

OLYMPIC

NATIONAL PARK

Washington



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OLYMPIC NATIONAL PARK on the Olympic Peninsula, in Washington, is a unique wilderness of coniferous rain forests, wildlife, alpine flower meadows, glaciers, lakes, and streams, set in one of the most rugged mountain masses in the entire country. The park is a part of the National Park System owned by the people of the United States and administered by the National Park Service of the Department of the Interior. It is one of the superb scenic areas, known as national parks, that have been set aside by Congress for the recreation, education, and inspiration of the people for all time.

The scenery, including all wild nature, is carefully preserved in the national parks while at the same time it is made accessible for public enjoyment. Legislation creating the National Park Service provides that these areas shall be administered in such a manner as to leave them "unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations." While visitors are urged to make full use of the park for the purposes intended, their help is requested in its conservation.

Climate

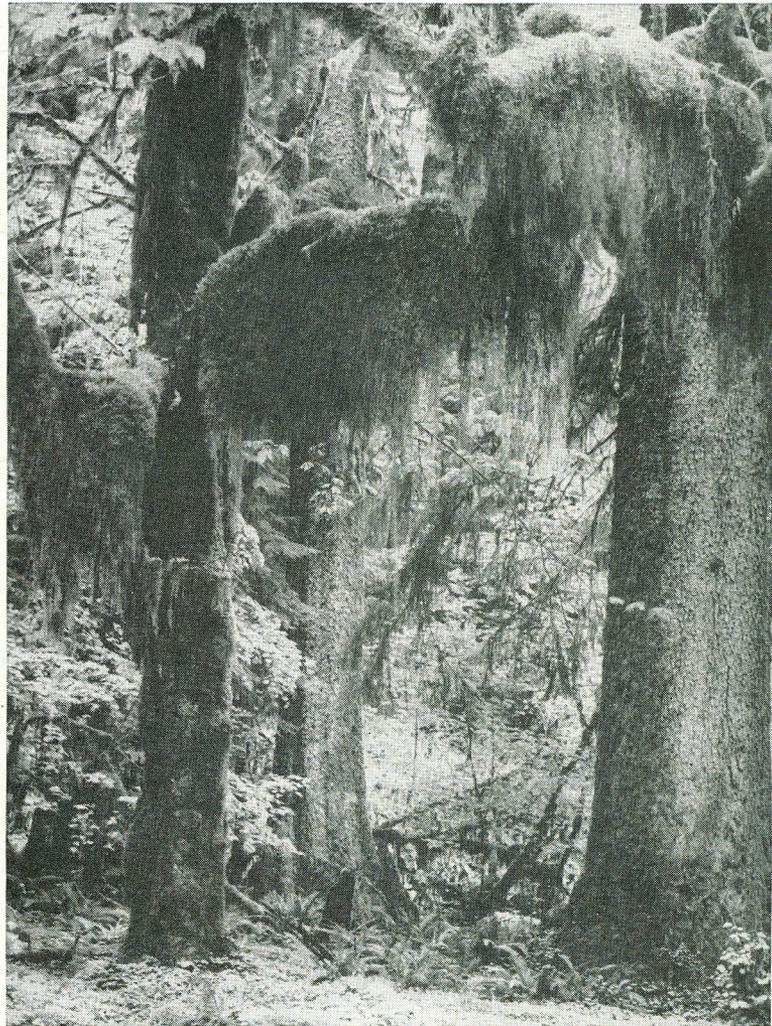
The wettest winter climate in the continental United States prevails on the west side of the park where yearly precipitation exceeds 140 inches. Probably Mount Olympus and the high country generally receive much more than that, but mostly in the form of snow. In contrast to the wetness of the west side, the east slope of the park is the driest on the West coast outside of southern California.

Olympic National Park dominates the center of the Olympic Peninsula which is almost an island, being nearly surrounded by water. "Within this area," wrote John Yeon in 1936, "rivers have their source and major

being before their confluence with the ocean. The circuit of moisture, lifting from the sea, detained in glaciers, and flowing through streams and rivers back to the sea, is complete, like a diagrammatic functioning model of the workings of earth forces, and almost within the range of observation from a single vantage point."

Rain Forests

An extraordinary forest growth has developed during centuries of wetness on the western slopes of the park. The cone-bearing trees, including Sitka spruce, Douglas-fir, western red-cedar, and western hemlock, dominate this forest on the valley floors and lower mountain slopes up to 1,500 feet elevation. They are all big trees, many of them reaching 200 feet or more into the sky and having



Cover: Monarchs of the Rain Forest

Rain Forest

a diameter of 10 feet. On the Queets River is the largest known Douglas-fir—17 feet 8 inches in diameter at 4 feet above the base. The largest redcedar (20 feet in diameter), the largest western hemlock, and the largest Alaska cedar on record are also located in the park. Moss-covered vine maple forms an understory beneath the giant conifers in the valley bottoms, and big leaf maple, alder, and cottonwood grow near the streams. Mosses softly carpet the forest floor and upholster tree trunks and fallen trees. Draperies of it hang from the branches. Ferns mingle with the mosses and delicate spring flowers on the forest floor, and accompany the mosses to the upper branches of some trees. The forest appears to be permeated with a misty green light.

