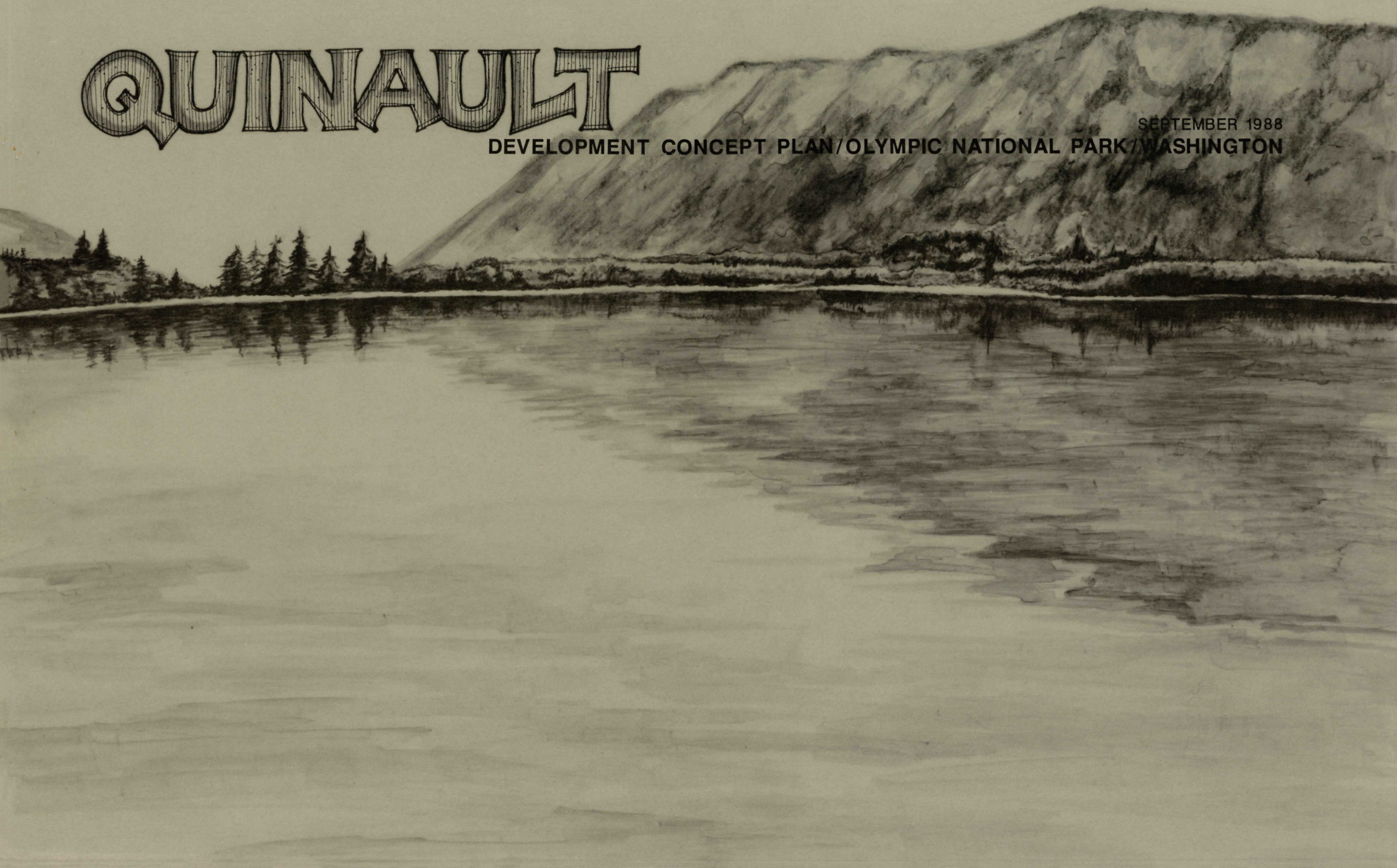


QUINNAULT

DEVELOPMENT CONCEPT PLAN/OLYMPIC NATIONAL PARK/WASHINGTON

SEPTEMBER 1988

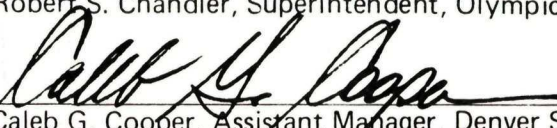


RECOMMENDED:


