



# Polls Show Olympic Peninsula Residents Favor Wolf Reintroduction Into Park

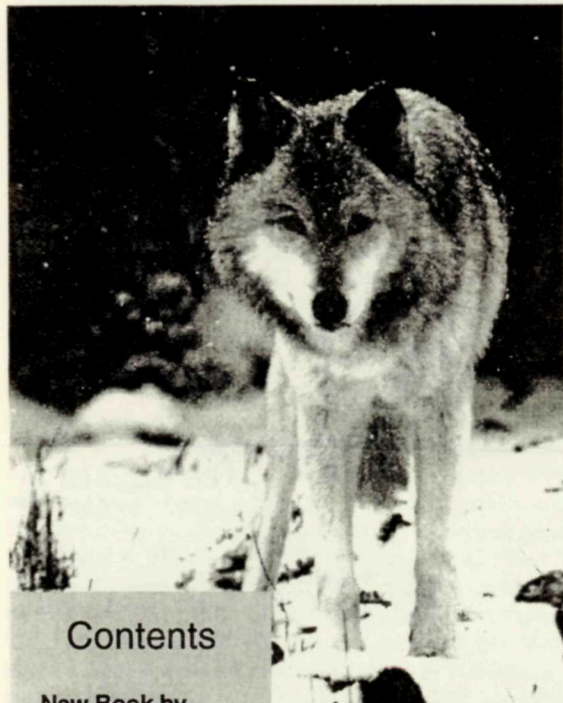


Photo by Julie Palmquist  
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At its November wolf conference in Seattle, Defenders of Wildlife President Roger Schlickeisen announced the results of a poll on attitudes toward wolf reintroduction in the Olympics conducted by the Evans/McDonough Company of Seattle. The results showed strong support for returning the wolf to its former Olympic range.

Telephone interviews were conducted with 400 registered voters in the Puget Sound area, 350 on the Olympic Peninsula, and 50 in the Native American community on the Peninsula. The results were definitive. Overall, 62% favored reintroduction, 23% were opposed, and 15% undecided. Support was strongest in the Puget Sound area; but most surprising were survey numbers on the Olympic Peninsula. There, where very little wolf education has taken place and opponents to wolf reintroduction have enjoyed prominent media attention, 51% of those interviewed favored reintroduction while 40% opposed it. After interviewers introduced some facts about wolf ecology and their place in the ecosystem, the numbers of those supporting reintroduction increased from 62% to 67% in the Puget Sound area and from 51% to 56% on the Peninsula. Three-fourths of all respondents agreed that it is important to them to know that wolves exist in the Northwest.

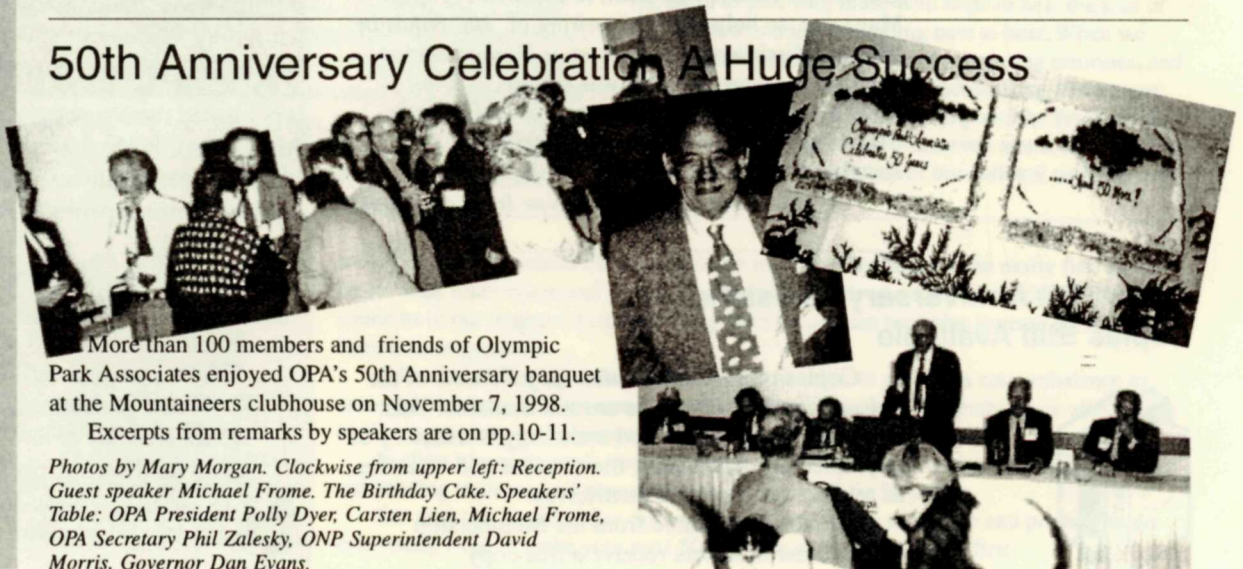
Schlickeisen told the audience that the results of these polls are significantly better than those taken in other candidate areas for wolf reintroduction, such as Yellowstone and northern Idaho, particularly before the results of feasibility studies were released. This usually is the time, in the absence of scientific data, when opponents are most vocal.

"Our national experience in Yellowstone shows us that wolf reintroduction is overwhelmingly popular with the American public," Schlickeisen said. "According to this survey, reintroduction in Olympic Park would be popular as well."

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## 50th Anniversary Celebration A Huge Success



More than 100 members and friends of Olympic Park Associates enjoyed OPA's 50th Anniversary banquet at the Mountaineers clubhouse on November 7, 1998.

Excerpts from remarks by speakers are on pp.10-11.

Photos by Mary Morgan. Clockwise from upper left: Reception. Guest speaker Michael Frome. The Birthday Cake. Speakers' Table: OPA President Polly Dyer, Carsten Lien, Michael Frome, OPA Secretary Phil Zalesky, ONP Superintendent David Morris, Governor Dan Evans.

**Book Review:**

*An Ice Axe, a Camera, and a Jar of Peanut Butter: A Photographer's Autobiography*, by Ira Spring.  
Published by The Mountaineers, \$24.95.

*Reviewed by Tim McNulty*

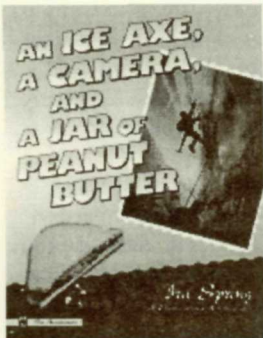
Long-time OPA board member and acclaimed photographer Ira Spring has taken time from his mountain travels to pen a memoir (and gather a retrospective of exquisite black and white photographs) that every mountain lover in the Northwest will want to have.

