



Fee Demonstration Program

A Special Report

Volume II, Number 1
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Inside This Issue:

- *Improvements to Backcountry Trails, Shelters and Ranger Stations*
- *Historic Ranger Station Restored*
- *Renovation of Hurricane Ridge Visitor Center Underway*
- *Just In Time for Summer: Improved Wilderness Information*
- *Park Headquarters Gets Facelift*
- *Wilderness Restoration at Hoh Lake and the Potholes*
- *North Fork Quinault Road Completed*

A Message From the Superintendent

Now in its third year, the Recreation Fee Demonstration Program has already left a legacy for Olympic National Park and its millions of annual visitors. Since Congress authorized this program in 1997, nearly two million dollars in fee money has been generated for over one hundred projects at Olympic.

Thanks to this program and the generous support of

park visitors, new picnic tables and campfire grates are available for campers and picnickers, backcountry trails have had more repair work than they've had in years, and people of all ages and abilities can enjoy new and improved trails throughout the park's developed areas.

We are grateful for your support of this program and are proud of what we've accomplished over the past

three years. This bulletin highlights some recently completed and ongoing projects that your fee contributions have helped to provide.

David K. Morris
Superintendent

Backcountry Trails, Shelters and Ranger Stations

Wilderness use fees, along with other fee revenue, are funding extensive repairs and maintenance projects in the park's backcountry. Five additional seasonal trail crew workers were hired this summer and are currently focused on opening the park's 600-plus miles of trail and repairing the damage caused by winter storms. Last year, wilderness use fees allowed for clearing both the Bogachiel and Queets trails for the first time in five years.

The Olympus Guard Station in the Hoh Valley was restored by park crews last summer, with new roof beams, flooring

and shutters. Work has begun on the Elwha Valley's Elkhorn Ranger Station, and will be completed by the end of this year. Two backcountry shelters will be repaired this summer, Home Sweet Home and Greywolf. The Humes Cabin will be repaired this winter or early next summer.



Home Sweet Home Shelter

Historic North Fork Ranger Station Restored



North Fork Quinault Ranger Station under repair

This winter's \$45,000 renovation of the historic North Fork Quinault Ranger Station is part of a park-wide effort to restore the park's historic ranger stations. The ranger station at North Fork is located in a damp shady area (typical of the park's rain forests!) and over the years had developed rot along its foundation and in the adjacent garage. To repair and correct these problems, park maintenance crews raised the

ranger house, replaced rotting foundation logs, created a crawlspace for better access and ventilation, and then placed the house on its new footings. The station now has new plumbing, fixtures and cabinets. A gas heating system was installed, allowing for year round heating to keep the building dry. The garage was also renovated.

Finishing touches to the ranger station are scheduled for this summer, when park crews will install a new septic system, along with a new roof and siding.

The North Fork Quinault Ranger Station is the park's best example of a 1930s-era ranger station, and in its newly restored condition, will provide a glimpse into the early days of Olympic National Park.

Repair and maintenance needs at the park's other historic ranger stations (Eagle, Elwha, Graves Creek and Storm King) will be assessed this fall. Each of these stations will be renovated in priority order, depending on the results of this assessment.



refurbishing station's interior

Hurricane Ridge Visitor Center Renovation

Park user fees, along with other funding sources, have made possible the long-overdue renovation of the Hurricane Ridge Visitor Center. Completed in 1952, the building has long been plagued with a leaky roof and walls, inadequate insulation and difficult access for physically impaired visitors.

The renovation began in early June and will include a new roof and additional insulation in the walls and ceiling spaces. All exterior windows and doors will be replaced with new weathertight models and repairs will be made to the building's exterior walls. The existing

terrace will also be replaced and additional space will be created for the giftshop and cafeteria.

Construction will continue throughout the summer and fall, with completion set for December of this year. The building is scheduled to remain open throughout most of the construction period, though a temporary closure is anticipated in late August when new roof support beams are installed. Temporary outdoor toilet facilities will be installed for occasional use when the indoor restrooms are under construction.

Funding for this project has come from concessionaire franchise fees, government-appropriated money, and park user fees.

