

# VOICE of the Wild Olympics

Newsletter of the  
Olympic Park Associates



Volume 10 Number 1  
October 1988



## Special Issue

Celebrating the  
50th Anniversary of  
Olympic National Park  
and  
The 40th Anniversary of  
Olympic Park Associates



NATIONAL PARK SERVICE PHOTO

*Mount Olympus, rising nearly 8000 feet, dominates the mountains of the peninsula.*

## Celebrating 50 Years of Olympic National Park

Fifty years ago, on June 29, 1938, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed the bill creating Olympic National Park. With this act, some of the richest old-growth forest and wildlife communities, rugged glacier-clad peaks, pristine lakes, and wild, free-flowing rivers remaining in the United States were set aside as a splendid wilderness park. *(Continued on page 3)*

*A canoeist navigates Goodman Creek where it enters the Pacific on the Coastal Strip.*



PHOTO BY BOB AND IRA SPRING

*Founded in 1948 "To preserve the integrity and wilderness of Olympic National Park"*

## A Golden Anniversary Party for a Jewel of the Park System

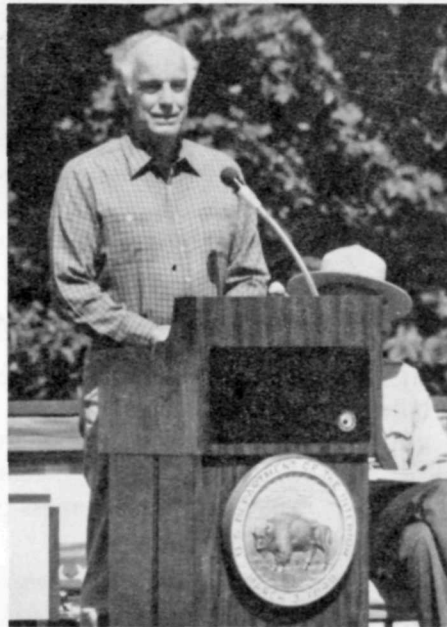
Olympic National Park threw a 50th birthday party on Saturday, July 23, and about 250 friends of the park came from around the state. The event was marked by spectacularly beautiful weather, music, a salmon bake, and speeches by Park Service officials, state and local politicians, and conservationists. Among those taking the podium were William Penn Mott, Jr., director of the National Park Service, NPS Regional Director Charles Odegaard, Superintendent Robert Chandler, Senator Dan Evans, and Congressmen Al Swift and Rod Chandler. The Park Service honored Olympic Park Associates by inviting President Polly Dyer to sit on the podium with the featured speakers. To introduce this special anniversary edition of *Voice of the Wild Olympics*, we asked Senator Dan Evans and ONP Superintendent Robert Chandler to express their perspectives on this anniversary celebration for one of the great natural treasures of the Northwest.

### Senator Daniel J. Evans

As we celebrate the 50th Anniversary of Olympic National Park, I look back on 49 years of rich personal experiences in the Olympics. I have stood on the top of Mount Olympus in fog and in glorious sunshine and I have wandered through river valleys with rhododendron blooming on all sides, watched over by quizzical deer twitching their ears in the shadows. I have walked with my sons through wildflower meadows so glorious that it almost seemed sacriligious to tread there. I have stood alone, surrounded by the vibrant beauty of crags protecting a tiny mountain lake, yet have not felt lonely.

These and hundreds of other memories return again and again in full technicolor clarity. They are extraordinary sustenance during the tense and busy activities of our urban world. As our society grows more complex and devoted to technological triumph it is important that we know our past. Our wilderness national parks serve for us and succeeding generations as a window to the past so our children can see what it was like before man touched the earth. I salute those visionary leaders who insisted on the establishment of Olympic National Park and to their dedicated successors who have insisted that the park's values be preserved.

Americans by the millions are discovering their national parks and the very wilderness values we seek to preserve are in danger, not from neglect, but from the overenthusiastic use by their fervent supporters. In a real sense the effort this year to formally protect the wilderness areas of the Olympic National Park is a tribute to the constant efforts of the Olympic Park Associates and their supporters who have so consistently worked for the preservation and wise use of the this unique ecosystem.



Senator Dan Evans addresses the crowd gathered on July 23 to celebrate ONP's 50th anniversary.

### Superintendent Robert Chandler

Less than 100 years ago, the first white explorers led parties to the uncharted interior of the Olympics to discover the mysteries of this almost inaccessible corner of our country. From these earliest explorations came the first suggestions that this place was worthy of national park status. Those visionaries sparked the idea that grew as more people came to appreciate the wild Olympics. The word spread as they carried with them stories of these great forests and superb scenic areas from the rugged coast to the glacier clad peaks.

As more people supported the idea of preserving this last piece of our frontier others organized to resist it. Olympic's story is a classic example of the often seen struggle between conflicting values.

The economic value of the heavily forested peninsula is well known and, in the early years, offered the promise of an almost inexhaustible supply of high quality timber. Today's park visitors and our future generations are indeed fortunate that the political leaders a half century ago had the foresight to recognize the value of the Olympics as a national park.

The rich combination of land forms, scenic beauty, and abundant plant and animal life led to the creation of a park with few equals. Olympic has joined a few select national parks that have received worldwide recognition by being designated both an International Biosphere Reserve and a World Heritage Site. It is one of the world's most important natural treasures and one of the most visited national parks in the United States. Our challenge to the future, whether park managers or supporters, is to assure that we will pass on this natural treasure in an unspoiled condition for our future generations. This effort will require constant vigilance, both within the park as well as outside. Many of today's programs are steps to help us achieve that goal, from acquisition of private inholdings, to restoration of native salmon and steelhead runs, to removal of exotic mountain goats, revegetation of overused or development scarred areas, to environmental education and interpretive programs for park visitors and local schools.

Public support for our parks is tremendous, but our natural areas also are increasingly threatened. They are becoming biological islands, or as Bill Brown referred to them in his book, *Islands of Hope*. Working together as park managers and park supporters, we can insure that this treasure is not lost. As this generation is the inheritor of this gift, we must insure that the public trust that Olympic National Park represents is upheld.

# Celebrating 50 Years of Olympic National Park (from page 1)

By Tim McNulty  
Vice President, OPA

Over the five decades since its creation, Olympic National Park has achieved international renown. It was honored by the world community of scientists in 1976 when UNESCO designated Olympic an International Biosphere Reserve; and more recently in 1981 when the park was named a World Heritage Site. As such it joins Chartres Cathedral, the Pyramids of Egypt, the Galapagos Islands, and the Grand Canyon as part of the heritage of all nations of the earth.

