executive order meant to protect old-growth forests on all federal lands. It remains to be seen how the order will affect the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the U.S. Forest Service as the agencies

continue to advance plans to log our federal forests.

Here in Washington state, the Commissioner of Public Lands, who manages the Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR), recently announced a plan to set aside certain older forests on state land for the purpose of carbon storage. Although the protected acreage is small, this is an important first step in acknowledging the critical climate protection function that intact older forests can provide in response to the climate crisis. However, this action is in stark contrast to DNR's current timber harvest plans, under which older forests are being clear-cut at an alarming rate.

Our state needs to adopt a new approach to managing its forests that recognizes the pivotal role played by its older, naturally regenerated Western Washington legacy forests. Legacy forests are forests that were first logged in the pre-WWII era, before industrial clear-cutting practices began. Many of these forests are more than a century old and exhibit old-growth characteristics. These diverse forests sequester carbon at remarkable rates, among the highest in the nation, and reach this remarkable capacity in the second century of their growth. If legacy forests are left to mature, the lowlands of Western Washington will once again be home to old-growth forests.

Collectively, mature forests store more carbon than any other terrestrial ecosystem on the earth, purify our drinking water, cleanse the air we breathe, and provide nature's climate solutions. Protecting existing forests and replanting those already logged is the best and cheapest way to combat climate change.

And for every breath you take, thank a tree!

Major Victory: Parks Are For People, Not Military Training

From Sierra Club North Olympic Group

On April 1, Thurston County Superior Court Judge James Dixon made a stunning and extraordinary bench ruling to reverse and remand the four-to-three decision made by Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission to permit military training in 28 coastal parks.

The Whidbey Environmental Action Network (WEAN) had filed the lawsuit to appeal the Commission's permit decision, despite widespread public opposition (the Sierra Club had also testified against granting this misguided permit).

Judge James Dixon ruled: "Nowhere in the statutes may it be implied that the Commission has the authority to authorize military training...It is a violation of their limited authority to allow the use of state parks for non-park purposes." He went on to say: "The

decisions made by the Commission were arbitrary and capricious, they exceeded the statutory authority conferred by the legislature" and failed to comply with the State Environmental Policy Act.

And, to further put the nail in the coffin of this very bad permit decision, the judge added: "Over the past few days this court has spent some time trying to articulate another definition or phrase for what might adequately describe the emotional impact of (covert military training on) people who utilize our state parks, something other than "creep factor" because it's a long way from a legal term. But I can't find it, it is creepy."

Now go and enjoy our amazing state parks without the fear of being an unwitting participant in a covert military training exercise with authentic but "fake" weapons.

New Dungeness River Nature Center Opens

The Dungeness River Nature Center is nearing completion of its 5,980-square-foot building expansion. Starting in June, the new building can be rented for all occasions, from weddings to business meetings, lectures, and classes.

New amenities include a 150-seat meeting room, a fully equipped catering kitchen, 25-seat classroom, 200-seat plaza with concrete surface adjacent to a beautiful new raingarden, and service to "Hurricane Coffee at the River" for all your espresso and specialty drink needs.

The Watershed Exhibit is in the former main room, now remodeled and prepped for installation of the new exhibits which will begin in May and will be completed by October. Visitors will embark on a

journey through the Dungeness Watershed. Starting at its headwater peaks and subalpine meadows, you will follow the river as it travels through the montane, riparian, and lowland ecosystems all the way to its estuary and Dungeness Bay. The different diorama habitats will be filled with 200 mounted bird and mammal specimens, cultural replicas, and lifelike trees and shrubs.

Visitors can also listen to S'Klallam stories about the area's plants and animals through audiovisual programs, experience a hands-on Discovery Area which includes a 3-D relief map of the watershed, and take a glimpse at salmon eggs and fry in the Salmon Room.

OPA Forms Wolf Committee

OPA has formed a Wolf Restoration Committee, renewing our focus on the return of Olympic National Park's only missing native species.

Gray wolves (*Canis lupus*) were once endemic to the Olympic Peninsula. Olympic National Park and surrounding public lands offer the best protected habitat, the largest ungulate population as prey base, and the lowest chances for wolf-human conflicts in Washington state. Returning wolves would benefit the entire ecosystem, from Olympic marmots to Roosevelt elk. And the return of wolves would bring

lasting economic eco-tourism benefits to Olympic Peninsula communities.