As readers of these pages know, Ira has worked tirelessly on behalf of Olympic wildlands over the years. This book traces how the spark of "green-bonding" grew in the young Depression-era kid from Shelton, from his first backpack trip to High Divide in 1929, through early hikes and climbs in the Olympics, to his week-long honeymoon with wife Pat at Upper Lena Lake. It's a bond that nourished a passion for wild places, and led to a successful career as an outdoors photographer and in 1992 to the prestigious Teddy Roosevelt Conservation Award. OPA members will especially enjoy his magical evocations of the east Olympics before the country was riddled with roads: in the early days of Camp Cleland at Lena Lake, Scouts reached the trailhead by logging railroad up the Hamma Hamma Valley.

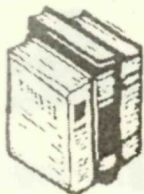
Ira received his first camera, a Box Brownie, in 1930 when Eastman Kodak gave one to every 12-year-old kid in the country. With the first few shots he was hooked. This, and that first High Divide experience, fueled a life-long appetite for adventure and photography. Ira's taste for the high country expanded from his home Olympics to Mount Rainier, the North Cascades, the Rockies, and the Alps as his and brother Bob's photographs appeared in national publications.

In 1965, after a series of successful large-format books co-authored with Harvey Manning and Byron Fish, Manning conscripted Ira to take photographs and Louise Marshall, founder of Signpost Magazine, to help with the writing of *100 Hikes in Western Washington*. Based on an English hiking guide to the Alps, the idea was simple, "saving trails by putting boots on them, thus making new friends for trails, new defenders against the onslaught of machines," in Ira's words. The book,

*(Continued on P. 12, New Ira Spring book)*



**OPAs 50th Anniversary Newsletter:  
Copies Still Available**



Copies of the *50th Anniversary Edition* of the *Voice of the Wild Olympics* are still available. This 128-page, photo-illustrated anthology is a history of Olympic Park Associates, their battles and victories, as told by the survivors themselves.

Copies are available from the Membership Chair. New members receive a free copy.

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\$250 for a life membership.



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## Conference on Restoring the Wolf, November 1998

### Wolf Conference Overview

by Randall Payne

On November 12-14, 1998, several hundred wolf experts and enthusiasts gathered in SeaTac, Washington, for the "Restoring the Wolf" conference. Sponsored by the Defenders of Wildlife, this 2-plus-day event gave those interested in wolf recovery in North America an opportunity to learn about the fate of the wolf on our continent.

The general format of the conference was a series of 1-1/2 hour long sessions that focused on regional wolf issues. From grassroots activists working towards reintroducing wolves to the Adirondacks in upstate New York, to long-time researchers in Alaska discussing the significant decline in wolf populations in Denali, the conference offered a most enlightening blend of education, outreach, activism, and entertainment. While our soggy Northwest weather dampened the spirits of some participants who had hoped to enjoy a taste of the outdoors while visiting our region, the breadth and depth of speakers made for a most worthwhile 2-plus days.

While those of us in the Pacific Northwest are getting a taste of wolf recovery efforts (most recently with the introductions in Idaho and now with the initial feasibility analysis being conducted in the Olympics) [see Tim's accompanying article], it was interesting to listen to and learn from others who have passed this way before (such as those in northern Minnesota who have a very healthy population of wolves) and those who are traveling down this same road together with us (such as those in the North Woods of New England and the Southern Rockies of Colorado).

The fate of the wolf lies in the ability for humans to learn how to co-exist with this incredible animal. This should come as a surprise to no one. But it is surprising, in our so-called 'advanced technological society', that we have yet to learn how to accomplish this task. For example, Gordon Haber has been researching wolves in Alaska for decades, in fact took over the extensive research of Adolph Murie in what was then Mount McKinley National Park. He has seen major changes come to Alaska over the years, including the decimation of the wolf population in Denali National Park. It would seem that frontiersmen, with pre-existing claims to subsistence hunting in Denali and other park units in Alaska prior to their creation, have had free rein on killing 1,000 to 1,500 wolves each and every year throughout the state of Alaska. On parklands, the National Park Service has been in the forefront of actually opposing wolf protection, rather than being the wolves' advocate.

In Arizona, the Mexican wolf recovery program suffered serious setbacks in its first year of operation, with no fewer than five wolves having been shot dead and one additional wolf, along with the first Mexican wolf born in the wild in decades, missing and presumed dead. The remaining few wolves were recaptured for

(Continued on P. 4, Conference Overview)

### Experts Discuss Prospects for Wolf Recovery in the Olympics

by Tim McNulty

A focal point of Defenders of Wildlife "Restoring the Wolf Conference" in Seattle last November was the panel on Olympic Wolf Recovery. Experts from Olympic National Park, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Point No Point Treaty Council, and the conservation community shared perspectives and concerns on restoring wolves to the Olympics.

Darrell Linton, President of the Peninsula Environmental Center, told the audience that wolves and humans share a long mutual heritage on the Peninsula. Traditionally, the winter Wolf Ritual was a means for many Native American cultures on the Peninsula to initiate novitiates into the culture mores and beliefs of the tribe. "The wolf was a spiritual teacher for Native Americans," Linton told the audience, "a figure of respect and honor." Not so for the European settlers that followed. In the war against predators in the late 19th and early 20th centuries on the Peninsula, one West End homesteader was known to have killed between 300 and 800 cougars. At \$50 each, Linton estimates his bounty payments amounted to between a quarter and a half million dollars at today's value. He posed the obvious question. "Why farm?"

By the late 1920s, by means of guns, traps, and poisons, wolves were extirpated from the Olympics. In 1929 Clallam County paid the last bounty for a wolf. Some on the Peninsula do not miss wolves, Linton reminded the audience. "Even as we enter the 21st century, 19th century misconceptions of wolves continue to be shouted loudly."

Nancy Loeman of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service presented a progress report on the feasibility study for wolf reintroduction that her agency is coordinating. Congress allocated \$350,000 for the study in 1997. The feasibility, which was contracted to the University of Idaho, received \$150,000; \$25,000 went to administration and overhead; and \$50,000 was given to the Olympic Natural Resources Center in Forks for an attitudinal survey. [See story, p. 5. Ed]

The feasibility study, which is due out later this winter, will look at habitat suitability on public as well as private lands in the Olympics and decide whether reintroduction is biologically feasible. It will also consider social and economic impacts. Feasibility will hinge on adequate prey (for wolves and humans), and the agency will then make a recommendation to Congress. Congress may then fund an environmental

(Continued on P. 4, Wolf Experts)



Photo by Julie Palmquist  
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Conference  
on  
Restoring  
the Wolf  
(Continued)



*(Wolf Conference Overview, continued from P. 2)*

their own safety and have since been released with new (prospective) mates.

