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OLYMPIC NATIONAL PARK - PUBLIC HEARING

VERN BURTON COMMUNITY CENTER

MAY 4TH, 1995

7:00 P.M.

LISA C. MC ANENY

COURT REPORTER

327 W. Maple

Sequim, Washington

360-683-7704

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4 Public Meeting is called to order;

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6 MR. MORRIS: I think enough people are seated --
7 My name is David Morris and I'm the Superintendent of Olympic
8 National Parks, I'd like to welcome you tonight. Thank you for
9 coming. We're here to listen to you, you've pretty much heard
10 through the documents and other sources what the National Park is
11 recommending and now it's your turn to give us your suggestions
12 and thoughts. My remarks are going to be very short. Our
13 facilitator -- I would like to introduce a number of people and then
14 we can get on with the meeting. First of all, this is Alan AtKisson he
15 is with the firm AtKisson and Associates, and he will be facilitating
16 the meeting tonight.

17 I'd like to introduce to you Bill Walters, to my left. Bill is the
18 acting Regional Director of National Parks in Seattle and he is the
19 next level of decision making for this process. And we are at a
20 process right now that really started in 1991, in March 21st in this
21 year we released a draft, Environmental Impact Statement that went
22 on review for 60 days, we have since extended that for 45 more so
23 that now we have a public review forum lasting until July 17th,
24 evaluating your comments and preparing a final Environmental
25 Impact Statement and then roughly 30 days later we'll release a
record of decision with the final decision on this particular process.

So, with that very brief introduction, I'd like to turn the

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3 meeting over to Alan.

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5 MR. ATKISSON: Thank you, Dave. On behalf of Olympic
6 National Park, I would like to welcome you to this public meeting.
7 My name's Alan AtKisson and I've been asked to facilitate. My job is
8 essentially to make sure we stay on track, that everyone has a fair
9 and equal opportunity to participate and to be heard. In a minute
10 I'm going to introduce Barb Maynes, who is going to be presenting a
11 short informational slide show and then we're going to have formal
12 comments for which I will explain into the record and I'll go over
13 some ground rules at that point and about how we are going to
14 conduct that portion of the meeting. If you would like to make a
15 comment, if you would like to read your comments into the record,
16 we'll be taking people on a first come first serve basis, those
17 interested may sign up at the registration desk at the entrance way
18 to the meeting.

19 With that brief introduction to what our process is, I'd like to
20 introduce the slide show and then I'll go into more detail about how
21 we'll conduct the public comment portion of the meeting.

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23 (Mr. AtKisson introduces Barb Maynes who proceeds to show
24 the audience an informative slide show)

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MR. ATKISSON: Thank you, Barb. Okay, now we're ready to
hear from you. Let me go over the procedure for this evening. I

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3 will be calling names in the order you signed in tonight and I will
4 actually be calling a few names at once so when you hear your name
5 would you please come up and sit close to the podium so you can make
6 a quick transition. If you have not signed up for making a comment
7 and later you decide you would like to speak then we will give you a
8 chance after everyone who has signed up has had their chance. Our
9 meeting is scheduled to go tonight until 10:00, and at that time we
10 will need to close the meeting off, I don't expect given the number of
11 people signed up so far that we will need any more than the allotted
12 time.

13 I would ask that when you come to the podium please state
14 your name and spell your last name out for benefit the Court
15 Reporter, who is taking down your testimony. Also, your name
16 maybe be identified with the comment that you make and also these
17 will be reviewed by Park personnel and maybe included in the
18 public impact statement, thus allowing the Park to follow-up-up with
19 you if there is a question about your testimony that will make that
20 possible for them.

21 Secondly, we have a number of people who wanted to
22 comment tonight so you will have just 3 minutes to make your
23 comments. You can say quite a lot in 3 minutes. Also, the gentleman
24 over here on my left will be keeping time this evening, Michael will
25 hold up a sign indicating one minute to indicate that so you'll need to
close off your comments and when your time is up he'll hold up a
sign and you will need to stop speaking at that time so we may hear

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3 from other people and their comments.

4 By the way, if you choose not to make a verbal statement or
5 didn't say everything you needed to say, please submit written
6 comments and they will be incorporated into the public record.
7 Verbal and written comments are given equal right in this review
8 process. If you feel like something was said that you wanted to say,
9 you can associate yourself with a previous speaker and say I'd like to
10 go along with that comment. This is your time to use as you please in
11 that way.

12 Finally, there are a lot of opinions on the topic at hand here,
13 so it's important to make a opportunity for everyone to speak and be
14 heard. I'm asking for you to follow the set of simple ground rules
15 that we 've posted over here on my left; that we respect the rights of
16 all speakers to talk, to be uninterrupted, to be heard, and to be safe
17 from personal attacks -- to not feel subject to personal attack.

18 (Unidentified person from audience asks Mr. AtKisson)

19 Q Can you tell me why there is no question and comment
20 time?

21 A This is comment time.

22 Q For questions?

23 A Yes, we did have a Open House from 5:30 to 7:00 today.
24 We have Bill Walters and Dave Morris to listen but this will not be a
25 response time. I'm sure if you have a question to pose to them you
can, but to maximize the amount of time people have to speak into
the record, this will not be a time for discussion. You can speak the

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3 question as a public comment and that will also get the attention of
4 the Park Service.

5 Q Okay.

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7 MR. ATKISSON: I think we're ready to begin. My job will
8 be to monitor and moderate and enforce the ground rules, if
9 necessary, at any time. And we look forward to a very productive
10 meeting and I'd like to call the first few people -- if I mis-pronounce
11 your name, please correct me when it's your time to speak. The first
12 five speakers will be Eugene D. Rimov, Doug Shepard, Gary Peterson,
13 Audrey Cummings and Aubrey Taylor.

14
15 EUGENE RIMOV

16 What a privilege it is to be able to speak to all of you
17 folks here. I have replied to the Environmental Impact Statement
18 and I would like to contend that this is a position statement and not a
19 draft Environmental Impact Statement , something that you would
20 expect from people who consider one side of the issue. I'm also going
21 to be a little critical of those pro and con -- I also want to make a
22 little criticism to those people both pro and con because I have not
23 seen this argument brought out previously and I think it is almost
24 imperative that we do this.

25 The EIS fails to deal with the reason why Olympic
National Park was created. Olympic National Park was created as a
result of 40 year battle between conservationists, timber interests

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3 and hunters. The park was created to preserve tens of thousands of
4 elks and huge elk herds. Not only conservationists but hunters
5 would want elk herds to increase in number. The EIS fails to deal
6 sufficiently with why the goats were introduced into the park and
7 the EIS fails to see any connection between goat numbers and elk
8 numbers. The EIS fails to address the point that the goats were
9 preserving elk habitat. The EIS fails to mention that grasslands are
10 rejuvenated and maintained by two major processes. These two
11 processes are fires -- especially wild fires, and grazing habits of
12 herding herbivores. The EIS fails to even consider the impact of
13 primitive hunting on both goats -- one minute left? Okay, this EIS
14 does not consider the possibility if goat population was in existence
15 before the turn of the century, they were wiped out by a
16 combination of primitive hunting and climate changes. Most
17 importantly, the EIS fails to deal with the ecological of removing
18 1,000 goats from the park, number 1; acceleration of the process of
19 converting high altitude meadows and grasslands to forest. Number
20 2; disappearance of habitat for miltvetch and other endangered
21 meadow species of plants, they're all turning to forests now.
22 Increase of deer populations and thus competition between elk and
23 deer for winter forage and last an increase in the cougar
24 population. Thank you.
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4 DOUG SHEPHERD

5 My name is Doug Shepherd, it's spelled like a
6 sheepherder, h-e-r-d. I live on Whidbey Island and I have lived
7 there almost all my life. I've been hiking in the Olympic mountains
8 since 1955 with boy scout troops and so on. In the last three years
9 I've done some hiking in some areas where there was suppose to be
10 goat damage with the wildlife. I've hiked up to
11 the Royal Basin, but there is thousands of acres of rocks and steep
12 slopes but aside from seeing a few little beds that could have been
13 made by something else I couldn't see any goat damage in that area.

14 If you go up to Blue Mountain, which you can drive to, if you
15 haven't been up there. I couldn't find any damage up there either
16 other than what the marmots were doing, so I couldn't see anything
17 there. And if you go up to Klahhane Ridge -- everybody should go
18 up there and look around, there is goat damage there, old stuff as far
19 as I can tell there's only two goats left up there out of 250, and
20 there's certainly not much damage there. I didn't see any goats, but
21 we did see tracks a year ago last winter. When you're up there, you
22 have to go look at the big "blow out" they've talked about, and of
23 course you can't really prove one way or another who really started
24 this thing but I'm a little disappointed that it's never been fixed or
25 no effort to re-vegetate this thing. If you go up and look at it, it's
 being caused by the wind. The wind is well on top of the ridge on the
 south side and just blows right through there and blows all this dirt

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3 away. There's other areas that have been vegetated and I'd like to
4 know why this area hasn't been fixed yet and I'm really concerned
5 about it. I think most of these studies done by the EIS are outdated,
6 they're based on all the information on the goats that were there,
7 1200 and now there's only about 300.