The 1938 act also marked a culmination of one of the longest and bitterly contested of any national park campaigns. No wonder. At stake were the finest, most extensive reserves of uncut, old growth forest in the Pacific Northwest. Destructive clear-cut logging of the Olympic Peninsula's virgin forests was progressing from coastal lowlands into the foothills in the 1930s, and the stakes were high. Lined up behind commercial timber interests in opposition to the park were hunting interests, hydroelectric developers, local chambers of commerce, and the US Forest Service.

But conservationists were undaunted. The movement to create an Olympic National Park had been building for decades, and a newly mobile public was witnessing the peninsula firsthand.

The beauty and allure of the Olympic Mountains were not always so well known. As recently as the late 19th century the interior mountains remained unexplored. But it didn't take long for the mystique of the Olympics to capture the imagination of the public. In 1890 two of the first explorers, Judge James Wickersham and Lt. Joseph O'Neil, proposed that the area be set aside as a national park. True, theirs were soft voices amid the crashing of trees and clearing of homesteads, but the seed was planted.

In a highly controversial action intended to curtail the kind of destructive logging that was devastating the lowland peninsula, President Cleveland created the Olympic Forest Reserve in 1897. The Dodwell-Rixon timber survey began the following year, but before the three-year inventory was complete, over 700,000 acres of prime, low-elevation timber were deleted from the preserve on the peninsula's fertile west side. In 1907 the reserve became Olympic National Forest,

(Continued on page 4)

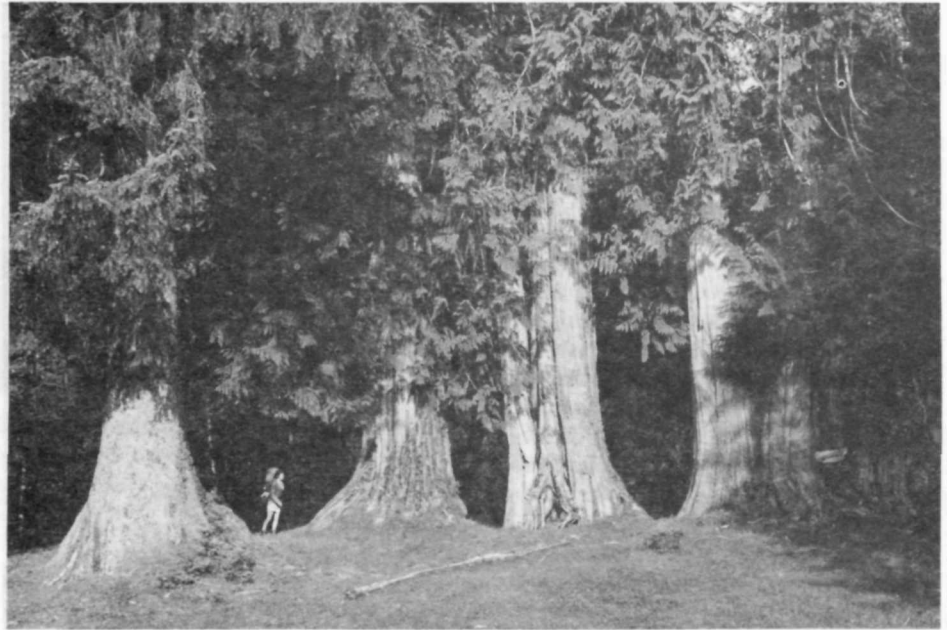


PHOTO BY GLENN GALLISON

*A hiker is dwarfed by the giants of the Hoh Valley.*

## And 40 Years of Olympic Park Associates

By Polly Dyer  
President, OPA

As Olympic National Park celebrates its 50th year, Olympic Park Associates is marking its 40th anniversary. For this special issue of the *Voice*, we present the story of OPA's founding, the hallmark conservation battles of its early years, and the milestones in OPA and ONP history.

### 1947: The Ax Looms Over the Park

Olympic National Park had not yet reached its 10th birthday when a bill was introduced into Congress to give to the loggers those ancient ecosystems of the forested valleys of the Hoh and Bogachiel, which Congress had decreed in 1938 should be protected as national park.

### 1948: OPA Is Born to Fight the Ax

Long-time advocates for creation of Olympic National Park, who had testified in opposition to the 1947 bill, banded together to found Olympic Park Associates. They wanted to assure there was one citizen group with its only goals "...to promote the conservation of our natural resources, including wilderness; and to preserve the integrity of Olympic National Park in accordance with the fundamental purpose of national parks, which is 'to conserve the scenery and the natural and

historic objects and the wildlife therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations.'" The new organization intended not only to prevent the exclusion of areas from the park, but also to seek future protection for areas not included in the 1938 act establishing ONP.

Irving M. Clark, Sr., OPA's first president, and John P. Osseward, secretary-treasurer, worked with several national conservation organizations in establishing the Associates. They based the new organization's by-laws on those of The Wilderness Society and the National Parks Association. Many letters were exchanged between Howard Zahniser of The Wilderness Society (Clark was a member of its governing council), Devereux Butcher of the National Parks Association, and Dick Leonard of the Sierra Club.

These organizations and others became members of Olympic Park Associates. The first OPA Board of Trustees, in addition to Clark and Osseward (of the Northwest Conservation League), included: Leo Gallagher as vice president (Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs), Gertrude Barr (Seattle Federation of Women's Clubs), Mary (Mrs. Thomas) Pelly (Seattle Garden Clubs), Arthur

(Continued on page 5)

## Celebration (from page 3)

but a national forest is not a national park, and efforts to establish a park continued.

The early years of the 20th century were a difficult time for wildlife throughout the West, and the peninsula certainly was no exception. By the late 1920s the Olympic gray wolf had been hunted to extinction, and serious damage had been done to cougar and bobcat populations. At the turn of the century entire herds of Roosevelt elk were being slaughtered, not for meat or trophies, but for their teeth, which fetched high prices in the East as watch fobs. As public outcry against the slaughter mounted, Gifford Pinchot petitioned President Theodore Roosevelt to protect the elk. Using the Antiquities Act, Roosevelt responded by creating the Mount Olympus National Monument in 1909. The 600,000-acre monument, managed by the Forest Service, protected significant elk range (and valuable forest) and included much of the interior high country. Most importantly, it brought much needed federal protection, for the first time, to the peninsula's invaluable wildlands.



Among the conservationists hiking with Justice Douglas along the coast were (standing L-R): John Osseward, Olympic Park Associates; Grant Conway of Washington, D.C.; Paul Wiseman, The Mountaineers; and (seated) Sigurd F. Olson, The Wilderness Society; and Polly Dyer, Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs.

