



Founded in 1948

## Congressman Dicks Favors Removing Both Elwha Dams

by Polly Dyer  
**Congressman Norm Dicks recently affirmed that he continues to be committed to restoring the ecosystem and fisheries of the Elwha River.**

Dicks convened a meeting on January 11 in Port Angeles with representatives of the Elwha Coalition. "This is a major priority for the state of Washington," Dicks stated, and continued by saying, "Obviously, I will continue to support this project and I know that Senators Murray and Cantwell will be there with me."

The Elwha Coalition has met several times since the dams were officially purchased by the Department of Interior in February 2000. The coalition includes representatives from all parties with an interest in and concerns about the dams and their effects. Its major agenda is seeking consensus for recommendations for Congressional appropriations to cover costs related to removal of the dams. Congressman Dicks, the ranking minority member of the House Appropriations Committee, strongly advised the Elwha Coalition that it is imperative

for all parties to agree on a "credible" dollar amount required, and to work to keep costs at a minimum. To meet Port Angeles's financial needs for its water requirements, Dicks suggested that the city should also seek alternate sources of money rather than expecting Congress to cover all of its water costs.

Overall funds required for the Elwha Dam Removal and Ecosystem Restoration Project include:

- Preparation for and subsequent removal of the two dams. The plans are being developed by Olympic National Park, with cooperation of the Bureau of Reclamation. [See *Voice of the Wild Olympics*, Vol.8, No. 2, Summer 2000, pg. 4-5.]
- Restoration of wild fisheries habitat and the Elwha River's native wild fish. It was noted that wild stocks have been severely diminished since the early 1900s when the Lower Elwha Dam went in without fish passage. By continuing with hatchery stock (at least at the outset), the fishery experts to give the relatively few remaining wild fish a better

*Continued on P. 3, Dicks*

Volume 9, No 1

Winter 2001

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## Elwha Dams Subject of Feature Film Debuts in Seattle, Olympia, Port Angeles

*Unconquering the Last Frontier* tells the history-making saga of the damming and undamming of Washington's Elwha River. Director Robert Lundahl filmed the 100-minute documentary over the course of seven years.

Through interviews and archival photographs, the film tells the historic saga of how, in 1910, the Lower Elwha Dam was constructed illegally without a passage for salmon, how dam management contributed to the salmon's decline, and

*Continued on P. 3, Elwha Film*

**Benefit Screening**  
 Seattle  
 Friday Feb 23  
*includes performance by Lower Elwha Klallam Tribal Dancers*  
*Details, page 3*

## OPA Board Meetings, Spring 2001

**Dates:** March 21, 2001  
May 16, 2001

**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.

## OPA Board Profile: Dick Goin, Port Angeles

OPA is delighted to welcome Dick Goin to our Board of Directors.

Dick Goin arrived in Port Angeles 63 years ago from the dust bowl, in the company of his parents and two sisters. They settled on the Elwha River, and that year he saw his first salmon run. He is still fascinated by salmon.

It was during the Depression, and they fished with the tribal people, and some years salmon was their only source of protein.

In the 1940s Dick began to notice the decline in the salmon fisheries. In the 1950s he became involved with conservation and restoration efforts. He continues his efforts today, because...

- ... he feels an obligation to these fish that were a vital part of his early life.
- ... the salmon are an integral part of the entire wild system, and must not be allowed to perish.
- ... his enjoyment of being on a stream and watching the salmon is as great as it was that first time 63 years ago.

Don't miss Dick's article on the troubled fisheries of Olympic National Park, Pages 5-8.

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## VOICE OF THE WILD OLYMPICS

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\$50 for organizations;

\$5 for students or low income individuals;

\$250 for a life membership.



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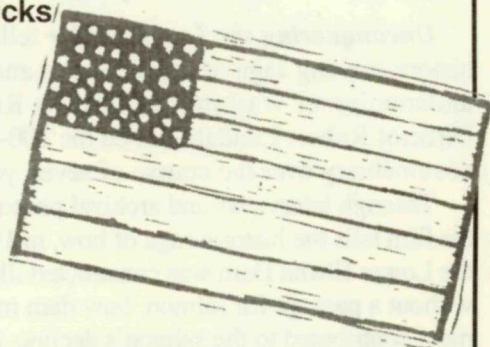
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## Dicks Favors Dam Removal

*Continued from P. 1*

chance for survival.