But all is not as grim as these two examples of wolves and humans failing to peaceably co-exist. The wolf recovery efforts of Yellowstone and central Idaho remain a phenomenal success. The current count is 115 wolves in Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem and 113 wolves in Idaho. Three packs are now occupying a portion of Grand Teton National Park, with Wolf 129 of the Thorofare Pack sighted in the National Elk Refuge north of Jackson, Wyoming (Jackson Hole News, 1/6/99). But even this silver lining has a dark cloud hanging over it, as there remains the specter that all these wolves will have to be destroyed if the appeal of Judge Downes ruling fails. (In 1997 Federal Judge William Downes ruled in favor of a lawsuit by the American Farm Bureau Federation asserting the government improperly introduced an "experimental population" of gray wolves in Yellowstone and they should be removed, but stayed his decision pending an appeal.) The appeal is expected to be heard this spring.

One region overlooked at the conference was our own backyard, namely the North Cascades (assuming we consider the Olympics as our front yard). While there is ample evidence that wolves are present in the North Cascades, breeding packs remain unconfirmed. Sam Wasser, of the Center for Wildlife Conservation, gave a most entertaining yet highly informative presentation on his efforts to use 'scat-sniffing' dogs to locate and distinguish scat from various animals in the wild. Using the same training program that is used on McNeil Island for 'drug-sniffing' dogs, Sam and his colleagues field tested these dogs in the Okanogan National Forest this past summer. They were able to locate 50 black bear scats, ~6 wolf scats, and DNA testing is underway to confirm one grizzly bear scat.

So while we learn about the prospects of gray wolf recovery in the Olympics, it is important for us to remain in touch with others who share our interest in the recovery of this noble animal, not only for knowledge shared and moral support given, but as a commitment to help others learn how to live with the wolf.

Aldo Leopold, in *Round River*, once wrote:

*"We need knowledge — public awareness — of the small cogs and wheels, but sometimes I think there is something we need even more. It is the thing that Forest and Stream, on its editorial masthead, once called 'a refined taste in natural objects.' Have we made any headway in developing 'a refined taste in natural objects'?"*

*"We debate such questions (of wolf extermination) in terms of economics and biology... [Yet] the basic question has not been debated at all. The basic question hinges on 'a refined taste in natural objects.' Is a wolfless north woods any north woods at all?"*

*"Is a wolfless north woods any north woods at all?"*

Aldo Leopold

*(Wolf Experts, continued from P. 1)*

impact statement through the NEPA process or it may let the issue drop.

Dr. Patti Happe, wildlife biologist with Olympic National Park, gave an overview of potential wolf habitat in the Park. On the north and west sides of the Park, where wolves would likely be reintroduced, nearly all migratory elk winter inside the Park. Of Olympic's 5,000 elk (a stable population), 3,000 to 4,000 remain in the Park year-round. In the Hoh and Queets rivers elk density is 15 to 19 elk per square mile, or twice the density of lands outside the Park. Deer numbers were estimated for the Elwha Valley where they were comparable.

Based on Vancouver Island wolf populations, a wolf pack was estimated to need 100 square kilometers of winter range. The Bogachiel, Hoh, Queets, and Quinault valleys in the Park all support a minimum of 100 square kilometers of winter range (below 2,000 feet in elevation). The Elwha supported slightly less winter range, but is considered feasible for wolves due to its large deer population. The Park appears adequate to support a viable population of wolves, but the feasibility study will tell.

Jack Smith of the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife presented a different story for the deer and elk that his agency manages on lands outside the Park. Based on harvest numbers from sport hunters, deer and elk populations on the Peninsula are declining steeply. From an estimated elk population of 9,000 in the mid-1980s, elk numbers have dropped to 1,800 in 1997. In 1983 hunters took 451 elk on the Peninsula, while only 75 were taken in 1997. And though deer are estimated to number up to 100 per square mile on the east side of the Peninsula, their numbers are as low as 5 per square mile on the west side.

Habitat changes as well as heavy hunting pressures are two reasons for this decline, but what puzzles Smith and other biologists is that half of the animals their surveys tell them should be available to hunters fail to materialize. Poaching may be a prime reason, but money for field agents — as well as for needed habitat improvements — is linked to hunting licenses, and the money is no longer there.

Sally Nickelson, a biologist with Point No Point Treaty Council, echoed Smith's concerns. Deer and elk are essential to the tribes' cultural and subsistence needs. East side elk populations, despite efforts to revitalize the herds (including a 5-year conservation closure on hunting), have reached crisis levels. Densities are down to less than 5 elk per square mile. At the same time, cougar populations are increasing. The tribes are concerned that ranging wolves, buoyed by high deer numbers, will likely add to elk population declines. As human population grows in east-Olympic valleys, winter elk habitat continues to decline. Even though wolves are targeted for west-side valleys, as long as east-side

*(Continued on P. 5, Wolf Experts)*

## Electronic Wolf Lynchings Come to Peninsula

by Tim McNulty

Three "electronic town hall meetings" sponsored by the Olympic Natural Resource Center (ONRC) of Forks were held in rural Peninsula communities in January. Local residents from Shelton, Hoquiam, and Forks were invited to "express their reaction" to proposed wolf reintroduction to Olympic National Park. In announcing the meetings, ONRC director John Calhoun told the Forks Forum there were two factions involved, a "community of interest, like the Defenders of Wildlife, and a community of place like Forks." He went on to elaborate, "Usually when a community of interest is opposed by a community of place, the community of place doesn't have a chance."

With this kind of scientific objectivity directing the survey, the meetings achieved their desired effect: further polarization of the wolf issue.

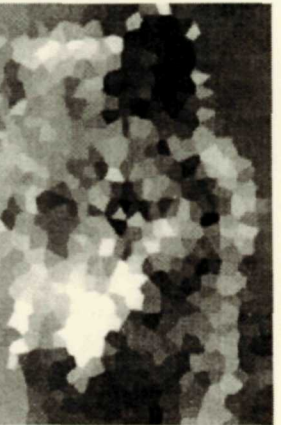
Participants were invited to agree or disagree with a series of statements plucked from interviews with 24 Peninsula residents (11 from Forks). They included gems like "The Park Service is making it increasingly hard for people to use the park." And "The park's plan is to expand its influence and its boundaries through land use restrictions that lead to land acquisition." Statements were read and projected on a screen; participants registered their level

of agreement by hand-held electronic clicker.