Unfortunately, that protection proved short-lived. In 1915, at the insistence of timber and mining interest claims of national security, President Wilson reduced the monument by nearly one half. Not surprisingly, all the accessible lowland forests were eliminated. Throughout the war years, the flush times of the twenties, and the depression years that followed,



PHOTO BY BOB AND IRA SPRING

In August 1958 Justice William O. Douglas led 67 local and national conservationists along 22 miles of wilderness beach from Cape Alava to Rialto Beach. The hike made national headlines and squashed a proposal to build a road along the coastline.

the peninsula's forests continued to fall, and support for a national park grew. In the mid thirties, events began to accelerate. The Olympic Highway was completed around the peninsula and tourism increased dramatically. Advances in logging technology accelerated the cutting of steeper country. Within the monument, elk were once more in decline.

The call for a national park rang loudly in Washington, D.C. Two more park bills were introduced, hearings were held, and the Forest Service redoubled its efforts to fend off a park. But by the time FDR visited the peninsula in 1937, the Olympics had become a national cause among conservationists. Willard Van Name of the New York Museum of Natural History, and Rosalie Edge of the Emergency Conservation Committee did much to publicize the need for a national park. In a report mailed out nationwide, and distributed to every member of Congress that year, Van Name wrote:

*The Peninsula affords the last opportunity for preserving any adequate large remnants of the wonderful primeval forests...which were not so many years ago one of the grandest and most unique features of our two northwestern-most states, but which everywhere have been or are being logged off to the very last stick.*

Their efforts, combined with the strong backing of such eloquent and outspoken supporters as Irving Clark, Irving Brant, Bob Marshall, and (then) Secretary of the Interior Harold Ickes, helped mount a groundswell of support, and insured final passage of the bill.

It was the clear intent of Congress to preserve Olympic as a complete and self-

contained wilderness park, and provisions were made for later additions. Over the years these included the spectacular lowland forests of the Bogachiel and portions of the Quinault and Elwha valleys, the matchless wilderness coast, the Queets corridor, the Point of Arches/Shi Shi area, and the east shore of Ozette Lake.

Further boundary adjustments and refinements, as well as passage of the monumental Washington Wilderness Act of 1984, have broadened protection for Olympic's wild ecosystems. If current legislation to place over 97% of the park's wildlands into the Wilderness System is enacted, it would fulfill the intent of Congress a half-century ago.

We all have good reason to join in the celebration of Olympic National Park's first 50 years. Looking back, there is much to celebrate. But history tells us that we also need to look to the future. It will take continued and dedicated vigilance on the part of all who love the Olympics, to see Olympic National Park — and the wilderness system of which it is a part — survive the next half-century. And the centuries that follow.

Justice William O. Douglas



PHOTO BY BOB AND IRA SPRING

## OPA and Olympic Milestones (from page 3)

Winder (The Mountaineers), Major J. Griswold (Washington Alpine Club), Harry Higman (Seattle Audubon Society), and Ellsworth D. Lumley (Emergency Conservation Committee of New York). One of the first individual members was Robert Wood, then a student and currently a long-time member of OPA's board of trustees and author of several Olympic trail guides.

### 1949: OPA Counters Loggers

Industry was still actively seeking to delete the forests from ONP and promoting its cause through a widely circulated publication. OPA countered with a brochure, urging preservation of the forests, that was first published in *The Living Wilderness*. Clark and Osseward also participated in radio programs that year.

### 1953: Another Forest Deletions Battle; Ocean Strip Added to Park

OPA and The Mountaineers met with Governor Langlie and learned he was appointing an Olympic National Park Review Committee to study the issue of deleting prime forest lands from the park. At the request of the two organizations he added a representative of The Mountaineers to the committee. Conservationists feared that the majority of ONPRC members (primarily representing the forest products industry) would recommend deletion of forest lands. However, in the wake of public hearings and many letters to the committee, the majority merely recommended further study. Ultimately, the minority report opposing deletion carried the day. It was signed by representatives of The Mountaineers, the Seattle Audubon Society, Seattle Garden Club, the Puget Sound Council of Lumber and Sawmill Workers, and the Bremerton Metal Trades Union. OPA had a major role in substantiating that Olympic National Park's forests were not needed to sustain the logging industry.

As early as 1936 Irving Clark had proposed that the bills before Congress to create ONP should include protection for an ocean strip. This strip was acquired in the early 1940s as authorized by the 1938 act. The strip was formally included in the park in 1953 after Clark and Osseward communicated with Irving Brandt, who recommended that President Harry Truman issue an executive order to include the strip in the park.

### 1956: Salvage Logging Ended

Logging firms had been permitted to salvage "danger" trees in developed areas of the park, with some of the proceeds used by the firms to purchase private in-holdings from willing sellers and transfer them to ONP. However, the practice had gotten out of hand and healthy old-growth trees were being cut in areas where visitors were few. Conservationists conducted a field trip with the regional director of the Park Service and held a meeting with the director, who came from Washington, D.C. to investigate the problem. As a result, NPS discontinued salvage logging operations in all national parks.

### 1958: Road Threatens Ocean Strip

Hardly had the ocean strip joined the park when highway developers began pushing for a "scenic" road along the sea. Representatives of OPA, The Mountaineers, and The Wilderness Society convinced Supreme Court Justice William O. Douglas that his leadership of a hike along the Olympic coast might help defuse the campaign for a road. Douglas and a band of 67 national and local conservationists indeed showed the world that this wild, untrammelled coast should be kept natural without automobile invasions. The hike turned the tide of opinion.

### 1976: Point of Arches/Shi Shi Beach Added to Park; ONP Designated a World Biosphere Reserve

These prime areas were left out of the original ocean strip. In 1975 OPA leaders met with Governor Dan Evans, who then took the lead in securing a moratorium on logging in the area, as well as around Lake Ozette, and in developing the proposal for their addition to ONP. Congressman Don Bonker then introduced the legislation that added these areas to the park.

Also in this year, UNESCO recognized the unique natural values of ONP by designating the park an International Biosphere Reserve.

### 1981: Olympic Becomes a World Heritage Site

Further international recognition came to Olympic National Park when UNESCO designated it a World Heritage Site.

### 1984: Wilderness Protection for Olympic Forest Areas

For some years OPA had been pushing for wilderness designation for prime areas of Olympic National Forest. Success finally came with the 1984 Washington Wilderness Act, which protected five key areas covering 92,700 acres.