Restoring the Elwha's natural flows will not only permit fish passage but will gradually replace the sediments and gravel beds at the river's mouth, habitat for shellfish. The Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe suffered the greatest losses when the Lower Elwha Dam blocked fish passage and, thus, their primary resource for livelihood and food. It is hoped and expected that, along with the native fishery, the native shellfish can also return to this estuary, eroded considerably in the nearly ninety years with the dams in place. Also, it is understood that draining the waters backed up behind the lower dam will once again reveal some centuries-old cultural Elwha Tribal sites.

Maintaining high quality drinking water for the City of Port Angeles and several smaller communities, using Elwha River water. Port Angeles particularly wants to be assured of large quantities of water to attract industries.

Representing the environmental contingent

of the Elwha Coalition were Tim McNulty and Polly Dyer from Olympic Park Associates; Shawn Cantrell, Director of the Northwest Friends of the Earth; and Bill Robinson, head of Northwest Steelhead and Trout Unlimited.

Olympic Park Associates thanks Congressman Norm Dicks for his support in restoring the Elwha River, its native fish, and its overall ecosystem.

Elwha Tribal representatives included Tribal Chairman Russell Hepfer, other members of the

Tribal Council, the Tribe's manager, and its fishery scientist. Present from the City of Port Angeles were the Mayor, members of its City Council, the City Attorney, and City Manager Mike Quinn. Representing Daishowa were Harry Grant, Attorney with Riddell Williams, Seattle, and Terry Bracy, Daishowa's Washington DC lobbyist. Orville Campbell was also present from Fort James Corporation, the last owner of the dams (before the deed was transferred to the U. S. Department of Interior).

To express your thanks to Rep. Norm Dicks:

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## Elwha Film

*Continued from P.1*

how later economic and sociopolitical events combined to affect the native people.

The film then follows the ultimately successful efforts of the local community and the conservation community to remove the dams and restore the river's ecosystem.

The director also interjects a cautionary, global note, since the companies that once exploited the Northwest have moved on to continue the same practices in developing nations in Asia, Africa, Central and South America.

**Seattle: Special Benefit Screening**  
Friday, February 23, 7:30 p.m.  
Reception before the show at 6:30 p.m.  
Location: Broadway Performance Hall  
1625 Broadway  
Tickets: \$20 in advance, \$25 at door

This special occasion will feature a performance by the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribal Dancers. Also present will be Tribal Chairman Russell Hepfer, River Restoration Coordinator Michael Langland, and filmmaker Robert Lundahl. Lundahl will answer questions.

Proceeds benefit Lower Elwha Klallam Tribal Community Cultural Affairs Programs.

### Other Screenings of Elwha Film:

#### OLYMPIA

Thursday, February 22, 7:30 p.m.  
Location: Capitol Theater  
206 5<sup>th</sup> Ave. SE

#### SEATTLE : 2 Screenings (in addition to Benefit)

Saturday, February 24, 7:30  
AND 9:30 p.m.  
Location: Broadway Performance Hall  
1625 Broadway

#### PORT ANGELES

Friday, March 2, 7:30 p.m.  
Location: Peninsula College Little Theater,  
1502 E. Lauridsen Blvd.

**Tickets: \$7.00** (except Seattle Benefit)

Advance Tickets – Seattle & Olympia :  
call Ticket Window 206-325-6500  
or <[www.ticketwindowline.com](http://www.ticketwindowline.com)>

Advance tickets — Port Angeles  
Call 1-866-GO-ELWHA (toll free)

Besides OPA, other organizations "in association" are: International Rivers Network, Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission, Friends of the Earth, Sierra Club, and American Rivers.



## In Memory of David R. Brower

July 1, 1912 - November 5, 2000

### Credo

There is but one ocean though its coves  
Have many names: a single sea of atmosphere  
With no coves at all; the miracle of soil,  
Alive and giving life, lying thin on the only Earth,  
For which there is no spare.

We seek a renewed stirring of love for the Earth.  
We plead that what we are capable of doing  
To it is often what we ought not to do.  
We urge that all people now determine that an  
Untrammled wildness shall remain here to testify  
That this generation had love for the next.

We would celebrate a new renaissance.  
The old one found a way to exploit,  
The new one has discovered the Earth's limits.  
Knowing them, we may learn anew  
What compassion and beauty are, and pause  
To listen to the Earth's music.

We may see that progress is not the  
accelerating speed with which we multiply  
and subdue the Earth nor the growing number  
of things we possess and cling to.  
It is a way along which to search for truth,  
to find serenity and love and reverence for life,  
to be part of an enduring harmony,  
celebrating the wildness within us.