OPA advocates returning wolves to Olympic National Park and the Olympic ecosystem by any effective means, including reintroduction, translocation from other parts of the state where recovery goals have been reached, or natural migration from other areas of the state.

OPA hopes to engage with other NGOs, the National Park Service, Forest Service, Tribes and all other agencies, to move forward with restoration. Join us, so once again the howl of wolves can be heard in their ancestral homeland.



Heart Lake,
Daniel J.
Evans
Wilderness.
Photo
by John
Gussman

Wilderness Planning in ONP

By Jason Bausher

The National Park Service (NPS) in Olympic National Park (ONP) continues its Wilderness Stewardship Plan (WSP) process with public scoping done in 2013 and draft alternatives presented in 2014. NPS's 2017 "Foundation Document" for ONP classified the WSP as "on hold." With no notice to terminate in the Federal Register, the WSP remains at "Step 7: Refine Alternatives and Analyze the Effects."

Ninety-five percent of ONP was designated wilderness in 1988, later renamed the Daniel J. Evans Wilderness. The park is required to produce a wilderness plan by its 2008 General Management Plan (GMP). According to NPS Management Policies 2006, every wilderness administered by NPS is required to have a wilderness management plan. The 2013 NPS Director's Order #41 clarified this plan as a WSP to "guide management actions to preserve wilderness character."

Yet only Sequoia and Kings Canyon national parks have a final WSP. Of the 61 units with over 44 million acres of wilderness administered by NPS, over fifty have not launched WSPs. Mount Rainier and Yosemite national parks announced their WSP processes in 2015, but their WSPs have gone nowhere.

The WSP process should advance. Wilderness character science has progressed since 2013. Agencies and nonprofits have come far in knowing what wilderness character is and how to preserve it. Agency and university scientists cooperated to make wilderness character more quantifiable and monitorable. "Keeping It Wild" was published in 2008 as an interagency framework for monitoring wilderness character. The bedrock is the five "qualities" of wilderness character stated in section 2(c) of

the Wilderness Act: "untrammelled," "undeveloped," "natural," "opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation," and "other features of value."

This fivefold framework was absent from the 2008 GMP, but a remarkable shift was evident in 2013 when NPS began the WSP for Olympic: They explicitly built upon this bedrock of "Keeping It Wild" to focus public conversation on the five qualities of wilderness character. Despite these attempts to focus the conversation, the 595 pages of public letters reveal many opportunities to educate the public about wilderness character.

"Keeping it Wild in the National Park Service" and the "Wilderness Stewardship Plan Handbook: Planning to Preserve Wilderness Character" further developed the five qualities of wilderness character in 2014. "Keeping It Wild 2" clarified the framework in 2015. These documents offer a common language for speaking with NPS and the public about how to best preserve wilderness character. A good place to start is Wilderness Connect (wilderness.net), which offers a collection of agency policies, law, and scientific papers on wilderness character.

OPA has played critical roles in preserving wilderness character for 73 years. We can thank past OPA President Polly Dyer for the word "untrammelled" in the Wilderness Act, the wilderness character quality appearing in the first and primary sentence defining wilderness. We can also thank OPA as a whole for helping legally recognize the supremacy of wilderness character in the influential 2005 *Olympic Park Associates v. Mainella* case. Past examples abound, and we can expect OPA to show future leadership. We know there will be many more opportunities to help preserve wilderness character by using the agencies' own monitoring and management framework to advocate for Olympic wilderness.

Marmots

Continued from p.3

much. Because Olympic marmots do not have sweat glands, their bodies have no way to disburse heat.

A Program that Makes a Difference

This program is a win-win. The volunteers get to experience the splendors of the alpine areas of the park while making significant contributions to the park's resource stewardship, and park staff receive needed data.

If you are interested in participating in this citizen science research project, you can learn more at Olympic National Park's Marmot Monitoring page. And if you'd like to contribute in support of projects like this one, visit wnpf.org/all-the-ways-to-give.



This program is a win-win. The volunteers get to experience the splendors of the alpine areas of the park while making significant contributions to the park's resource stewardship, and park staff receive needed data.

Olympic Marmot, Obstruction Point area. Photo by John Gussman

Sanctuary *Continued from p.1*

and foundational species populations—the purple sea star and sunflower star, Southern Resident Killer Whales, and some salmon species—are displaying cause for concern.

Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary was established in 1994 and includes 3,188 square miles of marine waters off the rugged Olympic Peninsula in northwest Washington state. Habitats within the sanctuary range from towering kelp forests to deep-sea coral and sponge communities. Twenty-nine species of marine mammals and more than 100 bird species reside in or migrate through the sanctuary, and it contains some of the



Quateata Point, Olympic Coast. Photo by John Gussman

most productive habitats for fish in the world. In order to represent both traditional and modern-day perspectives of the relationship between humans and the ocean, this report includes the voices and knowledge of Indigenous people. Tribal Councils, tribal members, and participating staff from the four Coastal Treaty Tribes contributed to the report.

NOAA uses sanctuary condition reports as a standardized tool to assess the status and trends of national marine sanctuary resources. The assessment period for this report was 2008 through 2019, updating the previous 2008 report. It will inform the management plan review process for Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary.

A detailed web story can be viewed at: sanctuaries.noaa.gov/news/mar22/olympic-coast-national-marine-sanctuary-good-condition.html

Norman Winn

OPA Pays Tribute to an Extraordinary Life

By Paul Robisch

On the last day of 2021, the extraordinary life of Norman (Norm) Winn came to an end. Norm was a Pacific Northwest conservation/environmental icon, who will be gratefully remembered for many years to come. For about a half-century Norm played significant roles in ensuring that large areas of the Cascades Mountains and the Olympic Peninsula would be legally protected as wilderness benefiting wildlife habitat and recreation for future generations.

In 1968, a year after arriving in Seattle from the Midwest, Norm and his wife Karyl joined The Mountaineers. It didn't take long for Norm to become an ardent and skilled climber. More importantly, it didn't take long for Norm to see the continuous expansion of clearcut logging going deeper into the mountains. It made him realize that the status quo was not sustainable and his passion for environmental activism began.

Olympic Park Advocates (OPA) benefitted greatly from Norm's environmental activism which became extremely effective with the use of his legal talents and his tireless work. The passage of the Washington Wilderness Act (WWA) in 1984 was aided greatly by Norm personally testifying before Congress and meeting with congressional representatives. Because he had the ability to focus on the issues, he was able to gain support from all sides. Under the WWA large areas in the Olympic Peninsula and the Cascade Mountains were preserved as wilderness which greatly enhanced wildlife habitat and recreational areas. Norm also was an early supporter of restoring the large salmon runs on the Elwha River that had been decimated by the building of two large privately owned hydroelectric dams. Norm also directly served OPA many years by being on its Board of Trustees.

Among Norm's many environmental efforts was his



significant role in the passage of the Cascade Alpine Lakes Wilderness area legislation. In 1976 as the President of The Mountaineers, Norm provided extraordinarily positive testimony for its passage through Congress, including making copies of the pictorial book, *The Alpine Lakes*, published by Mountaineers Books in 1971, available to each member of the Senate Committee. *The Alpine Lakes* was also used by Washington Senator Dan Evans to persuade President Gerald Ford to sign the legislation instead of vetoing it. Norm later received a personal letter from President Ford thanking him for his valuable presentations and testimonies. Later Norm worked closely with Washington's Senator Patty Murray in arranging for a complicated 42,000+ acre land exchange between the Plum Creek Timber Company and the US Forest Service. This exchange consolidated the checkerboard land distribution into more manageable pieces of land ownership. Senator Murray also acknowledged Norm's valuable contributions in the

creation of the Wild Sky Wilderness and the expansion of the Alpine Lakes Wilderness areas. The list of Norm's affiliations over the years is large but some of the more notable are: Audubon Society, Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs, Washington State Forest Practices Advisory Committee, Mountaineers Books, Mountaineers (Keta Legacy) Foundation, North Cascades Conservation Coalition, Washington Environmental Alliance for Voter Education, Washington Water Trails Association, Washington Wild, Washington Wilderness Coalition, etc. It is impossible to describe all of the environmental accomplishments that are in Norm's impressive repertoire. However, it needs to be noted that in addition to providing extensive legal expertise, Norm also provided numerous generous personal monetary contributions to help ensure the success of their efforts.

OPA and the Pacific Northwest have lost a great friend of the natural environments. Norm may be gone, but the results of his extraordinary efforts will live on for years to come. Perhaps OPA President Emeritus Donna Osseward summed it up best: "*Norm knew what being a good citizen is and that is something we need right now.*"



Voice of the Wild Olympics
Amy Youngblood, Editor

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