### 1986: Elwha River Dams; Soleduck Road; Hydrographic Boundary Adjustments

OPA, together with the Seattle Audubon Society, the Sierra Club, and Friends of the Earth filed an intervention before the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to deny relicensing of the Glines Canyon Dam in ONP and the Elwha Dam just outside the park, which have severely damaged fisheries in the Elwha. The dam issue remains a major unresolved controversy, and we have proposed that Congress authorize studies to research the feasibility of removing the two dams.

OPA was successful in bringing together Northwest conservationists and in convincing ONP and regional NPS officials to modify the building plans for the Soleduck Road. The original plans called for a wide swath with removal of 3800 old-growth trees more than two feet in diameter, but our protests resulted in a more modest road that protected most of these trees.

Olympic National Park and Olympic National Forest sought a number of boundary changes to facilitate management. OPA and other conservationists agreed to most of the changes, which brought several important additions into the park, although other key areas were excluded and will require future legislative efforts. This legislation also extended ONP's coastal area from its boundary at mean high tide to extreme low tide and the offshore rocks and islands. These sensitive tidal areas were not included in the original ocean strip protected in 1953.

### 1988: Wilderness Again in High Focus

By the time this issue is off the press, we hope that Congress finally will have designated most of Olympic National Park as a wilderness area (and also Mt. Rainier and the North Cascades National Park complex), fulfilling the mandate of the 1964 Wilderness Act. OPA has long fought for such protection.

# — The Olympic Ecosystem — From Ancient Isolation to Island Ecology

By Tim McNulty  
Vice President, OPA

Soon after the first fall rains, great runs of salmon enter the rivers of the Olympic Peninsula. The salmon are at their peak and carry rich nutrients from the far reaches of the Pacific. After they have deposited and fertilized their eggs, their spawned-out carcasses become a prime source of invaluable protein for a host of Olympic National Park's resident wildlife. These animals leave scats and

discussion of this subject was published in 1967 (*The Theory of Island Biogeography*, by MacArthur and Wilson). Over the past decade, field studies began in isolated segments of tropical rainforests in Brazil. A central question is: Can we retain the richness of species diversity in a reduced portion of an original ecosystem? It could be decades before results from these studies are in. In the meantime, biologists and conservationists look to Olympic National Park as one of the relatively complete temperate wild ecosystems still functioning on the planet.



The Olympics survived at least two million years of isolation during the ice age, an isolation that gave rise to the unique Olympic marmot and chipmunk, among other local

carcasses, which in turn provide valuable nutrients to riparian and forest trees. In the spring, some of these trees will harbor insects that will become a major food source for young salmon. Other trees will serve as nesting sites for eagles or owls, while younger trees will provide seasonal browse for Olympic's elk herds when their higher summer range is still under snow.

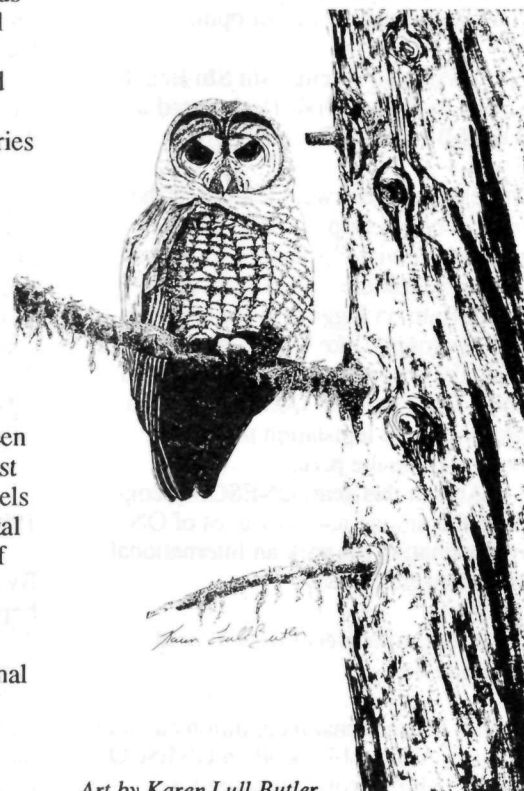
subspecies and endemic plants, and also led to the conspicuous absence of several animals quite common elsewhere in the Pacific Northwest. But the vast scale of species reduction on the peninsula's most productive lowlands already has im-

(Continued on page 10)

For the salmon and steelhead, bald eagles and swifts, elk, cougars, and harlequin ducks, jurisdictional boundaries simply do not exist. They and other migratory species are inhabitants of a greater ecosystem that encompasses the entire Olympic Peninsula.

For much of its first half century, Olympic National Park enjoyed an ample buffer of wild forest lands that served to insulate it from surrounding development. Recently, some of the most significant of those lands have been set aside by Congress as National Forest Wilderness Areas. Other, smaller parcels are protected as natural areas and coastal wildlife refuges. But over the next half century, as logging and development continue to dominate state and private lands, as well as most Forest Service lands on the peninsula, Olympic National Park will become more and more of a genetic island.

Scientists know very little about "island ecology." The first serious



Art by Karen Lull-Butler



NATIONAL PARK SERVICE PHOTO

During the summer, many elk migrate to the subalpine meadows where snow lingers and provides a refreshing resting place for these majestic animals.

## Wildlife Management at the Park's 50-Year Point

By Bruce Moorhead  
Olympic National Park

Wildlife management remains an important concern at the 50-year point in the history of Olympic National Park.

One issue currently in high focus is the overpopulation of mountain goats. In the late 1920s about a dozen mountain goats were introduced to the Olympics by local residents. Few were seen for many years, but by 1983 a helicopter census of the population indicated nearly 1,200 goats, with 80-90% located in the park. The goats have caused a tremendous amount of damage to vegetation and the ecology of sensitive alpine areas. In 1988 park managers began a live removal program aiming toward eventual control or elimination of the population.

Protection of the Roosevelt elk has been a high priority since the park's inception. Modern research suggests that elk and old-growth forest processes occur in a relatively stable equilibrium in the park — without marked fluctuation or "damage" to the ecosystem. Annual helicopter counts along the Hoh and Queets River valleys from 1984-1988 indicate stable densities of 4 to 6 elk per square mile. Successful perpetuation of this population in its old-growth forest habitat is one of the major accomplishments in the park's first 50 years.

As roads, logging, and other devel-

opments increase around the park, however, elk and other wildlife near boundaries are increasingly affected by habitat alterations and human disturbance. Many herds once protected by isolation are now closely adjoined by lands intensively managed for timber and wildlife production. Vehicle traffic and extended hunting seasons now occur on all sides of the park. With improved boundary access, illegal hunting — sometimes miles within the park — is difficult to prevent or apprehend. The cumulative impact on "undisturbed" wildlife processes is not yet clear, but obviously may widen and deepen as such activities continue.