David R. Brower

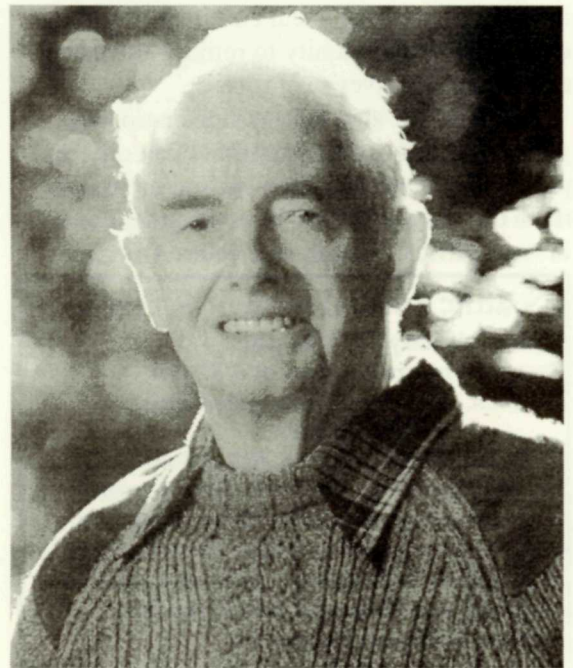
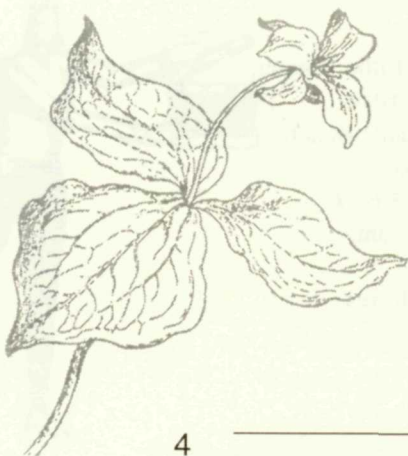


Photo by Barry Robinson



## Voice of the Wild Olympics

Volume 9, No 1 Supplement

Winter 2001

### Supplement: The State of the Fisheries in Olympic National Park

by Dick Goin, OPA Board meeting, November 15, 2000. Transcribed and edited.

*Dick Goin has spent 60 years as a conservation fisherman, keeping tabs on the status of the fisheries in Olympic National Park and on the peninsula. He serves on the Technical Advisory Group of the Governor's Salmon Review Program, and is chairman of Olympic Park Associates' fisheries committee. This paper is based on an oral report by Goin to the OPA Board of Directors at their November 2000 meeting.*

#### Three Key Points to Remember

##### 1. The fisheries of Olympic National Park (ONP) are an integral part of the park.

A large volume of recent literature documents the importance of the fisheries to the health of the park ecosystem. Studies have recorded data on the nutrient return to rivers, predator/scavenger relationships, and fertilization of riparian zones, including benefits to plant life as well as to large ungulates, aquatic mammals, and so on. Fertilization by fish carcasses has a huge impact. This is now gospel.

##### 2. Formerly enormous fisheries are dwindling; some stocks are already extinct.

The fisheries are disappearing. Once enormous, their numbers will continue to fall. Some stocks are already extinct. This is happening with the full knowledge of ONP administration; in many cases even with a little help, overt and deliberate.

As recently as 1963, there were 400,000 pinks entering the Dungeness. I have records of 1,000,000 sockeye in the Quinault, and 55,000 in the Queets. The Ozette River from 1952 to 1954 produced an average of 22,000 sockeye caught. The estimates for the Elwha in the past are absolutely staggering.

We are losing all species fast. Some species are in worse shape than others.

**Chinook.** Chinook numbers are falling very rapidly. The stocks in Olympic National Park that are of particular concern are the spring and summer components of the run. Spring/summer Chinook are at all-time lows in their streams. They are found in the park in the Sol Duc, Bogachiel, Calawha, Hoh, Queets, Quinault, and Gray Wolf.

**Coho.** There are up-river Coho that go well



*Volunteers harvesting chinook eggs in spawning area on the lower Elwha River, circa 1988.*

into the park. There are also late Coho that spawn lower in the streams. Coho in most of the upper streams are in very poor shape.

**Steelhead.** Steelhead enter the large rivers on the Olympic Peninsula 12 months of the year. There are two runs: summer and winter.

These runs differ both physically and in their habits. In some areas they go 'way inland.