Robert S. Chandler, Superintendent, Olympic National Park

10/17/1988

Date


Caleb G. Cooper, Assistant Manager, Denver Service Center

10/17/1988

Date

APPROVED:


Charles H. Odegaard, Regional Director, Pacific Northwest Region

10/17/1988

Date

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
DEVELOPMENT CONCEPT PLAN
QUINULT AREA
Olympic National Park
Washington

PROPOSAL

The National Park Service (NPS) proposes to approve the Development Concept Plan for the Quinault valley of Olympic National Park which will guide NPS management of this area for the next 10 to 15 years. The emphasis of the plan is, with minimum development, to provide opportunities for dispersed recreation in a natural environment and to interpret early pioneer homesteading in the Quinault valley. The visitor opportunities will provide a sense of solitude and intimacy with the natural environment, an interpretive venture into early homesteading at the Kestner area, and a passive experience in comparison with a more active experience available along the south shore area. A complete description of the proposed actions is contained in the attached plans.

An environmental assessment was prepared that described and evaluated the impacts of the draft plan and five possible alternatives, including no-action.

WHY THE PROPOSAL WILL NOT HAVE A SIGNIFICANT EFFECT ON THE ENVIRONMENT

The plan will maintain the existing patterns of development and visitor use, and new facilities will generally be confined to previously disturbed sites. Overall, approximately 140 acres of pasture and 82 acres of clearcuts will be allowed to revert to forested land due to purchase of private properties and removal of human disturbance. No significant impacts on air quality, water quality, or fisheries would occur.

There would be no new development in floodplains or wetlands. Portions of floodplains and wetlands currently impacted by human use and development will be allowed to revert to more natural conditions.

In compliance with section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, and the programmatic memorandum of agreement between the National Park Service, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, and the National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers, comments were solicited and received from the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation and the Washington State Historic Preservation Officer. Based on these comments appropriate changes were made in the final Development Concept Plan.

The Fish and Wildlife Service has concurred with the National Park Service's determination that the plan's development concepts will not affect any listed threatened or endangered species, pending incorporation of mutually agreed upon conservation measures. As the more detailed site design plans for the Quinault area, including trail location, construction, and use, are developed the NPS will again contact the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service to further insure that any measures that may be necessary to mitigate impacts to bald eagles are incorporated into the site design plans.

The proposal will not be located in nor have any direct or significant affect on the coastal zone. Site design plans will incorporate any necessary measures to insure that impacts to the coastal zone are avoided.

PUBLIC REVIEW AND AVAILABILITY

The draft Development Concept Plan/Environmental Assessment was made available for public and agency comment on May 1, 1988. Public meetings were held May 17 - 21, 1988 at Port Angeles, Forks, Aberdeen, Quinault, and Seattle. Copies of this Finding of No Significant Impact will be sent to all those who received a copy of the environmental assessment, or submitted oral or written comments.

DETERMINATION

Based on the environmental assessment and public comment, it is the determination of the National Park Service that the proposal is not a major Federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment. Nor is the proposal without precedent or similar to one which normally requires an environmental impact statement. Therefore, in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act, an environmental impact statement will not be prepared.

