



VOICE of the Wild Olympics

Volume 9 Number 1

OLYMPIC PARK ASSOCIATES NEWSLETTER

Winter 1987

Olympic Forest Plan Would Decimate Old Growth



PHOTOS BY STEVE JOHNSON

The Forest of the Future: This?

Or This?

Left: Toby Thaler points to a clearcut boundary sign on an old growth cedar in the Upper Skokomish River drainage. Right: Clearcuts above the South Fork Skokomish River.

By Tim McNulty

Old growth in Olympic National Forest is slated for the ax under the Draft Forest Plan and Environmental Impact Statement released in December. The final plan, due out later this year following a period of public review and comment, will allocate land and resource uses for the next 10 to 15 years and set management direction for the next 50 years.

Of special concern to conservationists is the fate of 87,000 acres of undeveloped roadless land that were not selected for protection in the National Wilderness Preservation System. Some 37,000 acres of old growth, including most of the critical low-elevation habitat, would be clearcut in the first decade of the plan,

and by the fifth decade, less than half of the old giants standing today would remain. Also of concern are the many wild and free-flowing rivers that qualify for National Wild and Scenic Rivers protection. Off-road vehicle use of undeveloped portions of the forest is another key issue, as is habitat protection for
(continued on page 7)

★ The Voice Is Heard Again ★

The Voice of the Wild Olympics is back and will again be published at least twice a year. In this issue:

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Elwha River Dams Need to Go! Intervention Granted by FERC

By Polly Dyer

Intervention has been granted by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) in the application for relicensing of the Elwha River hydroelectric dams -- the Glines Canyon site in Olympic National Park and the Lower Elwha Dam outside ONP. Intervenors are Olympic Park Associates, Seattle Audubon Society, Sierra Club, and Friends of the Earth. Also granted intervention were the National Marine Fisheries Service and the Point No Point Treaty Council. The Glines Canyon Dam was licensed in 1926 to the predecessor of Crown Zellerbach Corporation (now owned by James River Paper Company) to build and operate the dam for 50 years. It has been operated on a year-to-year basis since the license expired in 1976.

In 1986 Senator Dan Evans and Congressman Al Swift included provisions in their boundary adjustment bills for Olympic Park to require that "the Secretary of the Interior shall complete a study and review of the feasibility, effects, including but not limited to environmental and socioeconomic, and procedures, including the development of a resources management plan and engineering plan, of removal of the Glines Canyon dam...." This section was withdrawn when a House of Representatives committee objected (possibly due to objections by sponsors of pending legislation related to water impoundments affecting national parks and monuments and the transfer of relicensing of existing hydro-power projects to the National Park Service). Senator Evans' bill also would have provided replacement electric power for the James River Paper Company).

Olympic Park Associates finds that the statutory obligation as defined in the National Park Act of 1916 mandates that the National Park Service pass on unimpaired to future generations the resources under its care. OPA believes it is incumbent on the Park Service to achieve this goal, and that the expired licenses for the Elwha dams clearly present them with an excellent opportunity to restore not only the fisheries lost to the Elwha's river system, but to regenerate gradually

the lost ecological valley and streamside habitats for Olympic Park's other wild-life and plant life.

Both the Glines Canyon and Lower Elwha dams were installed, contrary to then existing laws, without providing passage for anadromous fish. Olympic National Park, together with fishery agencies and Indian tribes, are laudably undertaking the restoration of anadromous fish above the Glines Canyon Dam, with the expectation that a sufficient number would survive downstream passage through the turbines. Unfortunately, ONP seems to think that relicensing the Glines Canyon Dam every ten years is necessary for the fish project. Olympic Park Associates disagrees and has been advised that the restored fishery will survive once the dams are removed.

Olympic Park Associates is encouraging Senator Dan Evans and Congressman Al Swift to introduce the same legislation as included in Evans' 1986 draft bill. If enacted, it would be a major step toward reclaiming this integral part of the Park's lost natural heritage in the Elwha River valley, and would be a most outstanding "gift" for Olympic National Park's 50th Anniversary on June 30, 1988.

YOU CAN HELP. Write to Senator Evans and Congressman Swift and urge them to introduce legislation to authorize studies on removal of the Elwha dams. (U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C. 20510; U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, D.C. 20515).

Entrance Fee Now Charged at Olympic

For the first time in Park history, visitors to Olympic National Park must pay an entrance fee. A \$3 per vehicle fee is now charged at the three most heavily used entry points: Hurricane Ridge, Hoh Rain Forest and Soleduck Valley. No fee will be charged at 13 other entrances to the Park. ONP is among 134 national parks and historic sites nationwide where entrance fees are being introduced or increased. The money generated from the fees, an estimated \$42 million nationally, will be used for park upkeep and visitor services, including public education and science programs. Olympic Park is expected to generate approximately \$246,300 in annual revenues.