Winter steelhead in the Hoh are collapsing

rapidly. Eight years ago the game department reported that they had not documented one redd [nest] in the entire North Quinault.

**Beardsley.** The famous Beardsley trout of Lake Crescent are in terrible shape.

**Bull trout** are still being evaluated. Some good research on bull trout has been done on the South Hoh. Outside of that, not much research has been done. There is a tribal problem: the tribe does not want bull trout because they get in the way of salmon harvest.

**The Fate of the Elwha.** Saddest of all is the Elwha. Here we stand on the eve of restoration of a river that was the kingpin river, and could be once again. And yet we have lost so much. It is such a specialized river and so

*Continued on P. 6S.*

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Wild / native fishery stocks  
are not replaceable.  
Once they are gone  
they will never be seen again.

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Olympic National Park Fisheries, continued from P. 55.

demanding. Lost stocks are gone forever.

The summer Coho has been gone these 35 years. The native summer steelhead is probably gone. The sea-run bull trout is very rare. The pink has been judged extinct, but now and again we have some strays. We have a few sockeye each year. Remnants? Strays? Who knows? Spring Chinook are gone on the Elwha. I saw a few in the forties. The tribes netted for four years and could not confirm that any are left.

The spring Chinook was the grandest fish of them all. When we get rid of the dam, they will not be there. We have lost a fish that was never documented. The Elwha River had a sea run form of a rainbow-cutthroat hybrid, a natural hybrid, running twelve to fourteen pounds. I am not sure that the resident form is still there. I have not seen one of the anadromous forms of this hybrid for over 30 years.

It is unlikely that we will ever find anything to replace the lost Elwha stock, because...

**3. Wild / native fishery stocks are not replaceable.**

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

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

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

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

Can a new stock evolve to replace one that is lost? If a ruined stream were restored, how do we know that some new strain of salmon would not evolve?

It takes thousands of years for the evolutionary process to produce new stock. When the rivers were reviving during the vast thousands of years after the ice sheet, a period of rebuilding came along with the emerging of old-growth forest. The fisheries evolved while there were few people bothering them. But mankind will not leave the river alone for

thousands of years. In the past salmon repatriated from other streams. This cannot happen either, be-

cause other streams do not have enough salmon to have the large amount of strays necessary for repatriation.

**Our Best Chance -- The Four Hs: Harvest, Habitat, Hydro, and Hatchery**

The reasons the stocks are disappearing are mostly from causes outside the park. The Governor's Salmon Program [with which Goin is involved] has listed the causes of salmon decline as the Four H's: harvest, habitat, hydro, and hatchery.

We must try to save the best stock in the best rivers. Even the experts on the Technical Advisory Group of the Governor's Salmon Program do not believe we can do more than that.

And Olympic National Park has both the best stock and the best rivers. This is why it is so disappointing to see Olympic National Park doing nothing.

**Habitat.** Streams have been degraded more in the last decade than in the previous five decades, probably because of warmer winters and more rain falling on snow, leading to much higher flows, even inside the park. The result is truncating of the meanders. Rivers are straightening and the holes are disappearing. So the refuges are gone. A lot of the riparian zone is gone.

Outside the park where there has been logging, the habitat destruction of course is much greater. The worst places are the Hoh, Bogachiel, and the Queets.

There is also man-caused degradation in several streams in the park, including the lower Dickey, upper Sol Duc, upper and lower Hoh,

*Continued on P. 75.*

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We must try  
to save the best stock in the best rivers.  
Olympic National Park has both.

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Marie Goin with a 47 pound chinook near the mouth of the Elwha River, circa 1980. Photo by Dick Goin.

*Olympic National Park Fisheries, continued from P. 6S.*

Quillayute, Queets, and all the small streams going through the coastal strip.

Finley Creek is lost. ONP actually moved Finley Creek years ago. Previously it was joined with the next stream downstream. Each year they put a Caterpillar in the river, messing up 1700 feet while making a long ditch out of it. The one side they push the gravel up on is a Wilderness boundary. Finley Creek now is dry about 9 months out of the year, but it probably was not when it joined the other stream. Similar Cat work was done on Morse Creek and the Dungeness outside the park.

**Harvest and Hatchery.** Over-fishing is the monster.

Tribal and non-tribal fishermen are taking park fish that come by while they are harvesting their own fish.

