



GMP Newsletter

Newsletter 2

January 2002

Dear Friends,

I invite you to join us for the next phase of the General Management Plan process, by participating in workshops to help develop alternative visions for protecting and managing Olympic National Park. This is your chance to imagine a future for the park – maybe different from today, perhaps similar. A vision for national parks usually deals with the balance between the two primary elements of national park missions – protecting resources and providing visitor enjoyment. During the planning process, various alternative visions are analyzed. Your ideas will help us develop the range of alternatives to be evaluated.

What will happen during the workshops? Small groups will work together to develop alternative visions for the park, and to describe what Olympic National Park would be like according to those visions. Each group will be provided colored markers, a large black and white map of the park, diagrams of some park developed areas, and paper for recording a vision statement and the issues that it could resolve. Each group will have two tasks during the workshop: first, to develop, describe, and illustrate a vision for the whole park. The second task will be to develop a vision for a specific area within the park, such as Hurricane Ridge, Quinault, Mora or the Hoh. Finally, group ideas will be posted and briefly described by a group representative. You may also choose to work by yourself.

Large colored maps, showing park resources and surrounding areas, or identifying issue areas will be located around the room. Park and planning team staff will be available to provide answers to your questions and to ask questions intended to help make your vision clear to us. Guidance will be provided on the limits or parameters for planning, including legal and regulatory requirements, as well as policy mandates. To help prepare you, this newsletter contains a list of thirteen decisions that need to be resolved in the General Management Plan.

Your ideas and help are very important to us and we hope that you'll attend one of the workshops listed here. Each workshop will begin promptly at the time listed and will last about three hours. We hope you'll enjoy this chance to contribute to the planning process and help define the range of alternatives to be analyzed.

David K. Morris
Superintendent, Olympic National Park

Workshop Times and Locations

Monday, January 28
6:00 pm - 9:00 pm
Silverdale, WA

WestCoast Silverdale Hotel
3073 NW Bucklin Hill Road

Tuesday, January 29
6:00 pm - 9:00 pm
Port Angeles, WA

North Olympic Library
2210 South Peabody Street

Wednesday, January 30
6:00 pm - 9:00 pm
Forks, WA

Olympic Natural Resources Ctr.
1455 South Forks Avenue

Wednesday, January 30
6:00 pm - 9:00 pm
Amanda Park, WA

S. Shore Quinault Ranger Station
353 South Shore Road

Thursday, January 31
5:45 pm - 8:45 pm
Seattle, WA

Seattle REI, South Auditorium
222 Yale Avenue North

Planning Issues and Concerns

Hundreds of ideas and comments were received during the General Management Plan (GMP) public scoping meetings held this past September and October. Other comments came by letter, comment form, and email. Every idea was read and grouped with others according to topic. The ideas were then separated based on whether they can or need to be addressed in the GMP. While all of comments are valuable, some will not be addressed in the GMP, based on the reasons described below.

Since GMPs take a long-range, broad, conceptual view, issues within the GMP will be addressed in a broad, conceptual way. In other words, the GMP will deal with the big “*what*” issues – what the park could be like in the future. Later, in follow-up implementation plans, the park will address comments on *how* to accomplish *what* the park will be like. Therefore, specific ideas and detail-oriented comments were set aside.

Some comments discussed things that *must* be done, according to law, regulations and policy, so there is no decision to be made in the GMP. Another category of comments was “other” comments – these comments were also not related to any decision that needs be made in the GMP.

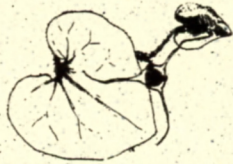
The remaining comments fall into topic areas where decisions need to be made within the GMP and for which there are alternative approaches that could be taken. This last group of comments was categorized into 13 broad decision topics for the GMP, which are grouped under the headings: Resource Protection, Wilderness, Visitor Experience, Access to and Around the Park, and Partnerships.

During the workshops you will be asked to answer, “What is your vision’s approach to each decision?” Please review the decision topics on the facing page; information noted in parentheses provide illustrations, lists some challenges being faced, or points out a “must be done” topic.

Decisions to be Made within the GMP

Resource Protection

1. Using sound science to monitor and manage natural resources, to what extent should Olympic National Park manage natural processes, seek to restore natural systems altered by humans, or let human-altered ecological processes dominate? (Issues relating to this decision topic include flood plains and erosion, stream dynamics, Threatened and Endangered species habitat and extirpated species.)
2. In what ways and to what extent should Olympic emphasize cultural resource protection and interpretation given that the park's enabling legislation stresses natural resource protection?
3. What adjustments, if any, could be made to present park and wilderness boundaries in order to fulfill the park's mission, purpose and significance?



Wilderness

1. Consistent with wilderness values, what experiences and resource conditions should occur in the Olympic National Park wilderness? (Examples of experiences and conditions include solitude, functioning ecosystems, natural sounds and smells, visitor self-sufficiency and responsibility) Consistent with wilderness values, what facilities could there be in the wilderness? (Facilities include trails, designated camping spots, historic shelters, bridges, and signs.)

Visitor Experiences

1. How can the park accommodate anticipated visitation increases as well as diverse visitor needs and expectations, while maintaining high quality visitor experiences and preserving park resources? (Possibilities include concentrating versus dispersing visitor use, establishing limits or quotas, providing education and orientation.)
2. What types and levels of educational and recreational activities could the park accommodate, while still protecting park resources and promoting stewardship? (Examples of activities include hiking, camping, wildlife watching, photography, downhill and cross-country skiing, camping, boating, surfing, wind surfing, etc.)
3. What are the ways and degree to which the park could provide education and interpretation to park visitors versus providing outreach programs?
4. Without compromising park resources, what types, sizes, and locations of facilities could be provided to support park activities and visitor experiences? Should they be located in or outside of the park? To what extent could uses be separated to avoid visitor or operational conflicts?



Access to and around the Park

1. What are the ways and to what extent can safe, efficient, park oriented visitor experiences be provided within the park, through the use of public or private transit, bicycles or other non-traditional transportation options?
2. To what extent can there be convenient public road and trail access to visitor destinations without encouraging or causing impacts to natural processes or park resources? (For example, how could problems caused by short-cut trails to the beach, multiple access points into the park, and roads and trails in river valleys be avoided?)

Partnerships

1. What are the ways and extent to which the park could develop and work effectively with tribal, public, and private partnerships to protect resources and provide for visitor enjoyment?
2. What are the ways and to what extent could the park protect private property and treaty rights within park boundaries, while preserving park resources and providing visitor enjoyment?

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