8 As far as the miltvetch is concerned, it's not endangered and
9 it's only on Canada's list and from what I can tell, there were only
10 four plants that were supposedly killed. If you look at the draft, I
11 have a question on Page 183, it says the number of goat-trampled
12 miltvetch in 1990-91 at Blue Mountain, Blue Mountain NE and
13 Hurricane Hill, there is no goats up there then so how could these
14 plants be damaged by goats if they're not there? Now how these
15 plants got damaged, I don't know, because they were so there must be
16 something else that's up there trampling them.

17 As far as the "native" issue I've read, I have a copy of the 1896
18 National Geographic article by Gillman, and I don't know why
19 anybody 99 years ago would want to lie about whether they were
20 there or not. If they said they saw the goats along with a whole
21 bunch of other animals, I would guess that they probably did and
22 they probably died off for some reason after that which is why they
23 couldn't find them.

24 I'm disappointed that there's no 4th alternative, which is to
25 simply manage the population with hunters and do what they can
with them rather than spending all the money to go ahead and shoot
them. I'm totally opposed to shooting the 300 that are left and

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3 spending all that money. Thank you.
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8 GARY PETERSON

9 My name is Gary Peterson, my grandmother was
10 Minnie Peterson the guide and packer for 50 years in the Olympics.
11 From the early teens to the present, our family had worked and
12 played in the Olympic high country. Much of the enjoyment we and
13 our clan have experienced in the high country has come from goats.
14 Their endurance in the face of adversity has been a lesson to us and
15 our children. Our message to the Park is leave the goats alone.
16

17 MARGARET CUMMINGS

18 Can you hear me? My name is Margaret Cummings and
19 I live in Port Angeles and I'm going to read this -- these are my
20 thoughts but sometimes when we get old we can't remember
21 everything. I have read both the EIS and the booklet entitled
22 "Mountain Goats in the Olympics", prepared by the Parks Service and
23 I remain unconvinced of the validity of the Parks Service
24 conclusion that the mountain goats in the Olympic National Park are
25 not native to the Olympic Mountains. My own conclusions are based
upon the fact that although I have no education or expertise in this
area, I can certainly recognize a mountain goat and in fact can't

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3 think of any other animal which I have ever seen which I could
4 mistake for a mountain goat. Given this and the unique appearance,
5 color and size of mountain goats it is very difficult for me to imagine
6 that Sam Gillman, the writer of the article in the 1896 National
7 Geographic, and others who recorded sightings, could have mistaken
8 another animal for a mountain goat. I also find it difficult to believe
9 that the very, very reputable and conservative National Geographic
10 Magazine would have edited and altered the article as suggested by
11 the Park Service. What, for instance, would be the purpose of adding
12 mountain goats to the list of animals sighted other than the
13 possibility that the account of sightings before the 1920's were not
14 sightings of mountain goats. I could find no reason given by the
15 Park Service for doubting the credibility of Mr. Gillman, Mr. Bond of
16 the 1897 expedition, or others. The fact that many other expeditions
17 did not report mountain goat sightings doesn't carry much weight in
18 my opinion. In fact, according to the Park Service in it's own
19 booklet, mountain goats in Olympic annual wildlife report by
20 rangers beginning in 1918 recorded no sightings of goats in 1926,
21 1927 or 1928. In spite of the undisputed presence of mountain goats
22 during those years and only two goats were recorded in 1929. If
23 rangers failed to report sightings of mountain goats after the release
24 of imported mountain goats in 1925, goats which were certainly in
25 the Park, is it at all difficult to believe that early observers also
failed to sight native mountain goats? One other thing that troubles
me, is the fact that the plants that were in the Park Service have

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3 survived for at least 70 years and perhaps for thousands of years,
4 with the goat population which at times have exceeded 1,000. Isn't it
5 reasonable to assume that the maintenance of the mountain goat
6 population would insure survival of the plants? Shouldn't this
7 action be given a higher priority than shooting the mountain goats?
8 If I were on a jury deciding the fate of the mountain goats, I would
9 certainly have to vote, after reviewing all the testimony that there is
10 reasonable doubt regarding the accuracy of the Park Service
11 decision that the goats are not native. I would vote to acquit the
12 goats and grant them their freedom forever.

13
14 AUBREY TAYLOR

15 I'm Aubrey Taylor, resident of Jefferson County. I
16 think we can all agree on one thing here tonight, that is the
17 conservational issue. The other thing I think we need to
18 contemplate is the management deficit stands at over four trillion --
19 that's trillion, folks --dollars. How come the Park Service testify on a
20 conservational issue at a time like this. I hope you'll all contact your
21 legislative officials and urge them to deny funds for this sort of
22 endeavor. Thank you.

23
24 EDSCHAD (No spelling given)

25 Well, I hope I get the same kind of applause as everyone
else did but I don't think I'm gonna. I guess I'm one of the goat killer
people. It's always tough getting up against a nice, fuzzy creature

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3 with brown eyes, but here goes.

4 Mainly I would just like to address the issue of cost and I
5 noticed as I was walking in here a poster saying why spend millions
6 of dollars getting rid of the goats and why aren't we spending money
7 on trails. After having looked over the issues, EIS, and noting the
8 bigger picture, it seems pretty clear that if anything eliminating the
9 goats would save money over the long haul. I'm looking at Appendix
10 E and that's a estimate of the cost of the different alternatives,
11 certainly would cost money to get rid of the goats, you have to pay
12 for helicopters and training and that's expensive. However, as a
13 National Park -- I guess I'll read this, it's on Page 219, "Regardless of
14 goat management programs, the National Park Service has a
15 responsibility to protect park resources", and that's just in their
16 pamphlet, that's what they're given by law. Vegetation managing
17 would be expensive with this alternative of no action because of
18 increased risk to the community and rare plants caused by
19 increasing goat numbers. Maybe the goat population is down now,
20 but given the facts I have a feeling they're gonna come back. As a
21 National Park, it's just part of the job to try to figure out what's going
22 on with the plants and animals there, and over the long haul if the
23 Park doesn't get rid of the goats they're going to have to spend
24 money -- big money year after year after year on the goat
25 management. As it looks now, on the chart on Page 224, I guess it's
one thing to argue but I'll take this at least at some face value that
there's an indication here that over the next ten years the

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3 alternative of no action will cost probably just the same amount as
4 getting rid of the goats and that doesn't take into account the next
5 ten years after that and the next ten years after that and the next ten
6 years after that. We're talking about something on the order of a
7 couple hundred-thousand dollars every ten year period and you're
8 talking about inflation, costs increasing and the possibility of facing
9 another crisis where you're going to have to do something like live
10 capture, sterilization, maybe not just putting goats at risk but maybe
11 putting people at risk in pretty hairy conditions. So, I guess I'd like
12 to ask folks to at least just think about what the issues really are and
13 I don't think we're talking about wasting a lot of money, I think
14 we're talking about is it a good idea to get rid of the goats or not.
15 Thank you.

16
17 ANN GILSON

18 My name is Ann Gilson, G-i-l-s-o-n. During the past 30
19 years there has been -- and it's worried me -- a tendency for various
20 agency's of the government when faced with a perceived problem to
21 solve that problem at least temporarily by killing or by violence of
22 some sort. It started 30 years ago in Selma when the police met on
23 black people who were marching peacefully. And then we had Kent
24 State where unarmed students were killed by the National Guard.
25 The Bureau of Alcohol and Tobacco, you will remember, were
involved in Waco. Fortunately this does not involve people but the
idea of solving perceived problems with killing anything seems to

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3 me to send a message that we should not be sending. Our society is
4 becoming more and more violent. Children who see on TV., in living
5 color, goats being killed by a representative of their government
6 would find it difficult to understand why their parents tell them that
7 guns are not a solution and I think that for that reason alone we
8 should leave the goats alone. Also in my life, I've discovered that
9 many problems, the solutions are worse than the problem would be.
10 I can't tell you how many problems I've solved only to discover I've
11 made the situation worse, not better.

12 There is the problem of the things that the goats are doing,
13 however, the goats have maintained a population for three years
14 now, more or less, and it seems to be dwindling. Some problems you
15 have to live with. Most of us who --oh, I see a lot of white heads out
16 here, we've all learned that some problems don't go away. All you
17 need is two goats, one male and one female, and pretty soon you have
18 more goats. Also, there are some places outside the National forest
19 area where goats can come back from. So we wouldn't just kill all the
20 goats and that would be the end of it because these problems keep
21 cropping up.

22 I would say live with the goats. Do what we can to preserve
23 the plants. If they have to go, then they have to go but not kill the
24 goats in front of the whole world and brand Port Angeles as the
25 place where they killed all the goats.

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4 HAZEL WOLF

5 My name is Hazel Wolf, W-o-l-f, I'm not an endangered
6 species though. I live in Seattle and I'm the Secretary of the Seattle
7 Audobon Society, which has a little over 5,000 members in King
8 County. Autobahn is an agency to protect business as well as animals
9 and plants. It was not an easy decision for the society to make to kill
10 the goats in the Olympic National Park, nor was it unanimous, but
11 the "yes" vote was strongest.