The state and the tribes have operated under the policy of maximum sustained yield. The yield has been maximum, but not sustainable. Salt water used to be open to fishing 12 months out of the year. Now it is 3 1/2 months. And 95 percent of the steelhead rivers are either closed, or they can't afford to take any wild fish. The tribes have spent a lot of money and a lot of time, and have gathered a lot of good data. But despite the data they are still adhering to the failing formula.

Hatchery fish are killing us, too. Hatchery fish can easily be harvested at 90 percent. Nobody in their right mind believes we can harvest over 50 percent of the wild fish. Fishermen are harvesting huge amounts of hatchery fish but, again, harvesting our wild fish as they go by. This is an absolute disaster in most if not in all rivers in the park. The Bogachiel, Queets, Sol Duc, Quinault, Gray Wolf all suffer from excessive amounts of harvest on weak, wild stocks.

The low reproductive capability of hatchery fish is another problem. One study on the Kalama River found zero reproduction in one generation. When hatchery fish spawn with wild fish, we are in deep trouble.

**ONP Doing Nothing, and Worse: Habitat Destruction by Rip-Rap In the Park**

Doing nothing to preserve the fisheries is bad enough. But ONP is making matters worse.

---

Tribal and non-tribal fishermen are harvesting huge amounts of hatchery fish, and harvesting our wild fish as they go by.

---

Rip-rapping comes under the heading of "worse". In the park there is over a mile of rip-rap on the Hoh River alone. The park has been in the rip-rap business for some time: on the Hoh you can see a lot of rip-rap that is overgrown with vegetation. And it has cost the park a lot of money. Three years ago a neighboring landowner sued the park when the current bounced off the rip-rap and into the other side.

All rip-rap is destructive. There are many other options. When rip-rap is placed on a bend, it provides nothing for fish, and the opportunity is lost for a log jam to grow at that point, which is the number one place they naturally form.

Unlike rip-rap, a log jam slows the velocity of the current, and the hydraulics around a log jam digs holes. The first salmon I saw as a six year old was when my pa gaffed a salmon in the hole under the log jam. At that time there was a fish in every hole.

**ONP Ignores National Parks' Mandate**

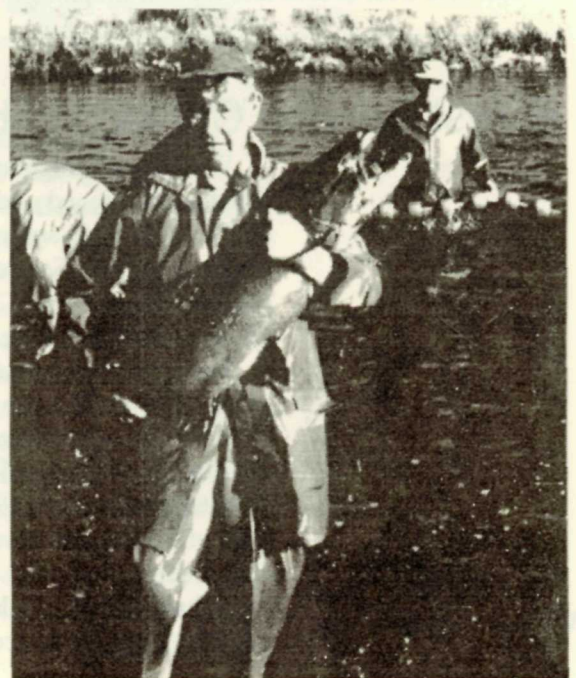
The park's mandate is preservation of its native species, and they are not doing it. ONP uses precisely the same fishery regulations as the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW), regulations based on data that are gathered and sent to the Pacific Management Council by the state DFW and the tribes. Yet the tribes' mandate as well as the state DFW's is to harvest fish and to work to maximize harvest. The park has no harvest mandate whatsoever.

ONP sets no regulations of their own for many of the streams in the park. Goodman Creek is a good example. Goodman Creek has two and one half miles in the park and

*Continued on P. 8S, ONP Fisheries.*

The park's mandate is preservation of its native species, and they are not doing it.

*Dick Goin, the late Glen Gallison, and other volunteers harvesting eggs. Goin holds a 65 pound chinook. Photo taken in the late 1980s.*



*ONP Fisheries. continued from P 7S.*

no fishery data. The state DFW has very few data on the creek. But ONP acquiesces to the DFW, who have concluded that Goodman Creek has enough wild steelhead for a limit of 30 per season. (Hoh has two; Sol Duc has 10.)