Life Zones

Whereas the rain forest, as described, is found only on the western slopes of the park, all but one of the rain forest trees are more widespread. Douglas-fir especially is common throughout the lowlands of the park and extends considerably above 1,500 feet, as does western hemlock but in association with western white pine and silver fir. Above 3,500 feet, mountain hemlock, Alaska yellowcedar, and alpine fir join with the silver fir, and extend to timber line, leaving their lowland associates behind. Generally, timber line is around 5,000 feet. Above timber line, the vegetation consists mostly of low plants. As one travels upward into the park this changing pattern of plant life may be seen—a pattern that is arranged in horizontal belts and is known as life zones.

Wild Flowers

The low plants at and above timber line consist mostly of sedges, grasses, and plants having more showy flowers. These are the alpine meadows where the wildflowers bloom from June through October. About these meadows E. B. Webster wrote in his book, *The Friendly Mountain*, "Mountain parks and mountain slopes filled and covered with flowers. Flowers of every shape and hue. Flowers standing shoulder to shoulder, as thick as daisies in the pasture, or clover in the field. Red columbine, yellow and blue asters, scarlet paint brushes, blue lupine, white valerian and others, all thrown together in one gorgeous blanket of thoroughly mixed color."

Wildlife

Visitors in Olympic National Park frequently see wild animals from the roads and trails. Approximately 60 kinds of mammals and, during the summer, nearly 200



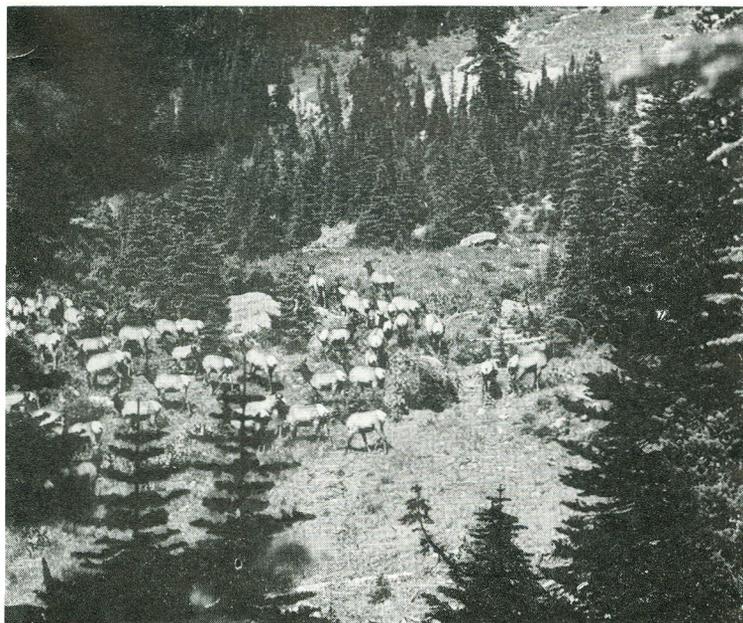
Wild Tiger Lily

kinds of birds live in this wilderness park. The Columbian black-tailed deer are numerous on the northern and eastern slopes of the park and black bears are often seen, especially when the huckleberries ripen in the mountain meadows. The most impressive animal is the Roosevelt elk, of which there are approximately 4,000 in the park. Hikers frequently see these magnificent animals in the high country from early summer through the autumn. When snow falls in the mountains they move down into the valleys where they are often seen during the winter.

Woodpeckers in the forest, dippers and kingfishers along the streams, and horned larks on the open ridges are among the numerous birds that contribute to the delight of visitors to this living wilderness park.

Mountains and Glaciers

The rugged Olympic Mountains form no definite ranges but appear to be scattered across the park without order. Mount Olympus, the highest, is 7,954 feet above sea level. Many other peaks rise above 7,000 feet, but the altitude of the ridges and crests is mostly between 5,000 and 6,000 feet.



Roosevelt Elk (Photo by A. L. Thompson)

The moisture-laden winds that blow off the Pacific Ocean are cooled as they strike the Olympic Mountains in winter and drop their moisture mostly as snow. On the basis of stream run-off it has been calculated that precipitation on Mount Olympus and the neighboring high country may be around 250 inches per year. The summers are not long enough to melt all the snow. It accumulates and forms glaciers that have scoured the Olympic Mountains for thousands of years. Counting the small ones, there probably are more than a hundred glaciers in Olympic National Park. As glaciers everywhere, they are melting back, getting smaller year by year, but several of them are still 1 to 3 miles long. Mount Olympus itself has seven major glaciers on its upper flanks.

Lakes and Streams

In a region of glacier-carved basins and heavy precipitation it is natural to find numerous lakes. Most of them are small but their beauty adds much to the charm of the Olympic scenery. A few lowland lakes have considerable size. Lake Crescent, nestled in the forested mountains at the northern end of the park, is one of the most beautiful lakes in the United States.

From the melting snow and ice of the peaks, swift rivers plunge sharply down the mountains and then flat-

ten out in the lowlands. All the rivers are short, but those on the west side especially carry more water than other rivers of the same length because of the heavy precipitation. They bear Indian names—Elwha, Soleduck, Bogachiel, Hoh, Queets, Quinault—that are descriptive of their character. Soleduck, for example, means "good clean water," and Hoh means water that is "fast moving."