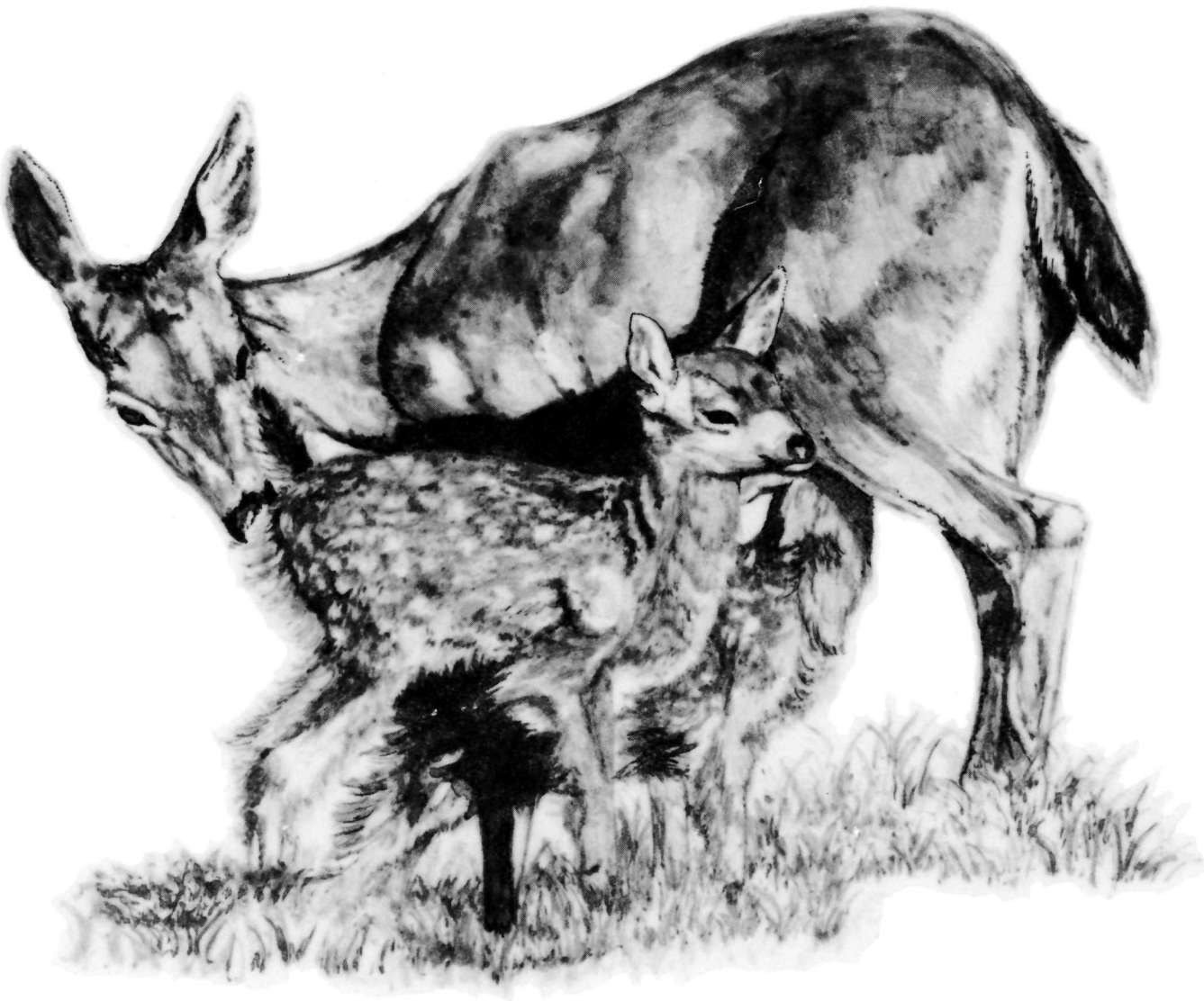
Recommended:		10/17/1988
	Superintendent,	Date
Approved:		10/17/1988
	Regional Director, Pacific Northwest Region	Date

SEPTEMBER 1988

DEVELOPMENT CONCEPT PLAN

QUINAULT AREA

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INTRODUCTION

PLANNING PROCESS

In 1976, the Master Plan for Olympic National Park was completed to provide general, park-wide guidance for management. An NPS planning effort specific to the Quinault valley has never been completed. The 1976 Master Plan contained few proposals specific to the Quinault; however, it did identify the need for cooperative, interagency recreation and resource planning on the Olympic Peninsula, including the Quinault. The U.S. Forest Service (USFS) prepared a management plan for public lands on the south shore of Quinault Lake in 1980, and is currently reexamining and updating its findings. It is therefore particularly timely for the NPS to examine its management direction for national park lands in the valley.

In 1987, a Development Concept Plan (DCP) was started to address management direction for this portion of Olympic National Park. A DCP is an intermediate planning step between the Master Plan, and the next step of site-specific design drawings. This DCP focuses on a particular developed area within the park in need of conceptual, area-wide management direction. It concentrates on facility needs and development, rather than operational or backcountry resource needs.