On the Pacific Management Council, where the seasons and the escapement goals are set each year, Olympic National Park is without a spokesman at the meetings. They send a field biologist with no data. Clearly ONP should have a seat at that table.

## ONP Fails to Give Fisheries Priority

Down through ONP history to the present, most superintendents have given no priority to the fisheries. This lack of priority has greatly hampered the concerned public's efforts to preserve native fisheries.

Lake Crescent and the Beardsley trout are examples. For seven years I have protested the brush cutting on Lake Crescent along Highway 101. This brush is critical to the survival of the immature fish. Prior to brush cutting there were a lot of insects in that brush, and the young Beardsley used the shelf along that shoreline. But we can't get the park to stop cutting. Whatever the reason, it demonstrates the low priority of the fishery.

Nor is there any priority for enforcement. There are terrible things happening on Lake Crescent. For example, I have heard people bragging about fishing with a big deep line and taking Beardsleys this year, contrary to regulations.

## Top Priority for Fisheries:

### Data and Enforcement

If we hope to preserve our remaining native fish stocks, we need to persuade ONP to make a commitment to raise the priority of native fisheries. The fishery must be recognized as equal in importance to any other resource in the park.

The first order of business should be fishery data gathering. The second should be enforcement.

We have a lot to lose and we can't replace it.

## NPS Goes With the Flow On the Hoh

*by Tim McNulty*

Responding to concerns raised by of Olympic Park Associates and Protect the Peninsula's Future, the park services withdrew from an earlier decision to rip-rap two eroding sections of the Hoh Road. Park crews will reroute the road sections away from the river, allowing the river to meander.

Rip-rap, or large boulders placed to "stabilize" river banks, are known to accelerate downstream erosion and have destructive impacts on wild salmon and steelhead. Spawning areas for spring and fall chinook salmon — both stocks of concern — overlap in the project area.

With this decision, the National Park Service reverses a long-time practice of rip-rapping river banks. Of the park's six miles of road in the Hoh Valley, nearly a mile is already armored with rip-rap. Trees to be removed from the reroute will be retained on site for salmon habitat restoration projects. A total of 103 trees will be removed; eight are 36 inches in diameter or larger.

We need to  
persuade Olympic National Park ...  
to raise the priority of native fisheries.

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## Forest Service Closes Problem Road in Dungeness

With three Dungeness River fish stocks listed as threatened under the endangered species act (chinook, summer chum, and bull trout), the Forest Service made a sound decision to close the East Crossing Road (2860) in Olympic National Forest.

The road washed out in several places as a result of severe flooding during the winter of 1998-99 (See *Forest Service Road Failures Threaten Endangered Salmon, Voice of the Wild Olympics*, Fall, 1999). At the urging of OPA and other conservation and salmon advocate groups, the Forest Service chose to close and rehabilitate 4.8 miles of the 2860 road while retaining road access to the lower

Dungeness trail and trail access to the Gold Creek trail. The only significant recreational resources lost are the ten campsites at East Crossing Campground.

Under the proposed action road access to the upper Dungeness trail head, which serves Buckhorn Wilderness and Olympic National Park, remains assured. And access to the popular Dungeness Forks Campground remains open. The action represents a sound approach for salmon, for water quality, and for a reasonable balance of recreation opportunities.





## Roadless Area Plan Is a Victory for Conservationists, A Thorn In the Side for Bush

by Tim McNulty

Wildland advocates celebrated in December when Forest Service Chief Mike Dombeck signed the final decision to protect 58.5 million acres of roadless areas — nearly a third of national forest lands — from road building and logging. Dombeck included a contested 9.3 million acres in Alaska's Tongass National Forest in the action as well as 85,600 acres in Olympic National Forest.

Tongass protection will not begin until 2004, and limited "stewardship" logging will be permitted

in other areas of the national forests. But the final decision is a major improvement over the draft EIS the Forest Service released last summer, which granted much weaker protections to 43 million acres.

Readers of this newsletter will recall that the draft proposal allowed continued commercial logging and mining in roadless areas and exempted the Tongass National Forest (*Forest Service Roadless Area Proposal Falls Short, Voice of the Wild Olympics*, Summer 2000). OPA and other environmental groups requested a full ban on all environmentally damaging activities, including road construction, logging and mining on all roadless lands, including the Tongass.

Your letters, and the letters of 1.7 million others, and testimony delivered at more than 600 public meetings, did the trick. We convinced the agency to do the right thing. And we sent a strong message to Congress that any attempt to undo this measure would be costly.