12 We have had our problems with introduced species of birds.
13 The starling is a good example, brought from Europe by the early
14 immigrants. They had no natural predators in this country or
15 Canada. And we see the sad result. The same is true of the cow bird
16 which had to move with the wandering buffalo herds. It's living
17 provided by laying their eggs in other smaller birds nests now that
18 the herds are no more they continue in their long established habit,
19 to our dismay.

20 I think the goat issue would be unanimous if they had the
21 opportunity to rid the land of these pests. I understand that the
22 flowers are unique to Olympic National Park, that they are there
23 because the Ice Age left the higher altitude of the Park free of ice
24 and flowers bloomed in proficent profusion in the changing scenes.
25 Business as usual. In other words, it is most unlikely that if the goats
hadn't been there, the flowers wouldn't have survived, but instead,
an species was introduced in this area with no natural predators.

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3 The rare and wild flowers in the meadow and even some of the small
4 mammals and fish in the small streams are at risk.

5 Like the introduced species of birds, it is almost predictable
6 that these destructive mammals would sooner or later become pests,
7 as indeed they are. Mountain goats are admittedly more beautiful
8 than starlings or cow birds, but the need to remove them when there
9 is still time is the same and I am pleased that the Park strongly
10 advocates the removal of the goats and the Park Service can begin
11 the process of healing the damaged meadows. Thank you.

12
13 TIM MC NULTY

14 My name is Tim McNulty, M-c-N-u-l-t-y. I strongly
15 support the Park Service efforts to remove the goats from Olympic
16 National Park. I think that the draft Environmental Impact
17 Statement presents excellent documentation of the goats impact on
18 native plants. I would disagree with some that insist that we wait
19 until the plants are threatened to the point of extinction before we
20 take action on this problem. It's clear that continued grazing and
21 trampling of wildlife by goats is altering the natural continuity of
22 the alpine meadows. I would like to have seen a fuller discussion in
23 the draft of the potential impact to native wildlife species of the
24 alpine meadows. Some of these are also endemic to the Olympic
25 Mountains. In a 1973 study of the Olympic wildlife noted that more
than 80% of the population of plants were located in an area that
were mosaic of 3 or 4 plant communities. This is the kind of natural

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3 diversity that selective grazing and trampling by goats is changing
4 and replacing it with dirt instead of plants, often less beneficial to
5 wildlife species.

6 In contrast, by 1984 a study showed that grazing by marmots
7 actually increased plant diversity. In a nutshell, that's the
8 difference between a animal that's has been involved in the land
9 over a millennium and one that has been dropped into a eco-system
10 very recently. Other species of mammals also known to inhabit the
11 Olympic Mountains: the Olympic yellow-tailed chipmunk, Olympic
12 short-tailed squirrel, the Olympic weasel, possums still compliment
13 areas of the Park. In a 1984 study by James Wright noted that 6
14 species of small animals are found in no other alpine area. He also
15 documented that the number of small animal species declined with
16 the arrival of the goats. The truth is we really don't know how big
17 the damage is, we know very little about the habitatual impact by the
18 goats on significant vegetation areas of the alpine eco-system, plants
19 and soils which are no doubt being affected and in the case of the
20 species just mentioned, these area animals that are found nowhere
21 else in the world.

22 Lastly, a thought regarding a historical side of goats in the
23 Olympics, if you look at a map of the Olympics today you find Loose
24 Slate, Geyser Valley, these names are -- the Geyser Valley was named
25 by the same party that finally saw a goat, he also claims he saw a
chicken as well. Where are they now? Let's not perpetuate a
mistake made so many years ago by well-meaning sporting

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3 interests who really didn't know any better then than we really do
4 now. Thank you very much.

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6 PAT WENNEKENS (No spelling given)

7 Good evening. My name is Pat Wennekens, I live in
8 Sequim at 399 Norman Street. And I have quite a bit of experience
9 with some wildlife issues being retired from the Fish and Wildlife
10 Service in Alaska, where the issues of things like wolves there --
11 very prominent types of wildlife issues.

12 I'd like to maybe look at this problem in kind of a different
13 context. My experience with wildlife people -- and I'm talking quite
14 a bit about Alaska, with the wildlife management they have what I
15 like to call "hook, shoot and trap" by wildlife management and their
16 perception of what is the value as far as human use and even
17 enjoyment is anything you can either kill, catch on a fishing rod, or
18 catch in a trap. That essentially was the central perspective in their
19 mindset, is that you didn't have this kind of thing happening, you
20 had no value as far as wildlife is concerned. Things have changed, I
21 think, for the better. I can see some of the newer wildlife people
22 have different ideals about how to address wildlife and I think it's a
23 very important step being taken by the State of Washington wildlife
24 people, by changing a document called "Species of Concern" to
25 "Habitat and Species of Concern", which essentially indicates they're
beginning to realize the problem.

Now, the other thing I have to say about goats right now --

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3 goats are for the killing. This is really what the basic issue has been,
4 the establishment of the Park historically was that those animals
5 were made for hunting purposes. The goats were made because of
6 hunting aspects, that has been established and the question I have is
7 were you to take the goats and want to transport them someplace
8 else, they are transported to be killed because they are to be hunted.
9 And I think one of the most barbaric ways of hunting a goat right
10 now is bow and arrow. You shoot an animal and he bleeds to death
11 and so you keep shooting until it's dead. So I think our perspective,
12 especially on what has to be put in terms of the right to animals and
13 I'm not quite sure that I can buy all the EIS and Park Service says I
14 think they need to go back to the drawing board and re-examine
15 especially what is a wild view of a wildlife as such. Thank you.

16
17 CHERYL SMITH

18 I'm Cheryl Smith , that's Cheryl with a "C". I want to
19 sort of back up the first speaker and the EIS being more of an
20 opinion piece. I did research for a article on prairie dogs and I can't
21 point to anything other than the three articles that say goats were
22 here but after doing a whole lot of reading I feel that very strong
23 impression.

24 I also want to know what the Park has considered about the
25 impact of the plans they have for getting rid of the goats? The little
slide show was for the enjoyment of the visitors. I want to know
what you think the visitors will get out of seeing goat carcasses

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3 being strewn around the landscape.

4 Also, for the Audobon Society, I wonder if they thought about
5 what the helicopter and rifle fire was going to do the bird population
6 in the area. That's about it, thanks.

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8 DAN JOHNSON

9 My name is Dan Johnson. Before I get started in my
10 written comments, I just want to bring a little reference about the
11 budget issue. The National Park budget for 5 years is about the same
12 as the Defense Department's for one B52 Bomber, so that puts it in a
13 little perspective when we start talking about budgets.

14 I'm a resident of Port Angeles and I'm an avid backpacker and
15 outdoor enthusiast. I have spent the last several years hiking
16 hundreds of miles of trails on the Olympic Peninsula. I will be the
17 first to admit that I could never personally harm a mountain goat or
18 any animal for that matter. It is still a slight rush for me when I spot
19 them scrambling along the cliff ledges in amazing places like in
20 Enchanted Valley last week. But, I understand the impact they have
21 and no matter how amazing they are, if we continue to allow their
22 impact we will lose the essence of what makes this place so special.

23 I remember thinking when I first moved to the Peninsula
24 how large and untamed this place was. In Virginia, where I'm from,
25 nothing of primitive America is left. It has all been tamed, killed,
mowed over, or cut down. As I began to explore the Peninsula,
however, I realized how small it really was. Within the past few

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3 years it has gotten even smaller as the urban growth continues at a
4 frantic pace in places like Sequim, Port Townsend and Port Angeles.
5 Is it possible I wonder to leave any place as it was? I realize that that
6 statement will probably make me sound like a "virgin earther"
7 which I have seen referred to in the local newspaper. I wonder who
8 came up with that term? It is far too late for a virgin earth, but it
9 would be nice to leave places like our national parks alone.

10 Places like Olympic National Park were set aside to conserve
11 the scenery and wild life -- not wildlife like in animals, but wild life
12 as in plants and flowers -- unimpaired for the enjoyment of future
13 generations. Yet the park does feel the effects of people's influence.

14 By allowing the introduced mountain goats to continue to alter
15 the ecosystem, people are continuing to affect what was meant to
16 remain wild and free. Decades of research have shown how goats
17 have altered the plant communities in the mountains. Just over a
18 month ago, I attended a Peninsula Trails Coalition function where an
19 elderly woman from Port Angeles was showing some films from the
20 40's of the meadows on Klahane Ridge. The meadows were full of an
21 array of alpine plants. She remarked that she just didn't understand
22 why you didn't see things like those scenes today. The movie then
23 continued and soon there were pictures of mountain goats grazing
24 in the meadows. Klahane Ridge was home to a high density of goats.
25 Yet we continue to fail to accept how mountain goats have altered,
and continue to alter, the mountainous regions of the park because
of their charismatic qualities. Bengal tigers are also charismatic but

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3 we wouldn't import them and keep them here because people like
4 seeing them. Olympic is a National Park - not a zoo.

5 And I just want to end with a comment by Newton Drury on
6 national parks, "If we are going to succeed in preserving the
7 greatness of national parks, they must be held inviolate. They
8 represent the last stand of primitive America. If we are going to
9 whittle away at them we should recognize, at the very beginning,
10 that all such whittlings are cumulative and that the end result will
11 be mediocrity. Greatness will be gone." I think that it is time to
12 preserve some of the last bit of greatness that is left on the Olympic
13 Peninsula. Let's get rid of the goats.