The Gray Wolf: Return to the Olympics?

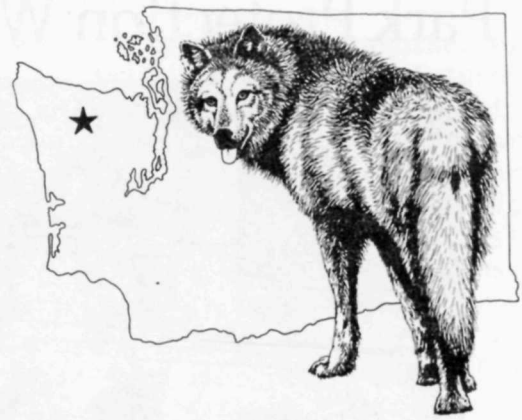
By Tim McNulty

At the turn of the century, the "last wilderness" of the Olympic Mountains was still an intact natural ecosystem. Self-regulated predator/prey cycles were at work keeping elk and black-tail deer populations healthy and in balance with the environment. While cougar and occasionally coyote preyed on deer, the major predator for the distinctive Roosevelt elk was the wolf. The wolves that roamed the deep virgin forests of the Olympics were *Canis lupus fuscus*, medium sized reddish gray wolves well adapted to their rugged, mountainous range.

The Olympic wolf figured importantly in coastal Indian myth and ritual, and during the early white settlement of the region, wolves were described as "numerous" and "very abundant." They maintained a stable population in dynamic equilibrium with their prey species, and their strangely haunting music graced the valleys and ridges of the wilderness mountains. But the wolf's song would not echo among the Olympics for long.

As early as 1890 area settlers began an ambitious campaign to eradicate the wolf from its native habitat. Using rifles, traps, and trychnine-laced carcasses, and subsidized with state and federal bounties, ranchers and government trappers decimated wolf populations and severely reduced native populations of cougar, coyote, and other predator species as well. In 1920 the last documented wolf was trapped on the Elwha River, and though random sightings continue to be reported in the Olympics, biologists generally consider the wolf extirpated from its native range.

Today, Olympic National Park and its surrounding wilderness remain one of the few essentially intact wild ecosystems in North America, a rea-



son that Olympic Park was designated as one of UNESCO's first Biosphere Reserves and a World Heritage Site. Olympic is one of the jewels of our national park system, and since its creation in 1938 it has been managed to preserve its native wildlife populations. Olympic is a rare example of a pristine wilderness park, but what is a wilderness without one of its most socially evolved, and probably most intelligent inhabitants? And how much longer will the slopes and ridges of the Olympics remain empty of the wolf's majestic song?

These questions and many more have been posed by conservationists and biologists alike for decades. As early as 1935, Adolf Murie proposed reintroduction of the wolf to the Olympics. In 1975 researchers at the Evergreen State College published a case study for reintroduction that concluded that a sizable popu-

lation of wolves was ecologically feasible in Olympic Park. In 1981 a special advisory committee to the National Park Service indentified Olympic as one of the two best wolf reintroduction locations in the entire park system.

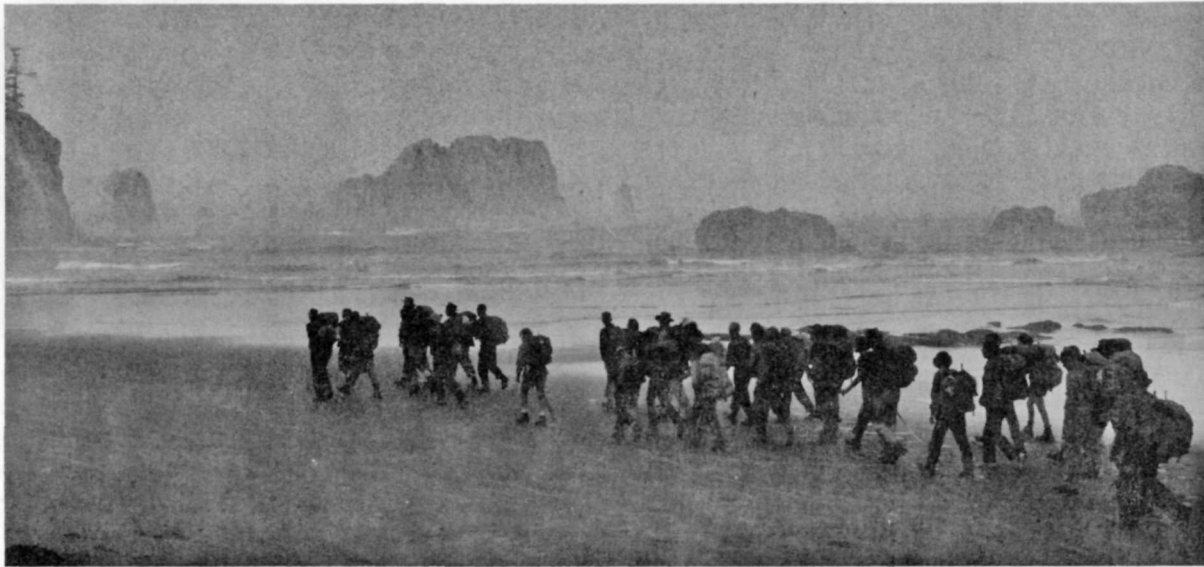
In 1985 biologists, conservationists, and wolf enthusiasts organized the Washington Wolf Project. Its goal is "to do research and public education on the feasibility of reestablishing wild wolves (in Olympic and North Cascades Na- (continued on page 8)