The rule still leaves the contentious issues of non-inventoried roadless areas (some 72,000 acres in Olympic) and destructive off-road vehicle use to be determined by local forest plan revisions. The Olympic National For-

est Plan is scheduled to be revised in 2005.

President Bush has criticized this initiative and promised to "review" it. On February 5 Bush placed a two month delay on enactment of the rule. That means the Forest Service will not implement the roadless policy until May 12 (it was initially scheduled to go into effect March 13).

But if the President is going to try to convince Congress or the

American people that roadless protection is a bad idea, he has his work cut out for him.

Roadless areas con-

tain less than one quarter of one percent of the nation's timber and an even smaller fraction of oil and gas reserves. And the initiative enjoys overwhelming public support, as Republican polls have shown. In fact it has inspired the most public response of any federal lands initiative to date. To reverse the decision would require a full NEPA process with hearings, environmental impact statements and lots of public review.

---

Roadless areas contain less than **one quarter of one percent** of the nation's timber, and an even smaller fraction of oil and gas reserves.

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This initiative enjoys overwhelming public support: **1.7 million letters**, the most ever received on a federal land issue.

If you wish to send your thoughts on this issue or other issues to President Bush, you can reach him at [president@whitehouse.gov](mailto:president@whitehouse.gov)



Old growth forest, Gray Wolf River, Olympic National Forest.  
Photo by Steve Johnson.

## Environmental Review Begins for Proposed Elwha Quarry

by Tim McNulty

Just when the largest salmon restoration process in the Northwest is getting off the ground on the Elwha River, a Forks gravel company wants to swing a wrecking ball at the project. Puget Sound Surfacers proposes to mine 90,000 tons of rock and gravel from the shoulder of McDonald Mountain, a stone's throw from the Elwha. The 43-acre site fronts the Elwha Road a mile from the Olympic National Park boundary.

In 1998 Clallam County required an environmental impact study (EIS) for the project. After a stumbling start (the County moved to void the permit process a year later for "inactivity"), bids closed in January for consultants wishing to conduct the environmental study. Whoever is selected has their work cut out for them. The County rightly determined that the project poses major threats to air, water, wildlife, and recreation.

If developed, the quarry could degrade spawning habitat 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 park entrance road is troubling.

Meanwhile any hope for an environmentally sensitive operation looks dim. In 1999 Mike Shaw, co-owner of Puget Sound Surfacers

and the proposed Elwha quarry, was fined \$1,325 by the state Department of Ecology and ordered to cease all mining near Sequim. Shaw's gravel pit was located in a residential area and an aquifer recharge area where mineral extraction is prohibited. In the words of a Clallam County prosecutor, Shaw operated "with wanton disregard for local and state regulatory review and permit requirements."

Shaw's lawyer is currently contesting a state order to restore the area.

Olympic Park Associates joined the Elwha Klallam Tribe, the Department of Interior, and more than 300 petitioners in expressing opposition to the Elwha Road quarry 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 pointed out to 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 EIS process may take a year or longer. OPA will be involved with the scoping and review.

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## Independent Scientific Panel Weighs in on Mountain Goats

The Conservation Biology Institute of Corvallis, Oregon completed a review of mountain goat science in Olympic National Park last summer. The report, which was requested by Congressman Norm Dicks, confirmed that mountain goats are not native to the Olympic Mountains. However, the study also concluded that goats may not pose a significant threat to park resources. The scientists suggested that meadow damage may have been caused by wind or water erosion.

OPA questioned the report's contention that the park service failed to prove that the goats were having an impact on alpine plant communities. We pointed out that scientists on the panel disagreed over the quality of the park service's research. One assessed it was "as good as research done elsewhere under similar conditions," while another re-

nounced it as "bad science at its worst." A 1992 review by a committee of scientists with direct expertise in the field confirmed that non-native goats were indeed impacting alpine plants, plant communities, and soils.

Mountain goats are not threatened in Washington, but at least eight species of plants and nine of animals in the Olympics are found nowhere else in the world. OPA contends that if the scientists can't agree, we must make sure we err on the side of ecosystem protection.

Olympic National Park has compiled more than 25 years of research documenting goats' impacts on fragile alpine plant communities. A new environmental impact statement is now in progress. Eleven conservation organizations have petitioned the park service to remove goats from Olympic.



## Olympic Coast Clean Up -- April 28, 2001

Register by April 16

by Jan Klippert

Dear Friends of the Olympic Coast,

You are invited to participate in another grand adventure this year: to remove debris from Olympic National Park beaches the **weekend of April 28, 2001**.