14
15
16 RICHARD WHITE

17 I am not a native to Port Angeles, I moved here in 1988.
18 I wonder how many people here were born in Port Angeles, lots of
19 them. I would say that makes them native to Port Angeles. What is
20 the life expectancy of a goat? Twelve years, maybe fourteen? I
21 would say that all the goats that are in the Olympic National Park are
22 native goats. I think they should be grandfathered in -- I mean,
23 we're talking the Park was established in 1938 and the goats were
24 supposedly introduced in 1920 -- that's what, about 18 years, they're
25 ahead a couple generations started by then. The ones that were born
then are native. I highly object to the use of that as a basis, if you
look up the word "native" in the dictionary you'll see that I'm

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3 speaking what the dictionary says - indigenous - it's the same thing.
4 The goats that are there now are native to the area. As far as exotic
5 -- they mentioned exotic in this EIS draft statement -- the word exotic
6 means introduced from a foreign land. Foreign, the emphasis is on
7 "foreign". They were brought in from Alaska, Canada. They're
8 native to the Cascade Range, they're not exotic animals.

9 Another point I wanted to bring out is there are other plants
10 and animals that are not native to Olympic National Park and what is
11 the Park's agenda for the removal of those, like the rose veldt, they
12 are not native to this area.

13 My last comment -- if Teddy Roosevelt were alive today, I
14 think he'd be appalled at what the heck we're doing. As far as the
15 money issue, I agree with the one gentleman, the Park Service
16 budget needs to be up a little bit but not for something this silly.

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18
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20
21 JUDY WINTROP (No spelling given)

22 I just moved here last year, you can tell from my accent
23 I'm not native to this area and for as long as I can remember I would
24 read about people who wanted to kill wolves somewhere in Alaska or
25 move them out of Montana or Idaho or wherever. I'm proud to say
I'm an environmentalist and I'm really sick that a lot of people who

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3 care about plants or birds or animals have to fight against each
4 other in this instance -- I don't have any written notes, I'm sorry if I
5 ramble.

6 I traveled some of the Parks in early years when I lived in the
7 urban New York area and I was thrilled when I saw a mountain goat
8 up in Montana and I didn't see a bear when I was in Yellowstone, I
9 know they were there, I was told they were there and I was happy
10 they were there and I was happy that I didn't see one.

11 I think the thing that really bothers me the most and the
12 thing that hurts the park system the most are the people, so if you
13 really want to protect the national parks don't let the people in. The
14 goats are not doing that much damage and as far as what changes the
15 landscape, sometimes people don't know all the answers and they
16 find out later that it was acid rain or some other impact or whatever.
17 We've tried to change things, to fix it, like some of the other people
18 said and then find out we did the wrong thing and I really don't want
19 to be here when you're shooting goats. I'm sick that they had to
20 move the elk and now they seem to be asking us what we think but I
21 don't think you really want to listen. You have your minds made up
22 and you want to have some paperwork and say this is why we had to
23 do it and if you really ask all the people who visit the Park I don't
24 think you're going to get the reaction of "Yeah, go ahead and shoot
25 the goats because I love flowers and I love plants", because you're
not sure if they were here first or not and it's a silly argument
whether or not they were here. You said they were here before the

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3 Park started and if you wanted to say -- if you didn't like them when
4 you started the Park, well...

5 The goats are here. Fine. The Park's here. Fine. You should
6 preserve what's here, goats, and leave them alone. Thank you.

7
8 ROGER KATTS

9 My name is Roger Katts, K-a-t-t-s. I had expected
10 perhaps that there might be a dialog this evening, I found that not to
11 be the case so I will have to use some assumptions which may or may
12 not be correct.

13 In one of the slide presentations, it showed a couple of slides
14 dealing with animals in other parts of the country that were
15 classified as being dangerous to their environment or to the habitat
16 around them and one was a wild hog, as I remember. The question I
17 would raise would be is there any precedent for this type of action to
18 be used -- has it ever been done anywhere else in the National Park
19 Service? My assumption is that it has not. And therefore, what is
20 proposed here is a very unique situation. I would also make the
21 assumption that there needs to be special guidance in any
22 government service from time to time in order to make justification
23 of a purpose for people being there. I would prefer seeing the
24 National Park service staff, the hierarchy and employees, do the
25 things that they are more accomplished at and we find enjoyment in
and use the park; someone mentioned trails and roadways, those
things that we can enjoy whenever we go into the park.

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3 Someone mentioned cost; mentioned the word "budget", I don't
4 know, but what is true is that almost all government expenditures go
5 over budget and I would expect that in the case here. It would seem
6 to me that there is a good likelihood were this thing to go forward,
7 that the cost of eliminating the goats in the park would probably
8 equate on a ratio basis, probably equate to what the anticipated cost
9 is for each supposedly renewed salmon were the Elwa Dams taken
10 out, and I leave that with you. Thank you very much.

11
12 **FRED JEWELL**

13 I'm Fred Jewell, I don't need to tell you who I am, I get
14 around and that explains that. I've been an outdoors man all my life.
15 I started out as a farmer in western Oklahoma and all through my 21
16 years in the Army I was outdoors. I still love the outdoors. I love
17 our National Park, I think it's a beautiful place one of the most
18 beautiful places on the face of the earth and I love the animals that
19 are there.

20 There has been a lot said about needing more tourists here to
21 enhance our financial situation, I admit that. Goats are people-
22 pleasers. When people come to walk through the mountains, they
23 enjoy seeing the various types of animals and it's a real pleasure to
24 see the little white goats here and there throughout the mountains.
25 I'm in favor of keeping our goats, bringing in the tourists, opening
the Park to people because it should be a "People's Park" and not just
a "Wild Plant Park". Let's keep the goats.

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3 HARRY LYDARD
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5 When Fred got up here and spoke just now, well, we
6 certainly agree on many things, we disagree on goats.

7 I've reviewed the subject document, the draft Environmental
8 Impact Statement. I've also reviewed the scientific draft entitled,
9 "Mountain Goats in the Olympic National Park, Biology of Introduced
10 Species"; and I found both documents to be reasonably complete, fair
11 in their analysis and accurate in content. I believe that
12 recommended alternative, elimination by shooting, is the most
13 practical and -- in the end -- the most humane way of dealing with
14 the resident population of mountain goats in Olympic National Park.

15 I'm strong with the opinion that elimination of the mountain
16 goats is necessary management action in the Park as well as on the
17 Peninsula. I have followed with interest the presence of these
18 animals in Olympic National Park some 45 years. During the 1950's, I
19 was a person who looked on them as an attraction, as a favorable
20 addition to the many wonders of this great wilderness land.

21 However, by the end of 1962, it was obvious that control of the goat
22 population was going to be necessary if the fragile soils and plant
23 communities were going to remain in reasonable condition. The
24 high country around Mt. Angeles, which compliments Klahhane
25 Ridge and Lake Angeles, were looking more like over-grazed cow
pasture. Something had to be done.

During the last few years, the Park Service has tried though,

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3 and at great expense, to seek alternatives --some with great effort,
4 some carried out at great personal risk and usually discomfort.

5 During the 45 years I worked as a vet treating animals,
6 inspecting meat and raising cattle, I never saw a animal die without
7 what I saw as a deep sense of regret. I don't hunt. I don't feel happy
8 about the recommendation of eliminating the goats in the Peninsula.
9 Now, as is so often the case in animal health, there is a task that must
10 be done for management reasons both economic and for the
11 preservation of those values for which led to the establishment of
12 Olympic National Park.

13
14 JOAN BELDIN (No spelling given)

15 My name is Joan Beldin and I live in Sequim. I'm very
16 disturbed and I'm really confused as to the Park's determination to
17 remove the goats. I agree with the one woman that I feel like this
18 meeting here is merely a formality, that you've made up your minds
19 what you want to do. And I'm also wondering, judging from how
20 many people have expressed opposition to this procedure of killing
21 the goats, how you'll be able to do that and feel comfortable about it.
22 I've read and hear enough evidence that counters that which is in
23 the draft EIS and it's evidence for me that there is further study
24 needed and I feel the public deserves more information and further
25 study on this. Like it or not, the goats are a symbol, and intricate
part of the Olympic National Park. In fact, as recent as 1980 -- I have
one of your old brochures on the Park, the goat is mentioned as a

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2 attraction, something that is a rare sight to see native or not.

3
4 The goat was here when the Park was formed and was
5 included at that time as part of the Park's ecosystem. The goats have
6 established their niche. Maybe they have brought some changes to
7 the Park, but change is also a natural occurrence within the
8 environment. The environment is always changing and whether
9 they were introduced or not, I don't think we can expect the Park to
10 always remain static and keep the same as way as it was a 100 years
11 ago or whatever.

12 Anyway, I feel that they deserve our stewardship, they didn't
13 ask to be brought here but they were brought here and we should be
14 good stewards of them and leave them alone.

