



Elwha Ceremony Marks Beginning of Salmon Restoration



Bart Phillips, Exec. Director, Clallam County Economic Development Council; Bill Robinson, Northwest Salmon and Steelhead Council of Trout Unlimited; Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt; Congressman Norm Dicks; OPA Board member Joe Mentor.

On February 11 near Glines Canyon Dam on the Elwha River a congratulatory crowd marked the end of a long trail and the beginning of a new one. Secretary of the Interior Bruce Babbitt was present to announce the official end of the two Elwha dams. Government officials and representatives of the dam owners, Ft. James Paper Company and Daishowa America, Inc., signed the agreement to convey to the public the ownership of the two Elwha dams for the price of \$29.5 million appropriated by Congress in the Elwha River Ecosystem and Fisheries Restoration Act of 1992. The actual transfer of ownership occurred on February 29.

The battle to remove the two Elwha dams and restore the Elwha's salmon runs has been long, sometimes contentious, and often seemed to have no end in sight. The signing ceremony came only after years of political maneuvering,

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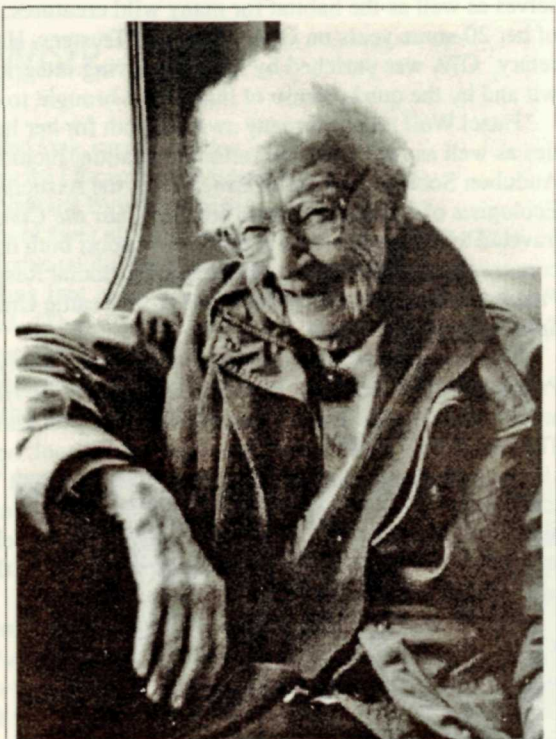
OPA Dedicates This Issue to the Memory Of A Long-Time Board Member

by Polly Dyer

A long-time member of the Board of Trustees of Olympic Park Associates, Hazel Wolf died on January 19. Dedicating her life to social justice and the environment and conservation, Hazel lived to the age of 101 years, 10 months, and 9 days. She fulfilled her goal to be a part of the Nineteenth, the Twentieth, and the Twenty-first Centuries. Apparently John Dyer, kiddingly, put her up to it while celebrating her 80th birthday, suggesting she try for living in three centuries. She had said to him that she was aiming for 100 years, and then would go, just like the "one hoss shay," reciting to him the first verse of *The Wonderful "One-Hoss Shay"* by Oliver Wendell Holmes:

*Have you heard of the wonderful one-hoss shay,
That was built in such a logical way?
It ran a hundred years to a day,
And then of a sudden it - ah, but stay.
I'll tell you what happened without delay,
Scaring the parson into fits,
Frightening people out of their wits, -
Have you ever heard of that, I say?*

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Hazel Wolf

March 10, 1898 - January 19, 2000

Next OPA Board Meetings

Olympic Coast
Clean-up:
April 29
Register by
April 18!
See Page 11.

Dates: Wednesday, March 22, 2000

Wednesday, April 26, 2000

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Place: Kingston Community Center

A short walk up the hill from the ferry, white building on the right.

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

OPA Board meetings generally are in the Kingston Community Center on the 4th Wednesday of odd-numbered months, except no meeting in July.

Hazel Wolf, from P. 1

Hazel was the consummate volunteer. Up until about 65 years of age her volunteer leadership was devoted to social justice for all. But – when she was lured into Seattle Audubon Society, she found that wild birds needed help, too, to have their habitats protected. The story has frequently been told and is worth repeating. On her first bird-watching excursion she observed a little Brown Creeper (*Certhia familiaris*) circling up the trunk of a tree seeking some nutritious insects in the bark. Hazel commented, “That little guy has to earn a living, just like I do.”

Many of us first came to know Hazel through our long time friend, conservationist Emily Haig, who for many years was President of Seattle Audubon, and was on Olympic Park Associates’ Board from around 1954 until her passing in 1978. Hazel lived in an apartment in Emily’s home. And Hazel, adding to her social justice concerns, became more and more involved in both Audubon’s and OPA’s conservation efforts to protect wild places for themselves as well as the habitat for many wild creatures. During approximately 10 of her 20-some years on OPA’s Board of Trustees, Hazel also served as its Secretary. OPA was enriched by her unswerving integrity as well as by her keen wit and by the quirky sense of humor she brought to our meetings.

Hazel Wolf received many awards, both for her human/social justice activities as well as for her conservation dedication. Included were National Audubon Society’s *Medal of Excellence*; the Association of Biologists and Ecologists of Nicaragua Award for *Work For the Conservation of Nature* (Hazel traveled to Nicaragua several times to support both human justice as well as conservation); Washington Physicians for Social Responsibility’s *Paul Beeson Peace Award*; an honorary doctorate from Seattle University; and Seattle’s *Spirit of America Award*.

Two honors Hazel also savored were King County Executive Ron Sims’ Proclamation on her 100th birthday designating the *Hazel Wolf Wetlands*, an area “created by the Land Conservancy” and first known as Saddle Swamp. The *Hazel Wolf High School*, a new private school, opened on September 7, 1999, when Hazel Wolf delivered her lecture, “Great Women in My Life”. (The school is at 6921 Roosevelt Way NE.) During her Memorial, participated in by nine hundred of her friends, Seattle Mayor Paul Schell announced the *Hazel Wolf Award*, to be given annually by the City of Seattle to a recognized volunteer leader.