Like last year's clean up, this effort is energized by a partnership of community service organizations, businesses and government agencies.\* Volunteers will comb 60 miles of Olympic National Park coast from Shi Shi Beach on the north to South Kalaloch Beach. Marine debris will be hauled off the beaches and piled at trailheads or cache sites for disposal. This community/volunteer effort will help preserve the natural beauty of this unparalleled Washington wilderness resource. Last year 360 volunteers removed 17 tons of debris!

Volunteers are urged to select a beach and **register their participation by April 16, 2001**. Beach access will be from the usual locations, thus respecting the wilderness character of the National Park. Beaches easily acces-

sible by car or a short hike are appropriate for a one-day outing. Some beaches will require a single overnight stay. More remote beaches will require a several day commitment from volunteers familiar with no-trace wilderness backpacking skills.

Emphasis of the 2001 clean up will be on remote, difficult-to-reach wilderness beaches. Because of their remoteness, many of these beaches have never had a thorough clean up. Hardy wilderness-savvy volunteers are needed. Volunteers will cache debris at sites identified by Olympic National Park staff. ONP staff will manage removal of debris from the cache sites at a later date.

Volunteers will register at one of five field operation sites including the Forks Information Center, Oil City trailhead and ranger stations at Mora, Ozette, and Kalaloch. At these sites volunteers will receive information about the beach they will be working.

Volunteers at designated research monitoring beaches\*\* will record data about the debris they collect. The information will provide a snapshot record of the coast and help identify sources of the debris. The data will be used for oceanographic research of interest to naturalists and marine scientists from the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary and Olympic National Park.

Interested? Check item #7 on the form.

### Olympic Coast Clean-up April 28, 2001

YES! I want to join this important volunteer community effort to preserve our unique Olympic Coast by removing debris from its beaches. I don't want to miss this opportunity!

1. My name and address:  
\_\_\_\_\_
  2. My best phone number and/or email address is:  
\_\_\_\_\_
  3. I know which section of beach I want to clean up. It is:  
\_\_\_\_\_
- This will be for one-day \_\_\_\_, overnight \_\_\_\_, a remote beach \_\_\_\_.
4. I prefer that you suggest a beach that needs help, in the area of:  
South Kalaloch Beach to Ruby Beach \_\_\_\_ Oil City to Third Beach \_\_\_\_  
Rialto Beach to Ozette \_\_\_\_ Ozette to Shi Shi Beach \_\_\_\_
  5. I will organize a group \_\_\_\_. There will be about \_\_\_\_ in our group.
  6. I would like to work with volunteers who are welcoming the volunteers at:  
Ozette \_\_\_\_, Mora \_\_\_\_, Oil City \_\_\_\_, Kalaloch \_\_\_\_  
Forks Recreation Info. Center for Olympic National Park and Forest \_\_\_\_
  - 7.\*\* I would like to be assigned to a beach where I can help collect data that will be used in research. \_\_\_\_
  8. I am interested in knowing more about being a volunteer with Olympic National Park. \_\_\_\_
  9. I would like to know more about the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary. \_\_\_\_

To register or receive more information contact Jan Klippert  
14036 Meridian Ave. N,  
Seattle, WA 98133  
206-364-2689  
<jpklippert@aol.com>

\* Partners include Clallam Bay-Seki Chamber of Commerce, Forks Chamber of Commerce, Friends of the Trail, Lost Resort, Northwest Wilderness Conference, Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary, Olympic Coast Sanctuary Advisory Council, Olympic National Park, Olympic Park Associates, Olympic Peninsula Audubon, Pack and Paddle Magazine, City of Port Angeles, Quileute Tribe, REI, Starbucks, The Mountaineers, U.S. Coast Guard, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service Lacey Office, Volunteers for Outdoor Washington, Washington Trails Association, and many volunteers.



# VOICE of the WILD OLYMPICS

Sally W. Soest, Editor

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

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- \$35+ Contributing
- \$25 Family
- \$20 Individual Member
- \$5 Student / Low Income
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Please mail to:

Laura Zalesky, Membership Chair  
2433 Del Campo Drive

### Things to do:

Tell President Bush what you think about his delaying the Roadless Area initiative.  
See Page 9

Thank Congressman Dicks for supporting removal of the Elwha Dams.  
See Pages 1 & 3

Sign up for the 2001 Olympic Coast Clean Up!  
See