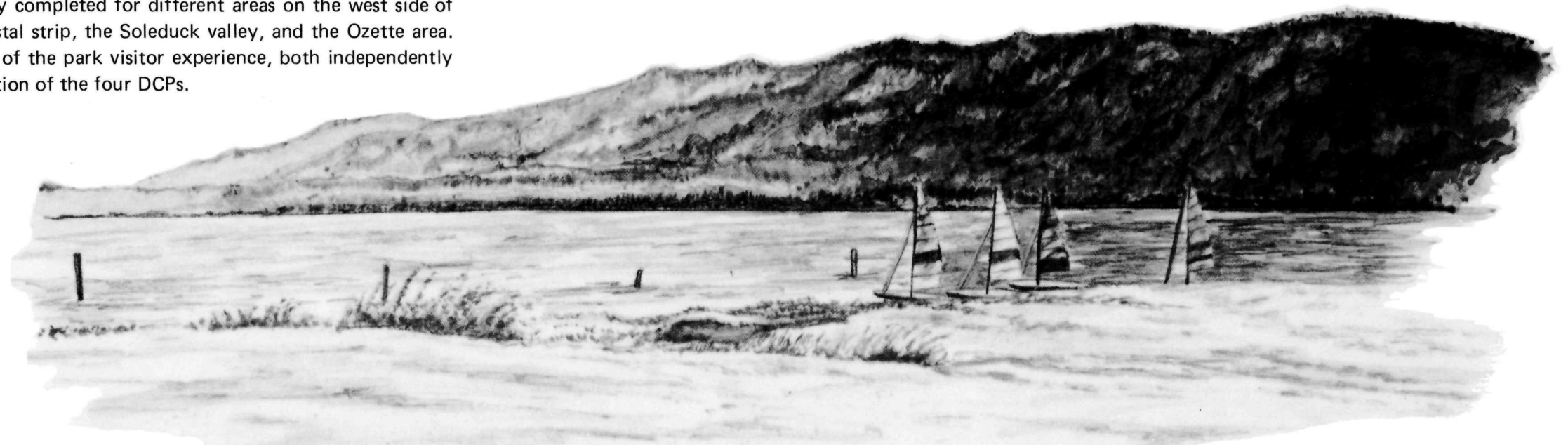
In April 1988, an Environmental Assessment/Draft DCP was completed, which presented a range of alternative management directions for the area, and the environmental impacts expected from each of these alternatives. Together with the NPS's recommended plan, presented as the "preferred alternative," other possible solutions were also presented to provide the public with a wide range of alternatives. Comments received at six public meetings and in writing were considered, revisions were made as determined by the park superintendent and regional director, and this final DCP was adopted to guide management for the next 10 to 15 years.