Memorials may be given to the *Kids for the Environment* program of Seattle Audubon Society, 8050 35th Avenue NE, Seattle, WA 98115. This fund was established on Hazel’s 100th birthday. Hazel was also a major force in the *Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs*, editing its newsletter for twenty years, right up to the day of her passing. Memorials may also be sent to FWOC, 5615 40th Avenue W, Seattle, WA 98199.

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VOICE OF THE WILD OLYMPICS

is published three times per year by Olympic Park Associates.

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OPA membership dues are:

\$20 for individuals;

\$25 for families;

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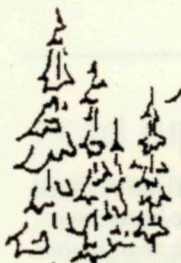
\$50 for organizations;

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Printed by EcoGraphics on elemental-chlorine-free, 50% recycled paper, 20% post-consumer waste.



Northwest Wilderness Conference 2000

Friday, March 31 - Sunday April 2, 2000

The Mountaineers Building, 300 Third Ave. W, Seattle WA

For the full program
check the Internet at
<www.speakeasy.org/~nwwpc>

Conference

Theme:

to Educate
to Inspire
to Involve
to Challenge

You won't want to miss this Earth Day/Earth Year Northwest Wilderness Conference 2000!

From the opening session panel's discussion of the *Legacy of Lewis & Clark*, who experienced the near-original wilderness west of the Mississippi river (not forgetting that Native Americans were the first to know it intimately) and that panel's examination of "preserving" what remains of the Lewis & Clark Legacy...

To the rousing call from our National Park Director Robert Stanton for *Securing A Twenty-First Century Conservation Legacy*, the conference's closing keynote.

Speakers and Topics

Northwest members of OPA have received the program flyer for this important conference and know who most of the speakers will be.

Charles Wilkinson, author of *Crossing the Next Meridian*, is the Friday keynote speaker. He will share his knowledge, views and interests in the future of the West, and expand on his important analyses of how the natural resources and the wilderness of the west were exploited, and by whom, as first discussed in his book.

Dave Foreman is the Saturday keynote speaker. He is leader of The Wildlands Project, publisher of *Wild Earth*, and author of several books in-

cluding *War On Nature*, his latest. He will rev up our passion and stimulate us to action to keep more wild lands intact as Wilderness.

Harv Forsgren is a welcome designee in the place of Mike Dombeck, Chief, U.S. Forest Service. Harv is newly arrived as Regional Forester of Region VI. He is a fisheries biologist and was Director for Wildlife, Fish, and Rare Plants in the USFS headquarters. His career encompassed much of the Northwest, from the Chugach National Forest in Alaska to the Intermountain West.

Denis Hayes, President of the Bullitt Foundation, leads off on Sunday, inspiring all of us to continue our efforts for environmental protection, in the Northwest and throughout the world. You may remember that Denis was the nation-wide organizer of the first Earth Day. Today he is the major leader in bringing about Earth Day 2000 events around the globe.

Young people, themselves, have designed and will present their Perspectives on Wilderness, on Effective Wilderness Education Activities, and Connecting Young People with Wilderness. These students come from Seattle Parks' TREC program, the Wilderness Youth Corps, and the Student Conservation Association.

Hope to
see you there.



OPA Officers Honored For Conservation Work.

Excerpted from an article by Jim Haley in the *Everett Herald*, 1/3/00.

Before land was set aside for wilderness areas in 1964, Phil and Laura Zalesky were there quietly calling for a law to do just that.

More than a decade before North Cascades National Park was established in 1968, the two retired Everett teachers were doing their parts to make sure the park was established. And when they perceived a need to augment government's protection of local critical lands and open space, they were involved in the establishment of the Snohomish County Land Trust in 1989. Phil Zalesky was its first president.

Those were just a few of the reasons why the Zaleskys were honored last month with a lifetime achievement award for 46 years of work, much of it behind the scenes, on behalf of the environment...

The environmental award was bestowed by The Land Conservancy, a group formed last year combining the Snohomish County Land Trust with a similar group in King County. The private, nonprofit organization seeks protection of river buffers, wetlands and other sensitive lands by encouraging the placement of property in trust or setting up easements for conservation purposes....

[The Zaleskys] love the outdoors, and frequently approached their quest to preserve lands as a team....

That sometimes included long, summer backpacking trips in what is now the Glacier Peak Wilderness and North Cascades National Park. Early trips helped establish boundaries of those two preserves....

Why did the couple focus on the environment?

"We got into something that we really enjoyed together," Phil said. "That was the backpacking and the climbing. We decided there was a need for this land to be preserved."...

Laura Zalesky said she has a real need to have open space.

One way to give back, she added, is to make sure there are beautiful lands available for others to enjoy.

"We just hope that there's going to be a possibility for the kinds of experiences we've had during our lifetimes to be passed on to future generations," she said.

Laura and Phil Zalesky currently serve as Membership chairperson and Secretary of OPA, respectively.
Photo by Andy Rogers, courtesy of the *Everett Herald*.



Elwha Ceremony



Congressman Norm Dicks, Rick Rutz, and Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt.

Continued from P. 1

public involvement, give and take, and hard work by government and National Park officials, conservation and citizen groups, Indian tribes, pro bono attorneys, and individual volunteers, followed by a final year of tense negotiations.

Ultimately, the ordeal ended in a win-win scenario in which all participants could celebrate.

Of the many individuals and groups who have played key roles in the success of the Elwha effort, here are just a few:

Rick Rutz was first to remind the conservation community that the Federal Power Act of 1921 prohibited hydroelectric dams in national parks. Thus, he argued, the expiration of the 50-year license of Glines Canyon Dam (built illegally inside the park) should be treated as a new license application, and the lower Elwha Dam should not be licensed.