Old-growth forest dependent birds such as the spotted owl, marbled murrelet and a number of other species inhabit the park, although scientific knowledge about their status is only beginning. Surveys of spotted owls since 1985 suggest they are widely distributed at lower to mid elevations in the park interior, but only one nest has been found. Along the Pacific coastal area spotted owls may soon be isolated from inland populations by the removal of intervening old-growth forests. An invading competitor, the barred owl, has been found at several locations where spotted owls are known to occur.

(Continued on page 11)

## High-Dry Olympics a Botanical Wonderland

By Ed Tisch  
OPA Board of Trustees

The high-dry Olympics, a formidable assemblage of ridges, peaks, and canyons, run across the park's northeastern corner. Situated in the rain shadow of the Bailey Range, they include mounts Angeles, Baldy, Tyler and Townsend, Maiden Peak, Graywolf and Klahane Ridges, and Blue, Elk, and Buckhorn Mountains.

In the "dry" Olympics unique botanical features are evident even at lower elevations. For example, the montane forests are quite open, with Douglas fir dominating most overstories. Undergrowth is sparse and often depauperate. Salal shrubs no taller than six inches may occur in association with grasses, lichens, kinnikinnick and, occasionally, even manzanita. These mid elevation forests commonly include alpine fir, a high-country tree that descends nearly to sea level here. Similar lowland-to-timberline distributions are exhibited by ocean spray, Oregon grape, Rocky Mountain juniper, Douglas maple, and a variety of herbs, including tiger lily and sword fern.

At subalpine levels the high-dry Olympics are an ecological wonderland. Crystalline lakes glisten in cirques of long-defunct glaciers. Avalance chutes fan through tongues of forest and talus. Flowery meadows of every description dot the hillsides. Groves of krummholz timber slice the skyline with their wind-twisted profiles. Cliffs tower above heaps of basaltic rubble.

The alpine areas are equally spectacular. Through the years studies of Olympic alpine tundra have concentrated on



the high ridges between Mount Angeles and Blue Mountain. Here the tundra vegetation is accessible and well developed.

Essentially all of the Olympic endemic plants occur in these northeastern mountains. None appear to be endangered at this time. The rare Olympic milk-vetch and Webster's senecio, once known exclusively from the vicinity of Mount Angeles, have been discovered at several new locations, all in the high-dry sector. Most of the endemics grow in rock crevices and talus near and above timberline. In July and August their miniature floral displays can be breathtaking. Very hardy endemics, such as the cutleaf synthris, have been observed blooming here as early as February — above 6000 feet!

At these alpine and subalpine levels an interesting convergence takes place. This is where botanical west meets botanical north and east. Floristic studies indicate that the high-dry Olympics share phytogeographic histories with Alaska,

(Continued on page 12)

### A Few From the Olympics

Mountains filling valleys  
with shadows of mountains.  
Sun rolling in infinity

Another day of fog,  
Mountains hidden from view.  
The slugs ecstatic.

Kneeling to wash;  
on the other side  
a bear.

— Hoh River

Visiting the creek  
after the storm.  
Our footprints the only ones.  
— Wolf Creek

Stream and hummingbird  
are my breakfast music  
—this summer day.

The day's weariness wiped away  
by a single leap  
into a snow-melt lake.

—Seven Lakes Basin

This land so rich  
I could even learn  
to love the mosquitos.

—Steven Sanfield

Reprinted with permission from: *Island of Rivers*.  
Seattle: Pacific Northwest Parks & Forests  
Association, 1988. (See review on page 10.)

# Wilderness Designation Will Be Crowning Achievement

## The Long, Elusive Quest

By Carsten Lien  
OPA Board of Trustees

Wilderness protection for Olympic National Park has been an elusive quest since 1904 when the Elk National Park bill was introduced. Decade after decade conservationists attempted to achieve wilderness status, only to meet defeat for one reason or another.

The first success at preservation occurred in 1909 when Mount Olympus National Monument was created under the provisions of the Antiquities Act. Six years later the Forest Service pushed through a presidential proclamation that eliminated all of the commercially valuable forests inside the monument's boundaries. Within seven more years the Forest Service included the remaining trees inside the diminished monument's boundaries in its planned cutting circles as if the monument did not exist.

The nation's rising urban population in the 1920s, now equipped with the automobile, found the planned logging of every tree in every national forest untenable. With forest recreation now accessible to nearly everyone, the Forest Service responded by creating the illusion of preservation with the creation of primitive areas. Under the rules of their establishment all the resources within the primitive areas were allocated for ultimate economic utilization whenever needed. Thus, all of the trees within the Olympic Primitive Area were headed for the mills while the public generally was unaware that this provision was contained in the fine print of the regulations.

Wilderness preservation did not prove to be any easier to achieve after the National Park Service entered the Olympic scene. The Park Service even rejected accepting the administration of the Mount Olympus National Monument when assigned by executive order to do so, although the agency was overridden by the Secretary of the Interior. Later, when the first park bill with a wilderness clause was introduced in 1935, the Park Service reacted by rewriting the bill and eliminating the wilderness clause. The agency succeeded in getting its own bill introduced to replace the first bill with its wilderness provisions.

All of this Park Service activity against wilderness prompted Secretary Ickes to have drafted the first wilderness

bill in history, S1188 in 1939, which was introduced as an administration request measure. Although this bill would have affected all national parks, Ickes left no doubt about what park it was aimed at. "If this bill is enacted into law," he said, "it will be possible to protect the great wilderness of the newly established Olympic National Park from unwise road construction, and from motels which might better be operated in nearby local communities." This legislative effort to protect park wilderness was overtaken by the national defense preparations preceding World War II.

More than 30 years later, congressionally protected wilderness finally gained a foothold on the peninsula after efforts by local conservation groups succeeded in winning wilderness designation for a portion of Olympic's offshore rocks and islands.

In 1973 a new Park Service wilderness plan for the park came drew criticism from conservationists because it eliminated the Morse Creek area for the construction of a tramway and created a series of unprotected 20-acre enclaves in the heart of the park's wilderness. These enclaves were to provide a hostel room, a meal or a shower in a permanent building, for "those who desire and would appreciate an overnight or short experience in the backcountry, but who do not have the necessary equipment or know-how to encounter the backcountry alone." As the Park Service offered this rationale for the enclave concept generally and attacked

*(Continued on page 9)*

A 1938 photo of a giant red cedar.