Project Status Overview

Recreation Fee Demonstration Program

Olympic National Park

June 1999

Project Title	Project Funding Level	Project Status
Improve Wilderness Information to Backcountry Users	\$275,000	Wilderness permit & reservation system enhanced. Eight new seasonal employees hired to provide safety and resource information.
Repair Backcountry Trails Parkwide	\$150,000	Three trails opened in 1998; five seasonal employees hired in both 1998 and 1999.
Wilderness Trip Video & Trip Planner Newspaper	\$32,000	Trip planner newspaper in its second printing; video program on hiker safety & resource protection recently completed and available at Wilderness Info Center.
Wilderness Camp Area Revegetation	\$230,000	Hoh Lake and C.B. Flats restoration mostly complete; these and the Potholes restoration projects will be completed this fall.
Repair Backcountry Historic Ranger Stations	\$108,000	Olympus Guard Station completed in 1998; Elkhorn Guard Station to be completed this fall, with another three stations scheduled for repairs in 2000.
Stabilize Backcountry Shelters	\$60,000	Parkwide assessment completed; Home Sweet Home and Greywolf shelters will be repaired this fall.
Restore Campground & Interpretive Trails	\$109,000	Trails at Fairholm & Sol Duc campgrounds have been rebuilt; repairs to Hoh & Kalaloch campground trails scheduled for '99 and 2000
Paint Public Use Buildings Parkwide	\$75,000	ONP VC re-sided & painted in 1998; restrooms throughout park to be painted during summer of 2000.
Produce Visitor Orientation Film	\$32,000	Filming in progress; production is being done in cooperation with NPS Harpers Ferry Center; completion targeted for 2000.
Re-roof Public Use Buildings Parkwide	\$75,000	Hoh VC completed; two comfort stations at Hurricane Ridge to be re-roofed this summer, snow levels permitting.
Install New Restroom at Quinault Visitor Center	\$50,000	Completed May, 1999.

Replace Restroom Privies or Doors Parkwide, As Needed	\$175,000	New vault toilets have been placed at East Beach and at the Boulder Creek, Ruby Beach, Sol Duc and Whiskey Bend trailheads. Deer Park campground toilets will be replaced this summer, snow conditions permitting.
Replace Lighting at Hoh Visitor Center	\$6,000	All lighting fixtures in the Hoh VC have been replaced; project completed June 1998.
Replace Picnic Tables Parkwide, As Needed	\$150,000	New table tops installed in Elwha, Fairholm, Kalaloch and SolDuc campgrounds; more will be installed this autumn.
Replace Campfire Grates Parkwide, As Needed	\$33,000	Last year, 118 new fire grates were installed, with another 150 on line for 1999.
Re-gravel Roads and Parking Areas	\$230,000	Graves Creek, Whiskey Bend and North Fork Roads have been improved with new drainage culverts, safer alignment and new gravel surfaces.
Replace Ozette Trailhead Orientation Kiosk	\$20,000	Design work in progress for new orientation kiosk; target for completion is 2000. This project will serve as a prototype for trailhead exhibits throughout the park.
Replace Wilderness Exhibits at Trailheads	\$22,000	Initial design work in progress.
Restore Historic Frontcountry Ranger Stations	\$90,000	North Fork Quinalt Ranger Station will be finished this summer; work on Graves Creek RS to begin this fall; assessment to be completed this fall as well.
Restore Historic Frontcountry Landscapes	\$75,000	Restoration of park headquarters area in progress.
Repair Water Distribution System	\$70,000	New pumps at Kalaloch water treatment plant will be installed this summer; remaining work to be completed this fall.
Replace Informational Signs	\$40,000	Fifty-two signs and NPS arrowheads have been purchased; additional 15 signs were purchased for use on ONPVC area trails.
Repair Hurricane Ridge Visitor Center Exterior	\$205,000	Repair of the HRVC exterior is part of a large rehab project which began in early June. Target completion date is December 1999.

UserFee

improves this park

Improved Wilderness Information Services

Over \$175,800 in wilderness use fees have provided new and improved visitor services at the park's Wilderness Information Center (WIC) and around the park. Thanks to fee funding, the WIC staff has been expanded to include four paid staff, in addition to volunteers. Four more positions have been added to ranger stations around the park. The WIC employees arrived just in time, as this May's visitation at the WIC was twice that of last May!