Convinced by Rick's argument, the first four conservation groups to intervene before the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission were **Olympic Park Associates, Seattle Audubon Society, Sierra Club, and Friends of the Earth**. Though not an attorney, Rick wrote the legal intervention.

The original four groups were joined by the **Northwest Steelhead and Salmon Council of Trout Unlimited**, and the **Lower Elwha s'Klallam Tribe**. Other organizations that later joined included **The Mountaineers, National Parks and Conservation Association, Washington Wilderness Coalition, Northwest Conservation Act Coalition, Northwest Council, Olympic Rivers Council, American Rivers, Friends of the Elwha, National Wildlife Federation, and Long Live the Kings**.

Jim Baker and the Northwest Conservation Act Coalition came up with the "Creative Solution" that had Bonneville Power Administration conduct its first model industrial energy conservation audit at the Daishowa America mill and provide replacement power.

Shawn Cantrell of Friends of the Earth later continued Jim Baker's work. Shawn skillfully handled the day-to-day interactions on behalf of the conservation intervenors during negotiations between dam owners and government officials.



Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt shakes hands with Shawn Cantrell, Northwest office of Friends of the Earth, with Bill Robinson looking on.

The Elwha Citizens' Advisory Committee

played a key role as a forum in which Port Angeles citizens could explore the potential impacts of dam removal and assess the effects upon the community. Initially including the full spectrum of opinions from strong opposition to strong support of dam removal, the Committee met diligently nearly weekly for six months, studying all aspects of dam removal. Ultimately they supported acquisition and removal of the dams and restoration of salmon runs. Their grassroots effort was important in winning support from elected officials.

Joe Mentor, a member of OPA's board, should be recognized for originally suggesting the formation of a citizens' advisory committee. He had learned the importance of a local citizens' advisory committee during his experience dealing with Columbia Gorge issues while on the staff of Senator Dan Evans.

Bill Robinson of the Northwest Salmon and Steelhead Council of Trout Unlimited was also influential in garnering local support.

Design and engineering and construction of water quality protection before actual removal of Elwha Dam will require 3 to 4 years.

The Glines Canyon Dam and its 160 acres are

Continued on P. 5

Willapa Bay Expansion

Excerpted from an editorial in the 3/7/00 Daily Astorian.

Willapa National Wildlife Refuge is among our region's most remarkable and valuable assets. With congressional help, it will become even more so.

Willapa Bay is gentle but primeval. It's easy, when a person has lived here a long while or forever, to be complacent about this sublime place. Surrounded as we are by great bodies of water - the Pacific Ocean, the Columbia River, Willapa Bay and some of the Northwest's best-preserved tidal marshes and sloughs - we forget what we have is extraordinary.

The Northwest is filling up. As a region, it is becoming richer in terms of money and poorer in terms of experience. Direct involvement in the natural world is replaced with sanitized pseudo-experiences: Aquariums instead of waterfronts, malls instead of neighborhoods.

Pacific County (Wash.) has not shared in the Northwest's financial success. But it also has not shared, very much so far, in the general degradation of quality of life in the Northwest. A few scattered naysayers don't buy it, but we are fast approaching a time when our open spaces, rolling dunes and meandering sloughs will be ever more potent attractions.

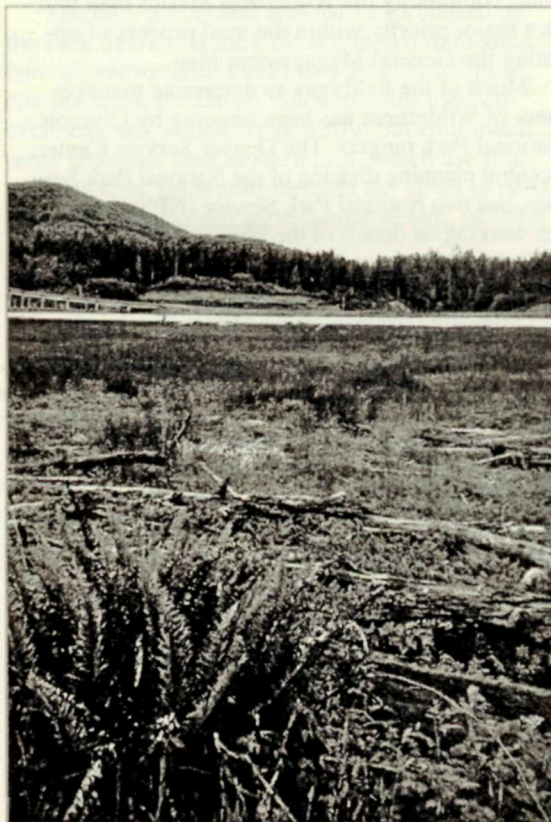
Willapa National Wildlife Refuge recently completed a public process, giving its managers permission to expand the refuge by 2,300 acres along the bay's southern reaches. They will do so, if at all, by buying land from willing private sellers. Little of the identified land is developable, loggable or otherwise usable.

It is, nevertheless, some great land. Included is the 338-acre Teal Slough property, a tiny and steep mainland remnant of old-growth red cedar, hemlock and other species that old-time loggers believe worthy of preservation as an example of what Pacific County once was. It is owned by The Nature Conservancy of Washington, which bought it from

Hancock Timber Resources Group. Hancock recognized it as a parcel worthy of preservation, and TNC will transfer it to the refuge at no profit.

Teal Slough and other proposed acquisitions hinge on the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service obtaining \$2 million from the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund, which is the normal means by which refuge lands are bought. Of about 150 acquisition requests around the nation, the Willapa proposal is ranked third in terms of priority by the USFWS, and the president's 2001 budget request includes Willapa's \$2 million.

The support of Washington's congressional delegation, including U.S. Reps. Brian Baird, Norm Dicks and U.S. Sen. Slade Gorton, is essential. All have been good supporters of worthwhile expansion proposals in the past and we strongly urge them to support this one as well.