Olympic Ocean Strip and Queets Corridor

A belt of land averaging a mile in width and running for 50 miles along the Pacific Ocean is known as the Olympic Ocean Strip. Though not a part of the park, it is under the same administration and is physically joined with the park by another similarly administered belt called the Queets Corridor. This unique arrangement provides protection for and preservation of all native plant life from the ocean shore to the mountain tops. Three Indian reservations lie within the area and a fourth abuts it on the south. Cape Alava at the northern extremity is the most westerly point in the United States proper. The shore is broken by many rocky points and numerous needle rocks, and small islands rise off shore. Numerous birds nest on these islands and many others make rest stops during migration, as the strip lies within a major migration flyway.



Queets River

When To Visit the Park

Although Olympic National Park is open all year, the summer and early fall have the most favorable weather. Usually by the first of July the high country trails and roads are free from snow. Rains may and do occur, but summer weather is mostly clear and pleasantly cool. September and October are often delightful, with warm Indian Summer weather.

Winter Use

By the end of December, in normal years, the high country is buried in snow. The road to Deer Park is kept open by the National Park Service to enable skiers and others to enjoy the slopes and the winter beauty there. Meals and overnight accommodations are available during the season from December to April.

How To Reach the Park

Olympic National Park is readily accessible from Seattle, Tacoma, Olympia, Bremerton, and Aberdeen, Wash., Victoria, British Columbia, and other Northwest cities. The traveler may reach the Puget Sound and Grays Harbor cities by excellent and frequent rail service. Motorists may enter the Olympic Loop Highway by way of Olympia.

Ferryboats cross Puget Sound to the Olympic Peninsula on regular schedules from Seattle and Edmonds. Ferry service is also available from Victoria, British Columbia, to Port Angeles.

Port Angeles is served by Northwest Greyhound Bus Line, which, with its transcontinental connections at Seattle, provides service from all points in the United States and Canada. This company also operates an all-expense tour around the Olympic Peninsula. Stop-overs may be made in the park and elsewhere along the route.

Bus service also is available from Olympia to Port Angeles on Bremerton-Tacoma stages.

Blue-Grey Stages run twice a week between Aberdeen and Forks where they connect with the Northwest Greyhound bus to Port Angeles.

West Coast Airlines, Inc., offers three flights daily during the summer months and two during the winter between Seattle and Port Angeles.

Accommodations and Services

Following is a partial list of accommodations and services available in the park. A schedule of rates may be obtained on request from the Superintendent of Olympic National Park, Port Angeles, Wash., or from the managers of these concessions.

Rosemary Inn.—On U S 101, 20 miles west of Port Angeles. Cottages, with dining room at lodge. European plan. Meal service. Free boats for guests. (P. O. address, Star Route, Port Angeles, Wash.)

Beardslee Bay Camp.—Thirty miles west from Port Angeles and 3 miles on North Shore Road. Sleeping cabins, public kitchen, and camping space available. Boat rental, reservations, and information may be obtained from the manager of Rosemary Inn.

Olympic Hot Springs.—Housekeeping cabins. Swimming pool, store, transportation. (P. O. address, Port Angeles, Wash.)

Waumila Lodge.—Thirteen miles west of Port Angeles, on Elwha River. Housekeeping cabins, store, gasoline, fountain service, and meals. Boat rental service on Lake Mills. (P. O. address, Port Angeles, Wash.)

Staircase Resort.—On Skokomish River, 16 miles from Hoodspport. Housekeeping cabins. (P. O. address, Hoodspport, Wash.)

Kelly's Ranch.—Queets Corridor. Cabins and lodge, American plan, family style. Horses, bus service by call. (P. O. address, Route 1, Hoquiam, Wash.)

Becker's Ocean Resort.—On U S 101, at Kalaloch, Wash. Housekeeping cabins, store, service station. (P. O. address, Kalaloch, Wash.)

Lapush Ocean Park.—At Lapush, in Olympic Coastal Strip. Housekeeping cabins, campground. (P. O. address, Lapush, Wash.)

Ruby Beach Resort.—Eight miles north of Kalaloch, Wash., on U S 101, in Olympic Coastal Strip. Housekeeping, cabins, store, and service station. (P. O. address, Kalaloch, Wash.)

Ashenbrenner's Pioneer Camp.—On U S 101, 3 miles south of Kalaloch, Wash., in Olympic Coastal Strip. Housekeeping cabins, store, gasoline, oil. (P. O. address, Route 1, Clearwater, Wash.)

Numerous other accommodations and services are available on privately owned land in the park for which rates are not subject to Government approval.

Information on hotels and resorts on the Olympic Peninsula may be obtained from the Olympic Peninsula Resort and Hotel Association, Colman Ferry Terminal, Seattle, Wash.

Horses and guides:

Elwha and Staircase.—Gaylen C. Lamon (1019 Cota, Shelton, Wash.)

Sol Duc Hot Springs.—Mrs. Minnie Peterson (Forks, Wash.)

Queets.—Kelly's Guest Ranch (Route 1, Hoquiam, Wash.)