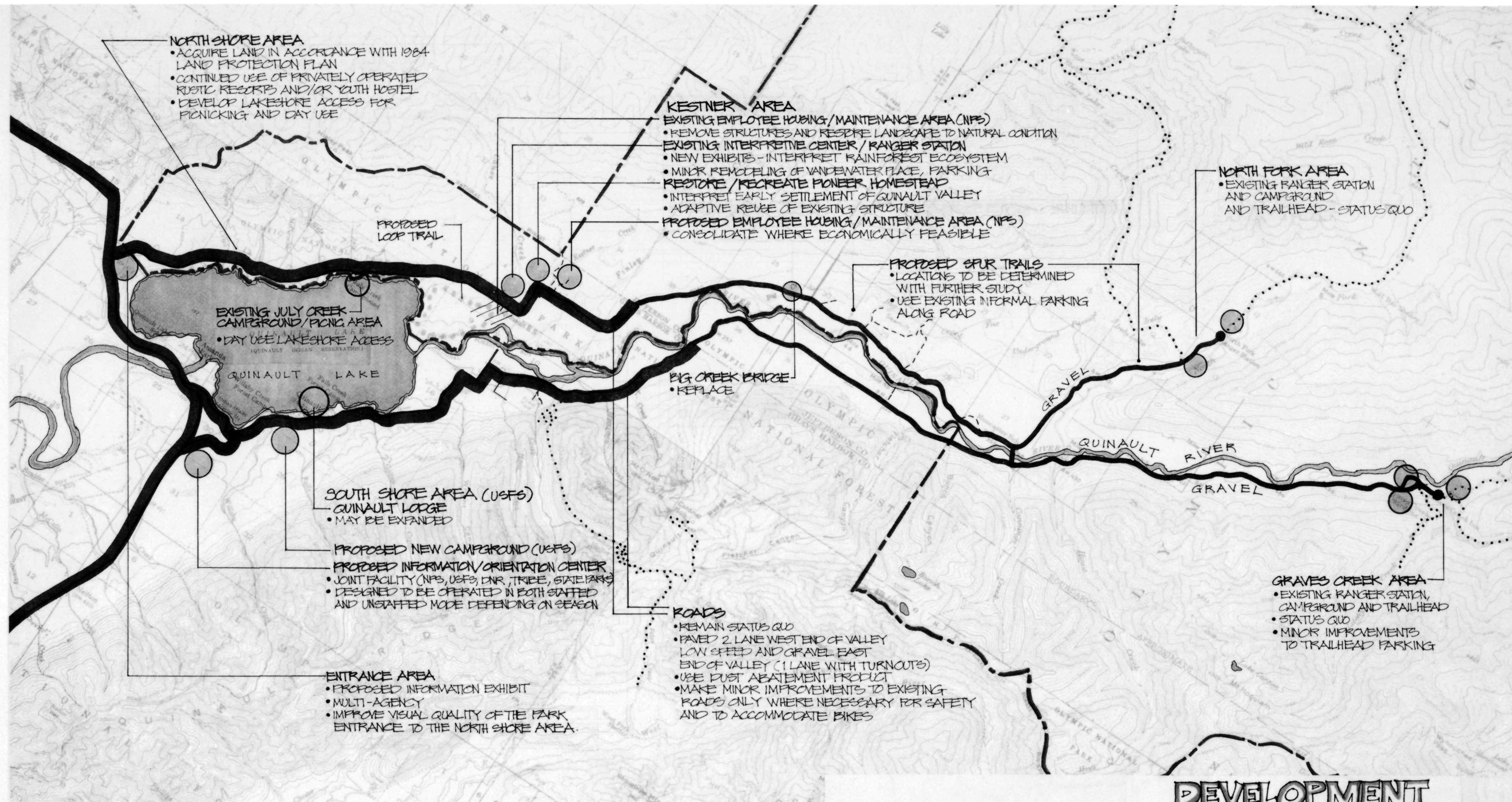
This DCP for Quinault is one of four concurrently completed for different areas on the west side of the park — the Quinault valley, the Kalaloch coastal strip, the Soleduck valley, and the Ozette area. How each area interacts with the others in terms of the park visitor experience, both independently and in combination, was considered in the preparation of the four DCPs.

PLAN SUMMARY

The DCP includes the following development concepts:

- 1) provide a visitor experience which emphasizes interaction with a natural environment, with a minimum of recreational developments;
- 2) coordinate with the USFS for them to provide the bulk of developed recreation facilities in the valley, including a new RV campground and possible expansion of the Quinault Lodge; emphasize dispersed and unstructured recreation on national park lands;
- 3) develop a multiagency information center at the junction of Highway 101 and the South Shore Road;
- 4) generally maintain roads in their current conditions; provide dust control on unpaved roads;
- 5) develop new picnic sites, trails, and lakeshore access; maintain NPS campground developments at existing levels;
- 6) maintain the interpretive center/ranger station at its existing location; consider developing a rain forest ecosystem research center at the Kestner site;
- 7) restore and interpret the historic Kestner homestead;
- 8) relocate the existing NPS employee housing and maintenance area to an area east of the Kestner site; permanent employees to use NPS purchased homes when possible; and
- 9) continue use of privately owned rustic resorts and/or youth hostel.