Teal Slough area, which the National Wildlife Refuge intends to purchase from The Nature Conservancy. The Naselle River is in the foreground.

Photo by Jessica Gonzales.

Elwha ceremony, continued from P. 4

within the park boundaries and have now been added to Olympic National Park. However, the timing for removal of the Glines Canyon Dam remains uncertain. Senator Slade Gorton, who has opposed dam removal from the start, still opposes removal of the second dam until he sees the results of removing the first.

In the interim the two dams will be operated for the National Park Service by the Bureau of Reclamation, an agency of the Department of Interior. The Elwha Act stipulated that Daishowa would guarantee replacement power through Bonneville Power Administration.

We now begin a hopeful new journey toward full restoration of the legendary Elwha salmon.

For further information,
contact Charles Stenvall, Project Leader,
Willapa National Wildlife Refuge,
3888 S.R. 101, Ilwaco, WA 98624
360-484-3482

General Management Plan for Olympic National Park: A Massive Project

by Phil Zalesky

At the January meeting of the Olympic Park Associates Board of Directors, Assistant Superintendent Roger Rudolph indicated that the process to up-date Olympic National Park's General Management Plan will begin during 2000. A General Management Plan gathers, folds, and encompasses everything administered by the national park. Projected time to prepare this broad-based document is estimated to be three to four years. Olympic National Park has not set this as a deadline, but as a target. Completing the General Management Plan as well as its integral components, such as the Wilderness Master Plan, discussed below, will be a massive project with no guarantees that the task can be completed on time.

Olympic National Park was established essentially as a wilderness park, and today 95 percent of the area of the park is designated as Wilderness. Thus, completing the Wilderness Master Plan will be a major priority within the total process of updating the General Management Plan.

Much of the fieldwork to determine management of Wilderness has been ongoing by Olympic National Park rangers. The Denver Service Center, a central planning division of the National Park Service, had two National Park Service (NPS) employees working on details of the Wilderness Master Plan. Unfortunately, these individuals retired before completing the work assigned to them. Since the process for completing the Wilderness Master Plan had languished in the Denver center for years, Superintendent Dave Morris decided that it was time for Olympic National Park to take over and complete the plan.

A Wilderness steering committee has been established, meeting recently to organize an approach to the Wilderness Master Plan. Natural resource specialist Ruth Scott and Assistant Superintendent Rudolph will be leaders of this committee. Meetings have already taken place lining up some terms and conditions, standards and guidelines for individual business permits and for outfitters coming into the park and Wilderness.

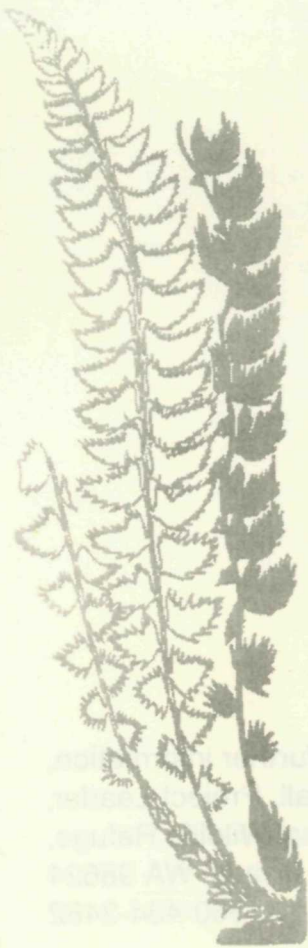
The Wilderness Master Plan should be completed long before the total General Management Plan emerges, and it will be folded into the total plan. The public will be part of scoping and drafting of the plan through the Environmental Assessment process for both the Wilderness Plan and the General Management Plan.

Olympic National Park administrators propose having a resident "team captain" spearhead the management planning. Working with this process the park will have an opportunity to examine several concerns: Hurricane Ridge winter operations; transportation; Quileute and Lake Ozette boundaries; facilities in the flood plain, including the constant battle to fix road washouts on the Hoh, Quinault, Queets, and other rivers and creeks.

Concern over the Lake Ozette boundary is being driven in part by the recent listing of Sockeye salmon as a threatened species. The salmon and their spawning in the lake are being affected by silt-ing from past logging and must be dealt with under the Environmental Protection Act. It has been the position of Olympic Park Associates that this boundary should be the hydrological divide and the watershed be allowed to heal. Most of the land in the watershed is presently under private ownership. Rudolph said Olympic National Park will definitely listen to Olympic Park Associates' recommendations and work with us on boundary considerations.

The concern about the facilities in the flood plain is also being driven by the issue of endangered or threatened fish populations. The National Park Service is required by law to undertake the protection of species listed as endangered or threatened. If washouts continue to be serious enough to foreclose operations in several watersheds, the Park Service will not be able fulfill their legal obligation to protect listed species, including salmon, bull trout, and spotted owl. This problem will have to be provided for under the General Management Plan. For example, Graves Creek has so many washouts now that it may be more than two years before they can be fixed. Thus, Graves Creek's listed bull trout will be neglected. The Hoh River periodically inundates its flood plain. Several super floods in the future could make it necessary to move all the park facilities in the Hoh flood plain outside the national park, including buildings, water systems, sewer systems, and campgrounds. The forces of nature may ultimately necessitate a transportation system to provide access into the park.

An additional resource related item of interest is the Natural Resource Challenge, announced by National Park Service Director Robert Stanton. As Stanton stated at the Mount Rainier Centennial in 1999, there is much the Park Service does not know about the resources in its parks. The Natural Resource Challenge will attempt to fill the information gaps by looking at all parts of the ecosystem of parks all the way down to the mosses and beyond, and understanding how they all fit together. Olympic National Park has already initiated long term ecological monitoring of its natural resources. Together Olympic, North Cascades, and Mount Rainier National Parks have been selected to establish a pilot program for the Natural Resource Challenge. Chief of the Natural Resources Division Kat Hoffman, of Olympic National Park, has been doing the initial brain storming. The Olympic National Park program may end up being the prototype for other parks. Rudolph reported to the OPA board that this Challenge is a separate program from management planning but should eventually be folded into the General Management Plan.