Heart o' the Hills.—C. J. Spencer (P. O. Box 894, Port Angeles, Wash.)

Information concerning horse and guide service near other sections of the park is obtainable on request from the superintendent.

Free Public Campgrounds

Free public campgrounds are maintained by the National Park Service. Campgrounds at Olympic Hot Springs, Soleduck, Staircase, Heart o' the Hills, and Hoh River have individually spaced camp units, with stoves and tables, running water, and public toilets. In addition to the above facilities, the Elwha, Altaire, LaPoel, and Graves Creek Campgrounds also have shelter kitchens for large groups. The campgrounds at July Creek on Lake Quinalt and on the Queets River and Hoh River are equipped with tables, stoves, and toilets, but not with piped water. Simpler camping facilities are available at Deer Park and at Idaho Camp and Waterhole Camp on Hurricane Ridge and at the North Fork Ranger Station on the Quinalt River.

Campers should be prepared for rain as it may occur even during the summer.

Administration

Olympic National Park was established by act of Congress on June 29, 1938, and contains approximately 847,000 acres of federally owned land. The park is under the administration of the National Park Service, United States Department of the Interior. A superintendent is in immediate charge and all communications regarding the park should be addressed to him at Olympic National Park, Port Angeles, Wash.

Roads and Trails

Olympic Highway, U S 101, leaves U S 99 at Olympia, Wash., and skirts the Olympic Mountains for a distance of 368 miles. Approximately 12 miles of the highway are in the park, where it passes along the south shore of Lake Crescent.

Graveled approach roads branch from the Olympic Highway and lead up most of the main rivers through delightful wilderness within the park.

Two steep and winding mountain roads ascend to nearly 6,000 feet at Deer Park and Obstruction Point in the northeastern section of the park. These roads afford the motorist excellent panoramic views of the Olympic Mountains, the Strait of Juan de Fuca, and Vancouver Island and the opportunity to see the wild flowers and some of the wildlife of the high country.

A 500-mile network of trails leads into and through the park from the ends of the spur roads and makes accessible much of the wilderness area. The trails are narrow and steep in places, but are extensively used by both hikers and horseback parties. Trailside shelters have been constructed for their comfort.

Where To Go

Motoring.—Although the park has comparatively few roads, it is possible for the motorist to see a considerable part of it without hiking. Deer Park is particularly attractive in early summer, as the wild flowers then are of greatest variety in kind and color. Olympic marmots are frequently seen there among the rocks or fallen trees. Generally in the early morning and evening deer may be seen in the meadows and rabbits scamper between the clumps of timber line trees. The road leads to the top of Blue Mountain nearby, where a forest fire lookout is stationed during the summer.

Hurricane Ridge presents a changing pattern of wild flowers from early summer through October and affords superb mountain views.

Wilderness forest may be seen along nearly all the park roads. Some of the finest rain forest is along the Hoh River, near Hoh Ranger Station, 18 miles from U S 101. While it is not necessary to walk to see this forest, its detailed beauty becomes much more apparent when one goes up the trail or walks into the forest from anywhere along the road. Rubbers or other protective footwear should be worn.

The Olympic Ocean Strip is accessible by auto where U S 101 skirts the ocean for 11 miles. At Kalaloch, Indians still fish in the surf with dip nets when silver smelt come into the sand beaches to spawn from April to September. Near the town of Forks an 18-mile-long road connects U S 101 with the village of Lapush.

Hiking.—Genuine wilderness experience is in store for the hiker, who, with pack on back, goes into the inner wonderland of beauty. The possible hiking trips are numerous and varied. There are short, easy trips, requiring only a day or less, and longer and more diffi-



Storm King Mountain and Lake Crescent

cult trips that take several days. Information and suggestions will be provided on request.

Naturalist Service

During the summer, illustrated talks on the natural and human history of the region are given at Lake Crescent and a few other places in the park, and radio talks are given from Station KONP, Port Angeles. Additional information is available at park headquarters.

Fishing

The many lakes and streams afford good opportunity for fishing. Success will, of course, depend upon the knowledge and skill of the angler, and to a large degree upon the intensity of fishing in the water selected.

Lake Crescent is the native habitat of the unique Beardslee trout, found only in this lake. These fish have been known to weigh 20 pounds, and 10- to 15-pound specimens are frequently taken. Other lakes and streams in the park afford fishing for rainbow, eastern brook, cutthroat, and Dolly Varden trout. During the winter season, steelhead fishing is permitted in the Quinault, Queets, Hoh, Bogachiel, Calawah, Soleduck, and Dosewallips Rivers.

A briefed outline of fishing regulations may be obtained from the superintendent's office or from ranger stations.

No fishing license is required for fishing in the park, but a Washington State license is required for fishing in the Olympic Ocean Strip and Queets Corridor.



There are, of necessity, certain restrictions imposed upon the visitor to the park in order to preserve the area and the natural features it contains for the enjoyment of others for all time.

Park rangers, who will assist you to know, understand, appreciate, and enjoy the park in safety during your visit, have the added duty of enforcing the rules and regulations. They will be pleased to advise you concerning regulations, and should be consulted without hesitation when you are in doubt as to what you may or may not do.

