

OLYMPIC NATIONAL PARK

WILDERNESS USE GUIDELINES - see "Olympic Coastal Strip" for hiking the coast

Olympic's backcountry is a fragile wilderness resource. You can help perpetuate this priceless resource by using minimum impact techniques and by following the regulations and suggestions listed below.

WILDERNESS USE PERMITS

*Permits are required for all overnight stays in the backcountry. They are free and can be obtained at all ranger stations, some trailheads, and the park Wilderness Information Center.

CAMPSITES

*Camp only in existing campsites or those areas devoid of vegetation. Camp at least 1/2 mile from any trailhead and avoid camping within 100 ft of water.

*In some areas, camping is permitted in designated sites only. These sites will be identified by signs, markers or camp area maps.

*The use of stoves is encouraged in all backcountry areas to minimize impact to soils & vegetation and required in some areas.

*When camping, avoid all areas undergoing revegetation efforts; signs, erosion matting & transplanted vegetation are evidence of this work. Avoid any recovering trails blocked with rocks, logs, branches or signs.

LATRINES

*When a privy is not available, dig a shallow (4-6") cat hole at least 100 feet from water and campsites. Deposit human waste and completely cover it.

*Do not locate cat holes in areas of high use especially near camping areas.

*Urinate on rocks or trails.

REFUSE

*Pack out all trash. Refuse must not be placed in privies, as this shortens their period of usefulness and must be removed by hand.

WASHING

*Minimize your use of soaps, even biodegradable types will not break down in cold water. Never wash with soap in streams or rivers. Carry out all refuse.

*Wash and soap water should be dumped on well drained soil at least 100 feet from water sources.

PETS, WEAPONS, AND VEHICLES

*Pets, weapons, bicycles, and vehicles are prohibited in the backcountry.

GIARDIASIS

*This is an intestinal disease caused by a protozoan called giardia. Giardia is carried by humans and other animals and can contaminate water supplies. A reliable treatment for giardia is to filter, chemically treat, or boil 1 minute at sea level and at higher elevations boil 5-10 minutes.

GROUP SIZE

*Group size limit for overnight trips is 12 individuals.

*Larger groups are not permitted. More than 12 people must travel and camp as distinct groups, 1/2 mile or more apart, preferably beginning from different trailheads. Some areas have group sites for parties of 6-12 people, inquire at the nearest ranger station before you hike.

TRAILS

*Stay on trails--avoid cutting switchbacks.

*When encountering stock parties, stand on the downhill side of animals and converse in normal voice with rider. Remember stock parties have the right of way.

BIKE TRAILS

*Spruce Railroad Trail along Lake Crescent is a designated bike trail.

*The paved surface of Olympic Hot Springs trail from the trailhead to Olympic Hot Springs is open to the use of bicycles.

PACKSTOCK USE

- *Contact the nearest ranger station for local requirements.
- *Pellets and rolled grain are required for supplemental stock feed.
- *A maximum of eight animals per group is allowed. Stock should not be kept in camping areas or tethered to trees.
- *Check with local Ranger station for location of stock camps.

FOOD STORAGE

- *To store food away from bears and other animals, use established wires, or lockers where available. In other areas hang all food items on a line stretched between two trees so that the bags are at least 12 feet above the ground and 10 feet from trees. Store at night and when you are away from camp.

AREAS CLOSED TO OPEN FIRES

(Stoves only)

- *These areas have been designated to protect sensitive plant communities, primarily near timberline. They are vulnerable to the impacts caused by firewood gathering, fire-building, and trampling. In order to maintain the integrity of these plant communities, the following areas are closed to open fires all year.

A. Parkwide Closures

- **West of the Elwha and North Fork Quinault Rivers....*all areas above 3500 feet in elevation are closed to open fires.
- **East of the Elwha and North Fork Quinault Rivers....*all areas above 4000 feet in elevation are closed to open fires.

B. Local Closures

- **Honeymoon Meadows and Anderson Pass area, inclusive.* All of the area from 0.5 mile below Honeymoon Meadows to Anderson Pass and Anderson Glacier Moraine, inclusive.
- **Flapjack Lakes and Gladys Divide, inclusive.* All of the area from the junction to Black & White Lakes and above to Gladys Divide, including Flapjack Lakes.

**Six Ridge, Lake Success, McGravey Lakes, Sundown Lake and Sundown Pass, inclusive.* All of the area from 1.0 mile east of the Six Ridge-Lake Success Jct., and extending west to Belview, Lake Success, McGravey Lakes, Six Ridge Pass, Sundown Pass trails, and extending 0.5 mile south of Sundown Pass, along the Sundown Pass Trail.

**Elk Lake to Glacier Meadows, inclusive.* All of the area from the side of Martin Creek below Elk Lake to and including Glacier Meadows.

**Three Lakes area.* From 1.0 mile below and 1.0 mile to the northwest of Three Lakes, including Three Lakes.

**Lakes Margaret and Mary, Martins Park, and Lakes, inclusive.* All of the area north of Low Divide summit to and including Lakes Margaret and Mary, Martins Park and Lakes.

AREAS OF LIMITED OPEN FIRES

- *The areas listed below will have a designated number () of established and managed fire-rings at selected sites; stoves only, no open fires in the surrounding zone. *Sol Duc Lake* (1), *Lower Badger Valley* (1), *Low Divide:* from Marmot Meadow north to Low Divide summit (6) .

DAILY ENTRY QUOTAS

Quotas are in effect from Memorial Day through Labor Day for:

**Lake Constance and Flapjack Lakes.* The daily limits are 20 persons for Lake Constance and 30 persons for Flapjack Lakes. Camp permits can be acquired at the Dosewallips & Staircase Ranger Stations or reserved by telephone (360) 877-5569.

**Ozette coastal area:* a limited number of permits will be available for overnight camping from Yellow Banks to .5 miles north of the Ozette River. Reservations are required and may be made by calling (360) 452-0300.

*Camping in the *Seven Lakes Basin* is limited to designated sites only. Permits must be obtained at the Eagle (formerly Soleduck) Ranger Station on a first come basis (360) 327-3524

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