In Shelton and Hoquiam a two-thirds majority agreed it would be "very bad" to introduce wolves to the Olympics. In Forks the number exceeded 90 percent. "It's a group-think," said one West End biologist. "People mean well but they haven't taken the time to research the issue." More than half those who attended the meetings agreed that wolf reintroduction would have a negative effect on the economy, reduce human use of the park, and restrict uses of private property. In spite of facilitation by Battelle Seattle Research Center (which received \$39,500 to design the survey, the lion's share of \$50,000 appropriated by Congress for outreach and education) a profound absence of accurate information on any of the issues characterized the events.

With the government's \$300,000 feasibility study on reintroduction due out in less than a month, it's too bad ONRCs Calhoun could neither wait until there was some factual information at hand upon which participants could base their judgments, nor spend a little of the money on public education and outreach. On the other hand, informed opinion didn't seem to be the objective here. Torpedoing the reintroduction effort did.

A profound absence of accurate information on any of the issues characterized the events.



## Wild Sentry Program Comes to Port Angeles

by Colleen LeMagie

About ninety local residents turned out on the evening of November 5, 1998, at Peninsula College's Little Theater in Port Angeles, to support the wolf reintroduction effort, to learn more about wolves, and to get a closer look at an animal that has long been confused with the creature of folklore that eats little girls in red capes.

Presented by Olympic Park Associates, Peninsula Environmental Center, and sponsored by Defenders of Wildlife, the program featured Pat Tucker, a former biologist with the National Wildlife Federation, and writer Bruce Weide. The husband and wife duo comprise Wild Sentry, the Northern Rockies Ambassador Wolf Program, which brings education and entertainment to a public increasingly enchanted by these symbols of the wilderness.

Tucker described to the crowd her first encounter with wild wolves near Glacier National Park, while assisting with the Whitetail Deer Study/Wolf Ecology Project. The audience watched as Weide told stories depicting the symbolic and mythical character of wolves illustrated by children's books.

They questioned the couple about safety issues, threats to wildlife, impact on hunting, and other areas of concern to Peninsula residents. And they joined in a rousing rendition of a wolf howl.

But the undeniable star of the evening was Koani, a hundred-pound gray wolf who led Weide around the stage on a lead and gazed at the crowd with her piercing golden eyes. Koani was accompanied by Indy, "the cutest dog in the world," who made his way through the crowd wagging his tail and licking outstretched hands.

If any participants had questioned the difference between dogs and wolves, their doubts would have been quickly settled as they observed the two animals on the stage. Wolves are not house pets who happily carry the newspaper and slippers in exchange for a pat on the head. Nor are they the "Saddam Hussein of the Animal World" depicted on anti-wolf posters. They are wild predators who once roamed the Peninsula, were revered by local natives, and formed an integral link in the ecological chain that has been so sadly disrupted here and throughout the country.

(Continued on P. 6, *Wild Sentry*)



(*Wolf Experts*, continued from P. 4)

elk populations remain critical, the Point No Point Treaty tribes cannot support wolf reintroduction.

Defenders of Wildlife's Gerry Ring Erickson reminded the audience that wolf reintroduction to

the Olympics is not required by the Endangered Species Act as it was for Yellowstone and the northern Rockies. "If it happens," he said, "it will be a voluntary act by citizens and government – and a signal change in our relationship with predators."

# Elwha Update: Letters From Interested Parties -----

## Elwha Citizens Advisory Committee

December 30, 1998  
The Honorable Al Gore  
Vice President  
Office of the Vice President  
Executive Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20501  
Subject: Elwha River Restoration Act  
Dear Mr. Vice President:

I am writing to you on behalf of the Elwha Citizens Advisory Committee to express our sense of urgency with respect to the next steps that must be taken to implement the 1992 Elwha River Ecosystem and Fisheries Restoration Act.

With the full purchase amount of \$29 million now in hand, the Administration is able to move forward aggressively with actions that will address the vital interests of the Port Angeles community. The highest priority is for the Administration to expeditiously complete acquisition of the Elwha Projects. The important objective of putting the projects in control of the federal government should be accomplished as soon as possible. Such control will make it possible to undertake coordinated and comprehensive efforts to achieve dam removal, protect the Port Angeles water supply, and undertake immediate fisheries restoration measures. It will also allow the Administration to move forward with other crucial elements of the Elwha Act, including providing power supply certainty and other business concerns for Daishowa America, the largest private employer in Port Angeles and Clallam County.

The critical actions that must be taken as a priority by the administration are as follows:

*Ensure protection of the water supply system for the City of Port Angeles and other users of the Elwha River and move forward with funding engineering protection measures.* Water quality protection is a key component of the Committee's recommendation and critical to the health and safety of the residents of Port Angeles and operations of local industry. These improvements must be constructed well in advance of restoration. Funding and engineering must start immediately.

*Move forward with Elwha Dam removal and restoration, planning and engineering.* The committee believes that we have effectively changed the debate concerning Elwha restoration from "if" to "when". In the private sector, preplanning in advance of construction would be funded before construction financing. We believe that the Administration must seek, and the Congress must provide adequate funding to conduct this planning and engineering.

*Undertake Mid-River restoration activities.* An essential Committee recommendation was for certain restoration activities to be undertaken before and concurrent with, dam removal. For example, mid-river tributary habitat should be improved in advance of returning first year spawners. This work should be planned, funded and undertaken immediately.

*Funding for these activities should be either made available from existing sources as soon as possible or sought in the FY 2000 budget request and approved by Congress.*

All of the constituencies that have supported the Elwha Act agree that project acquisition should be undertaken now. The Administration and key members of Congress have all indicated their desire to see Elwha Act implementation commence. It is now time for the Administration to take such action, beginning with the specific measures outlined above.

The committee believes that time is of the essence in getting underway with the restoration program. Doing so is in the best interests of the City of Port Angeles and the Olympic Peninsula. Thank you in advance for your response to this request.

Sincerely,

(Signed by...)