Your cooperation in maintaining and protecting the park is requested. The following observations are made for your guidance:

Hunting.—Hunting, or the disturbance of any wildlife in any manner, is not permitted in national parks. Unless adequately sealed, cased, broken down, or otherwise packed to prevent their use while in the park, firearms are prohibited, except upon written permission from the superintendent. Occupancy of campgrounds, hotels, or lodges within the park as a base from which to hunt in areas outside the park is not permitted.

Fires.—Permits must be obtained for building fires, except at designated campgrounds along roads or highways. Fire permits may be obtained from park headquarters or ranger stations.

Preservation of Vegetation.—No trees or plants of any kind may be cut, picked, removed, carved, or injured in any way.

Only dead and down logs and limbs may be cut and used for campfire fuel. When funds permit, fuel supplies will be provided in designated campgrounds by the National Park Service.

Camping and Picnicking.—Campers and picnickers are required to maintain and leave the areas they use in a clean condition. All garbage and trash that can be burned should be disposed of in campfires. All empty cans should be burned out in the campfire to hasten rusting and to prevent attracting bears and flies to camp. Unburnable refuse and burned cans should be placed in containers, if provided, or in the camp garbage pit. In trail camps, where no garbage-disposal facilities are provided, thoroughly bury all unburned refuse and burned cans.

Dogs and Cats.—Dogs and cats are prohibited on all but privately owned land in the park unless on leash, crated, or otherwise under physical restrictive control at all times. They may not be taken on trails or cross-country trips, into swimming pools, public dining rooms, or community kitchens in campgrounds.

This regulation is not designed to be discriminatory, but to prevent molestation of wildlife and thus permit all visitors a better opportunity to observe intimately the wildlife with which the park abounds.

Trail Travel.—Hikers and riders shall not make short cuts across switch-backs, but shall confine their travel to the trail at all times. Saddle and pack animals have the right-of-way and should not be crowded or frightened by hikers.

Hikers planning trips which take them to remote or unfrequented areas of the park, or which entail climbs of peaks over hazardous routes of rock and glacier, or

who desire to make trips during other than the summer months, should advise the superintendent of their plans well in advance. The park rangers will thus be able to supply information relating to current conditions, check the adequacy of equipment and experience of those participating, and know when to expect the successful completion of such trips. The superintendent may, if he deems such action necessary, prohibit all mountain climbing in the park. Motorcycles, other motor vehicles, and bicycles are prohibited on trails.

Automobile Travel.—Operators of motor vehicles should drive carefully and with due consideration of the fact that other motorists may be driving slowly in order to enjoy and observe scenic or wildlife attractions.

Speed shall not exceed 35 miles an hour at any time, and shall be reduced below this maximum in accordance with condition, alinement, or grade of the road and amount of traffic to provide for safe operation at all times.

Specific roads, or sections of roads, may be posted to indicate a lower permissible maximum speed, and such limits should be carefully observed.

Do not throw trash, cans, bottles, or papers along roadsides and parking areas. Retain them in the car until you can place them in a garbage can.

Do not drive into, or across, alpine meadows, but remain on roads, road shoulders, or parking areas. You may be mired if you drive off the roads.

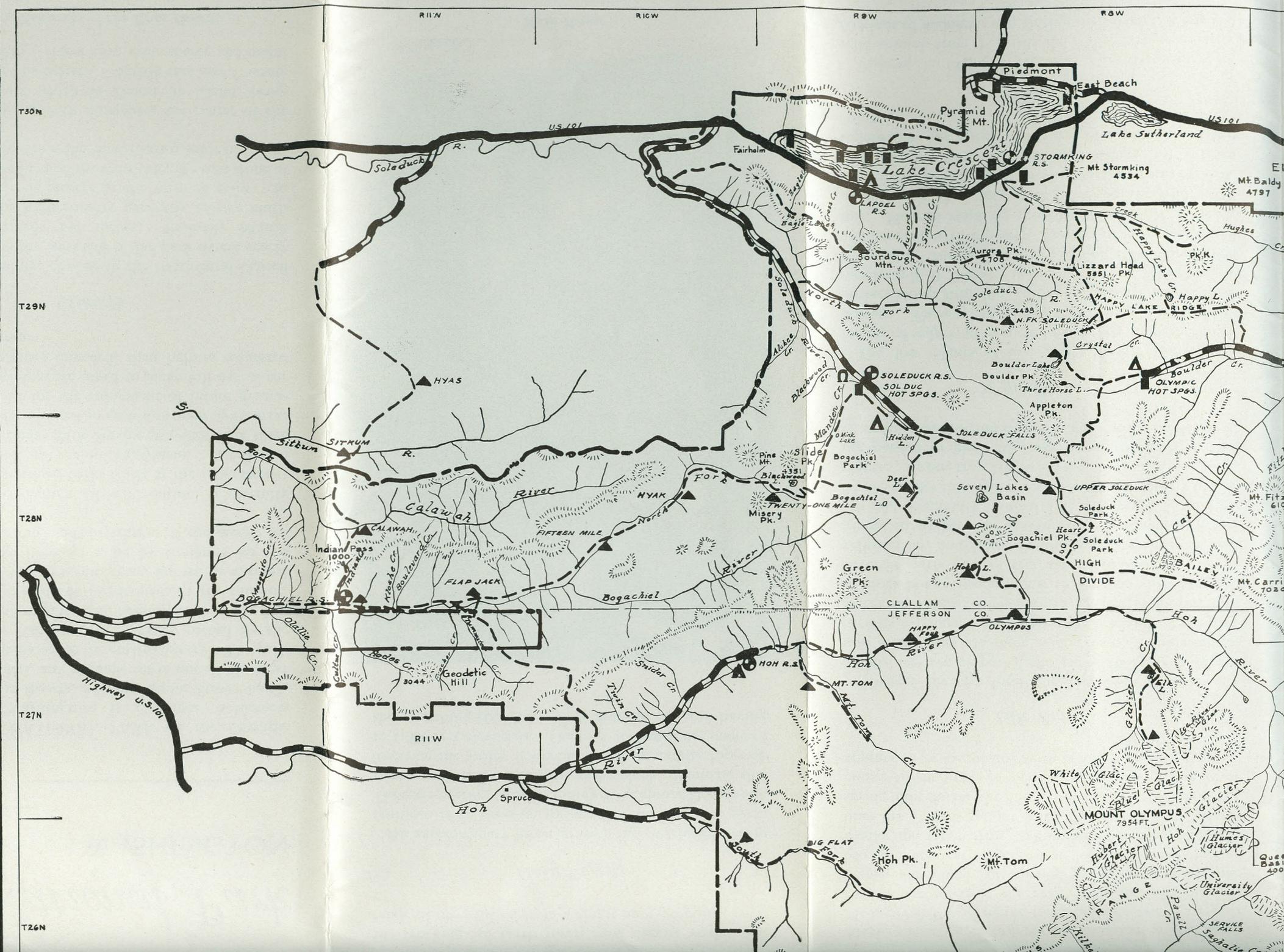
United States Department of the Interior