15
16 AL RASSMUSSEN (No spelling given)

17 Is it obvious whose side I'm on! My name is Al
18 Rassumessen, I'm here on behalf of my wife, my daughters and my
19 grandchildren. We're all backpackers, we're all climbers, and we
20 enjoy seeing the goats. I use to think I was a native to the Olympic
21 Peninsula until the Park got into the act. I was born here on the
22 Peninsula but now I find out I'm an exotic alien. I don't really like
23 that.

24 I worked on the Peninsula for 31 years with the State of
25 Washington Department of Wildlife. I was involved with the very
early removals from Klahhane Ridge and I agreed with that removal
because at that time the Park told us that it was merely going to be a

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3 control. Bruce Moorhead and I slept in the same tent on Klahhane
4 Ridge many nights. When I discussed this with him, I told him at
5 that time when I first thought that the Park was going to start a
6 complete removal I was going to be one of his worst enemies. I've
7 been there ever since.

8 I'm retired and I still do a number of projects dealing with
9 wildlife. I've been on the State's helicopter survey in 1992 and 1994
10 of those areas outside the park. Contrary to what you'll read in the
11 EIS is to how many goats there might be out there at some later time,
12 in this case, there is less than 50 -- there is probably less than 35 --
13 and I feel really bad.

14 I think that it's time that the people stood up and took charge
15 of this park and others made dang sure that the politicians and those
16 that are working for us in the Park do things a little more the way
17 we want them. There is no damage at this time -- at this point in time
18 there is no damage being done by goats in Olympic National Park. I
19 spend most of my time in that park, and in the high country. I
20 camped on the Ridge in September and in October and there is no
21 damage now. Thank you.

22 DOUG LEFLER (No spelling given)

23 I'm Doug Lefler, I'm from Port Angeles. I'm no expert
24 on anything I just know Bob is around here. I've been looking into
25 this wildlife all the way from Alaska to Florida, never failed to get a
thrill out of ever phase of wildlife I ever see whether it was a polar

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3 bear, a mountain goat, an antelope, squirrel or an alligator, I love
4 them all. They are always a treasure -- should be treasured. I am
5 absolutely astounded at the National Park management to assassinate
6 all of the goats. I'm requesting that every one of you people call and
7 write your politician, State and Federal, and ask them to put the heat
8 on the National Park Service to put a stop to this foolishness. Thank
9 you.

10
11 ELLEN FRAISER (No spelling given)

12 My name is Ellen Fraiser. National Geographic, in 1896,
13 had no ax to grind and no travesty to justify, they were not out there
14 slaughtering and killing off and eradicating a animal species from
15 their park. The fact is that they had a reputation to represent. A
16 reputation for honesty, integrity and accuracy, but the Park wants
17 to kill these animals and it's doing it. It's doing it openly . They are
18 doing it and they're breaking the law and they're getting away with
19 it because were not out there because we can't catch them. They get
20 up there and they do whatever they want and they do. Flowers can
21 be grown. There isn't a flower in the world that we can't reproduce
22 and grow from bulbs and seeds and replant. Not a flower we can't.,

23 So, why can't we keep the goats? National Geographic said
24 they were here, it had no ax to grind. We don't need to kill them,
25 they belong here. It just makes me angry when I hear these lies
going on, we pay these guys and they're out there slaughtering
those animals and leaving the corpses all over.

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3 And I agree with that other lady that said change is normal,
4 but this is not normal. This is not natural to eradicate a species -- a
5 native species especially -- and the National Geographic was not the
6 only report that said they were here. So I think we ought to just
7 replant the flowers and fire all those politicians.

8
9 MELANIE CALTRIDER

10 Reading the draft of EIS and I'm not quite finished with
11 it, the Park Service seems to have taken a position that the
12 destruction of even a single plant is too much destruction and that
13 the presence of even one goat is one goat too many. And I think
14 common sense tell us that that isn't necessary, to take that kind of
15 an extreme approach to a problem.

16 Rather than taking the approach to eliminate the goats,
17 another valid approach would have been to say how many goats can
18 we have in the Park without causing significant damage to the
19 plants and if that approach was used, then you would have some
20 goats, you would have some flowers, and it would necessitate perhaps
21 some type of removal or hunting of the goats to keep the goats at a
22 level that won't cause significant damage to the Park. That would be
23 a common sense approach that would not create the hard feelings in
24 the community towards the Park Service and among each other. And
25 I think that's certainly as valid an approach as the approach you've
taken to eliminate the goats.

The draft EIS notice did not analyze the possibility of having a

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3 hunting system to manage the excess population if one does occur.
4 The National Environmental Policy Act does require that Federal
5 agencies do that, even those that are not within the jurisdiction of
6 the agency and so I think you need to go back and do that kind of
7 analysis instead of simply stating that Congress would have to act.
8 But if that's the best approach then let's ask the Congress to allow
9 hunting in the Park if that's the best method of doing so.

10 I have real concern about the picture, visual picture, of
11 having gunships in the Park with people hanging out of them and
12 shooting anything that doesn't seem to be a good way of doing things
13 like that and what assurance do we have that you're not going to hit
14 a hiker or something in this process? The goats are a good draw for
15 tourists, which we need for the economy of the area and not too
16 many tourists are going to be real happy with the elimination of the
17 goats in this manner.

18 I also don't notice anywhere in the draft where any genetic
19 testing were done on the goats. I think we need to determine if this
20 is a genetic difference between goats and those that inhabit the Park
21 and perhaps they needs to be treated as a subspecies that should be
22 protected because I'm certain that you may be pressed with yet
23 another endangered species and cause more closure of doors.
24
25

TERRY FRICHETT

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3 I lived in Port Angeles for 27 years and I have had
4 several great memories of sleeping out on Klahhane Ridge in a tent
5 and waking up in the morning to the beauty of the surroundings,
6 what we could see in the distance and the mountain goats
7 surrounding us. Noting the slides that were shown earlier, it showed
8 the damage of the mountain goats and it indicated the damage of the
9 goats on Klahhane Ridge -- that animal damage is from really quite a
10 large population and that population is indicated by 2 or 3 speakers
11 or more specifically the man with the dollars. There is definitely not
12 that many mountain goats in Klahhane Ridge now and why is the
13 National Park using visual imagery of years ago to say we should
14 totally eliminate and exterminate mountain goats right now? The
15 study indicates that all sorts of factors were studied, the problem is
16 one factor -- total elimination of the mountain goats. As the other
17 lady said, without much consideration to acid rain, human forces and
18 other factors and the issue of what's natural and what isn't and the
19 precious marmots that live in burrows I don't think the goats go
20 underground and they don't move through the precious little
21 burrows and they go around the tender little shoots of the plants that
22 are very precious. I don't think they're very discriminating that
23 way -- they're goats. And what about the bears that pull the bark
24 off a really aged fir tree or cedar that's a hundred years old? I think
25 it's very unfair and very drastic. Control is okay, total extermination
is really something we can't settle for.

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3 BERT STROM

4 My original comments that I planned to make have
5 been covered very well but I am going to say something different.
6 I'm a pretty much middle-of-the-road kind of person and someone
7 said that cougars are increasing in population and the goat
8 population has been brought down to something like 300 or less.

9 I think this is a good time, instead of eliminating the goats, to
10 start a study of whether a balance can be achieved using predators,
11 control, and humanity. Thank you.
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15 ROGER EASLING

16 I decided to express my support for keeping the goats in
17 the park. I've reviewed portions of the EIS really briefly and find no
18 support of evidence that goats are destroying plant species or
19 environments in general, although I can see animals eat plants as
20 identified in the EIS. I do not support hunting within the park and
21 do not support this madness or any madness of eradication. I am a
22 hunter although I've never hunted mountain goats, it's a part of our
23 heritage that I enjoy though. I find great pleasure in all species and
24 find fascination in seeing all animals and studying and learning
25 their habits. Please refrain from encroaching further on my and
my family's enjoyment of this fantastic park.

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3 CHARLES W. THOMPSON

4 Thank you, my name is Charles W. Thompson. I'm a
5 native here, I might be called endemic so I assume I'm safe for a
6 while.

7 Whenever we have visitors from out of State, or out of the
8 territory, we always enjoy taking them up to Hurricane Ridge and in
9 my mind it's a place that's out of this world, beauty, peacefulness,
10 and it's like a Shangri-La up there at Hurricane Ridge in Olympic
11 National Park.

12 I'm very, very sorry that this action has to be taken. I think
13 it's extremely poor public relations to annihilate these creatures
14 which are an attraction, I'm sure, for many people. And I'm sorry it
15 has to happen like this, I hope it won't. I think people should be able
16 to enjoy the plants and the goats too.

17 Another thing I think in talking about public relations, I
18 would hate to see the Department of Interior listed and categorized as
19 being against "kids".

20 So, with these remarks I'll close. Thank you very much.

21
22 BILL MC LAUGHLIN

23 I'm an exotic species, I write and publish an
24 environmental newsletter. I'm here to do a story on the goats. I
25 would rather not make a statement on the record but I understand
there is not to be a question and answer period, I think it's a bad
mistake.

