

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 trips into the backcountry. They can be obtained at all ranger stations, some trailheads, and the park Wilderness Information Center (WIC) located behind the Olympic National Park Visitor Center. Permits for the Hurricane District must be obtained from the WIC. There is no additional charge for pack animals. Phone the WIC for permits and other information (360) 452-0300.

CAMPSITES

*Camp only in existing campsites or those areas naturally devoid of vegetation.

*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.

REFUSE

*Pack out all trash. Refuse must not be placed in privies.

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

*Giardia is an intestinal disease carried by humans and other animals which can contaminate water supplies. A reliable treatment for giardia is to filter, chemically treat, or boil all drinking water 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 7-12 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

Bicycles are prohibited except on the following trails: *Spruce Railroad Trail along Lake Crescent. *The paved surface of Olympic Hot Springs trail from the trailhead to Boulder Creek Bridge at the Elwha.

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

- **South Ozette Loop:* the coastal area from the Wedding Rock headland, south to the headland north of Yellow Banks. This includes campsites at Wedding Rocks, Sand Point and the South Sand Point area.
- **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.

DAILY ENTRY QUOTAS

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

**Lake Constance, Flapjack Lakes and Grand Valley.* Permits are only available from the Wilderness Information Center or the Dosewallips and Staircase Ranger Stations. Reservations for 50% of the available spaces may be obtained by calling (360) 452-0300 no more than 30 days in advance of your trip.

**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 the (360) 452-0300.

**Seven Lakes Basin* camping is limited to designated sites only. Permits must be obtained at the Wilderness Information Center or the Eagle (formerly Soleduck) Ranger Station on a first come basis (360) 327-3534.

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REDUCE
REUSE
RECYCLE