"Thrillcraft" In the National Parks

Petition Seeks Ban On "Thrillcraft" In National Parks

Excerpted from article by Jane Kay in the 12/7/99 San Francisco Examiner.

Dune buggies, all-terrain vehicles and 'thrillcraft' pollute, erode, and disturb wildlife, and should be kept out of national parks, assert 68 environmental groups in a petition ... filed in December.

In the petition, sent to National Park Director Robert G. Stanton, 68 environmental groups asked for an immediate ban that would extend to all beaches, trails and primitive roads.

A ban would cover back-country and unmaintained roads and the surrounding environment....

In a survey, Bluewater Network, a San Francisco group that has also led a fight against noisy jet boats in [California] waterways, said it found Jeeps, sand buggies and other off-road vehicles tearing around 56 out of 108 of the nation's largest parks.

"The general public is unaware that off-road vehicles are even allowed in our national parks units," said Russell Long, executive director of Bluewater Network. "Clearly, this use violates the charter for our park systems, which is to keep resources unimpaired for future generations."...

[According to] Dennis Cox, editor of *Dirt Wheel Magazine* in Valencia, [there has been] rapid growth of all-terrain vehicles, reaching 480,000 nationwide....

Based on questionnaires and interviews with park rangers, Bluewater Network found that 23 parks allowed off-road vehicles on beaches as well as on back-country and four-wheel-drive roads.

Another 33 followed a general park service policy of prohibiting off-road vehicles. Yet rangers reported sig-

nificant illegal use. In many cases, they saw injury to animals and loss of habitat in deserts, forested mountains, streams, mud flats and dunes.

"The problems include endangering and harming wildlife such as desert tortoise, Florida panther, piping plovers and bald eagles," Long said. "The noise angers many other park users who visit for peace and solitude."

A 50-page study that accompanied the petition said, "The use of the thrillcraft appears to serve as high entertainment for a privileged minority of motorized 'cowboys' who behave as though National Parks are their personal tramping grounds."

Two-stroke and four-stroke off-road all-terrain vehicles produce 118 times as many smog-forming pollutants as are produced by modern cars on a per mile basis, the study said. The traffic on primitive roads and trails compacts soils, undercuts roots, destroys organisms and accelerates erosion, it said.

EPA Says Get Snowmobiles Out Of Yellowstone

Excerpted from article by Scott McMillion in the 2/25/00 Bozeman Chronicle.

The only way to clean up the winter air in Yellowstone National Park is to ban snowmobiles until the industry comes up with cleaner machines, the Environmental Protection Agency has announced.

Otherwise, the National Park Service fails to protect the park's environment and violates both air quality standards and an executive order regulating snowmobiles in national parks, the EPA maintains.

The verdict came in a letter written by Cynthia Cody, who runs the EPA unit in Denver that reviews environmental impact statements written by other agencies. It was sent as a comment on the ongoing EIS that will outline the future of winter recreation in Yellowstone....

The only acceptable alternative [proposed by the Park Service in the EIS] is one that immediately bans all snowmobiles until they meet strict noise and pollution standards. Snowmobiles use two-cycle engines, which are powerful but emit much more pollution than modern cars, which use four-cycle motors. Emissions obscure the views in parts of the park and could harm human health, the EPA said.

The EPA has said in the past it plans to require snowmobile manufacturers to use cleaner engine technology, but will give the snowmobile industry several years to comply with those standards.

EPA does not currently regulate snowmobiles. However, the Park Service shouldn't wait for EPA standards before it acts to clean the air in Yellowstone,

"The use of the thrillcraft appears to serve as high entertainment for a privileged minority of motorized 'cowboys' who behave as though National Parks are their personal tramping grounds."

Cody's letter said. "It is unacceptable to wait 10 or more years to reduce or eliminate the impacts," Cody wrote. She cited a 1972 executive order signed by former President Richard Nixon, which allows snowmobiles in national parks only if they "will not adversely affect natural, aesthetic or scenic values." And snowmobiles do that, Cody said. "Analysis... clearly and convincingly demonstrates current snowmobile use is adversely affecting the natural (wildlife, air quality), aesthetic (noise) and scenic (visibility) values" in the park, the letter says....

Environmental and animal rights groups sued the government two years ago, claiming that it allowed winter use to grow without knowing how it affected the park and wildlife. The Park Service agreed to write the winter use EIS as part of a settlement of that lawsuit....

Wolf Restoration News

Crying Wolf: The Misuse of Public Opinion to Prevent Endangered Species Recovery

by Darrell Linton, Peninsula Environmental Center, Port Angeles, WA. Excerpted with permission.

[Editor: This 24-page paper examines the questionable use of public funds, the misdirected process, and the discredited results of three quasi-public meetings held on the Olympic Peninsula in January, 1999, to "survey" public opinion about the reintroduction of wolves into Olympic National Park. It is **must** reading for anyone interested in the issue of wolves on the Peninsula.]

Abstract

The proposal to reintroduce wolves (*Canis lupus*) to Olympic National Park has created intense interest in surrounding communities as well as throughout western Washington. Following the recent and highly successful reestablishment of wolf populations in Yellowstone, recovery to the Olympics should be, biologically, a simple and forthright undertaking. However, many of the same politically-based obstacles that were encountered during wolf recovery in the Northern Rockies have already become evident on the Peninsula. Because of these, educational outreach and public involvement becomes an ever more important part of the environmental impact assessment process. The testimony of interested parties is necessary not only in the exchange of information and ideas, but also as a gauge to help determine the potential success or failure of recovery programs. During January of 1999, a series of three quasi-public meetings were conducted on the Peninsula by the Olympic Natural Resources Center of Forks. These meetings, planned and carried out under funds appropriated by Congress, are not a part of the formal public input process mandated under the National Environmental Policy Act. The results of the meetings, however, have been used by a U.S. Senator to prevent further funding to continue an environmental impact study. This paper examines the survey results that emerged from those meetings and will show that the entire ONRC process was flawed and intentionally biased and should thus be discounted as a measure of the public's attitude toward wolves and wolf recovery on the Olympic Peninsula.