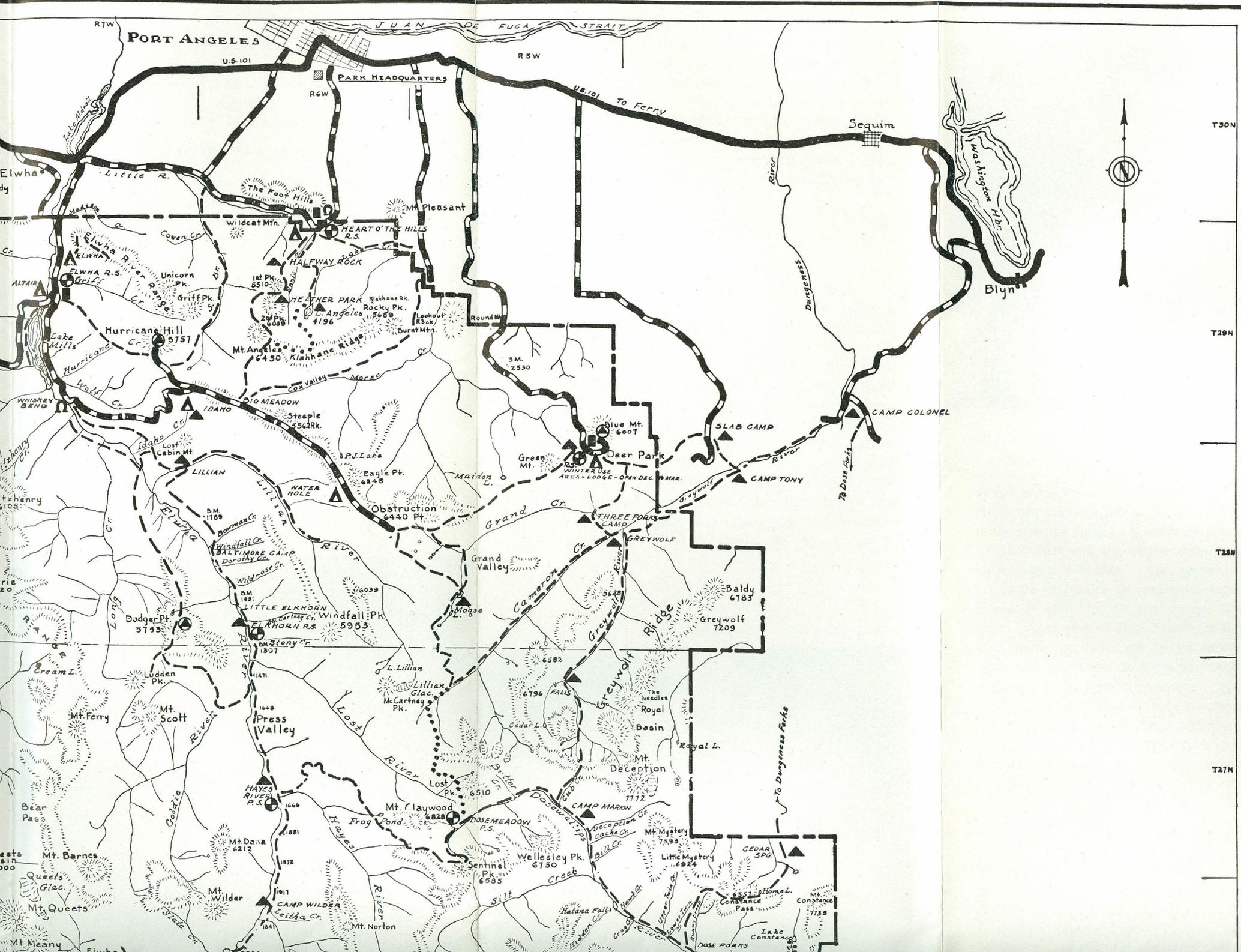
Oscar L. Chapman, *Secretary*

National Park Service

Newton B. Drury, *Director*







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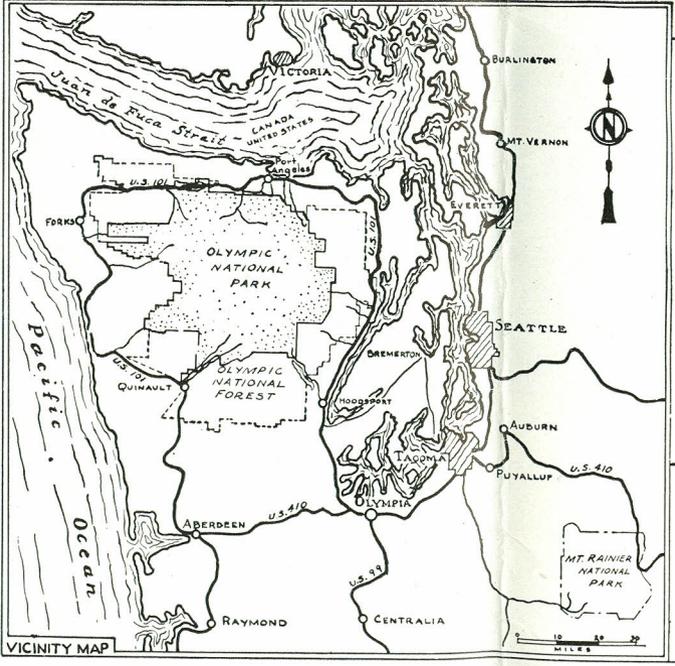