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3 I arrived here yesterday and obtained a copy of and read the
4 draft EIS and today I have to say I don't think it makes the case
5 whether 1) the goats are indigenous and 2) to how much damage
6 they're currently doing. But I should also say I don't really care
7 whether you have goats in the mountains or not. For me, that's the
8 question for you folks to decide, but I don't think the EIS makes the
9 case. If the goats are not indigenous I don't think they should be
10 there but I really don't have any feelings on that.

11 What I'd like to say is to the Park Service is about the State of
12 Alaska and the wildlife people to decrease the herd of elk and
13 caribou. There is something entirely insidious about shooting
14 animals from the air, it just doesn't fly.

15 Well, Alaska's tourist trade went down the toilet when that
16 happened and I think I can tell you with some assurance that a lot
17 of people won't be coming to the Olympic National Park, I know
18 myself as an environmentalist and there are many others of us who
19 will call for a boycott and that's unfortunate because people of this
20 community by their own numbers in the EIS, said there is close to
21 \$40 million dollars contributed into the local community from the
22 Park, that's a lot of money -- that's a lot of money to lose. I don't
23 think this decision should be made solely on the money but what the
24 Park Service values.

25 Also there is a unit called the Animal Damage Control Unit,
which I'm not particularly fond of, but it is their job on the Federal
level to eradicate species and individual animals that are

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3 endangering other livestock or other plants. I wonder why the ADC
4 have not been called in -- is it because the National Fish and Wildlife
5 Service have not been advised of this plan?

6 Also, I'd like the local community to think about the issue of
7 introducing predators -- whether cougars are a substantial
8 population on the mountain, I don't know, but also think about the
9 range and reduction of the wolf who is an endangered species to the
10 mountain. Thank you very much.

11
12 RICHARD RUUD

13 Well, I really didn't plan on speaking -- my last name is
14 R-u-u-d. I didn't really plan on speaking at all, I thought I signed an
15 attendance list.

16 What always comes to my mind is that when the elk herd got
17 too large in Yellowstone Park, our government hunters were
18 brought in and they eliminated some of the elk. Now here, we can't
19 do the same thing up here? That seems kind of ridiculous that we
20 could do one thing in one park and not the same thing in another
21 park.

22 As far as the habitat for cougars and so forth, you are
23 harboring just exactly a place to breed animals that you don't want
24 up there and then they come down here and the public has to put up
25 with them.

Anyhow, I really didn't plan on speaking, but as the old
saying goes, "Don't confuse me with facts, my minds already made

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3 up'-Olympic National Park". Thank you
4

5 LARRY LEONARD

6 My name's Larry Leonard, I've lived in Port Angeles
7 virtually all my life. I've enjoyed the Park and one of the fondest
8 things I can remember with my kids is going up to Hurricane Ridge
9 and looking for the goats and how excited I'd get to have my
10 grandkids be able to do that.

11 Unfortunately though I think that Park's mind is made up
12 and we're all wasting our time here. When you look at the EIS, the
13 three alternatives are; 1) eliminating the goats, 2) no action, or 3)
14 short-term live capture and then eliminating all the goats. So, the
15 other alternative to me -- and it's listed here but rejected -- would be
16 to manage the goats and that's what it says here, mountain goat
17 management, that doesn't indicate to me murdering them all. I think
18 that is the method that could be done is to manage the goat
19 population in Olympic National Park.

20 I'd like to read a little bit out of a citizen's newsletter that was
21 written by Stanley Foust, I've known him since I was a kid -- I'm just
22 going to read a couple excerpts, it was also republished in the Daily
23 News;

24 "About 8 years the Park held a hearing in Forks to hear
25 their mountain goat proposal. Representing the park
is a botanist, a biologist, a scientist, and perhaps
one other Park employee...

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3 It goes on to say;

4 Not too much later I was able to ask of the 40% of plants
5 that the goats eat that are listed in the back of your
6 draft hidden behind several pages, it is shown that if
7 the goats were allowed to multiply unmolested, at what
8 point would they basically would they level off in
9 numbers? The question was turned over to the biologist
10 who answered 'About 2500'. Quickly turning to the
11 botanist I asked, of those 2500 would any of them
12 become endangered to the level of population? To this
13 he replied -- the reply was 'no' because it was physically impossible
14 to consume all the plants based upon where they grow. As for the
15 other 39 plants, the likelihood of any of them dying off was
16 extremely remote.

17 It goes on to say;

18 Why, then I would ask this question, why then are you
19 folks telling us that goats are the cause of these plants
20 being endangered? To this, silence answered the
21 question".

22 I think the reason we weren't allowed to ask questions here
23 tonight is because they may not have to tell the whole truth if they
24 didn't have to answer questions. If they did answer the truth , the
25 conclusion that this EIS is drawn to would be obviously to show them
that their minds are made up and we don't have any say anyway.

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2
3 LAVONNE HUFFMAN

4 I love the goats, I want them to stay. If 1200 goats didn't
5 eat all the plants and the piper bells and everyone else, how come
6 300 can? They're not going to be destroyed. The plants will still be
7 there because there are many, many less goats. I haven't seen a goat
8 since 1990 up there in the park and I have hiked and climbed the
9 mountains of our National Park for over 40 years here. I've enjoyed
10 the goats so many times and they're so cute and so fetching and we
11 have brought many, many tourists and relatives up to see the goats
12 because we knew they were there. And they love to see the goats and
13 that was an outstanding display and happening here in our State of
14 Washington.

15 Now, I got up four years ago and said the goats should be
16 managed and they should be permitted to be hunted -- get money
17 from the goats, you need money, the National Park needs money.
18 Here you have an ad in the paper, "We need volunteers to fix the
19 trails" -- here is a chance to make money, get a permit out to hunt
20 goats, \$2-300 dollars for a hunter to get a goat and they will pay it.

21 My grandchildren will never see a goat if you get rid of them
22 -- none of them. And none of my great-grandchildren will ever see
23 them here. How come they're not killing goats in other National
24 Parks? They eat too.

25 As for killing the goats and letting them fall down the cliffs
and making the babies starve to death, how about the homeless
people who need something to eat? They should have those goats to

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3 eat. I just want to say I think the Park should keep the goats and we
4 need to control them, manage them, hunt them, and keep them.

5
6 DAVID SCHULTZ

7 I'm David Schultz, my last name is spelled, S-c-h-u-l-t-z.
8 I've lived here in Port Angeles here almost 30 years, I've hiked in
9 the mountains here I saw the goats, I enjoyed them when I was there
10 hiking in the mountain and what really disturbs me is the young
11 couple going in to see Dosewallips and the children seeing that
12 where these goats when they goat on over the ridge and coming
13 back on the trail over the Cameron Ridge where they had shot some
14 goats, they found two wounded ones and the little kids were found in
15 a place where they couldn't get out and one was upside down dead
16 and the other was dead too. And these children were really upset
17 about this, they said why are they killing these goats, aren't they
18 important, that's what we came to here to see.

19 We've heard why they want to kill them, because they're
20 eating some exotic plants. Let's get real. There are plenty of exotic
21 plants in Olympic National Park. I'm against the way to kill them. If
22 one person in a helicopter crashes and the pilot is killed and the
23 shooter that was shooting is, it's going to cost somebody a lot more
24 money that those goats being up there and the way it stands now, it
25 runs from \$3- to \$7,000 a piece to operate a helicopter out there.

I saw some goats out there and two of them had broken legs,
you know what they did with them? They killed them right there in

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3 front of 10 or 15 people who were watching them come in with a
4 helicopter. I don't think that's fair for the public to see something
5 like that and we're tax payers who are supporting something that
6 90% of the population oppose or do not enjoy seeing.

7 If you want to manage the things -- but they're not going to
8 learn managing the goat population by watching Washington State
9 Game and Fisheries Commission. Regarding vegetation, all types of
10 animals eat vegetation and they help eat the vegetation like one
11 gentleman said, the rose miltvetch was brought in here years ago
12 and nobody said anything about them. But if you want to kill these
13 goats, why don't they get a permit like this lady said -- there are
14 several hunters in the area who would put up two-hundred bucks,
15 but have somebody go with them so they know -- from the Park
16 Service -- so the hunter can show them that he is not going to waste
17 that animal like some of them being wasted out there now. When
18 they shoot one of those animals and they fall down the cliff, that
19 helicopter pilot is not going to take and put himself in danger up
20 there at all.

21 I want to thank you, let's keep the goats.

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23
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25 PHIL MESIBOV

I have something to say but I want to put it in my own
context here, I'll start with, "Let's get real!"

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3 What exactly is a US Park mandate that allows for the killing
4 of all these goats? And before I go into that very much, let me just
5 mention that the first gentleman that I believe was in favor of
6 eliminating the goats mentioned the figures on page 224 -- let's
7 knock some common sense in this, does it really cost shy of a million
8 dollars to survey the animal damage to vegetation in Olympic
9 National Park by goats? Or will it take maybe a half-million dollars
10 if the goats are eliminated and a million dollars if the goats aren't
11 eliminated, I mean either way, let's have some common sense in this
12 situation. I think that's what we need in the first place, I think this
13 whole thing got started by some "Ivory Tower" park personnel that
14 had visions of the Olympics being the pristine American or World
15 Park. Who's to say that the Indians did not put on their backs along
16 with their babies some of the marmots, maybe we should research
17 and see if the marmots should be eliminated -- look at all the damage
18 they do. Let's put this thing in perspective. Let's let our
19 representatives know that as a people we do have some common
20 sense and that we do want to have this thing in perspective.