## Finally, Victory Is at Hand

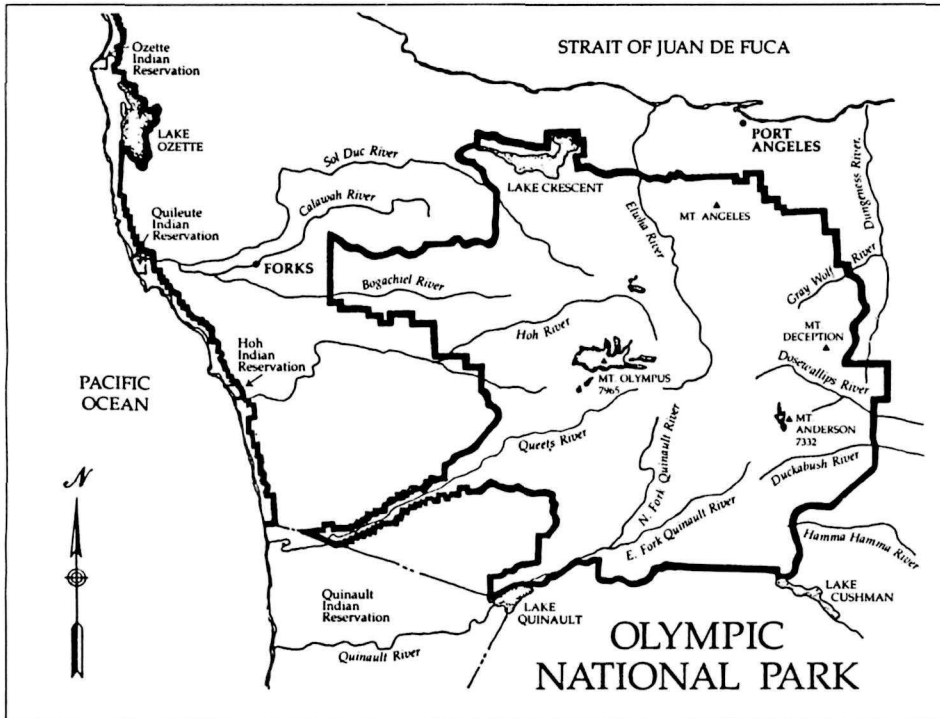
By Polly Dyer  
President, OPA

As this issue went to press Congress was due to vote any day on legislation to designate wilderness in Olympic National Park, as well as in Mt Rainier National Park and the North Cascades National Park complex. The Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee reported out S.2165 on September 9, while the House Interior and Insular Affairs Committee reported out the companion bill, H.R. 4146, on September 14. Earlier this summer, two OPA board members flew back to Washington, D.C. for the committee hearings. Richard Rutz testified at the Senate hearings and Carsten Lien testified at the House hearings in support of these bills. Congressional designation of wilderness requires that these park areas be protected and administered under the 1964 Wilderness Act.

Olympic Park Associates had significant input in developing the wilderness legislation. OPA representatives were invited to work with Olympic National Park staff in drafting wilderness boundary recommendations for Congress. Although the overall proposal was quite good, OPA recommended some additions that are now in the current legislation including the Queets River corridor area north of the road, the intertidal zone to low tide of the Ocean Strip, and the slopes north of Lake Crescent. In doubt is wilderness protection for the waters of Lake Ozette. Its shores were added to the park in 1976, and the lake itself was included in 1986. However, the lake is technically owned by the state, and that fact plus motorboat usage may deter wilderness protection.

Conservationists did not succeed in adding language to the bills to provide for studies outside of each of the park boundaries to identify the overall ecosystems of which the parks may be only one part. However, the Senate Interior Committee report includes a directive to the National Park Service to study "...the watershed of Lake Ozette...and consider the various alternatives to protect this area..."

As the history of the wilderness preservation campaign shows, these efforts sometimes take awhile, but the wait is worthwhile if success finally ensures that Olympic's wildlands will be protected for future generations.



## A Centennial Vision for Olympic Park

By Phil Zalesky  
OPA Board of Trustees

People who should know better have asked me to write about the coming years for Olympic National Park. Thus, I must gaze into my trusty crystal ball and foresee the next 50 years. If the President and Nancy can read the stars and play the Ouiji board, if Nostradamus can divine earthquakes 400 years into the future, if the soothsayer can warn Caesar about the Ides of March...then why not give it a try.

The usual approach would be to foresee the pressures on Olympic National Park as the population of the state mushrooms from 5 million to 15 or 20 million people in the next 50 years and with most of those numbers focused in the Puget Sound area. From experience and observation, we can predict the impact on the wilderness areas and the coming of a reservation system for trails, backpacking, and campgrounds, continued pressure for commercial tourist developments outside wilderness, and the persisting pressures by the wood products industry to raid the park forests.

Instead of this gloomy vision I would like to adopt a more global, and perhaps even more ominous, view to see where Olympic National Park — a World Biosphere Reserve — fits into the larger context of earth's natural cycle. No crystal ball can do this, but we can extrapolate from trends past and present into

the future. Starting with the current world population explosion, we will have extended the population of the planet from 5 billion people (2 billion at the time of the founding of the park) to 15-20 billion in this next 50 years.

As a global society, we have paid worship to technological growth. Serious and nagging environmental problems emerged from World War II and continue with us to the end of the 20th century. In the next five decades these accumulated problems will stress the biosphere to a point that the living earth is threatened. Even the most greedy will see that we must immerse ourselves in a total response, for "It is not yet written that man shall stay here on this planet."

In fact, there must come a fundamental, consequential, and universal awakening that will lead to a profound, new ecological consciousness. While the great minds of the last half of the 20th century have gravitated to microcosmic and macrocosmic explorations, in the 21st century the challenge for the best scientific minds will be to solve the problems of biosphere survival.

And this is where Olympic National Park fits into the equation. By its remoteness, Olympic's wilderness will have become a relative "island of purity." If we are to renew the oxygen levels in the atmosphere, which will be dangerously depleted by the hacking down of the world's forests and their destruction by

unrestrained acid rainfall disasters, scientists will need to conduct baseline studies.

As a relative island of purity, Olympic National Park will be an ideal area for study and for the regeneration of other depleted forest lands. Scientists will swarm over Olympic National Park to piece together the jigsaw puzzle of why other clearcut and acid rain degraded forests refuse to renew themselves adequately. The discoveries will lead to the deepening knowledge of the complex interdependence of the minutest organisms and the essential role each plays in the forest's survival. From the scientific probing here and at a few other relatively unblemished wilderness areas will come renewed hope.