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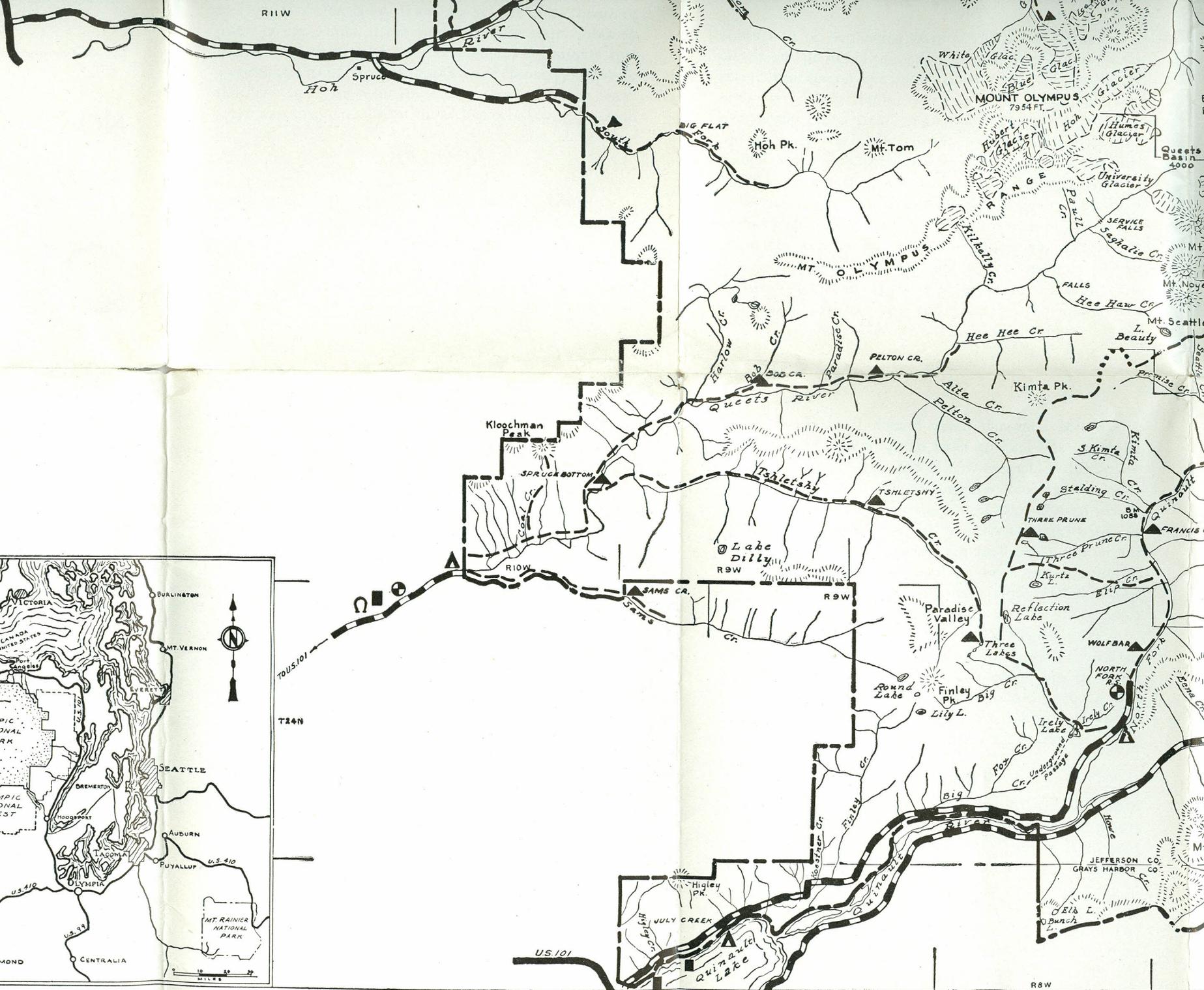
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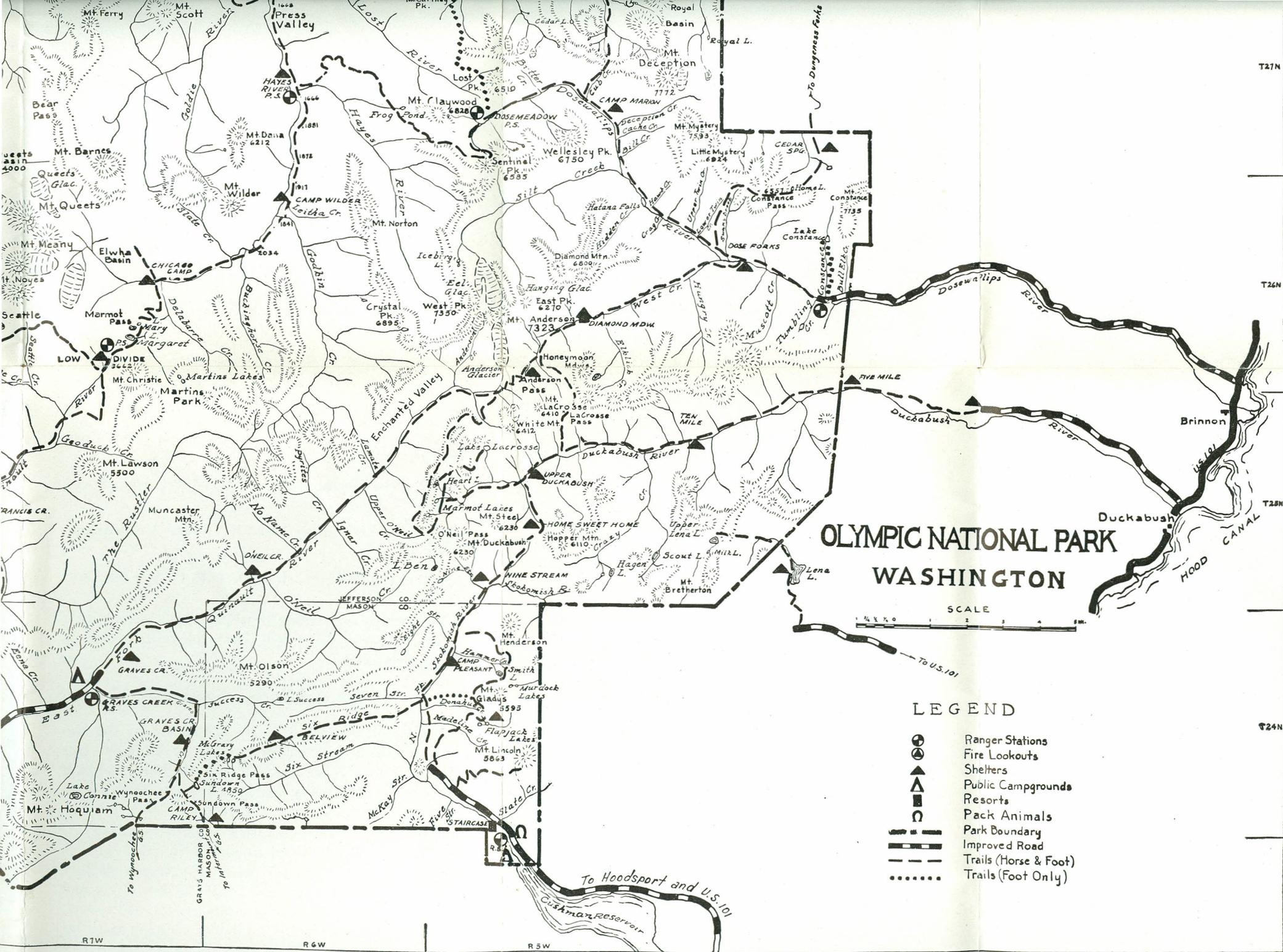
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VICINITY MAP





OLYMPIC NATIONAL PARK WASHINGTON



LEGEND

- Ranger Stations
- Fire Lookouts
- Shelters
- Public Campgrounds
- Resorts
- Pack Animals
- Park Boundary
- Improved Road
- Trails (Horse & Foot)
- Trails (Foot Only)