21 It's interesting to see that the Park Service is constantly
22 showing slides over and over again that shows wallows that are
23 there because salt-licks are placed there in order to congregate the
24 goats so they can be eliminated -- I mean studied, excuse me. Over
25 400 goats are unaccounted for, I heard from some park person, and
there netting wasn't properly inspected so the goats fell to their
deaths. Also, babies were left behind. They told us, the public, that

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3 babies could manage on their own, but they do not manage on their
4 own, they're unaccounted for and they obviously died because they
5 were too young. Is this the kind of management that we want to
6 respect? I don't know. Thank you.

7
8 BILL ROSA

9 This is going to be real short and sweet. You say the
10 goats are eating the plants? What about the elk, make them quit
11 eating the grass? You're going to make squirrels quit eating the
12 bark off the tree? You're going to make the birds quit eating some
13 little insects flying around. Leave the elk alone, leave the goats
14 alone, leave everything alone. It's wrong and I'm not very smart but
15 it's the same thing, me and my wife believe in the Lord in our own
16 way, but didn't the Lord pick up a rock and say let He who is without
17 sin cast the first stone? Well, how about the people leave the elk
18 alone, leave the goats alone. You have no right. The Lord, He put
19 them here, leave them alone. That's all I have.

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25 CATHY SUE ANUNSEN

My name is Cathy Sue Anunsen and I'm regional
director for Fund For Animals. And I've been working for the last

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2
3 eight years to try and insure that mountain goats remain in the
4 Olympic Peninsula. If you agree that they should stay, I urge all of
5 you to work together as a coalition to tell your Congressional
6 representative that we do not support the Park's obscene proposal.

7 Please stop by the table and pick up some literature that we
8 put together that we hope will help keep you keep you r goats in the
9 Olympic Peninsula.

10
11 RAY THOMPSON

12 Please excuse me, I'm a little bit nervous. I'm 25 years
13 old and I was born and raised here and the goats are as much a
14 native as I am. I've been here for 25 years and you don't got the
15 right. Thank you.

16
17 KARI PEICE (No spelling given)

18 Hi, my name is Kari Peice and I hadn't planned on
19 talking but I feel like I needed to say something. I came to the
20 Peninsula 2 years ago and I wasn't sure how I felt about the goat
21 issue and I'm not sure how I feel personally about it now.

22 Like many people who are outdoor activist-enthusiasts, I
23 enjoy the back country just as much as many of you do and I enjoy
24 what is there and what should be there. I guess what I'm trying to
25 say is that the scientists here study these things and many of you
don't trust their data, you don't trust what they're saying, you think
they're saying lies to you. I don't know if I should say this, but I

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3 work in the National Park. I am not a scientist, but I work along side
4 of them. I work along side every single person that has had
5 something to do with putting this meeting together and those people
6 in the Park care. They have personal integrity. Maybe some of
7 them don't even know how they feel personally on the issue of
8 shooting the goats or not shooting them. I'm just saying that they
9 worked hard and the information they gathered is accurate, they
10 study, they do their data, they run the analyses -- I see you're
11 laughing and you don't believe me, I'm just expressing what I see at
12 work.

13 One of the people up here were saying that they went to the
14 mountains and they didn't see any signs of goats. I went
15 backpacking with somebody who had never seen the goats and I
16 went on a rock and urinated on a rock like they say to do and within
17 ten seconds a goat come out of the woods and was there licking the
18 rock and that goat shared our campsite with us for the night and I
19 watched the effect that one goat had in one night and I am more
20 inclined to believe the data that the scientists have said from that
21 one goat.

22 Nobody has really mentioned but everyone is attacking the
23 Park, it's Congress. it's all set by Congress. These people are just
24 following mandates set by Congress. I could not personally kill a
25 goat and this issue is emotional, but I accept and support the Park
Service if that's what they need to do to support the ecosystem. It is
not each of these people's individuals choice to go out there, they're

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3 following a law from Congress. Thank you.
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5 PAIGE CHOYESKI

6 Hi, my name is Paige Choyeski. What I wanted to say
7 was that the Earth was here long before we were and it's going to
8 remain when we're gone and I don't think any of us here should
9 play God. I think all of us are suffering from a God-complex here.
10 You know, let it be, if it's meant to happen they won't be there any
11 more, but we as human beings have no right to decide that. Thank
12 you.
13

14
15 DIANA HOFFMAN

16 Hi, I'm Diana Hoffman. I'm from the Olympic Peninsula
17 and I've lived here all my life. I've hiked in the mountains for years
18 ever since I was a child and the killing of the mountain goats is
19 appalling me -- I can't handle it, it's very upsetting to think that a
20 creature that is so sure-footed and so fine and strong and emanates
21 such a strength should get a hold of, that we're thinking -- we're not
22 thinking -- that the Olympic National Park would like to kill them
23 and has killed them and is sending them away to laboratories to
24 examine them, has done that, had eliminated the -- trying to
25 eliminate the whole species of the mountain goat and --

I just can't understand. I never thought it would come to this.
I remember I use to chase them up the hillside, I use to go up hiking

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3 with my dad and we just loved doing it and when I was younger and
4 when I was little I remember looking for white goats on the
5 Klahhane Ridge and I'll still look for them and I don't want them
6 killed and I want to be listened to because I am the one that's paying
7 your salary. Thank you.

8
9 CHRIS KINCADE

10 I would just like to support what Kari had to say and
11 that is Park Service people are -- I'm sorry, K-i-n-c-a-d-e. I'd like to
12 support what Kari said. These are highly educated people who study
13 and who take their jobs very seriously and they do whatever they
14 can to the best of their ability to interpret what they find. I don't
15 think they're out to fool anybody or tell lies, you wouldn't put up
16 with it. They're paid, public servants and I think it's really
17 important that you pay attention to what the book has to say and
18 think about it very seriously. And speaking of playing God, that's
19 how the goats got there, it's a very emotional issue. So, that's all I
20 have to say.

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24 MARV CHASTAIN

25 My name is Marv Chastain, I have been camping and
backpacking in the Olympic National Park and in the Cascade

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3 Mountains for more years than probably a lot of you have been alive
4 and I have always been impressed with the Park personnel that I
5 have met. They sure aren't like the IRS. The Park personnel that I
6 met were always very concerned not only about the park but about
7 the people in the park, making sure that you saw everything you
8 should see and making sure you enjoyed yourself. And I am totally
9 appalled that the management of the National Park or management
10 of the Interior Department now has turned into a killer syndrome
11 and I'm sure a lot of these good people, if they are able to speak their
12 minds, that work for the Park would say the same thing. Here we
13 have people who we've hired to manage our Park who want to kill --
14 destroy mountain goats, they want to destroy waterfowl habitat, they
15 want to destroy a river and this doesn't make any sense.

16 I've looked at the EIS, there is obviously some serious
17 scientific cause with it I just sort of go on common sense and
18 common sense says that if these goats were going to destroy the
19 plant life they would have done it a long time ago, number one; and
20 number two, if you asked a farmer to consider the Park on a whole,
21 they'll tell you that all those goats are not hurting the plants, they're
22 fertilizing the plants and maybe some of these plants are going to die
23 because the goats aren't there.

24 I would further like to mention that our good senator Slade
25 Gordon is chairman of the subcommittee of appropriations for the
Interior Department, he is the guy that you need to talk to and tell
him to cut off the money. Thank you.

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6 ELLEN BRANK

7 I haven't lived here that long, I live in Bremerton and
8 I'm a navy wife. I would like to go up on the Olympic Mountain and
9 see the goats sometime and I'd really like them to be there when I do
10 and for other people to be able to see them also. And maybe if, you
11 know, maybe if we don't want those goats to be where they're not
12 suppose to be, we shouldn't be peeing on the rocks.

13
14 DON RUDOLPH (No spelling given)

15 Yes, my name is Don E. Rudolph. I'm definitely a native
16 of this area and been called an old goat a few times. But, all I'd like to
17 say is that I would have to say it's a little bit ridiculous to think about
18 destroying any animals in the Park.

19 And one other thing I'd like to say while I have the chance is
20 why in the Hell we couldn't have had a public meeting like this on
21 the Elwah dam, where people had the right to speak instead of a
22 workshop where we didn't have a lot of right to say anything and I
23 think before you're done, we're going to have a public meeting on
24 saving the Elwah dams and beautiful lakes. That's all I have got to
25 say.