Canis lupus fuscus



PHOTO BY CARL COOK

Park Protection Won for Fragile Coastal Zones



A historic milestone in the long struggle to safeguard our coastal resources: In 1958 Justice William O. Douglas led some 70 conservationists (including several current OPA board members) on a three-day hike to protest plans for a coastal highway. These rocks and intertidal zone are now protected within Olympic National Park.

By Phil Zalesky

Quillayute Needles and Flattery Rocks, the intertidal zones, and the surface waters and submerged lands of Lake Ozette and Ozette River are part of the significant additions to Olympic National Park contained in legislation signed by the President on November 7, 1986. Along with hydrographic boundary adjustments between Olympic National Park and National Forest (see page 6), these coastal treasures make up one of the most significant pieces of legislation for ONP since the addition of Point of the Arches to the Park in 1976. Protection of these areas was urged when ONP was dedicated a World Heritage Site and International Biosphere Reserve in 1985. The legislation is the end result of years of effort by Olympic Park Associates to protect critical resources and ensure the integrity of the Park and the purposes for which it was established.

Quillayute Needles & Flattery Rocks

The addition of Quillayute Needles and Flattery Rocks could have long-range significance in protecting the Park against possible offshore oil leases. At one time, former Secretary of the Interior James Watt hinted at the possibility of granting such leases along the Washington coast. These two additions will give us far more clout to fight any future pro-

posals to grant offshore oil leases near the Park. The Fish and Wildlife Service had no special program for patrolling or protecting the islands. Now that jurisdiction has been transferred to Olympic National Park, the islands can come under a more watchful and protective eye. In addition, research on the islands' flora and fauna can be coordinated with the linked ecosystem of islands, ocean, intertidal zone, and the uplands.

OPA board member Carsten Lien gave our efforts to protect these areas a significant boost when he was in Washington, D.C. doing research for a book on the history of Olympic Park. The legislation was being marked up at the time so he visited Sen. Dan Evans to explain the importance of the offshore rocks and islands to the coastal ecosystem. The senator's staff then consulted with the Fish and Wildlife Service, which concurred in the transfer.

Intertidal Zone & Coastal Strip

The rugged coast of Olympic National Park is one of the longest remaining undeveloped coastlines in the contiguous United States (57 miles). The intertidal zone is strikingly beautiful and diverse, but also extremely fragile. The number of visitors continues to rise, causing significant negative impact on life in the tidal

pools. For example, one exploiter tried to pay people to harvest the gooseneck barnacle for shipment to Spain where the delicacy would bring a good price.

How could this happen? The intertidal zone was owned and controlled by several state agencies, and ONP was unable to take legal action to protect the tidal creatures. As a bill to revised the hydrographic boundaries for the Park began to take shape, OPA President Polly Dyer contacted Governor Booth Gardner, who then entered into negotiations with the Department of the Interior to bring the intertidal zone under Park jurisdiction. Under the new law, clam digging, smelt fishing, and mussel gathering will be permitted but state agencies will have the right to establish limits on these resources. NPS will now be able to promulgate rules to ensure against further destruction of this fragile area.

Ozette Lake & River

Legislation passed in 1953 and 1976 left Ozette Lake, the third largest freshwater body in the state, as a state-owned enclave totally surrounded by the Park. The lake was a potential time bomb, open to any use or industrial operation that may have been proposed. In fact, passage of this legislation nipped plans for one such operation in the bud. In 1983 the Port Angeles Chamber of Commerce proposed a logbooming operation for the lake. In the past, motorboat races have also been held in this wilderness setting. Under the new law, the surface waters and submerged lands of Ozette Lake and River are now within the protection of the Park.