DESCRIPTION OF CONCEPTS

Emphasis and Experience	Emphasis is on an opportunity to interact with the temperate rain forest and with early pioneer homesteading in the Quinault valley, with minimum development. The visitor experience would provide a sense of solitude and intimacy with the natural environment; an interpretive theme of rain forest ecology emphasized with a minor theme of early homesteading at the old Kestner property; a passive experience in comparison with a more active experience available along the south shore area.	Maintenance Facility (NPS)	Consolidate a maintenance facility east of the Kestner area; remove existing maintenance facilities and restore to a natural condition. Eliminate scattered maintenance storage yards.
Interpretation and Information Facilities	Develop a multiagency information/orientation center at the junction of US 101 and the South Shore Road (staffed or unstaffed, depending on the season); develop an unstaffed multiagency information exhibit at the junction of US 101 and the North Shore Road; provide interpretive exhibits at the existing north shore interpretive center/ranger station and provide new restrooms; increase interpretation of the rain forest ecology at all interpretive areas; develop a west side peninsula homesteading theme at the old Kestner property.	Housing (NPS)	Consolidate a housing area in the Kestner area. Retain use of existing house on the Peck property, and locate seasonal housing there. Permanent employees to use NPS purchased homes when possible; if these homes must be moved, they would be moved to the Peck site; if homes not available, housing to be constructed on Peck property.
Ranger and Research Facilities	Continue using the ranger station on the North Shore Road and the seasonal ranger stations on the North Fork and Graves Creek roads; consider developing a rain forest ecosystem research center in the Kestner area with adaptive reuse of existing structures.	Roads	Roads remain status quo with minimal improvements for visual and safety reasons; paved two-lane west end of north shore, and low speed and gravel at east end of valley; use dust abatement product to minimize impact on fisheries and improve visitor experience. Improve visual quality of the park entrance to the north shore area.
Day-use Facilities and Trails	Develop lakeshore access for picnicking and day-use; day-use would continue at July Creek; expand nature trails in the Kestner area; develop spur trails from the North Shore and North Fork roads; allow bicycle use on roads, with minor road improvements; provide handicap access at July Creek campground to lakeshore. Final trail locations and seasons of use will be subject to consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.	Parking	Expand parking and improve access to interpretive center/ranger station; develop handicap parking near the Kestner site; use existing informal parking along North Shore and North Fork roads for trailhead parking; minor improvement of parking at Graves Creek trailhead.
Campground	Retain the North Fork and Graves Creek campgrounds, and walk-in camping at July Creek.	Land Acquisition	The Quinault Valley provides one of the best examples of the temperate rain forest in the Pacific Northwest. This, coupled with excellent access and a wide variety of rain forest landscapes, offers Olympic National Park visitors the opportunity to easily experience this special environment. It is also one of the best locations in the park for wildlife viewing. Fee acquisition will continue in the Quinault Valley through the continuation of the willing seller program. This will result in a gradual change in landownership and use patterns along the north shore of the lake and upper valley. The long-term objective is to establish a more natural setting throughout this area by improving elk habitat, maintaining the remaining old growth forest, and improving visual quality, both from the south shore of the lake as well as the North Shore Road. There will be, over time, improved access to the lakeshore for passive recreation pursuits. The priorities for acquisition will be: 1) elk habitat, 2) large old growth forest tracts, 3) tracts which would enhance the visual quality of the north shore area, 4) unimproved tracts in the three subdivisions, and 5) improved properties in the three subdivisions. While some land acquisition will continue, residential and agricultural uses of the area will continue into the foreseeable future. There will continue to be changes in landownership as properties are sold to new owners. Some new development will also occur as properties are developed. The National Park Service will encourage development that will help in maintaining the rural setting that now exists in most of the Quinault Valley.
Private Facilities and Services	Small, rustic family lodging (and/or youth hostel) will continue to operate on North Shore Road with no major expansion.		
Cultural Sites	Complete inventory and evaluation of the valley's cultural resources in consultation with the State Historic Preservation Officer. In the Kestner area, interpret rain forest ecology and restore/preserve pioneer homestead through use of existing structures and orchard; adaptively use other structures; and remove structures where necessary. The specifics will be determined following further study and planning. Retain the North Fork Ranger Station. The NPS will consult with the State Historic Preservation Officer in any restoration activities.		

CONSTRUCTION COST ESTIMATES



NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Interpretation and Information	\$373,000
Ranger Station	26,000
Cultural Sites	393,000
Day-use	33,000
Trails	314,000
Maintenance	476,000
Housing	448,000
Roads	440,000
Parking	210,000
Utilities	342,000
Gross Construction ¹	\$3,055,000
25% of Net ²	583,000
TOTAL COST	\$3,638,000

- 1. Net construction costs, plus construction supervision and contingencies
- 2. Advance and project planning and design costs

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As the nation's principal conservation agency, the Department of the Interior has basic responsibilities to protect and conserve our land and water, energy and minerals, fish and wildlife, and parks and recreation areas, and to ensure the wise use of all these resources. The department also has major responsibility for American Indian reservation communities and for people who live in island territories under U.S. administration.

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