With the fouling of streams and rivers worldwide, the oceans by 2038 AD will also be stressed. Once again, scientists will turn to Olympic National Park and to study its offshore islands and wilderness beach. The almost pure streams entering the Pacific near Quillyute Needles will still emerge from the heart of a wilderness. And although the currents will have wrecked their own havoc, we will find few places as adequate for study. In fact, the Olympic wilderness and the Quillyute Needles will be a seed ground from which to renew other Pacific waters.

Oh, that my crystal ball be merely cloudy! How wonderful it would be to have a "Great Awakening" in the 1990s. A Great Awakening that ends the exploitation by one greedy species at the expense of all others. A Great Awakening that leads to fundamental restructuring of an ecological conscience. A Great Awakening that leaves the human species cognizant that all life is worthy of life and knowing every species has a role for the totality of survival. And, an awakening that leaves possible pristine wilderness in Olympic National Park for the renewal of body and soul.

### Wilderness (from page 8)

the wilderness concept specifically, the possibility of wilderness designation for Olympic National Park slipped away.

But 10 years later the climate had changed. The 1984 Washington Wilderness Act added a number of key national forest areas to the Wilderness System. With that legislation signed into law, and also a measure to establish a Columbia River Gorge Scenic Area, the state congressional delegation was ready to turn its attention to national park wilderness.



## BOOKS\*BOOKS\*BOOKS\*BOOKS\*BOOKS

*Island of Rivers: An Anthology Celebrating the 50th Anniversary of Olympic National Park.* Nancy Beres, Mitzi Chandler, and Russell Dalton (eds). Seattle: Pacific Northwest National Parks & Forests Association, 1988.

The magnificent landscape of Olympic National Park is the theme that binds together this rich collection of essays, memoirs, poems, photographs, and illustrations that spans nearly a century of Olympic's history. From the Northwest Indian origin myths to the work of several outstanding contemporary poets, *Island of Rivers* strongly evokes the people, history, grandeur, and allure of one of our nation's premier wilderness parks.

Gathered in this volume are essays (some long out of print) by such well-known American conservation writers as William O. Douglas, Gifford Pinchot, James Wickersham, and E.B. Webster. Fans of Northwest writing should delight in Murray Morgan's version of the infamous Hoh River elk hunt of 1937, Harvey Manning's account of a winter ascent of Mount Olympus, Ivan Doig's encounter with a winter sea at Rialto Beach, or Bruce Brown's humbling narrative, "Lost in the Woods."

Through the poet's vision we travel the Olympics from alpine vistas to fog shrouded valleys, evoking memories of campfires past and dreams of trails yet to be explored. Here is a sampling of poetry that ranges from Pulitzer Prize winners Theodore Roethke and Gary Snyder to such contemporary Northwest poets as Richard Hugo, Robert Sund, Raymond Carver, and Marvin Bell. Those who know and love the Olympics, one of the wilderness jewels of our planet, will find *Island of Rivers* to be a gem of a book. (A poem from this anthology is reprinted on page 7).

### For Reference and Reading Pleasure

Brown, Bruce: *Mountains in the Clouds*. New York: Simon and Schuster, 1982.

Fletcher, Elizabeth Huelsdonk. *The Iron Man of the Hoh, The Man Not the Myth*. Edmonds, WA: Creative Communications, 1979.

*Island of Rivers*. Seattle: Pacific Northwest Parks & Forests Association, 1988.

Kirk, Ruth: *Exploring the Olympic Peninsula*. Seattle: University of Washington Press, 1964.

Kirk, Ruth: *The Olympic Seashore*. Port Angeles, WA: Olympic Natural History Association, 1962.

McNulty, Tim, and O'Hara, Pat: *Where the Mountains Meet the Sea, Olympic National Park*. Del Mar, CA: Woodlands Press, 1984.

*Climbers Guide to the Olympics*, 2nd ed. Olympic Mountain Rescue Council. Seattle: The Mountaineers, 1979.

Spring, Ira, and Fish, Byron: *Lookouts: Firewatchers of the Cascades and Olympics*. Seattle: The Mountaineers, 1981.

Steelquist, Robert: *Olympic National Park and the Olympic Peninsula*. Seattle: Pacific Northwest Parks and Forest Association, 1985.

Stewart, Charles: *Wildflowers of the Olympics*. Nature Education Enterprises, 1972.

Tabor, Roland: *Geology of Olympic National Park*. Seattle: Pacific Northwest Parks and Forests Association, 1988.

Warren, Hank: *Olympic — The Story Behind the Scenery*. K.C. Publications, 1986.

Wood, Robert L.: *Across the Olympic Mountains: The Press Expedition*. Seattle: The Mountaineers, 1976.

Wood, Robert L.: *Men, Mules and Mountains: Lieutenant O'Neil's Olympic Expeditions*. Seattle: The Mountaineers, 1976.

Wood, Robert L.: *Olympic Mountains Trail Guide*. Seattle: The Mountaineers, 1984.

Wood, Robert L.: *Trail Country — Olympic National Park*. Seattle: The Mountaineers, 1968.

Most of these books can be purchased through the Olympic Natural History Association, 600 Park Avenue, Port Angeles, WA 98362.

Compiled by Glenn Gallison



## Ecosystem (from page 6)

pacted spotted owls, an indicator species listed as threatened in Washington state, which portends trouble for other old-growth forest-dependent wildlife populations as well.

From a conservationist perspective, this situation poses a unique challenge, and new and innovative strategies need to be considered. Simply expanding the boundaries of Olympic National Park, or adding new national forest wilderness areas will not provide a final solution. Conservationists will need to work with administrative agencies, wildlife managers, and state and local governments as well as property owners and commercial interests to devise such measures as seasonal wildlife easements, protected migration corridors, integrated habitat islands, wetland conservation, and site specific hunting and fishing restrictions.

A primary and immediate need is federal protection for a number of the peninsula's wild rivers. They are the very arteries and lifeways of the Olympic ecosystem and they must be protected from dams and destructive development.

Another important step is restoration of key fish and wildlife populations. Restoration of the once-great salmon runs of the Elwha River system is certainly a high priority, as is the reintroduction of the ecosystem's top predator species, the wolf. But these and other endeavors are utterly dependent on a thorough scientific understanding of the ecosystem, which will require an immense amount of research.

With the next half-century in mind, Olympic National Park should take the lead in pioneering an aggressive inter-agency program of baseline research into the peninsula's forest and wildlife systems. By analyzing habitat needs and monitoring conditions peninsula-wide, informed and farsighted decisions could be made to preserve and enhance this magnificent resource.