Conclusion

....Despite the travesty of public participation in Shelton, Hoquiam, and Forks, the discussion of wolf recovery on the Olympic Peninsula will continue. Unfortunately, the Olympic Natural Resources Center will no longer be a credible participant.

Appeals Court Rules Yellowstone Wolves Can Stay in Park

Excerpted from a January 13, 2000, press release from Defenders of Wildlife

Defenders of Wildlife hailed today's court ruling allowing the Yellowstone wolves to remain in the park as an historic victory not only for the wolf, but also for sound wildlife restoration in the 21st century.

The 10th Circuit Court of Appeals in Denver today overturned a lower court's 1997 ruling that the 1995 and 1996 Yellowstone wolf reintroductions were illegal. The district court's ruling had called for removal of all the wolves and their offspring, an action that pleased the American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF), which was behind the lawsuit, but that Defenders of Wildlife called a virtual death sentence. Today AFBF President Dean Kleckner, who called for removing the wolves, lost his job in an election.

"It's a new day for wolves in more ways than one. The Yellowstone wolves have been given a new lease on life and so has the principle that science — not politics — should guide wildlife restoration efforts in America," said Rodger Schlickeisen, President of Defenders of Wildlife.

Using the experimental designation of the Endangered Species Act (ESA), 66 wolves were released into Yellowstone National Park and central Idaho in 1995 and 1996. Experimental designation under section 10(j) of the ESA allows ranchers to shoot wolves if caught in the act of killing livestock on private lands....

Schlickeisen noted that "The wolves are doing better than ever expected. They are reproducing, hunting natural prey, and doing their part to return one of America's greatest treasures to its healthy, natural state." More than 300 wolves are now found in the region. "Except for some rare instances in which Defenders of Wildlife has reimbursed the rancher, the wolves are mostly staying away from livestock. It is incomprehensible that the Farm Bureau has been so determined to kill these wolves and their offspring," said Schlickeisen.

Defenders maintains its \$200,000 Wolf Compensation Trust to compensate ranchers, at fair market value, for any losses due to wolves.

For a copy of ***Crying Wolf***, write to:
Peninsula Environmental Center
P.O. Box 1276
Port Angeles, WA 98362.
Please enclose \$2.00 to cover copying and mailing costs.



Photo courtesy of Wolfhaven International

Lord and Lady of Our Rushing Mountain Rivers

The Harlequin Duck

by Philip Zalesky

Barbara Blackie believes Harlequin ducks to be the most beautiful of all North American ducks. In his book Tim McNulty votes for the strikingly beautiful Wood duck. Take your pick. Both ducks deserve our accolades. Note: Barbara Blackie is biased. Why should she not be? After all she researches Harlequins for her advanced degree. To build baseline studies on Olympic peninsula rivers and particularly the Elwha River, she focuses primarily on Harlequin ducks. Other avian species on her research list include the Dipper, Spotted sandpiper, Common merganser, and Kingfisher. Meanwhile she serves as a science instructor at Olympic College in Port Angeles.

Laura and I met Blackie last summer as we were taking an Olympic Park Institute class on "Birds of the Olympics." She was assisted ably at the Institute and also in her research by Tom Butler, an instructor of biological science at Joyce High School. Among the elements of the course was a rafting trip on the rushing Elwha River. It was difficult to estimate, but we were told that there were about two nesting Harlequins per mile. A noticeable white water prejudice manifested itself among the Harlequins. For as we approached closer to Lake Mills behind the Upper Elwha Dam with the gradient of the stream reduced to slack waters, we found fewer and fewer bizarre painted birds "plumed in clown-like patchwork." On turbulent white water and deep riparian areas, we observed Harlequins in pairs flying low to the curving river, riding high in the water, plunging into and shooting the rapids, bouncing up like corks after their dives, and resting on boulders in mid-stream. In our lead raft, the river thrust us within mere feet of boulders occupied by pairs of these birds without seeming to disturb them. An astute observer once referred to them as the lord and lady of our rushing mountain rivers, and our rafting trip seeing Harlequin in breeding plumage confirmed that assertion.

The value of Blackie's study will be the baseline data collected before the two Elwha dams are removed. The Harlequin remains at the heart of her studies, since this is the only duck that breeds and nests around cascading mountain waters. Will obliteration of the dams affect up-stream species and in particular the Harlequin? The change in biological energy (biomass) that goes upstream with the return of salmon, sea run steelhead, and other biological critters will need to be determined before and after eradication of the dams. Prior to the intrusion of dams on the Elwha, this was a prime salmon habitat the likelihood of which cannot be duplicated. There were 50 miles of uninterrupted river and tributaries for salmon to spawn. A free river shall be returned once more. Numbers of eagles and black bears should proliferate as salmon carcasses

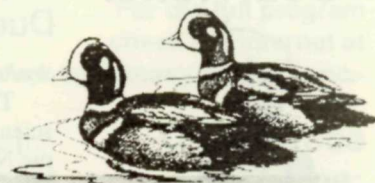
once again pile up along the waterways providing more abundant food supplies.

River otters prey on Harlequin nest sites on the Elwha and other rivers. The population levels of Harlequins are almost unpredictable as otters along the river banks rob the nests of eggs and even take the youngest of juveniles. Otter numbers appear to be on a cycle of about seven years with their population then tapering off. During that year or two Harlequins populations have the opportunity to increase. By this means the Harlequin numbers appear in the long term to remain stabilized on the Peninsula.