Bart Phillips, for the Elwha Citizens Advisory Committee

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(Wild Sentry, continued from P. 5)

Wild Sentry and similar educational programs may well help to restore the wolf to these wild places by changing public attitudes and increasing support for reintroduction efforts. While there is some controversy among wolf advocates about the advisability of showing the public a wild animal on a leash, there is no question that Koani attracts people who would not otherwise be attending an educational program on wolves. As a volunteer at the program and a local resident, I encountered many people who entered the theater unwilling to sign the petition advocating reintroduction. They

stopped at the display table, glanced at the literature, and admired the T-shirts and "predator friendly" woolen hats for sale. At the end of the program many of those same people lined up to sign the petition, voicing their support and asking enthusiastic questions. Koani by that time was safely contained inside her mobile kennel.

While the life of a captive wolf may be a far cry from the life of an animal in the wild, Koani's efforts create a space, literally and metaphorically, where wild wolves may again roam.

## --Urge Prompt Action on Elwha Restoration Project

**Daishowa America \* Fort James \* Friends of the Earth \* Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe  
\* Olympic Park Associates \* Seattle Audubon Society \* Sierra Club \* Trout Unlimited**

December 18, 1998

The Honorable Albert Gore

Vice President

The White House

Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. Vice President:

We represent a unique alliance of interests (environmental groups, industry, and tribal government) sharing a common goal -- full implementation of the 1992 Elwha River Ecosystem and Fisheries Restoration Act. We are writing to express our united support for active and continuing implementation of the Elwha Act and to request your assistance toward that goal.

We appreciate the Administration and Congress allocating the remaining \$18.5 million necessary to acquire the Elwha and Glines Canyon dams. This marks a major step toward restoring the Elwha River ecosystem and providing certainty to meet the needs of the local community.

With the full purchase amount of \$29.5 million now in hand, the Interior Department now must press forward with full implementation of the Elwha Act. This will entail two separate but inter-related tasks:

1. Finalizing federal acquisition of the two dams and related project lands as soon as possible. We urge you to ensure that federal agency personnel expedite the acquisition process, moving swiftly to complete the various administrative steps required for the United States to take possession of the projects.
2. Securing federal funds for construction of water quality protection measures and for the planning and removal of the two dams.

Failure to take actions now to continue to allocate funds for each critical step will have significant negative consequences for all of the interests represented by our diverse coalition. Inaction will also result in further delay of an extraordinary opportunity to achieve ecosystem restoration that is supported by all affected interest groups. This opportunity could well slip away if the federal government does not step forward and take command.

We urge you to fulfill the federal government's commitments on this issue. By acquiring the projects and carrying out the other requirements of the Act, you will:

- provide certainty regarding power supply and other business concerns for Daishowa America, the largest private employer in Clallam County;
- ensure protection of the water supply system for the city of Port Angeles and other users of Elwha River water;
- fulfill applicable U.S. trust responsibility and treaty obligations to the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe;
- restore the Elwha River ecosystem, particularly the river's chinook salmon run proposed for listing under the Endangered Species Act; and
- generate significant economic development and new jobs in Clallam County.

As the parties involved in the decades-long controversy surrounding the Elwha River dams, we were able to put aside our differences and come together to support passage of the Elwha Act. We remain fully committed to working together to complete this project. We are deeply concerned, however, that failure to act now will result in the issue reverting to the conflict and bitterness which existed prior to passage of the Elwha Act. It is imperative that the Administration and Congress ensure that implementation of the Elwha Act is not delayed further and that necessary funds are allocated immediately.

Again, thank you for your leadership on this issue. Please let us know how we can support your continued efforts.

Very truly yours,

(Signed by...)

David Tamaki, President, Daishowa America Co. Ltd.

Robert J. Morgan, Vice President, Fort James Corporation

Shawn Cantrell, Northwest Regional Director, Friends of the Earth

Russell N. Hepfer, Tribal Chair, Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe

Polly Dyer, President, Olympic Park Associates

Chuck Lennox, Conservation Chair, Seattle Audubon Society

Bill Arthur, Northwest Regional Director, Sierra Club

Bill Robinson, Executive Director, Northwest Steelhead and Salmon Council of Trout Unlimited

**Identical letters sent to:**

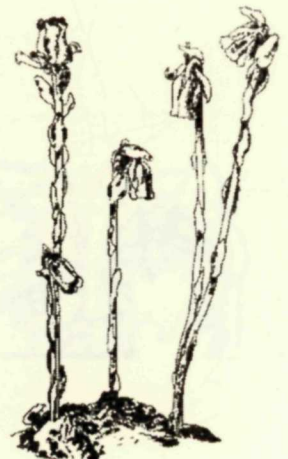
Secretary of Interior Bruce Babbitt

Council on Environmental Quality Chairman George Frampton

United States Senator Slade Gorton

United States Senator Patty Murray

United States Representative Norm Dicks



Indian Pipe  
*Monotropa uniflora*

## Backcountry Revegetation: Healing the Scars of Use

by Colleen LeMagie



Buckbean  
*Menyanthes trifoliata*

On a cold day in early December when the high country of the Olympics had been blanketed with a record high snowfall for several weeks, I watched while newly rooted cuttings of pink heather were transplanted into potting soil. The cuttings had been taken from Royal Basin the previous summer and were part of the park's revegetation program. The greenhouse I was visiting was filled with the tender growth of the project: beargrass, mountain huckleberry, white heather, and others, most of them started from similar cuttings, though a few had made their way into the filtered winter sunlight from seeds. They shared a common destiny: reintroduction to the Olympic high country to heal the scars inflicted by decades of enthusiastic hikers.

"In the seventies the Olympics experienced a huge increase in backcountry use," Natural Resources Specialist Ruth Scott explained to me. This use declined somewhat during the eighties but increased again in the nineties and has remained steady, making the Olympics one of the National Park System's most popular backcountry areas.

Not surprisingly, the result of this heavy use is that backcountry travelers have loved to death the very pristine places they are there to savor. In their place are trampled lakeshores, social trails connecting campsites, and soil packed almost as hard as city concrete, devoid of the nutrients necessary to sustain fragile plant growth.

Early attempts at revegetation involved transplantation of "plugs" from one area to another, essentially "robbing Peter to pay Paul." This method not only violated the spirit of the revegetation effort, to restore rather than to remove, but was only marginally successful. The plants grew but did not thrive, due in large part to the exacting growing conditions of the alpine country.

An example is the ubiquitous pink heather, so common in the high country that the average hiker would hardly think of it as fragile. Yet this plant is dependent upon microrhizomes and organisms in

the soil that make essential nutrients usable for growth. While greenhouse conditions cannot duplicate these soil organisms, greenhouse director Matt Allbright has been successful in creating just the right mix of nutrients provided by the microrhizomes by using soil additives. The result is a healthy plant, ideally suited to the unique soil conditions required by high country heather. Cuttings are taken from the same location to which they will be returned, thus preserving the unique genetic pool of that particular site.