The next 50 years will tell the story for all our national parks and wilderness areas. If they are to survive intact, park managers must look beyond their park boundaries to the health of the greater ecosystems of which they are a part.

# Olympic Trails: From Deer Paths to Hikers' Haven

By Glenn Gallison  
OPA Board of Trustees

The extensive trail system of Olympic National Park traces its origins to the paths made by deer and elk. Early explorers discovered that every river bottom had its game trails, and they improved and joined them with bits of trail they made themselves. The first trails fully blazed by men were constructed by expeditions in the late nineteenth century. Early settlers on the north and east sides of the Olympics also constructed trails to move their sheep into the high country for summer grazing.

Later, the Forest Service constructed other trails to provide access to administer the Olympic Forest Reserve and protect it from fire. Whenever possible, the Forest Service followed the example set by the explorers and used the elk trails, linking them together for continuity. During the 1930s laborers from the Civilian Conservation Corps built a number of trails for the Forest Service.

When Olympic National Park was established in 1938 the National Park Service inherited much of the existing trail system and added several new ones. A few other early Forest Service trails were dropped from the system and are no longer maintained. Trail maintenance priorities focus on the most popular hiking routes. Thanks to the increased budgets of recent years, most of the major trunk trails are in excellent condition with improved drainage structures, good



PHOTO BY BOB AND IRA SPRING

puncheon, and in swamp areas built-up gravel sections called turnpikes.

Anyone wishing to explore the Olympic's will find Robert Wood's *Olympic Mountains Trail Guide* an excellent reference for planning trips and a valuable companion on the trail. Bob, a member of the OPA Board of Trustees, has hiked all of the trails at least once, and some of his favorites many times. His love of the Olympics pervades this guidebook. We thank him for his great contribution to all who would explore and appreciate the Olympic Mountains over the 900 miles of trail on both Forest Service and Park Service lands.



## Wildlife (from page 6)

The reproductive success of bald eagles is being monitored along the Pacific coastal area. Helicopter surveys each spring and summer locate active nests and young birds produced in some 20 nest territories. This year nests that failed to produce young were examined for evidence of biocontaminants in prey remains at the site.

A new program to inventory and monitor human impacts on intertidal biotic communities is now underway along the Pacific coastal area. In 1988-89, a reconnaissance study will be conducted to classify and initially describe intertidal ecosystems and landforms, and assist in developing improved monitoring procedures at a number of locations.

All in all, prospects in the next 50 years for most wildlife species in the park are rather encouraging but not without problems. Mountain goats will be removed or at least controlled. Minimizing the impacts of adjoining land uses and illegal hunting will require increasing attention and better information. Scientific monitoring and cooperative programs with neighboring agencies will be essential to the future of an increasing number of wildlife species. Whether or not restoration of the timber wolf will ever be a realistic possibility is unclear.

## ★ Olympic Park Associates Membership ★

Your membership supports OPA's ongoing efforts to protect the wilderness and natural values of the Olympic Peninsula. Make sure your voice is heard! If you have not renewed your membership in the past year, please do so now. And spread the word...tell your friends about OPA or give a gift membership to someone who shares your concerns. Every member counts!

I wish to support the objectives of the Olympic Park Associates, and enclose dues for (check) one  , two  , or  years. Renewal  New Member  Gift  .

\$5/year Regular

\$2/year Student

\$2/year Retired

\$10/year Associate Organization

\$10 or more/year Contributing

\$50 Life (no further dues)

Name

Address

City  State  Zip

Telephone

If Gift, from

Mail to: Laura Zalesky, Membership Chair, 2433 Del Campo Dr., Everett, WA 98209

### Olympic Park Associates Board of Trustees

\*President: Polly Dyer, Seattle  
 \*Vice President: Tim McNulty, Quilcene  
 \*Secretary: Hazel Wolf, Seattle  
 \*Treasurer: John Anderson, Seattle

Howard Apollonio, Bellingham  
 Pat Carey, Bremerton  
 Glenn Gallison, Port Angeles  
 Patrick Goldsworthy, Seattle  
 Carsten Lien, Seattle

\*Harry Lydiard, Port Angeles  
 Sandy Marvinney, Seattle  
 Johsel Namkung, Seattle

\*Donna Osseward, Seattle  
 Richard Rutz, Seattle  
 Ira Spring, Edmonds  
 Edward Tisch, Port Angeles  
 Lynn Weir, Seattle  
 Norman Winn, Seattle  
 Robert Wood, Seattle

\*Philip Zalesky, Everett  
 (\*Member of Executive Committee)

Membership Chair: Laura Zalesky  
 Newsletter Editor: Sandy Marvinney

*Past Presidents:* Irving Clark, Leo Gallagher,  
 William Brocklin, John Osseward, Phil Zalesky

## High-Dry Olympics (from page 7)

British Columbia, Idaho, Montana, even Wyoming and Utah. During the Pleistocene these peaks extended above the glacial ice sheets, providing refuge for numerous boreal and cordilleran species. Some of the Pleistocene occupants may have been recent arrivals; however, others were long-term residents already evolving into endemic violets, fleabanes, and bell flowers.

Having survived the ice age and warm postglacial periods, the Pleistocene relics now occur as disjunct populations, sometimes widely separated from their ancestral stocks. There are populations of arctic willows, boreal saxifrages, buttercups, and moss campion. Several species have their closest relatives in the Wenatchee Mountains, which occupy a similar rain shadow east of the Cascades. There is also a locoweed from northeastern Washington, a sedge from the leeward slopes of the Rockies, and possibly some brand new (undescribed) taxa.

The existence of this unique, partially endemic flora requires that we pay close attention to the high-dry Olympics. Some of the disjuncts are growing very close to their ecological limits, occurring as isolated populations with dangerously small gene pools. These populations may be faced with local extinction, either natural or accelerated. One rare fern, for example, is known from a single rock near Buckhorn Pass. A widely disjunct bluegrass seems to be restricted to several ledges in that same general area. The snow douglasia has not been seen in the Olympics since its initial collection on Blue Mountain over 40 years ago!

Some of the rare plants are known only in Olympic National Forest and have limited protection at this time. Mountain goats continue to threaten the species they feed upon and trample. Human impact, though minimal, remains a constant consideration. As years go by, the high-dry Olympics will require the continuous vigilance of concerned citizens and organizations such as OPA. Olympic National Park is only 50 years into a botanical history that goes back millions, and that we hope will evolve naturally into the future.



## VOICE of the Wild Olympics

Vol. 10 No. 1 • October 1988

Sandy Marvinney, Editor

### Olympic Park Associates

13245 - 40th Avenue NE  
 Seattle, Washington 98125