HANNAH MC GUIRE (No spelling given)

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3 I'm Hannah McGuire. I've lived here all my whole life.
4 I'm a former employee of Olympic National Park and I was a trail-
5 boss then and I've been all over this park time after time on trails
6 and before it was a park with the CCC and I've never seen any
7 damage done from the goats. I've seen more damage done by people,
8 they do more damage than the goats. Thank you.
9
10

11 ELIZABETH MONTGOMERY

12 I've been forming a question in my mind and
13 maybe someone can answer it for me. I'm Elizabeth Montgomery and
14 I live in Port Angeles and I came here really to listen, I thought I
15 was going to hear both sides, but the question I have in my mind is
16 Jasper Natural Park in Canada has been famous all my life and
17 before that for their goats. not only for the ice scale, and those goats
18 were imported from the Cascades. There are still goats in the
19 Cascades and there is still goats in Jasper and you don't hear any
20 complaints about them eating up all the vegetation in those places.
21 Is it because this is a National Park and the goats in the Cascades are
22 not in the National Park? But, I mean -- well, the question in my
23 mind is did these goats develop a voracious appetite for the
24 vegetation in this area and that's why they have to be killed? If they
25 brought their appetites for the vegetation with them, what are they
going to do about the goats eating the vegetation in the other parks?

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4 ANNE KIMLER (No spelling given)

5 I am a resident all my life here. When I was nine or ten
6 years old, the forestry or the Park Service came down because the
7 elk had gone into Sequim and one of them had turned wild and they
8 shot that thing and it took 17 shots -- riding in a car, they rode
9 around the field after it and they shot it 17 times. They shot the legs
10 out from under it, in the head, you can not believe what a massacre
11 and then they hung it and stripped it.

12 Well, what do you think is going to happen to the goats if they
13 don't bleed to death then they're going to fall off a mountain. And
14 they're not going to be able to get shot from that first shot, it's going
15 to be a massacre for those people that are watching up in the wood to
16 see this. This is going to be horrendous. It's going to be terrible for
17 the children to see because there is going to be open carcasses, there
18 is going to be bugs infesting from one animal to another, and other
19 animals will come down and eat these animals and they'll be diseased
20 by the time they get treated.

21 This whole thing, this isn't fun and this isn't a game, it will be
22 a slaughter. Thank you.
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JACK LARUE (No spelling given)

I am Jack Larue. Approximately 20, 22 years ago I hiked

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3 up Klahhane Ridge followed the trail to the East to the tip of Mount
4 Angeles, down the trail to Lake Angeles and then on down. On that
5 hike, I did count 46 head of goat. No more than six could I have seen
6 the second time because of a rock out-cropping or something of that
7 sort.

8 My point is, apparently at this time, was the height of the goat
9 population. What happened in so far as the interference of Mother
10 Nature that we did as mankind to allow a goat population to get out of
11 hand? I just raise this question, I'm out to learn too.

12
13 ROGER ANUNSEN

14 My name is Roger Anunsen and I have a question --
15 that's A-n-u-n-s-e-n. We have paid biologists who are highly paid.
16 Is there any rule or law that won't allow the citizens of Port Angeles
17 to use the 45 minutes to ask questions?

18
19 BY MR. ATKISSON: It's not a question of rule or law, there was
20 an opportunity to ask questions earlier today, and whether they
21 would want to remain to answer questions is up to them, but there
22 will not be a question and answer period now.

23 MR. ANUNSEN: (To the scientists at the back of the room)
24 Would you be willing to answer questions now? They're set up here,
25 they're in a public forum.

MR. ATKISSON: That's not what this meeting has
been designed for.

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3 MR. ANUNSEN: But you said no question and answer
4 period because we don't have time, we have time.

5 MR. ATKISSON: It's also putting them on the spot
6 and I don't think it's fair for you to ask --

7
8 MR. ANUNSEN

9 I'll use the rest of my three minutes to say that if the
10 biologists are talking in small groups before a meeting, only a small
11 number of people will hear, but if the biologists are here with you
12 and you are asking questions, then the video will recall it and you
13 members of Port Angeles will be here long after superintendents are
14 transferred.

15
16 MR. ATKISSON: Since we have time -- let me first ask is
17 there any other member of the audience who would like to enter a
18 comment into the record on the EIS, if not, we can break the meeting
19 and go back to the open house format --

20 MR. ANUNSEN: That's not what I asked -- one question
21 from one person and another question and we all hear the answer,
22 on the record.

23 MR. ATKISSON: In order to make the conversation more
24 like conversation we are going to have to end the public hearing
25 portion, you may think that it's unnecessary sir, but that's your
preference, sir.

MR. ANUNSEN: Is that the preference of this group? We

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3 want the answers to be recorded for all the world to see.

4 MR. ATKISSON: They have a chance to break up early --

5 MR. ANUNSEN: We want to know if time is a problem or is
6 it the fact that it would be recorded for all to see?

7 MR. ATKISSON: I think it's been entered into the record
8 that you would like to have a public meeting but I'm not going to do
9 it, we've made a decision to extend our format to allow you to have
10 question and answer -- that you would prefer question and answer --

11 MR. ANUNSEN: So, finally, could I ask for a show of hands
12 how many agree that it should be open forum where we all hear the
13 same answer instead of breaking up?

14 MR. ATKISSON: I think it's clear that that's what you want,
15 since the hour is late I don't think it's the best time to do that.

16 MR. ANUNSEN: We'll be here 'till ten --

17 MR. ATKISSON: Excuse me, there will be time to answer
18 those questions but we're not going to move into that kind of a
19 process right now. I don't think it's fair to the biologists, the request
20 has been heard and I don't think it's fair to ask them to respond on
21 the spot to such a request.

22 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: If you kill our goats, I know how we
23 could become world famous. change the name of Hurricane Ridge to
24 "Blood Alley".

25 MR. DAVID MORRIS: I'm probably the only one among us
here who is in a position to respond. I know there are a lot of

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3 questions we would certainly provide the option we have to have
4 these various stations. If you really want answers, that's the way to
5 do it. If you want to raise hands and have questions, that is what I
6 would describe as not overly productive. then let's go into that kind
7 of thing. We're here to listen to you tonight. We have the people
8 here that could answer those questions, they're willing to do it. I
9 think that's about as far as I want to go tonight. That's about all the
10 time you and I have tonight and these folks are standing here ready
11 to answer the questions, but I don't know that we're going to get
12 very far, we're probably going to get ten questions in. You're going
13 to get a lot more answers if you go to them directly. Alan?

14
15 MR. ATKISSON: We understand that there are other
16 opinions about how this procedure should be. Those of us who have
17 been involved --

18 MR. MORRIS: (Responding to several audience members
19 who are talking at once) We are wasting a lot of time arguing about
20 format, we've got several people who are all available at any point at
21 the office to answer questions. We don't have any plans to schedule
22 another such meeting in that forum. We could take that into
23 consideration, but right now we don't have any such plans.

24 MR. ATKISSON: If there are other public comments on the
25 draft EIS -- At this point I want to remind people that additional
comments may be -- Did you want to make an additional comment on
the draft EIS?

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4 PHIL MESIBOV

5 Again. I just wanted to -- on the draft, back to what is
6 the premise for this goat killing in the context with whether it's
7 been agreed upon by the majority of the population. Seems to me we
8 shouldn't be weighing our decision to kill the goats strictly on
9 scientific reasoning. There's more to Earth and more to life and
10 more to humanity than scientific reasoning. Let's bring some
11 balance into this. Thank you.

12 I'm sure -- one more important thing, I'm sure that if people
13 when asked as we see here tonight, it's not a fair balance, would go
14 out and trade off a few wallows for something as majestic as the goats
15 -- did I say that right?

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19 LAVONNE HUFFMAN

20 I just want to say one thing on the draft Environmental
21 Statement. I think we should picket. That's the only thing that's
22 going to stop them. We can replant and we can picket if we have to,
23 but they have to stop this violence. They don't need to do it. Let's
24 stop them.
25

 MR. ATKISSON: One more speaker, and then I think we'll

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3 call the meeting to a close.

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5 PAT WITTEKIND (No spelling given)

6 My name is Pat Wittekind. I'm a resident of Sequim. I
7 look at page 102. it says impact on vegetation resource and it
8 indicates in here that there is a part of the impact population as is
9 indicated here that is located outside the park and if you look at
10 figure 6 on page 65. you'll find that there is a substantial portion of
11 the mountain range and the areas location which are outside of the
12 park in the National Forest. The -- no discussion has been provided
13 in here about the integration of what happens about the issue if you
14 eliminate just the population in the park what are they going to do
15 about the population outside the park.

16 Also the question is that from the maps that I know of part of
17 the location and this is shown actually on page 74 of your document,
18 is in the wilderness area of the National Forest -- and the question
19 that I have is to what extent does the Park Service integrate the goat
20 management with what's happening in the wilderness area of the
21 National forest? I asked the question to the biologists here and they
22 say that the National forest people are doing nothing with respect to
23 the goat and impact of the goats on the indigenous species that are in
24 the wilderness area. The question I have in that case is how come
25 this doesn't discuss the overall aspects of all goat management and
plants and other species? I'm saying unless you integrate an overall
program, you will be very badly faulted for not bringing attention to

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3 the whole problem.
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6 MR. ATKISSON: If there are no additional people who
7 would like to comment about the draft Environmental Impact
8 Statement, I'd like to thank you for being a very respectful audience
9 and for listening to your peers and colleagues and for participating
10 as actively as you did tonight. Thank you very much.

11 The biologists have agreed to remain behind to answer
12 questions you may have in connection with the EIS, and again we'd
13 like to thank for being here and wish you all a good night.

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15 (Public hearing ended at 9:45 p.m.)
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