Hoh Lake, a popular stopping point for hikers making their way up the thirty switchbacks that lead from the Hoh River Valley to High Divide, was the focus of revegetation efforts this past summer. Park biologist Bill Baccus supervised the planting of 20,000 native plants by a volunteer crew comprised of groups as diverse as the Army National Guard and the "Wilderness Volunteers" program.

The two preceding summers saw similar volunteer efforts invested at the beaches of Sand Point, one of the most popular hiking destinations on the Peninsula, where some 55,000 seedlings found their way from greenhouse to ground. Selections for revegetation efforts are made with input from backcountry rangers, who monitor use patterns in the park. The program is funded by a combination of backcountry user fees and grants. The price tag on the Hoh Lake restoration was about \$120,000.

With all this expenditure of hard work and resources, what is to keep backcountry visitors from once again flattening those very plants that have been so lovingly tended and planted? A variety of solutions have been implemented and include the use of "furniture rocks" at campsites, the creation of flat sandstone tent sites, and the blocking of unnecessary social trails, all of which say, "Camp here and not there." But ultimately the preservation of backcountry vegetation will come from educational efforts directed at a backpacking public that is committed to walking softly in the wilderness.



Before revegetation project at Sand Point.  
Photo courtesy of Olympic National Park.



After revegetation project at Sand Point.  
Photo courtesy of Olympic National Park.



## Lake Ozette Area Headed for Clearcutting

by Carsten Lien

The last great, unfinished business of Olympic National Park is the preservation of Ozette Lake. As early as 1943, just five years after establishment of the park, a boundary committee survey recommended swift attention to this oversight. "The lake itself," the committee noted, "is probably the last remaining lake of equal or larger size within the United States, adjacent to any seacoast, which now retains what amounts to primeval, untouched natural conditions about its shores." The challenge today is simple—preserve the Ozette basin or lose the lake. Its coming fate is ruinous logging unless a park extension to the nearby hydrographic divide is approved. As testimony to the wisdom of that move, the thousands of visitors pouring into the area pay \$1 per day just to park their cars as a premium for the privilege. By extending the park boundary east to the hydrological divide encompassing the Ozette basin, visitors need never fear the obvious—logging to within feet of the very edge of the lake itself.

Nearly ten miles long, Lake Ozette is a magnificent, pristine habitat for nearly every kind of mammal, bird, and fish indigenous to the western slope of the Pacific Northwest. Even in its present condition it is practically *de facto* wilderness. Surrounded by mostly second-growth forest, the lake is ideal for the protection that a boundary change and land acquisition program would finally bring. If the Ozette forest remains uncut, its rapid growth will restore the appearance and feel of an old growth forest within another 20 to 30 years. The protection of such

magnificent and important habitat should be a priority now, before it is too late.

Proposals to correct the boundary oversight at Lake Ozette are not pie in the sky. As a part of next year's budget, the Clinton Administration has proposed spending up to \$1.5 billion a year on open-space initiatives. The Clinton proposal would be paid out of the more than \$6.5 billion collected annually from offshore drilling for oil and gas, primarily in the Gulf of Mexico.

Equally fortunate, the initiative comes at a time when both Republicans and Democrats have signaled their readiness to expand protection for the public lands, especially areas now pressured by more development. In the final weeks of the 105th Congress, legislation was introduced in both the Senate and the House that would have spent as much as \$5 billion on such programs. Widely opposed by environmentalists as too generous to the states with offshore lands, the concept, since revised, is now supported by both the Sierra Club and the Wilderness Society.

The trees of the Ozette Lake forest remain far more valuable as part of an intact ecosystem than for any other use. With the population of the Northwest likely to triple in the 21st century—and with visitation to Olympic National Park already exceeding 3 million every year—our responsibility to the future should be abundantly clear to all. As forest, the Ozette basin will bring joy to millions; as fodder for chain saws it will only threaten the park's eventual dismemberment and decline.

The challenge today is simple: preserve the Ozette basin or lose the lake.



## Goat Update: Non-Native Goat Study Team Chosen

by Randall Payne

The Conservation Biology Institute of Corvallis, Oregon has been selected by the National Park Service to address the issue of mountain goat management in Olympic National Park. The Institute, headed by Drs. Jim Stritholt and Reed Noss, is a consortium of scientists "dedicated to collaborative conservation biology, research and education". The Institute will be extensively reviewing all aspects of the mountain

goat issue and will submit a report to the National Park Service's Washington D.C. office and Congress by the end of 1999. OPA is pleased with the selection of Conservation Biology Institute, as the scientists involved are highly regarded in the field of conservation biology. We feel their analysis and conclusions will be fair, impartial, and accurately reflect the effects of mountain goats on the Olympic ecosystem.

## Proposed Elwha Quarry Hits Rocky Ground

by Tim McNulty

Owners of the Little River Quarry, proposed for 45 acres on the Elwha River just outside Olympic National Park, had their first brush with reality last December when Clallam County laid out its requirements for an environmental impact study (EIS) for the project. The quarry, which would eventually remove 14 million yards of crushed rock from the site, poses major threats to air, water, wildlife, and recreation. If developed, it could affect salmon recovery efforts on the nearby Elwha River and impact tourism to Olympic National Park. At the very least, the prospect of loaded dump trucks contending with bicyclists, horse-riders, and cars on

the narrow Olympic Hot Springs road is troubling.

Olympic Park Associates joined the Elwha Klallam Tribe, the Department of Interior, and more than 300 petitioners in expressing opposition to the project. "Olympic National Park is a world-class natural area bringing more than four million visitors a year to the Peninsula and contributing \$250 million annually to the Peninsula's economy," OPA reminded the Clallam County Board of Commissioners. "Any commercial activity that threatens the natural integrity or scenic beauty of the park, the Elwha River, or the surrounding natural environment must be weighed carefully."

The County is now soliciting consultants for developing the EIS. OPA will continue to monitor the process.



Common Wood Rush  
*Luzula campestris*

## Excerpts from Speakers' Remarks at OPA 50th Anniversary Banquet, Governor Daniel J. Evans

Olympic is a strange park. Many mountains, but no mountain range, rivers that flow in all directions, too many goats, not enough wolves, and a respite for 5 million people who live within 100 miles of its border.