Driftwood frames a rock off South Beach.



PHOTO BY BOB & IRA SPRING

Accolades Are in Order!

This legislation represents another evolutionary stride to ensure the future integrity of Olympic National Park, but it might not have occurred with the efforts of an organization such as Olympic Park Associates. Accolades are in order for OPA board members Polly Dyer and Carsten Lien, and also for Senators Dan Evans and Slade Gorton, Governor Booth Gardner, Congressman Al Swift, and officials of Olympic National Park and the National Park Service.

Soleduck Road Project Altered To Preserve Old Growth Trees

Reconstruction of the Soleduck Road began last fall, but it will not involve the removal of 4,000 old-growth trees as specified in the original environmental assessment. Protests by OPA and several other conservation groups led to several meetings and field trips with Olympic National Park and Federal Highway Administration officials (FHA designs and is responsible for road reconstruction and repair in national parks).

As a result, the project was altered to reduce the width of the clearing and the amount of construction disturbance. The maximum number of trees over two feet in diameter to be felled is now reduced to 400. Some of the downed trees will be left on the ground, serving as "nurse" logs for seedlings and decaying as part of the natural process. The finished road will have nine-foot lanes with two-foot paved shoulders and a two-foot vegetation zone. The amount of guard rail also has been reduced from 9,700 to 3,900 linear feet. The Soleduck Road, hot springs resort, and trailhead will be closed for the next year, with reopening expected in the spring of 1988.

We appreciate the cooperation of several National Park Service officials: NPS Director William Mott, who made a special trip to inspect the road and the proposal; Acting Regional Director William Briggles, who delayed the project until it could be examined fully; and Superintendent Robert Chandler, who met willingly with us and expedited the alterations in the proposed construction.

Forest Plan (from page 1)

old-growth dependent wildlife, winter range for game species, protection for important salmon spawning areas, excessive road construction, and the amount of timber to be taken from the National Forest in the coming decades.

The Forest Service preferred alternative (C) in the plan falls short in all these areas. Prime wilderness quality recreation areas in the Dungeness, Duckabush, and Quinault watersheds were left open to timber production. Motorized use would be allowed on the Dungeness, Deer Ridge, Mt. Townsend, Mt. Jupiter, Duckabush, and South Fork Skokomish trails. All of these trails access either Olympic National Park or adjacent wilderness areas, and most are presently closed to motorized use. Of the 12 pristine, free-flowing rivers in the forest that deserve Wild and Scenic designation, only the Gray Wolf and Duckabush were recommended. Such valuable and endangered salmon-producing streams as the Dosewallips, Dungeness, South Fork Skokomish, and Soleduck were not recommended, nor were whitewater and recreational rivers such as the Hamma Hamma, the East and West Fork Humptulips, or the Stikum.

Conservationists are supporting Alternative H in the draft plan. This alternative, with some additions, would go a long

way toward solving many of the shortcomings of the proposed plan. Everyone receiving the Voice has been sent a separate alert put together by the Olympic Task Force, of which OPA is a member. The alert outlines specific areas that need your support and will assist you in making an effective response to the Forest Service's proposed plan.

TIME IS SHORT - WRITE TODAY! Letters commenting on the draft plan must be post-marked by March 14. Write to: Ted C. Stubblefield, Forest Supervisor, Olympic National Forest, PO Box 2288, Olympia, WA 98507. Send copies of your letter to your senators and local congressman.

Richard Rutz Elected to OPA Board

Richard Rutz was elected to the OPA Board of Directors at its November meeting. He has extensive experience working on conservation issues in the state including wilderness preservation, fish and wildlife habitat protection, land planning, and energy and hydropower. He also serves on the board of the Northwest Conservation Commission, on the conservation executive committee of The Mountaineers, and as science advisor to Seattle Audubon. He holds a PhD in zoology from the University of Wisconsin and is employed as an environmental analyst.



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

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VOICE of the Wild Olympics

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Sandy Marvinney, Editor

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Olympic Wolves (from page 3)

petition the United States Department of the Interior and other appropriate federal and state agencies to initiate a wolf recovery plan in Washington consistent with their obligations under the Endangered Species Act."

Project Coordinator Peter Jenkins hopes that the year 2000 will see the wolf safely reestablished in Washington. But the task is a large one and an immense amount of research must be done and countless questions answered before wild wolves can be reintroduced. Support will be needed from everyone who hopes that one day the Olympics will again be graced with what the northern coastal tribes believed to be its guardian presence -- the wolf.

For further information, contact: Peter Jenkins, Coordinator, Washington Wolf Project, 2121 4th Ave., Suite 2300, Seattle, WA 98121 (206/443-9586).



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