But what will happen when salmon return as a new biological energy source on the Elwha? Otters are not known to prey on such a large fish. Fingering salmon may be a different story although they may be too quick for the otter to take in numbers. Otter prefer small and slower species of fish. However, otters drag spawned-out carcasses up onto banks for feeding. Would this mean full stomachs and less need to raid Harlequin nests? There appears of be a period of overlap between Harlequin nesting and salmon spawning, but this needs further study. Also, with the arrival of salmon carcasses, increases in numbers of insects are guaranteed. When the Harlequin goes up-river his food source is mainly aquatic insect larvae and a few minnows. This increased food source may allow the Harlequin population to increase. Comparison between before and after dam removal may determine whether such increases in biological energy affect the Harlequin and other bird populations.

Harlequins spend most of their year on salt water so, like the salmon, they are considered an anadromous species. For Harlequins, preferences prevail for rocky coastlines with strong boiling waves dashing onto walled shores. They feed and play as waves churn against the rocks. Sometimes the waves catch the Harlequin, buffeting, thrashing, and battering them against these rocks. One taxidermist says that he sees no birds with as many broken bones as the Harlequin. But Laura and I delight in visiting Deception Pass to observe them topping the frothed waves. They are not supposed to like calm

Continued on P. 10, Harlequin



"Harlequins look as though they might have been painted by tribal fetishists. Breeding males are blue-gray russet, streaked with splashes of brilliant white-edged in black. When they arrive in the forested reaches of Olympic rivers in March and early April to breed, it's as if the village minstrels were let into the cathedral. For me, spring hasn't begun until I've encountered these elegant and tough little ducks in the steep, fast-moving rivers of the northern or eastern Olympics. Like salmon, they return to their native rivers at breeding time. Once there, they surf the rapids, plunging and diving among boulders and pools to scour the substrate for invertebrates, then climb atop midstream boulders to preen. The moss-capped rocks of snowmelt streams grow vibrant beneath them."

Tim McNulty, Olympic National Park: A Natural History Guide, Houghton Mifflin Company, 1996.

*Harlequin ducks
by Linda M. Feltnor, in
Elwha River DEIS.*

Goat News:



Stay Tuned....

Report by Scientific Review Panel Due in March

by Randall D. Payne

The release of the report by the independent scientific review panel on mountain goats in Olympic National Park has been delayed and is now scheduled for sometime this month.

Only the National Park Service office in Washington, DC, has seen a draft copy of the report. The staff at Olympic National Park headquarters in Port Angeles have been isolated from the whole process to avoid 'contaminating' the review process.

Mountain goats were introduced into the Olympics in the 1920s by hunting interests. Fifteen years of research shows that wallowing, trampling, and grazing by the introduced goats is inflicting significant damage upon fragile alpine plant communities. Olympic National Park released a Draft Environmental Impact Statement in 1995 recommending removal of these non-native mountain goats from the Park. OPA and many other local and national conservation organizations support the Park Service's position.

However, in response to vocal opposition, largely from the Fund For Animals, an independent scientific review panel, The Conservation Biology Institute in Corvallis, Oregon, was selected to review all aspects of the management of mountain goats in Olympic National Park. The Institute is a consortium of scientists "dedicated to collaborative conservation biology, research and education."

Watch for the results of the review panel's work in the next issue of *Voice of the Wild Olympics*.

Olympic Coast Clean-Up ↔

Only 11 weeks to go!

Volunteers from throughout Western Washington will converge on Olympic National Park beaches on Saturday, April 29, 2000, to remove years of accumulated marine debris from these remote shores.

Energized by a partnership of community service organizations, businesses and government agencies, volunteers will comb the Olympic Coast between Shi Shi Beach and South Kalaloch Beach. Marine debris such as bottles, ropes, floats and buoys, will be taken to dumpsters or cache sites along this 60-mile stretch of wilderness beach. The aim of the volunteers will be to collect data about the debris for later research. This important community effort will help preserve the natural beauty of our beautiful Washington wilderness beaches. Volunteers are urged to sign up ahead of time and select their favorite beach to clean up.

Volunteers will register at one of four field operation sites including the Oil City trailhead and ranger stations at Mora, Ozette, and Kalaloch. At each of these sites volunteers will receive information about their assignment and be given necessary tools and guidance to conduct the clean-up.

The Information Center for Olympic National Park and Forest in Forks will have general information about the clean-up.

Harlequin, continued from P. 9

waters, but we do observe them in fairly large numbers at Birch Bay in mid-winter, in relatively calm bay-water. Their diet at the intertidal zone contrasts with their diet on the river. The churned waters in the intertidal zone contain high concentrations of oxygen which creates a greater abundance of life. In this intertidal zone they will feed on small crabs, limpets, chitons, marine worms, periwinkle snails, and even small starfish. This type of diet dissuades hunters from eating them.

In early April they begin heading up river to mate, incubate the eggs, and raise the young. When we rafted the Elwha, it was late June. The lords and ladies were still together on the river. One exception later was at the mouth of the Elwha where we observed three pairs of Harlequins together having not yet flown upstream. Barbara Blackie hypothesized these as juveniles not yet ready to mate. The female invariably goes back to her native river and habitat to breed. The male follows her, but he may have mated on entirely different streams with another

female in the past. It is amazing at times to see how far these birds will go from the coast to breed. Occasionally breeders find their way to mountain streams in Idaho and Montana. Normally they will follow the exact course of the river, but some must also head overland when crossing the mountain ranges. When the incubation is complete, the male deserts the female returning to the coast. If he meets a late pair coming up-stream, he may challenge the male. If he wins, he will mate once again. In September, the female will return to the coast with the juveniles.

In 1991, the Harlequin became a candidate for endangered species listing. The numbers on the east coast are down dramatically. On the west coast it is felt that their numbers are stable. Tim McNulty maintains that these birds are an indicator species and wrote that "If this bird is in trouble, so too are some of our grandest settings and most vital wildlife communities."

➔ ➔ **April 29, 2000 See you on the beach!**

Register by April 18!