Olympic National Park was created in 1938. I began my love affair with the Olympics at virtually the same time. My first major hike was a Camp Parsons climb of Mt. Deception in 1940. To this day I still enjoy the high country. Fortunately, as my pace slows, the days of Trapper Nelsons, No. 10 tins, Kapok sleeping bags and Tricounis fade have been replaced by super light packs, stoves, tents and especially air mattresses to protect creaking backs.

The next stage I have already planned. While it is now, "Grandpa, carry me, I'm tired," pretty soon it will be, "Grandpa's tired, you carry the stove."

Life is memory, action and anticipation. As we grow older, the store of memories are riches beyond measure. Mine include full color, dramatically clear memories of hundreds of hikes and climbs in the Olympics which our ancestors preserved, and which OPA so zealously guards. It didn't take long after the Olympic Park was created to realize the dangers to its very existence. The OPA was started to fight the onslaught of those who would nibble away at park boundaries, or abolish the park altogether. You can be proud of your efforts over 50 years to protect the park and enhance its ability to preserve wilderness while accommodating an increasing flood of visitors.

It is important now to build new relationships, especially with the surrounding communities on the Olympic Peninsula.... A prime example of success is the Elwha Citizens Advisory Committee. It was created to devise a compromise on Elwha dam removal. We should all thank Harry Lydiard, an OPA Board member, for his skills in guiding opponents of dam removal to a creative and positive proposal....

### David Morris, Superintendent, Olympic National Park

First of all, thank you for the nice introduction and congratulation to the Olympic Park Associates for your 50 years of work on behalf of the park....

I'm going to make use of my place on the agenda to do three things. First of all I want to ring an alarm bell. Second, I want to suggest a strategy which gives new emphasis and scope to an old solution. And lastly, I want to challenge the OPA to play an expanded role in helping Olympic National Park.

Some have called the national parks the best idea America ever had.... But times are changing in America, and in the world for that matter. I no longer take it for granted that the United States' National Park System will always be with us....

The seeds of change are all around us. To the south of us, we have watched the "California experiment" in which the state legislature is telling the state parks that they must generate 70% of their operating base.... In our state, we ... hear our state legislators either disputing the shortage of funding or suggesting that it may be a choice between an open public road and an open park. The same kinds of questions are being asked at the national level; in fact, some in Congress openly express admiration for the California solution to the management of its park system. It should not be assumed that our national parks can survive this trend over the long term.... It would be a tragedy if the country which developed and exported this "best idea" would be the first to decide it is no longer a priority.

There are no easy solutions. We know that the preservation of natural and cultural re-

We should be nurturing bipartisan support of environmental causes at local state and national levels. The environmental concern of Americans is broader than either political party, but environmentalists are in grave danger of becoming marginalized. Republicans are giving up hope of any support and Democrats will soon take you for granted....

The Republican legacy on environmental issues is a strong one. The words "conservation" and "conservative" come from the same roots. A good Republican should care about environmental protection. Teddy Roosevelt created the Olympic National Monument that led to the Olympic National Park. The State Environmental Policy Act, Department of Ecology and Shorelines Management Act came under my tenure as Governor. Republicans played key roles in the Columbia Gorge Act, Washington Wilderness Act and the Parks Wilderness Act. It is wrong for environmentalists to be embarrassed to be Republicans and for Republicans to be ashamed to be environmentalists. To change this, environmentalists must be willing to support Republicans, especially in close races. And Republicans must understand and support quality environmental issues....

[OPA does] believe in compromise to achieve progress. You do reach out to both political parties. You can celebrate your 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary with pride and look forward to another 50 years of increasing leadership. Expand your numbers – especially among the young. Keep a focus on Olympic and its wilderness glories.

We are all blessed by the efforts of our forbears. Now we must all act together to preserve this jewel of wilderness. I will end by quoting a portion of my forward to *Washington Wilderness* written more than a decade ago.

*As Governor I was often challenged about the wilderness. Why set aside so much for so few? How much is enough? Why not a road access so everyone can enjoy it? These are challenging and not always easy questions. Pressures for wilderness use are already overwhelming us. Rationing of visits already occurs. The two thousand cardholders of Recreational Equipment Cooperative in my youth have grown to more than a million today. When there is doubt, I hope we will always preserve wilderness. If ultimately we have too much, uses can be changed, but wilderness destroyed cannot be regained. We must leave to our 21<sup>st</sup> Century children two important legacies: All of the knowledge we possess on which they will build in ways we cannot yet foresee, and wilderness preserves or windows to the past where they can stand and say, 'This is how it was before man touched the earth.'*



sources is our primary mission, and that we have not served this mission as well as we should....

[Now] I want to focus on another piece of our mission, one that often gets shortchanged in time of shrinking budgets. The National Park Service needs to re-energize and broaden its educational agenda....

There are three basic components to education in the National Park Service. The first is interpretation.... The second is environmental education....

But it is the third element of this mission that I want to emphasize. We must do a better job at marketing the values and significance of our natural heritage. In making this point, we must remember that the national parks are creatures of government and law. But the Service can no longer presume the luxury of an admiring nation and a supportive Congress. If the "national park idea" is to be preserved in a democratic society, it requires the continued maintenance of public support. This is becoming more challenging. In our increasingly diversified nation, many of our citizens are removed by culture, tradition, language, race, geography, and/or economics from our national parks. There are also growing challenges driven by aggressive economic and ideological competition for

(Continued on P. 11, David Morris)

## Seattle, Washington, November 7, 1998

### Michael Frome, PhD: "National Parks or Theme Parks?"

My life has been richly blessed by all the time I have been privileged to spend in national parks and by the challenge to work in the parks' cause. Every park experience enriches my body; it elevates my mind and spirit to look above and beyond my own wants and needs.

National parks, monuments and historic shrines constitute a gallery of America and Americana at their best. Unfortunately, over the past half century I have witnessed many, many changes in the parks, some few for the better, but others highly damaging and cause for serious concern. Simply stated, these precious places are overused, misused, polluted, inadequately protected, and unmercifully exploited commercially and politically – moreso in the recent reactionary, corporate-controlled Congress than at any time in memory. Clearly, we the people need to redefine and reassert the rightful role of national parks in the fabric of contemporary high-tech, materialist-driven society. We need to rescue the national parks from being reduced to popcorn playgrounds....

People who care can do it.... Virtually every one of the parks that we now take for granted came about because somewhere out there people cared.... Citizen responsibility has always been the vital measure of difference.... Were it not for caring citizens, the Colorado River would be dammed where it runs through the Grand Canyon, the great forests would be long gone from the Olympic Peninsula, the Great Smoky Mountains would be scarred with a transmountain highway, and Civil War battlefields would be covered with shopping malls and subdivisions.