These staffing increases have allowed for enhanced wilderness information on the park's website, including weekly updated trail condition reports. The wilderness reservation system has also been expanded, with new computers added to ranger stations throughout the park. Visitors have easier access to the reservation system and can now make reservations for backcountry camp areas in the popular Sol Duc / Seven Lakes Basin area.

The WIC is open from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. daily,



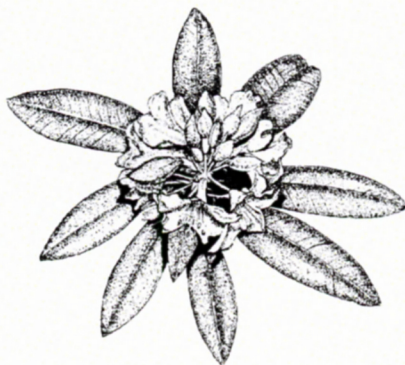
providing up-to-date trail condition reports, safety information and trip planning advice. Visitors may call the WIC at (360) 452-0300, or visit the online Wilderness Trip Planner at <http://www.nps.gov/olym>.

In a related project, \$32,000 in fee funding has provided a video program to help hikers plan their wilderness trips and *Into Olympic*, a newspaper-style trip planner. The video has just been completed and will soon be available for viewing at the WIC. *Into Olympic* is now in its second printing and can be picked up, free of charge, at any park ranger station or visitor center.

Facelift at 600 East Park Avenue

Designed soon after the park was established in 1938, the landscaping around Olympic National Park headquarters reflects an important era in the park's history. The original landscaping was installed by members of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) and the Works Progress Administration (WPA) and included 2,600 collected rhododendrons, as well as other native plants such as big leaf maple, vine maple and sword fern.

Combined with the locally quarried rock and other native materials used in the buildings, the plantings exemplify CCC and WPA era architecture and reflect the qualities and diversity of the park as a whole.



Through proceeds of the fee program, park staff working with a contracted specialist in historical landscape architecture recently completed a restoration plan for the headquarters area grounds. A Washington Conservation Corps (WCC) crew removed trees and brush in early May as a first step in restoring the open park-like feel of the grounds. Extensive weeding, pruning and planting will be done this summer and fall. By next summer, visitors will be able to "step back in time", as the original CCC and WPA vision is restored.

Wilderness Restoration at Hoh Lake and the Potholes

Wilderness use fees have provided funding for major restoration projects at Hoh Lake, C.B. Flats and the Potholes area of Seven Lakes Basin. Last fall, the focus was on Hoh Lake, where damaged trails and campsites were upgraded and repaired. Waterbars and gravel turnpiking were added to the trail to prevent erosion, while over 20,000 native plants, grown in the Olympic National



camping area before restoration

Gravel Roads Improved

Three of the park's well-used gravel roads have been improved over the past three years. The North Fork Quinault Road recently reopened after the final layers of gravel were spread in mid-June. Extensive work was done to upgrade the road's alignment, drainage and overall safety as well. With these improvements, the North Fork Road has been brought

Park greenhouse, were planted by park staff and volunteers. A new composting privy was installed at Hoh Lake.

At nearby C.B. Flats, a new group campsite was constructed and bear wires for proper food storage were installed. The group campsite provides the first site for large groups (7-12 people) camping near Hoh Lake or the popular Seven Lakes Basin area.

The Hoh Lake project will be finished this fall, with additional trail work and another 10,000 native plants placed in the ground.

This fall will also see work in the Potholes area, where both the trail and camp areas will be improved. Gravel turnpiking, retaining walls and waterbars will prevent future erosion along the trail and 12,000 native plants will stabilize damaged soils and restore subalpine meadows.

These projects are being funded

to the same standard as the Elwha Valley's Whiskey Bend Road and the Graves Creek Road in Quinault, which were repaired earlier through fee project funding.



bulldozers resurfacing Graves Creek road



volunteers spread protective mat over newly placed plants

by \$230,000 in wilderness use fees and a grant from the Washington State NOVA (Non-highway and Off-road Vehicle Activities) Program, a fund supported by state gasoline taxes.

For more information about the Recreation Fee Demonstration Program at Olympic National Park, please contact Barb Maynes, Public Information Officer at (360) 452-0317.

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