



**National Park Service**  
**U.S. Department of the Interior**

Olympic National Park

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## Olympic National Park News Release

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For Immediate Release

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### **Olympic National Park Invites Public Review and Comment on Draft General Management Plan**

The Olympic National Park Draft General Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement (Draft GMP/EIS) has been released for public review and comment, announced Superintendent Bill Laitner today. The 90-day public comment will begin this Friday, June 16 and continue through September 15, 2006.

“This is a long-term, comprehensive plan that sets a course for the park over the next 15 to 20 years,” explained Laitner. “We encourage anyone interested in the future of Olympic National Park to review the plan during the next 90 days and provide us with their thoughts and input.”

The Draft GMP/EIS provides extensive information about current conditions in Olympic National Park, including visitor facilities and access, natural and cultural resources and the park’s role within the surrounding region. In addition, the document describes a no-action alternative and three different action alternatives for managing the park, including the National Park Service’s preferred alternative. The environmental impacts of each alternative are also analyzed.

The NPS preferred alternative aims to protect natural and cultural resources while improving visitor experiences and was developed using components of the other alternatives and the extensive public input provided earlier in the planning process.

Key points of the NPS preferred alternative include:

- Access to existing developed areas, along with park trails, campgrounds, and facilities would be kept at approximately their current levels.
- Improvements to the downhill ski support facilities at Hurricane Ridge could be made, with no area expansion or increase in use above current (normal year) use levels.
- Three boundary adjustments are considered (in the Lake Crescent, Ozette and Queets areas) to better protect watersheds and habitat for wildlife including fish and elk. These may include purchases from willing sellers only and/or possible land exchanges with the U.S. Forest Service and the State of Washington Department of Natural Resources.

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- Kalaloch Lodge, cabins, and related facilities would be relocated outside the active erosion and channel migration zones and outside the floodplain of Kalaloch Creek.
- The visitor information station at Kalaloch would be removed and a multi-agency facility would be constructed to better serve the needs of the visiting public. This facility would feature the coastal marine and cultural resources of the area.
- The Hoh Visitor Center may be improved to provide a higher quality visitor experience.
- Parkwide policies for wilderness management are proposed, setting the foundation for the Wilderness Management Planning process, now scheduled to begin in late 2007.

Even when completed, a GMP does not guarantee funding for implementing the approved plan. Once completed, the plan will provide guidance and a long-term vision for park management and incremental steps will be taken to reach park management goals and objectives.

The 400-page draft plan is available in a variety of formats for public review.

The Draft GMP/EIS is available online at the National Park Service planning website <http://parkplanning.nps.gov>.

Review copies are also available at the following area libraries:

The Evergreen State College Daniel J. Evans Library;  
 Kitsap Regional Library, Bremerton Branch;  
 North Olympic Library System Clallam Bay, Forks, Port Angeles, and Sequim branches;  
 Peninsula College Library;  
 Port Townsend Public Library;  
 Seattle Public Library;  
 Tacoma Public Library;  
 Timberland Regional Libraries, Aberdeen, Amanda Park, Hoodspoint, and Hoquiam branches;  
 University of Washington Library;  
 William G. Reed Public Library; and,  
 Wilson Library, Western Washington University.

Review copies are also available at the Olympic National Park Visitor Center in Port Angeles and the Olympic National Park Information Station in Forks.

Interested individuals and groups may request a printed or CD version of the document by calling (360) 565-3004.

The public is also invited to attend one of eight scheduled open houses in August to learn more about the Draft General Management Plan and its alternatives. Park staff will be available to discuss the plan and answer questions and there will be poster displays, maps and information, along with opportunities for people to provide their comments on the Draft GMP/EIS.

The open houses are scheduled as follows:

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Open House Locations	Date	Times
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<b>Open House Locations</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Times</b>
Washington State Department of Natural Resources 411 Tillicum Lane Forks, WA 360-374-6131	August 14	2 pm to 4 pm 5 pm to 8 pm
Timberland Library, Amanda Park 6118 U.S. Highway 101 Amanda Park, WA 360-288-2725	August 16	5 pm to 8 pm
Sekiu Community Hall 60 Rice Street Sekiu, WA 360-963-2329	August 17	5 pm to 8 pm
Vern Burton Main Hall 308 East 4 <sup>th</sup> Street Port Angeles, WA 360-417-4550	August 18	2 pm to 4 pm 5 pm to 8 pm
Carrie Blake Park – Guy Cole Hall 202 North Blake Street Sequim, WA 360-683-4139	August 21	5 pm to 8 pm
Ridgetop Junior High School Cafeteria 10600 Hillsboro Dr, NW Silverdale, WA 360-662-1635	August 22	5 pm to 8 pm
Shelton Civic Center 525 West Cota Street Shelton, WA 360-426-2842	August 23	5 pm to 8 pm
Seattle REI 222 Yale Avenue, North Seattle, WA 206-223-1944	August 24	5 pm to 8 pm

For more information about the Olympic National Park Draft GMP/EIS, people may call the park at 360-565-3004.

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