National park personnel would benefit by learning more history and how to apply it to their lives and their careers. They need to learn about the citizen leaders, heroines and heroes who made the parks happen and have worked diligently to safeguard them....

In the prevailing politics a national park is considered valid or defensible as long as it helps jingle the cash registers of local merchants, cruise lines and tour companies. The traditional formula has been to "Preserve, Protect, Enjoy," but the first two plainly come last. Urbanites are made to feel comfortable in the backcountry with treeless, barren camping suburbias. Congestion, noise, the intrusion of mechanistic supercivilization interfere with qualities that make the parks special....

[As an example,] the National Park Service gets a failing grade as the presumed defender of the grizzly bear. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement for management of Glacier National Park, the heart of the grizzly-critical Northern Continental Divide ecosystem, changes "natural zone" to "visitor services zones".... The Draft EIS would change wilderness to "backcountry," "rustic," and "day use." "Wilderness" as a classification has been removed and is not mentioned or defined, thus opening the way for the proposed new winterized motel, fast food restaurant, and new parking lot. But Glacier has historically been managed for development of facilities outside the park. We ought to keep it that way and save the park as wilderness for the benefit of the grizzly and the American conscience.... John Muir said, "Come to the mountains, for here there is rest." He didn't say it would be in a lodging facility with bath, bar, restaurant, entertainment, bike rentals, ice-skating and room service....

National parks in our time are being converted to popcorn playgrounds, resource commodities at the service of park concessionaires, tour companies and business interests in park-bordering communities, once attractive places that have paid a heavy price in community character and quality of life. National parks cannot be all things and still be national parks; we cannot allow them to become outdoor amusement centers, theme parks in the Disney mode. Prudent and intelligent people must realize that unrestrained pressure on the parks for profit is not progress. Keeping people out is not the issue –

(David Morris, continued from P. 10, )

dwindling public resources.... We as a Service need to proactively, and without apology, find ways to educate our new and more diverse publics on the present and future threats to parks, and the value that the existence of a world class park system bestows on the community at large....

This brings me to my final point. What can the OPA do as it begins its second 50 years of activity?... I continue to feel that it would be very helpful to have a grass roots type organization within which park supporters could find a common voice.... Two primary purposes are at the base of this suggestion.... First, there is presently

adventures in the outdoors are essential to appreciation of the mechanism of the land, but when people come into national parks they find scant emphasis on self-reliance or on the need to respect the natural environment. I recently read a National Park Service research report indicating the average visitor spends less than six hours in a park, much of the time in visitor centers and gift shops. The most disheartening data is that visitors barely walk away from their cars and the visitor centers....

Director Newton B. Drury during World War II resisted pressures to open the parks for military purposes. Consequently, little damage was done. Following the war, new demands arose to open the parks to mining, logging, grazing and dams. Drury warned of the consequences:

*If we are going to succeed in preserving the greatness of the national parks, they must be held inviolate. They represent the last stands of primitive America. If we are going to whittle away at them we should recognize, at the very beginning, that all such whittlings are cumulative and that the end result will be mediocrity.*

There must be no more whittling in our national parks. Citizen organizations and caring individuals must prevent any more of it.... Involvement evokes the best in people; to say it another way, democracy is what we make of it, a system under which we the people get what we deserve, and what we demand.... Democracy starts with community action, scarcely ever with answers from above....

In the National Park Service many do care and try their best, but the principles of preservation and genuine public involvement need reaffirmation and strengthening.... The rest of the world looks to the United States, where park systems are most advanced, and the United States must not betray that trust....

I hope Olympic Park Associates and other citizen groups across the country will lead the way. The priority item on the agenda may be for those who hope to heal the earth to join with those who hope to heal the soul of our fellows to bring something new to bear. When we look at the revolutionary task of reordering priorities, and the sheer power of entrenched, interlocking institutions, the challenge may seem utterly impossible. Yet individuals working together, sometimes even alone, have worked miracles. That is the history of our national parks and the history of our country....



no organization in which Peninsula people interested in the park can easily find an outlet for their enthusiasm and energy.... Secondly, those who take issue with significant elements of our programs to manage and protect the park are becoming increasingly sophisticated in their opposition....

A local membership would be in a better position to provide a counterbalance to anti-park rhetoric. This, of course, cuts both ways. Such a membership may also choose to take a position in opposition to a park decision....

In short, the park needs your help more than ever, and in ways that go beyond the outstanding tradition and accomplishments of your first 50 years.

So, with that I again offer my congratulations on the milestone and promise to do everything I can to make your next 50 years as successful as your first.



# VOICE of the WILD OLYMPICS

Sally W. Soest, Editor

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*(New Ira Spring book, continued from P. 2. )*

published by the Mountaineers, was of course phenomenally successful, selling 15,000 copies in its first 6 months, and spawning a series of Mountaineer outdoor guides (photos by Bob and Ira Spring) numbering more than 35 titles.

Two events around that time galvanized Ira's commitment to defend wild places and the trails by which people experience them. The first came in 1958, when he accompanied U.S. Supreme Court Justice William O. Douglas on a hike of the Olympic coast to defeat a proposal for a coastal highway. The second came two years after publication of the 100 Hikes book when he realized that eight of those 100 trails had been destroyed by roads and clearcuts.

The 100 Hikes series laid the groundwork for the wilderness victories of the next two decades, particularly when Ira brought copies to Washington, D.C., to lobby congress for the 1984 Washington Wilderness Act. The books' titles had been changed to 36 Hikes and 42 Hikes to reflect the trails that at the time were still open to logging. Ira continues his trails advocacy as co-founder and multi-term president of the Washington Trails Association, a conservation group dedicated to protecting the state's hiking trails (from motorcycles and knobby-tired bicycles as well as chain saws), and he delivers an irrefutable argument to those who protest that wilderness and non-motorized use locks them out of the most beautiful views in the country. "They have no idea what they are talking about," Ira points out; "The most beautiful scenery in the country is reached by cars traveling on paved highways." The judges, of course, are the many art directors who buy Ira's photographs. "In spite of all the beautiful places I have hiked to," he tells us, "over 90 percent of the mountain pictures I sell were taken within a few feet of my car."

But what mountain pictures they are! Ira pays just tribute to the "old masters" of black and white photography, Steiglitz, Steichen, Weston, and Ansel Adams, with dozens of his own stunning black and white scenics. From the old growth of the Lewis River to the summit of the Jungfrau, they - along with the story of his amazing career - are a joy to behold.