Volunteers are also urged to form teams and select their favorite section of beach to clean up. Each section will be approximately 1/2 to 1 mile in length. Access to the beaches will be from the usual locations, respecting the wilderness character of the beaches. Some beaches that are easily accessible by car or a short hike are appropriate for a day outing. Some beaches will require a single overnight stay. Other, more remote beaches will require a several day commitment from volunteers with no-trace wilderness camping and backpacking skills. Volunteers will cache debris at sites identified by Olympic National Park staff. ONP staff will manage removal of debris from the cache sites.

During the clean-up volunteers will record data about the debris. The information will provide a snapshot record of the coast and help identify sources of the debris. Some volunteers will also collect bird and mammal information of interest to naturalists and marine scientists. The Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary, Olympic National Park and University of Washington Department of Zoology will use data collected by the volunteers.

The beach clean-up is occurring coincident with other 30th anniversary of Earth Day activities.

Status Report, March 1:

- ➔ **75 people** have already said "Count me in!" and identified their favorite beach to clean up.
- ➔ **People are coming** from Yelm and Cosmopolis, Renton and West Seattle, Port Angeles and Sequim, Seaside, Oregon, Tacoma, Shoreline....
- ➔ **Many folks will be backpacking in** for a several day commitment.
- ➔ **ONP has identified 16 cache sites** between Oil City and Shi Shi Beach.
- ➔ **Volunteers' requests for favorite beaches** are spread throughout the length of coastline: Shi Shi Beach, Ozette, Oil City, Goodman Creek, Yellow Banks, Toleak Point, Second Beach, Beach 4, Rialto, Ruby Beach, Kalaloch...
- ➔ **Host/welcome volunteers** will greet our volunteers:
At Ozette: Clallam Bay-Seki Chamber of Commerce and Olympic Park Associates.
At Mora: the Forks Chamber of Commerce and Olympic Peninsula Audubon.
At Klaloch and Oil City: the Olympic National Marine Sanctuary.
Note: It would be nice if there were a volunteer or two for the Forks Recreation Information Center.

A call from Ocean Shores inquired about doing a similar project along that section of the coast.

Clallam and Sekiu are organizing a similar event for the straits, from the Makah Reservation to Slip Point.

Many folks who have not yet reserved a clean-up spot have made motel/overnight reservations.

Forks First Congregational Church is providing overnight accommodations for a youth group.

Register NOW!

1. My name and address _____
2. My best phone number and e-mail address _____
3. I know which section of beach I want to clean up. It is _____
 This will be for 1 day, overnight, several days no-trace camping.
4. I would prefer that you suggest a beach that needs the most help. I can participate for 1 day, overnight, several days no-trace camping.
 The area I am most interested in is:
 South Kalaloch Beach to Ruby Beach Oil City to Third Beach
 Rialto Beach to Ozette Ozette to ShiShi Beach
5. I will organize a team. _____
6. I would like to work with the volunteers who are welcoming the volunteers at:
 Ozette Mora Oil City Kalaloch
 Recreation Information Center for Olympic NP and NF, at Forks
7. In addition to collecting debris I would like to help collect data to be used in research. Collected data will support a dead bird and mammal study and oceanographic research in addition to understanding the debris itself.
8. I would like to help a second time, to remove debris from the cache sites.
9. I am interested in knowing more about volunteer programs with Olympic National Park.
10. I would like to know more about the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary and I would like to volunteer there.

Send this form to: Jan Klippert, Project Coordinator
 14036 Meridian N., Seattle, WA 98133
 phone 206-364-2689, e-mail <jpklippert@aol.com>.

For more information or to sign up contact Jan Klippert
 14036 Meridian Avenue North
 Seattle, WA 98133
 206-364-2689
 <jpklippert@aol.com>

Why volunteer for beach clean-up?

- ☘ Youth groups see this as a way to fulfill their environment badge requirements.
- ☘ Students are using this project to fulfill their school's community service requirements.
- ☘ One volunteer selected a beach that is the location of a long-standing family retreat, and welcomed the opportunity to participate.
- ☘ One volunteer looked at this as "pay back" time.



VOICE of the WILD OLYMPICS

Sally W. Soest, Editor

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Northwest Wilderness Conference - see p. 3
March 31-April 2

Olympic Beach Clean-up - See p. 11
April 29

Olympic Park Associates

Membership Application

Membership includes subscription to OPA publication, **Voice of the Wild Olympics**.

- \$250 Life
- \$50 Associate Organization
- \$35+ Contributing
- \$25 Family
- \$20 Individual Member
- \$5 Student / Low Income
- \$___ Gift (not tax-deductible)

The value of an organization endeavoring to promote the protection and integrity of a World Heritage Site and its wilderness is infinite.

Name _____ Date _____

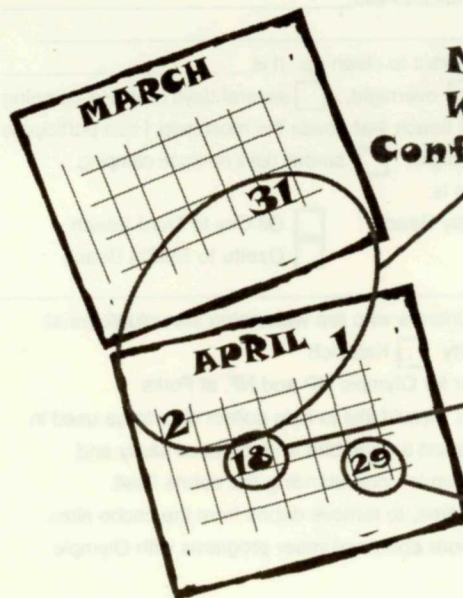
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Please mail to:

Laura Zalesky, Membership Chair
2433 Del Campo Drive, Everett, WA 98208

Mark Your Calendar



**Northwest
Wilderness
Conference 2000**

**Deadline,
Sign-up for
Clean-up**

**Olympic
Beach
Clean-up**

Details Inside !